

PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

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Equipping Christian leaders around the world

The “living memory” of ICS retires

On June 30 Henk Hart retired from the Institute. On August 15, he celebrated the 35 year mark of his appointment as the first faculty member at ICS. On the occasion of this celebration, his friend and colleague Jim Olthuis offered these thoughts:

In this issue:

Rising momentum 2

New book 4

Questing for God 4

Two Summer conferences 5

Proclaiming Christ In New Zealand 7

Henk Hart, ICS's philosopher in residence, is retiring this year. This is no little thing for Henk, no little thing for Anita, and certainly no little thing for the Institute and its community. After all, Henk was ICS's first faculty member, and has been a stalwart fixture at ICS since opening in 1967. For thirty-five years, Henk has lived and breathed the Institute and its mission, in good times and in bad times, through thick and thin. In 1968, along with Bernie Zylstra, I joined Henk on the teaching staff of our fledgling institution.

It is from my position as colleague and fast friend during these many years that I welcome this opportunity to celebrate and honour Henk's lifetime of work at ICS. For Henk, philosophising finds its grounding not in the so-called certainties of reason, but in experienced confidence and the hope of faith. Indeed, this feature is so crucial for him that I believe it marks out the two persistent themes in his life as a philosopher: that inordinate regard for rationality can be the death of both faith and reason, and the urgent need to recover faith as trust. Philosophising for Henk is a spiritual exercise, a passion, rooted in his faith and streaming from his faith. It is a “beautiful risk,” a journey continually needing to reinvent itself in order to remain faithful to its call.

To be Henk's student or his colleague, to hear him speak or read one of his papers, is to be drawn into the sweep of this dynamic. On the one hand, Henk can speak with an attitude and authority that can overwhelm and give the impression that he is articulating the truth, and truth brooks no opposition. On the other hand, he can with equal sureness announce that his views have changed, that he has taken the critique to heart, expressing amazement that anyone would still hold to his former position. Henk, to those of us who have come to know and love him, is



a unique combination of formidable intellect and gullible sensitivity, a person of strong convictions, tenacious loyalty, a battler for the truth who yearns for justice and loves peace with a heart filled with compassion.

For Henk, philosophy begins and ends with the pre-philosophic, in the struggles of faith and in the actualities of daily life. In his view, the fruitfulness of any philosophical position is finally to be judged by its transforming relevance for and healing impact on the daily life of people — in particular the hurting and disadvantaged, as well as on creation and the full family of God's creatures. For this reason Henk has felt called to throw himself unstintingly throughout his life into any number of social causes.

At the same time, doing Christian philosophy is for Henk a communal undertaking of the Body of Christ, best practised in a communal institutional setting with people of kindred commitments and motivations. That explains not only why Henk has chosen to remain at the Institute all these years, but it makes clear why Henk was willing to involve himself so much in the administrative life of the Institute. So many of the Institute's rules and procedures bear his

(Continued on page 3)



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”**

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 2001

Rising momentum

There are times in the life of an individual or an organisation when we sense that the future is full of promise. I firmly believe that ICS is entering such a time of exciting opportunity and challenge. A number of factors coalesced in the 2000-2001 academic/fiscal year, enabling ICS to move forward with a renewed sense of momentum and energy.

My sense of rising momentum begins with an increased level of student interest in ICS courses and programs. This past year 34 students pursued ICS degrees on a full-time basis, while a number of others worked on the degree requirements part-time. In all, 116 persons took courses at ICS, including twenty-three students from the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto. We expect a further increase in enrolment in September.

This upward trend in student interest is particularly important in light of the critical need for a new generation of leaders in the academic arena. The impending shortage of professors in mainstream universities has been headline news in the academic and mainstream media. Christian undergraduate institutions also experience an acute need for qualified professors who have a strong grasp of what it means to be a Christian scholar. Since ICS is in the 'business' of preparing Christians for academic careers, it is vital that we position ourselves to do our part to meet this great challenge.

More important than mere numbers, however, is the spirit of an institution. In this regard ICS experienced a wonderful academic year in 2000-2001. Faculty members were enthusiastic about the interests and abilities of their students, and students were generally enthusiastic about their learning. A strong spirit of community was evident in classes, worship times, retreats, and in that hallowed ICS tradition, afternoon tea time.

