

# Fruit of ICS labour blossoms in Chicago

Perspective

OUR  
 33<sup>rd</sup>.  
 YEAR

Seldom can an ICS supporter see the blessing God is working through our sinful sanctified efforts. After all, philosophical thinking is not dramatic. It's hard to advertise. And a graduate school takes 20 to 30 years before you can expect to see fruit, whether it be good or bad. But at the Vrieze Philosophy Conference held at Trinity Christian College March 16 through 18, anybody with eyes to see could witness the good fruit growing in the tradition of reformational philosophy. And I believe the Institute for Christian Studies has been at the center of tilling that soil. Also, when you see there as I did former students you have had now acting as leaders in their respective Reformed institutions, keeping the faith and being live to the times, in ways that surpass your own, fresh and imaginative, you feel like a person from an older generation, and very glad at the incredible faithfulness of our Lord.

The conference, set up by ICS alumnus George Pierson and his colleague John Roose, pulled together about 20 philosophy professors from Reformed colleges in Canada and the USA to talk about the place of

Christian philosophy courses in the Reformed undergraduate curriculum.

The offshoots of ICS were visible among the professors present. For example, there were Lambert Zuidervaart from Calvin, and Vaden House, from The King's, the two first graduates from the Ph.D. program ICS offers in cooperation with the Free University of Amsterdam; Dordt's John Vander Stelt, a former ICS trustee, and John Van Dyk, an adjunct ICS faculty member; Gordon's Grady Spires; Trinity's Pierson, ICS alumnus; John Roose and Lee Hardy of Calvin, longtime ICS friends; those who have done their doctoral work in philosophy at the Free University including Dordt's John Kok and Calvin's Ed Echeverria; ICS graduate and professor William Rowe; and the others like Redeemer's Theodore Plantinga, Northwestern's Gary Weaver, and Calvin's Peter De Vos and Mark Talbot, who from their backgrounds were intent on making earnest with reformational philosophical insights and contributing theirs for the *genuine* integration of faith inside learning.

Calvin Seerveld  
 ICS Senior Member in Aesthetics



**Gathering of reformational philosophers**

Philosophers at the Vrieze conference included, back row, 1 to r, William Rowe, George Pierson, John Roose, Roger Vajda, Theodore Plantinga, Gary Weaver, Cal Seerveld, Mark Talbot, John Kok, and Vaden House. Front row, 1 to r, Lambert Zuidervaart, Ed Echeverria, Lee Hardy, John Van Dyk, Grady Spires, John Vander Stelt, and Peter de Vos.

Photo courtesy of Trinity Christian College

# Perspective

Purpose: To bring news about the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) to its supporting constituency.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

It is always gratifying to see a plant bear fruit; and it can be a humbling experience if you have been one of the tillers of the soil. On page one Cal Seerveld gives thanks for the visible branching out of the ICS vision at a March conference.

Speaking of conferences, the summer will again be ripe with them as ICS hosts a study team from Calvin in June, Calvin Seminary's John Stek in July, and the Niagara family conference in August. Plan to join us!

Until June!

CAV



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

By *Clifford C. Pitt*

I have just finished my income tax return for 1988. Arithmetic has never been my strong suit: words, perhaps yes, but numbers, no.

But there's one kind of arithmetic I understand very well: a Sovereign God's arithmetic. Let me give you three examples.

- When the young lad's mother packed his lunch that morning she never dreamed that the five small barley loaves and two small fish would multiply until this modest lunch became the hundreds of fish and loaves that eight months of a man's wage could purchase (Mark 6:37). Five thousand men, plus women and children, all satisfied. *God's multiplication table was at work!*
- Then there was the businessman who gave three of his top executives substantial venture capital with which to establish profitable businesses while he was away. On the basis of what he already knew of their abilities, he gave the first manager about \$2,250,000; the second, \$900,000; the third, \$450,000. When the owner returned, the first executive handed over almost \$5 million; the second, almost \$2 million. (Matt. 25:14-28). Again, *the Lord expects His multiplication table to be at work!*
- Consider case number three: in God's good time a tiny handful of Senior Members at the Institute for Christian Studies produced over the years some 45 (or 50) alumni who themselves took up professorships all over the world, 29 of them in Christian colleges. Add another 13 at this moment in the professorial pipeline at ICS, plus an additional 17 ICS graduates readying for professorships at other universities: altogether,  $45+13+17=75$  Christian professors grounded in biblical studies and Christian philosophy.

