

perspective

Official magazine of the A. R. S. S., an association for the advancement of christian scholarship

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the 'joking' professor

A Jewish student in a U. B. C. (University of British Columbia) religion class got a fair laugh the other day when he asked the professor, "Can I refuse on conscientious grounds to study the New Testament?" The prof got a bigger laugh with, "Hell no -- I have to teach this course and I'm an atheist."

(Jack Wasserman, The Vancouver Sun)

This incident that recently "made" the gossip column of The Vancouver Sun is supposed to demonstrate how humorous and tolerant we have really become. I suppose there are some who actually believe that an atheist teaching religion, including Christianity, is about as far as you can go in showing your broadmindedness and sophistication.

The sensitive Christian immediately realizes that this "joke" is blasphemous. God is jealous of His honour and He does not tolerate the "tolerance" of those who think that His revelation can be studied scientifically as just another field of study, as though it could even be made the butt of a joke.

We should beware not to view this incident in isolation, as though this by itself is so bad. Of course, it's bad, but it must be clearly seen that it is a symptom. It's a symptom of the secular university's systematic and consistent rejection of Christ as the Source of all true knowledge. In that sense the atheist professor who got a big laugh from his class merely drives home the point that university education in its totality has become paganized - that is, the student is taught to view the entire range of human culture as if God were not there and had never spoken!

It is hard for anyone who has not experienced this himself to imagine how difficult it is for the Christian student to breathe in such an atmosphere, not to be swept off his feet. The professor, after all speaks with the authority of a teacher. He instructs; the student comes to receive instruction. The whole system

is geared to further the secular view and to intimidate those who believe in Christ and His Word.

That's the other side of the coin; the so-called tolerant view of religion is invariably very intolerant of those who confess to be a child of the Lord, and to accept the Bible as God's trustworthy revelation. Especially at the universities today, this commitment is considered to be completely out of date and unscientific. Christian students, who in their papers and discussions want to give an account of their faith in God and its relevance to science are quickly labelled "Christian sloganeers" or some such name. Their marks may suffer. That's not easy to take.

Thank God for the help that Christian students at secular universities receive, by means of the student clubs, A. R. S. S. sponsored lectures and all the other activities undertaken by this Association. Many Christian students agree, and the atheist professor at the U. B. C. demonstrates, be it in a negative way, that the work of the A. R. S. S. is so extraordinarily significant at this time.

Harry Antonides - British Columbia representative for the Christian Labour Association of Canada and A.R.S.S. Board Member.



Antonides entertains at Lower Mainland Chapter's Institute opening celebration banquet.

SOME REMARKS ABOUT

promotion

As I write this article, I am in the middle of a speaking tour to Southern and Central Alberta. Upon the completion of this tour, I will have, since September 1, 1967 - the date of my appointment as Director of Development and Student Affairs in Western Canada - visited every Reformed community in the territory assigned to me (Victoria, B. C. to Port Arthur, Ontario), with the exception of Grande Prairie/La Glace and Edson/Peers, Alberta. I plan to visit these communities during the last week of January, 1968.

In this short article I should like to relate some of the problems and experiences which have constantly recurred during the speaking tours which I have conducted to date.

In a country such as Canada, the promotion and development of a national organization presents especially difficult problems. First of all, there are the immense distances which speakers and Development Directors have to cope with in their promotional efforts to bring the cause of the A. R. S. S. to the various churches and organized groups of believers throughout the nation. The struggle against these distances demands much money and personnel. The present two Development Directors, one in Eastern Canada and the other in the West, can hardly take care of the necessary full-scale national promotion of the Association.

The speeches which I delivered at the public meetings were of a fundamental and principal nature. They dealt concretely with the existential need for the A. R. S. S. and its practical significance for the entire Christian community. The discussions which followed the speeches, were in most localities quite clarifying and fruitful.

There is, however, a problem concerning the public meetings, which has regularly come up in the speaking tours. The public meetings are usually organized as promotional meetings, i. e. meetings by means of which we seek to bring

about and further a communal awareness in each Christian community, of the need for and purpose of the A. R. S. S., in order thereby to point each Christ-believer to his responsibility to support this movement with whatever resources and capabilities our faithful God has blessed him with. However, the problem, which we constantly have to face with respect to the public promotional meetings, is the fact that almost only members attend.