Another important component in our rising momentum was the development of an institutional Business Plan. Working on the Plan required the resolution of a number of issues that have been on the Institute's agenda for several years. The process itself enabled faculty, staff and the governing boards to work together at developing consensus and enthusiasm about how we should address opportunities and challenges before us.

The heart of the Business Plan is found in a section that addresses the direction of our academic development. This section is built around two foci:

- building on strengths: the continuation of the Institute's identity as a graduate school which builds on the reformational intellectual tradition and which focuses on key worldview and philosophical issues
- global accessibility: meeting new challenges and opportunities through a concerted effort to make significant portions of ICS's offerings more accessible to persons who live beyond the Toronto region, and to scholars and students in other parts of the world.

The latter emphasis arises from an increased awareness of the acute need for Christian academic leaders not only in North America, but also in areas of the world where the Christian faith is spreading quickly. We believe that ICS has something to offer in this situation, and that we must make use of all available means to address this need. In the coming year ICS will consider various practical implications of this commitment, such as restructuring our academic timetable and preparing key courses for on-line instruction.

A third key component in our sense of momentum was the fact that we reached our budget goals for 2000-2001, which required a 26 percent increase in donation revenue. With the exception of 1993 (when we received major Anniversary Campaign revenue), this was the best donation revenue year in the Institute's history. These financial results represent a wonderful blessing. They also represent a vital first step toward attaining a balanced budget in 2001-2002, and toward the launch of a major campaign that addresses key long-term financial needs, particularly in the area of endowments to support faculty positions and scholarships.

I always count it a privilege to report to the ICS community about our blessings and challenges in the context of our annual meetings. I trust that you will see, as I do, the faithful care of God reflected in our experiences in the past academic and fiscal year. Please continue to hold ICS before God in your prayers, asking that we may be able to build on the blessings of 2000-2001. Ask God to use ICS as an effective channel of grace and renewal in a vital part of God's kingdom in the coming year and beyond.

COURSES FOR FALL 2001

Modern Philosophy
(reading course)
Vaden House

Revelation and Normativity: *Ecumenical Foundations*
George Vandervelde

Contemporary Philosophical Hermeneutics
Jim Olthuis

Feminist Theological Ethics Dianne Bergsma

Foundations of Philosophical Aesthetics: *Baumgarten and Kant*
Adrienne Dengerink
Chaplin

Faith in Art
Adrienne Dengerink
Chaplin

Nietzsche, Foucault and the Genealogical Approach to the History of Philosophy
Bob Sweetman

Christian Visions of the Political Community
Jonathan Chaplin

Biblical Foundations
Sylvia Keesmaat

Metaphor in Interdisciplinary Perspective
Elaine Botha

Philosophical Foundations
Elaine Botha

Worldview Foundations
Carroll Guen Hart

HART RETIRES

(Continued from page 1)

personal mark.

In many ways, he is the living memory of the Institute and we will sorely miss his presence, his soul-stirring devotions, his humour, and yes, his endless tea-time stories. Our entire community owes a tremendous debt to Henk as well as to Anita for his efforts on behalf of our beloved little institution, for his life-time of philosophising on the borderlands of faith and reason. I, for one, will miss him dearly — our daily chats, our weekly forays to Kensington, our joint seminars — and, no doubt, so will the Institute. I expect that Henk, though officially retired, will continue to grace us with his presence even if it be on a part-time basis. However, right now, it is an appropriate time to say to Henk and to Anita on behalf of colleagues and staff at the Institute, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You yet again, for everything that you have been and done for us for many years. We commend you to the kind mercies of God. Run the next phase of your life with joy and in hope. Good-bye, God go with you, and may you go with God.

On November 30, ICS will hold a special pre-convocation dinner in honour of Henk. To order tickets, or for more information, call Chris Cuthill at ICS (416) 979-2331 ext 225.

Student/Alumni focus

Bruce Clemenger, ICS doctoral candidate, gave a paper entitled *Between Individual Autonomy and Expressive Freedom: The Liberal Vision of Canada's Supreme Court* at a conference of Christians in Political Science, held at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA.