Now, I am not at all implying that it is a waste of time for those who are already members of the A. R. S. S. to attend the public promotional meetings. For, these members receive the opportunity to become equipped for the task of personally promoting the A. R. S. S. among their friends and relatives. But when those Christ-believers who think that they can afford not to support the advancement of Christian scholarship and to be uninterested in it, always fail to show up for the public meetings, we miss the opportunity to confront them with the urgent need for the A. R. S. S. in Canada and the U. S. A. A serious result of this is that many of the pre-conceived notions and misguided opinions about the A. R. S. S. remain to be influential in many Reformed communities.

In connection with failure, on the part of many believers, to attend the public meetings, the complaint is frequently heard in Reformed communities that too many meetings are being organized. Perhaps there is some truth in this complaint. However, when we reflect upon the spiritual condition of Canadian culture, we must realize that a Scripturally-directed reformation of practically all areas of Canadian public cultural life has yet to be furthered or even effectively initiated. And since this reformational task has long been neglected by Christians, Christian action in all areas of public cultural life is long overdue and has now, in our 20th Century, become a matter of emergency. This, I feel, is the chief reason why so many meetings with the purpose of furthering Christian action in public life have to be organized. Therefore, let's not be misled by this complaint of "too many meetings" to the point of neglecting our communal task to bear witness in public life.

In the meantime, since most of those Christ-believers who have as yet ignored the A. R. S. S. and given no support to it, do fail to attend the public promotional meetings, we presently face the sad situation of missing, at least at these meetings, the opportunity to confront these believers with the need for and importance of this Association. Therefore, I should like to conclude this article by making an emphatic appeal to every member of the A. R. S. S. to further the advancement of Christian scholarship in personal promotional efforts.

Fred Cupido

calendar

The A. R. S. S. board and staff is very anxious to extend the Institute services to Western Canada. You will realize that because of his regularly scheduled classes, it is somewhat difficult for Dr. Hart to be absent from Toronto for any extended period of time. We are however pleased to announce the following schedule for his western tour:

February 19:	Winnipeg
February 20, 21, 22:	Edmonton
February 23, 24, 25:	Vancouver
February 26:	Victoria
February 27:	Lethbridge
February 28:	Calgary

The main purpose of the tour is to lecture to and talk individually with students.

Fred Cupido has scheduled the following meetings:

February 1-8

Mid-western Canada; public promotional meetings in Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Brandon, Port Arthur/Ft. William and Emo; Student meetings in Winnipeg and Port Arthur.

February 15-27

British Columbia and Washington, U. S. A.; public promotional meetings in Greater Vancouver, Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Seattle, Wash., and, possibly, Lynden, Wash.; student meetings will be held in Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle.

March 4-12

British Columbia - Central Fraser Valley; public promotional meetings in Langley, Haney, Abbotsford, Chilliwack/Agassiz and Vernon.

On February 21, Mr. John A. Olthuis will conduct a seminar on "Christian Education" at the ROCKWAY MENNONITE School in Kitchener.

Rev. John C. Vanderstelt has been invited to speak on the A. R. S. S. by the Young People Societies of Clarkson, Ottawa, Bowmanville and Brampton. The Christian Service Men's Club in the Zion Chr. Ref. Church in Oshawa asked him to discuss with them "Problems of Christian Students".

On February 8 he will address the Groen Van Prinsterer Club in Grand Rapids, Mich., U. S. A. on "The Community of Christian Scholarship".



We have received a good response to our request for pre-publication orders of our Institute opening commemorative booklet which will contain speeches, pictures and congratulatory addresses. Because of the excellent response, we have decided to extend the deadline for pre-publication orders at \$3.00 per copy to February 29th. After that date the book will sell for \$4.00. This is an offer you won't want to miss. Order yours today from the A. R. S. S. head office.



Students enjoy outdoor lecture at fall FOCUS Conference.

editorial

THE COST SQUEEZE

Educational costs are sky-rocketing. According to Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures, university spending in Canada soared from \$88,000,000 in 1954 - 1955 to nearly \$700,000,000 in 1965 - 1966. The Bladen Report predicts that for the academic year 1975 - 1976, Canadian universities will require \$2,000,000,000. Now that's a lot of money! Indeed the sum necessary to establish and operate a single university is astronomical, especially when compared to the rather limited funds available to the reformed community struggling to support so many Kingdom causes. And yet by God's grace and the faithful support of His people, the A. R. S. S. has opened its Institute for Advanced Christian Studies. The five courses offered by the Institute are attended by 125 students and plans for rapid expansion are materializing.

Could it be that the A. R. S. S. is dreaming? Could it be that its board members are financial idiots? Is the establishment of a christian university a pie-in-the-sky effort? In short, is it christianly responsible to promote the establishment of a christian university? That's an important question. It may sound naive to some people but the A. R. S. S. really believes that it can't afford not to work towards that goal. Why? Well, one good reason is the 500 odd students from reformed

homes presently studying at secular universities in Canada. Few christians want public elementary or secondary education for covenant children so they establish christian day schools. We believe that the christian community has the same responsibility to christian students at the university level. The inescapable conclusion is the establishment of a christian university.

The only remaining question and an important one indeed is how can we most responsibly achieve that goal. It must be realized that the immediate establishment of a full-fledged university in the modern sense of the word "university" is somewhat unrealistic. We are excited however about the possibility of providing christian university education without providing a university consisting of huge buildings, laboratories jammed with million dollar equipment and so on. Consider the following low cost proposal which has been discussed by the Association's board of trustees as a possible course for the development of the Institute.

- (1) Concentrate immediate attention upon having Institute courses accredited by christian colleges and secular universities. Accreditation would mean, e.g. that a student could take three courses a year at the Institute and two at the University of Toronto and receive University of Toronto credit for all five courses. In this way the Institute would in a very meaningful way begin to serve undergraduate students at Canadian universities.
- (2) At the same time, graduates of christian colleges and secular universities

will be encouraged to enroll for graduate work at the University of Toronto. Graduate students, particularly in the Arts, could take Institute courses and eventually it is hoped take an entire graduate programme at the Institute. Students in the sciences would receive particular benefit from courses dealing with the philosophy of science. It is hoped that the strategic placement of christian scholars on the staffs of existing universities will supplement the work of the Institute and make it possible for many students to obtain a christian university education without a gigantic financial outlay.

- (3) While attempts are being made to achieve (1) and (2), the Institute staff will be built up with both teaching and research scholars and the direction of further Institute development discussed.

Sounds reasonable? We think so.

We think these ideas have real merit and contain the promise of christian higher learning with financial consequences well within the reach of the reformed community.

Our ultimate goal remains a christian university. We pray that the Lord will make it possible. In the meantime, grateful for His guiding hand, we continue the work with the happy knowledge that christian higher education can be provided at reasonable cost. Of course, it is up to each member of the reformed community to assume his share of the reasonable cost. The challenge is staggering. Plans for response are reasonable. Five hundred students are waiting.

J. A. O.

It was early in December when a group of ladies meeting in Toronto decided to contribute towards the cause of Christian Education by organizing a province wide "Women's Action for A. R. S. S." Committee. This was not a new idea. It was started in Toronto by a group of ladies who felt that as women they wanted to help the A. R. S. S. From there it spread to other parts of Ontario. But now it was felt that the time had come to organize formally so that we could work in the whole of Ontario.

Our first project is the "penny-a-day" boxes. We hope to provide all ladies who are willing to help, with a small box in which they will contribute a penny a day for the cause of the A. R. S. S.

It is our prayer that in this small way we will be able to work for our Lord by contributing to the aid of educating our Christian Young People.

Provincial Secretary,
Mrs. H. Lunshof,
Box 53, Drayton, Ont.

women's action



Women's Action Committee (from left to right): Mrs. Mulder, Brockville, Mrs. Vandezande, Woodstock, Mrs. Kooi and Mrs. Heemsbergen, Toronto and Mrs. Lunshof, Drayton.

Ed. Note: Sounds like a worthwhile project? For further information contact Mrs. Lunshof. Ladies in areas other than Ontario, interested in undertaking a similar project should contact their local A.R.S.S. Chapter or Area Development

Director. B.C., Alta., Sask., Manitoba and Western U.S.A., contact Fred Cupido, 3644-116 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta. Quebec, Maritimes, Eastern U.S.A., contact John Vanderstelt, 141 Lyndhurst Ave., Toronto 4.

Here's an excellent opportunity to get out of the household routine, meet new and interesting ladies and make a worthwhile contribution to Kingdom work.

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miniscripts

Last month, Dr. Knudsen, professor at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U. S. A. lectured mainly for ministers at the Institute in Toronto and in the Mt. Hamilton Christian Reformed Church, on the topic "Dialectic and Synthesis in Contemporary Theology".