ICS alumnus Dr. **Craig Bartholomew** organized the Fourth International Consultation of the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar, on *The Use of the Bible Ethically and Politically*. This ten-year project is based at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education in England, sponsored by the Bible Society, and directed by Bartholomew. He also introduced Dr. Tom Wright who gave the inaugural lecture of the International Centre for Biblical Interpretation (based at the School) during this Consultation. Dr. Wright's lecture was entitled *Paul's Gospel and Caesar's Empire*. Bartholomew also edited and introduced (with Gideon Strauss) *In the Fields of the Lord: A Seerveld Reader* (the launch of which was reported in the last issue of Perspective).

ICS alumnus **Martijn Vroom** has recently been hired as a theologian to assist a member of the house of representatives of the Dutch parliament who focuses on culture, emancipation, voluntary work, and environment in the Netherlands.

In May, 2001, Ph.D. student **Dianne Bergsma** participated in a graduate student conference, sponsored by the Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia with support from ICS and The Centre for Women's Studies at Brock University. The theme of the conference was "All's Fair: Sex and Violence in the Ancient World" and her paper entitled, *The Codes of Sex and Violence in the Struggle for Power in the Ancient Davidic Family* connected stories of women in the royal house of David to today.

Staff news

New Communications Coordinator



In August **Chris Cuthill** joined ICS as a full time employee as the new Communications Coordinator. Chris has worked part time at the Institute for 5 years while completing the M.Phil.F. program with a degree in Philosophical Aesthetics and pursuing his Ph.D. at ICS/VU. In addition to his work at the Institute, Chris is also an instructor in Art History at Redeemer University College. In June, Chris and his wife, Dawn Cuthill, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant at ICS, had their first child, Aurora Miriam. **Jenny Smit**, who served as both Dawn's summer replacement,

and previously as the events co-ordinator, left ICS in August to return to teacher's college. **Yvonne Barber**, who has served as Conference Coordinator and Perspective Editor for the past year will be able to concentrate on her duties as ICS librarian



Restructuring in Development

On October 1, **Craig Prosser** will begin his appointment as the Institute's new Director of Operations. Craig and his wife Kim will be relocating to the Toronto area from their current home in Moncton, New Brunswick. Craig has been employed in Christian higher education for 14 years, having served during that time as Director of Finance at Atlantic Baptist University. In his role there he has been responsible for the entire accounting process for ABU, for the bookstore and auxiliary services, and for aspects of human resources. He was also involved in ABU's capital campaign. ICS is delighted to be able to hire someone with Craig's experience and knowledge of Christian higher education.

John Meiboom, who is currently the Vice-President of Administration and Development, will cede the administrative portion of his job to Craig so that he can concentrate on development and fundraising in an increased capacity as Vice President of Advancement.



(From top to bottom):
Chris Cuthill with wife,
Dawn, and Aurora
Miriam; John Meiboom;
Michelle Jones; Bruce
Clemenger; Craig Prosser

Maternity leaves

In September, both **Pam Trondson** (Director of Student Services) and **Yana Filipenko** (Academic Administrative Assistant) officially go on maternity leave. On September 9th, Yana and her husband **Max** welcomed their first daughter, **Veronica Amanda** into their family. During their absence, **Michelle Jones** will be taking on duties from both of these positions, Michelle comes to ICS with a background in Counselling, and a recently completed Master of Theological Studies from Trinity College, U of T. She has returned to Toronto from Chicago where she spent a year working for the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE).

Olthuis offers a New Psychology of Loving and Being Loved



ICS is proud to announce the publication of a new book entitled *The Beautiful Risk* by **James Olthuis**, Senior Member in Philosophical Theology. Writing out of his experience as a psychotherapist, Olthuis offers a new way of doing therapy that shifts the focus from cure to care, expertise to partnership, and mastery to love. With perspective-shifting insights and examples,

Olthuis helps both counsellors and those who come for counsel, to move beyond control and technique and join in a risky but glorious dance of relationship, love, and healing.

The current dominant models of therapy in Christian as well as non-Christian circles emphasise (in the spirit of modernism) expertise, testing, control, method, rationality, independence, conformity, and cure. Clients are seen as people with defects that need to be diagnosed, fixed, or cured. In *The Beautiful Risk*,

Olthuis offers a new relational “being-with” approach to therapy that emphasises connecting with, caring for and suffering with clients. In this new model, clients are seen as people with their own particular struggles with wholeness and integrity. Olthuis reminds us that counselling is not something that counsellors do to others, but a process in which they participate and facilitate in the hope that God brings the healing.

The Beautiful Risk helps both professional therapists and serious lay counsellors to develop a new spiritual psychology of love and transformation that promises to help them join clients on their journeys to richer and more faithful lives. Olthuis does not offer another technique or more rules for successful living, but argues that the heart is too much a mystery for us to approach its healing as a simple matter of finding and fixing the problem. Methods alone cannot meet the deep, aching need of souls that cry not for solutions, but for connection. Only when fears are faced and addressed can counsellors have the freedom to break through the tyranny of methods and give themselves over to the adventure of a therapy open to the surprises of the Spirit.

Using powerful illustrations of the effectiveness of this new relational therapy, Olthuis invites all therapists to take what he (and the philosopher Emmanuel Levinas) calls “the beautiful risk,” to move out of their comfort zones and to join the healing dance between therapist and client. (See Book Order on back page.)

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE SUMMER SEMINAR COURSE

“Questing” for God at ICS

by **Dianne Bergsma**



George Vandervelde

I read the information about the summer seminar course at ICS this year and I was immediately interested. I had not yet studied theology with Dr. George Vandervelde, and it was important for me to do so, and here was also the chance to study with two professors from the Free University of Amsterdam, Dr. Martien Brinkman and Dr. Wessel Stoker. Where else could I have

such a marvellous opportunity for learning?

We studied Dr. Stoker’s book: *Is the Quest for Meaning in Relation to the Secular Ascription of Meaning*, and the book by Clark Pinnock, Richard Rice, John Sanders, William Hasker and David Basinger, *The Openness of God, A Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God*. In addition we had the experience of studying a book which is still in the process of being translated into English, Dr. Brinkman’s *The Tragedy of Human Freedom, The ambivalent role of the Christian concept of freedom in Western Culture*. We were asked to contribute suggestions to the translation process which gave an interesting dimension to the reading of the manuscript.

The books give various perspectives on how we understand God, and this, combined with the different

backgrounds of the students, led to very interesting discussions and insights. George pointed out that Wessel’s English is excellent, but when he doesn’t quite agree with what one says, he pronounces a slightly drawn out “neee” before he explains his own position — and we learned that Wessel can disagree in the most gentle way!

When Martien joined us in for the second week he added another dimension to our discussion. Martien emphasised that dealing with Christian history is not looking for winners or losers, but for truth in its many aspects. It was evident that Martien and Wessel had shared many discussions on this topic and with George, and they showed us how one can discuss different beliefs and understandings with a deep respect for the other’s viewpoint. In so doing they created a safe space for us to ask questions in order to come to a better understanding of our own beliefs in our quest for meaning. Along with these deep discussions we shared much laughter, for it was a joy to participate in the understanding of our own positions in relation to the various theories.

As we discussed God’s role in the world and in our lives, George said that sometimes God could be compared to a mother who lovingly takes care of her children and never receives a thank you from them. When it was my turn to do devotions before class started I reflected on this and read Psalm 150 — where we learn not only that we should give thanks and praise to God but also with what, how and where. I too, join in giving praise and thanks for the opportunity to learn about God in whom I find my meaning.

calendar of events

Fri., Nov. 30, 2001, 8pm.
At Church of the Redeemer, Avenue Road & Bloor Street.

Convocation

The Institute for Christian Studies invites you to hear the Valedictory Address of **Dr. Hendrik Hart**, Senior Member Emeritus in Systematic Philosophy; and to celebrate the graduation of Junior Members who have successfully completed their Master’s and Ph.D. programs.

Symposia Series

Tues., Sept. 25, 5-7pm
Dr. Sander Griffioen, emeritus professor of social philosophy, Free University of Amsterdam: *The End of the Worldview Era? Christian Higher Education in Europe*.

Thur., Oct. 25, 1:30 pm
Dr. Andrew Basden, Professor of Information Systems, University of Salford, UK: *Christian Philosophy and Information Technology*.

Thur., Nov. 22, 1:30 pm
Dr. Robert Sweetman, Professor of Philosophy at the Institute for Christian Studies will discuss his inaugural lecture for the Evan Runner Chair: *Of Runners and Batons: Viewing the History of Philosophy from the Cool of the Giant’s Shade*.