Dr. Rookmaaker, the first professor at the Free University in Amsterdam in the field of art and music, while on a lecture-tour in Eastern U.S.A., spent January 16, 17 and 18 in respectively Toronto, Hamilton and London. During the day he gave illustrated lectures at the Christian Highschools on "Modern Beat-Music", and in the evenings he delivered illustrated speeches on "Christian Art" at public meetings.

The Institute now offers five courses to 125 students. In addition to teaching three courses in Toronto - student, public and teacher - Dr. Hart teaches two courses - public and teacher - in London. For further information, contact head office.

At the request of the boards of various student clubs who belong to the Federation of Christian University Students (FOCUS This is an independent student movement which seeks to study in a truly reformational manner), Dr. Hendrik Hart and Rev. John C. Vanderstelt meet regularly and alternately with the clubs at the Universities in London, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Toronto to discuss Prof. Dr. H.E. Runner's book "The Relation of the Bible to Learning".

Contacts are being sought with the christian students at the universities in St. Catharines, Windsor, Kingston, Ottawa and Montreal.

Through the generosity of a member of the Association a tape-recorder and a slide projector together with a large screen have been purchased by head office at greatly reduced prices. This enables the Association to expand its services to the public, viz. recording and making available of lectures at the Institute and of other important speeches and meetings, and showing of slides at promotional meetings.

The Young People in Brampton will conduct a "walk-a-thon" for the A. R. S. S. some time this Spring.

The Georgetown A. R. S. S. Chapter collected \$420. for the Institute in a well organized and executed campaign. Promises have been made by the A. R. S. S. chapters in Ottawa, Montreal, Brockville, and Quinte to ask for \$1 - \$3 donations per family sometime during the Winter or in early Spring.

Head office is preparing an extensive mailing list. If anyone knows someone who may be interested in the A. R. S. S., no matter where such a person lives, would you be so kind as to notify head-office?

As Director of Student Affairs, Rev. John C. Vanderstelt addressed last month classes Chatham, Huron, Quinte, Hamilton, and Toronto of the Christian Reformed Church, concerning our communal concern for students to be trained christianly. According to information received thus far, there are at present at least 243 students of reformed background attending various universities in Ontario. It has become apparent that, generally speaking, students who are indifferent about FOCUS and A. R. S. S. as far as biblical scholarship is concerned, tend to be cause for concern also of the churches.

During the last six months 250 persons have become members of the A. R. S. S. Total membership is now well over 2,200.

At the request of the Toronto district of Christian grade-school teachers, Vanderstelt met an evening with them to comment on the "Principal Guidelines, as adopted by the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools".

During the first three weeks of January 1968 Fred Cupido conducted a speaking tour in Southern and Central Alberta. Included were public promotional meetings in Lethbridge, Iron Springs and Lacombe. Student meetings (university and high school) were held in Lethbridge and Calgary. A number of personal visits were made in South Alberta. Also, tentative plans were made for a future meeting with the associate members in Medicine Hat, in order to come to the establishment of a chapter in that area.

y'r attn.pls.

Constitutional Ballots

A number of members have not yet returned their ballots for the proposed amended constitution. Please do so today. If you have mislaid your ballot, notify us immediately and we will forward another one.

The A. R. S. S. board will meet in Toronto on March 6 - 9, 1968. Members are encouraged to draw the attention of the board to Association business they would like to have discussed. Remember this is your Association. Your board is most anxious to have your views on matters pertaining to the Association and its Institute. Jot your comments, suggestions and requests down and send them to the Executive Director, c/o 141 Lyndhurst Avenue, Toronto 4.

Motives of Ecumenism, our first publication in the 1967 Christian Perspectives series, is now available. The 68 page book contains three lectures given by Dr. Paul G. Schrottenboer at the 1966 Unionville study conference sponsored by the A. R. S. S.

In this thought-provoking and timely publication, Dr. Schrottenboer, the general secretary of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, analyses three basic dynamics - secularism, dialogue and unity for mission - of the ecumenical movement and discusses the driving forces behind the striving of the churches towards unity.

In the author's own words, he proposes to provide a frame of evaluating criteria with which to appraise ecumenism today. We are certain that amidst all the current confusion about ecumenism, you will find this lucid publication most helpful. Copies priced at \$1.25 Canadian funds are available from the A. R. S. S. head office, 141 Lyndhurst Avenue, Toronto 4, Ontario.

WE WANT NEWS

Interesting things are happening in A. R. S. S. circles. Chapters are anxious to find out what other chapters are doing. Perspective is your magazine. Please send us your news and comments.

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