Winter 2002 Christianity and Learning Lectures

This year’s Christianity and Learning Lectures will feature professor **Richard Kearney** of Ireland. A philosopher, novelist and poet, Richard Kearney is a significant figure in the world of contemporary Irish letters and a professor at University College, Dublin, where he teaches modern European philosophy.

43rd Annual Ontario Summer Conference
August 10-13, 2001

Ontario Conference keeps the feast

ICS exists to shine God's Word on all of creation, so it's not surprising that at some point we would have a conference giving a Christian perspective on eating. The 43rd annual Ontario conference showed the astonishing range of ways that food and eating connect us to God.

by Bob VanderVennen



Keynote speakers Mary Ruth and Loren Wilkinson

Keynote speakers **Mary Ruth** and **Loren Wilkinson** of British Columbia led the way.

Mary Ruth said that mealtimes are unique to humans and that in meals we express our thankfulness to God, with mealtime prayer showing that a meal is "more than" eating. Loren centred his remarks on feeding, feasting and fasting,

pointing out that our eating is costly, requiring the death of an organism, whether plant or animal.

The conference theme was elaborated in no fewer than 14 different workshops, each with opportunity for discussion. **Sylvia Keesmaat** showed how Jesus worked to subvert society through meals, and she led another workshop on canning fresh food; **Loren Wilkinson** drew out implications of our being able to eat food grown all over the world; **Peter Schuurman** worked on social justice in the food industry; **Thea and Art de Groot** gave ideas on gardening; **Elbert van Donkersgoed** identified various farm crises; **Jenny Smit** discussed protein in our diet and vegetarian eating; **Sandra Mooibroek** gave ideas on food choices for healthy living; **Gary Chiang** discussed genetically modified foods; **Mary Ruth Wilkinson** helped us think about how mealtimes can be part of richer living; **Robert Sweetman** told how the desert monks addressed gluttony; **Elisabeth Sterken** gave advice on breastfeeding; **Tena van't Foort** presented ideas on good nutrition; and **Jim Olthuis** related health and emotional wellbeing.



The Sunday morning worship service, which drew people from nearby communities, was a highlight as always. **Brian Walsh** delivered the sermon relating Isaiah 55 and Mark 6:30-44 to our eating and food choices in our lives in today's world, which was followed by a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The conference offered a wide variety of activities and exhibits. Art works were exhibited by professional artists and school children. The bookstore had a wide range of titles relating to the conference theme, and there were programs for young people, children and toddlers. Sports included swimming and horseback riding. **John Franklin** co-ordinated a celebratory "feast" which included foods from many lands.

John Terpstra read from his poetry, accompanied on the piano by **Bart Nameth**. **Judy Savoy** wowed us with her presentation as a Christian stand-up comic, and **Ins Choi** was a hit with his singing accompanied by his band of Korean musicians. **Judy** and **Ins** came as members of the Christian arts ministry called **Imago**, which is headed by **John Franklin**. Communal singing was a favourite of many, ably led by **Charleen Jongejan** and supported by a strong backup band.

Aside from the Ontario edition of the annual business meeting of the ICS, there was also a good discussion of the dynamics of the annual Ontario conference, including comments on conference themes, the suitability of the Maple Grove Christian Retreat Centre, conference costs, and concern about the slow decrease in attendance at these annual conferences.

The conference was also a time to meet warm friends and celebrate God's blessings to a Christian community whose people live in diverse and sometimes difficult circumstances. We gave special thanks to conference co-ordinator **Yvonne Barber** and those who worked with her. We left blessed by knowing more fully what the Bible means when it charges us with the words "whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Alberta Summer Conference

August 3-6, 2001

Exposing our "virtual idols"

Once again about 200 men, women, and children gathered in Alix, Alberta during the August long weekend to confer, renew, and rejoice with old and new friends. Of the +110 adults 24 were first time conferees.

By Alice Oosterhuis



Hielema's message was an undeniable challenge

With warm days and cool nights, the weather co-operated to keep most people outside when they were not listening to either **Dr. Syd Hielema** from Dordt College or the **Copper Coins** band from Neerlandia. The theme of the conference

was **Virtuous Faith in a Virtual World** and every aspect of the conference, from the dynamic singing led by **Glenda Hull**, to the introductory and concluding

(Continued on page 6)

ALBERTA CONFERENCE

((Continued from page 5))

devotions by **Henk Bestman** and **Harry Femhout**; from the creative participatory worship service with **Fred Heslinga's** dramatic message, to the lectures and workshops, highlighted the virtues of a faith that stands firm while responding to change in our virtual reality world.

For those of us who prefer to remain Luddites, and nourish our technophobias with ignorance, Syd Hielema's message was an undeniable challenge: we virtual reality world. However, we can and ought to cultivate a prophetic mindset that strives to observe, discern, ponder, and take risks in developing patterns of living that cultivate habits of being fruitful, faithful and communal. In our virtual reality context, the speed with which that world changes inevitably affects our identities and practices. We become that which we love the most; our idols shape and reshape us. Television programming, Internet surfing, e-mail communicating, and advertising bombardments subvert family and community activities and distort truth and normalcy.

Syd Hielema called us to affirm gladly that Christians are a persecuted minority in North America. He challenged us to adopt a Biblical realism which goes deeper than the naming of superficial sins such as sex and violence in the media. Biblical realism recognises the utter and all-pervasive hopelessness of sin in the world while it simultaneously mandates a declaration of God's faithfulness. How large is our god? If we remain mired in the bog of hopelessness then we have made our god much too small.

Cultivating habits of worship, personal, familial and communal activity, may be no more than tiny steps in a direction that wishes to redefine business, success and power but, because they declare the presence of God, they are the building blocks of His Kingdom. To stand firm is not to stand still; standing firm is an active dynamic and prophetic way of creating space for God's faithfulness to be known.

faculty focus



In June, **Jonathan Chaplin** presented a paper entitled "What Kind of Pluralism Can Christian Political Thought Offer?" at a conference of Christians in Political Science, held at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA. He also presented a paper on "Oliver O' Donovan's Christian Liberalism: Political Eschatology and Responsible Government" at the Fourth International Consultation of the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar on The Use of the Bible Ethically and Politically. This ten-year project is based at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education in England, sponsored by the Bible Society, and directed by ICS Alumnus **Dr. Craig Bartholomew**. In August he presented a paper on "State and Civil Society in Christian Democracy: the Neo-Calvinist Perspective" at a panel on A Third Way? The Religious Foundations of Civil Society during the American Political Science Association annual conference, San Francisco, CA. He participated in a conference on The Idea of Public Reason held at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C, in May; participated in the first meeting of a research project on Politics and Human Nature, funded by Pew in May; and contributed to a

symposium on Canadian federalism, published in the Work Research Foundation's journal Comment, July-August.



In August, **Bob Sweetman** presented a workshop at the ICS Family Conference entitled "Just Deserts or the Wisdom of Egypt: Gluttony as Original Sin".



During a six-week trip to New Zealand, **Sylvia Keesmaat** and her husband, Brian Walsh, gave seven addresses to the New Zealand Association of Christian Schools teacher conferences in Christchurch and Auckland. They also spoke to audiences in Christchurch, Dunedin, and Auckland, on Colossians and a Postmodern Culture, sharing material from their forthcoming book. In August she presented a workshop at the ICS Family Conference entitled "Subversive Meals: How Jesus and Paul offended".

In August, **Jim Olthuis'** new book, *The Beautiful Risk: a New Psychology of Loving and Being Loved* was published and printed by Zondervan Press (see article). Jim presented a workshop at

the ICS Family Conference entitled "Eating Habits that can Kill".



George Vandervelde presented a paper on "The Challenge of Evangelical Ecclesiology" at the World Evangelical Theological Commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur in May. He also attended the subsequent WEF General Assembly, at which he participated in a panel discussion on Globalization. As member of a committee of the Christian Reformed Church, George met in Washington in August with representatives of the Canadian and U.S. Bishops to discuss the Heidelberg Catechism's declaration that the Roman Catholic Mass is "nothing but a denial of the one sacrifice of Christ and a condemnable idolatry."

Proclaiming the Lordship of Christ in New Zealand

Imagine beginning a teachers' conference in Canada with a twenty-minute liturgy, entirely in the Ojibway language, without translation. Sound unlikely? This was our experience in New Zealand, at the first of two conferences for Christian school teachers.

by Sylvia Keesmaat

The opening ceremony was in the language of the Maori, the first peoples of New Zealand, complete with a song sung in Maori by the children of the hosting school. The ceremony signalled for us the reality of New Zealand as a bicultural society, and as a society that welcomes the other. This same welcoming warmth was extended to us by many as we spoke to various groups around the country, and were graciously hosted by complete strangers, now friends, who found toys for our children, helped orient us to the country and patiently bore with our jet-lag. As a result we had a unique first-hand look at the ways that the Christian community in New Zealand is proclaiming an alternative Kingdom in the face of the empire. For instance:

- ICS alumnus Chris Gousmett, and his wife, Elaine, who organized our time in Dunedin, founded the Faith and Action Trust, to promote reformational perspectives on wider cultural issues. Chris' book-table is the most geographically distant book-table that ICS can boast of!
- ICS supporter Bob Robinson, who along with his wife, Heather, hosted us in Christchurch, is the Principal of the New Zealand Bible College in Christchurch, offering a context of prophetic community for shaping Christians from all areas of life.
- ICS alumna Christina Belcher, teaches at the Masters Institute in Auckland where students studying to be Christian teachers or business leaders ground their reflection upon the approach to

worldview studies developed at ICS. Indeed, upon entering the building, we encountered a poster, outlining the four worldview questions and their impact on philosophy. It made us feel at home, in a weird sort of way.

- Cityside Baptist Church, in Auckland, where contemporary culture is made integral to the telling of the biblical story, so that Christianity is a living walk for the members of this community.
- And of course, the lives of those who do not do grand work in the name of Christian education, but who live out lives of faithful obedience in teeth of all their culture proclaims as important: Bill Lee, a Christian biologist, who works to save endangered birds from extinction; Alex and Benita Barton, who voluntarily teach about Christianity in the state school system; Heather Robinson, who tries to make one pastoral visit a day to an elderly or sick person; Helen Pierson, who writes integrated curriculum for Christian schools—curriculum now being picked up by public and Muslim schools as well; Yvonne, who works as a volunteer to reforest a habitat for endangered birds; you get the idea.

In all these ways, of course, New Zealand gave us a picture of what we already knew to be true. The Kingdom of God comes when Christians individually and in their communities faithfully and radically live out lives that proclaim Christ's lordship. We didn't have to travel to the ends of the earth to find out that was true; but we were happy to discover it when we arrived.

Student body continues to grow

ICS is excited about the new year. There is an increase in enrolment and ICS continues to find itself in a time of growth. Many new students are joining our community this fall from a rich spectrum of backgrounds, interests and experiences. While we hope to share in depth a little about each of these students in future issues of Perspective we will briefly mention their names.

We have four students who will be studying Philosophical Theology: **Larry Baker** and **Luke Moord** from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids (M Phil F); **Randall Boessenkool** from King's University College in Edmonton (M Phil F); and **Jeff Strong** from Redeemer University College in Ancaster (MWS). Two new foreign students will be taking the MWS program in education – **Donald Sackey** from the University of Sierra Leone and **Jonathan Chan** from the University of Hong Kong. Two new students are also coming from Ukraine – **Dmytro Hys** from the University of Volyn, who will be taking the M.Phil.F program in political theory; and **Iryna Vasylenko** from the Ukrainian State

University, who will be taking the MWS program in aesthetics. Two other new students will also be taking the aesthetics program: **Braden Wortz** from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids (M.Phil. F); and **Gian Merlevede** who will be coming to the Ph.D. program with an MA from the University of Ghent and an undergraduate degree from the Art College in Saint-Lucas Antwerp, both in Belgium. Finally, we have two students studying the history of philosophy – **Yorick Schulz-Wackerbarth**, a German student who has studied at the King's in Edmonton and **Daniel Napier** who will be starting the Ph.D. program with a degrees from the Institute for Christian Studies in Texas and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Please pray for wisdom and strength as these students adjust to new changes as the year unfolds.

2001/2002 Scholarships

ICS is pleased to announce the awarding of the following scholarships made possible by the generous giving of many supporters:

Wilma Lorraine Northrup Cumming Scholarship
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