Now comes the multiplication! If each of these professors has a 30-year career and teaches, say, 200 college or university students per year, that means these 75 will reach

450,000 students! Almost half a million young people whose ideas and values will lead us into tomorrow! Leaders in industry and agriculture, business and the professions, society and culture in general, the church in particular.

*This is the great Multiplier at work!* If you support us with your prayers and dollars, then you are an important part of the Lord's multiplication table at ICS! That brings me to a subject that I think I've been trying subconsciously to avoid dealing with directly: our financial stewardship. Well, here goes! **Giving is to be proportionate to our income**

In the Old Testament, tithing was the minimum. In the New, "each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his (her) income." (1 Cor. 16:2) Apart from the reason *why* we give, this may be the most important principle in Christian giving.

**Giving is to be regular**

The Corinthians were encouraged to save something regularly each week. (1 Cor. 16:2) To me it is very sad that only a mere handful give to ICS regularly every month without fail. The electric bills, the workers's salaries, the caretaking costs, the rent: these all hit us with clockwork regularly every month — not just at the times of our Christmas or spring appeals.

**Our giving is to be one of the secret ways we have of worshipping God**

Says the Lord Jesus, "When you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do . . . to be honoured by men." (Matt. 6:2 NIV)

Indeed, it's almost as though my giving is to be a secret even from myself! "When you give . . . do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Don't keep a reckoning! Here is an invitation to be really open-handed, almost extravagant in our giving!

**Failure to give hinders God's bless-**

## ing His people

The final chapters of the Old Testament close with God in severe dialogue with His people:

"You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Trust me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

## The rewards of giving

You can't take it with you! Oh, yes you can if you change it into the currency of heaven. Somehow the divine alchemy changes the dollars with which you support His works into the "gold and silver and precious stones" of 1 Cor. 3:12-15.

Does a \$60 membership fee in ICS qualify? I so believe, if that \$60 is given as to the work of God. I very much covet, for scores of my readers, this modest transfer of funds from here to there!

And how I long that some reader of substantial wealth might realize what a rich jewel ICS is, and become a large part of us, and hence, a large part of God's multiplication table at the Institute.

## Why should we give?

Surely we give because we love! I shall never forget our boys, David and Paul, when they were little and manfully struggling with their paper routes, how they would splurge every cent they had taken months to earn for Dorothy's birthday or Mother's Day. Why? Because they loved her, loved her with all their childish hearts, with nothing held back.

And so it should be. Said Jesus, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." (Luke 7:47)

For those of us who have relatively few sins, let us give relatively few of our dollars in love to God. For the rest of us . . . . .

## Conclusion

I close with one final thought that may rock you. I make no apology for having mentioned it before. He who owns the cattle on a thousand hills declares to His people, "If I were hungry I would not tell you!" God does not need our gifts. If He would have us give, it is simply out of His grace that He does so. It is for our great good, not His. ☐

# B.C. chapter hosts ethics meet

by Pearl den Haan  
ICS Alumna

About 100 people attended a one-day conference on "Ethical Issues in Contemporary Society" sponsored by British Columbia's ICS Lower Mainland Chapter November 12. The issues addressed included euthanasia, abuse within the family, genetic engineering, political principles, and business ethics.

Rev. Bill Tuininga set the tone in his keynote address. Although he claimed to be a preacher rather than an ethicist, Tuininga went on to make some thought-provoking points.

Despite doubt as to whether there is right or wrong in today's world, morality and knowledge do exist, he stated.

Quoting from *Mere Morality* by Lewis B. Smedes, Tuininga said that every person, whether Hindu, atheist, or Christian knows truth from falsehood. True ethical principles are not arbitrary guidelines published by an ethics department at some university nor are they a set of rules that can be gleaned from reading the Bible. Rather, ethical principles stem from raw morality written in each person's heart.

Borrowing from C. S. Lewis, Tuininga said there are no new moralities and no new rules. For in God's eyes there is only one ethic. Our job is to discover what is truly moral, i.e., to find truth.

Tuininga concluded his remarks by saying that the Bible is not a moral code. Rather, it provides principles that need working out and points the way to Christ who is the fulfillment of all law and thus is the path by which true morality can be known.

After Tuininga's remarks, the group split into five workshops in the morning and again in the afternoon. Workshop leaders included former "Mr. ICS" Nick Loenen, now Member of the Legislative Assembly of B.C., on politics; Vancouver School of Theology professor Terry Anderson on decision-making in bioethics; Rob Bakker, a senior biology teacher, on bioethics in the classroom; family therapist Jack Paauw on abuse within the family; and Trinity Western University's business division chair Dr. John Sutherland, on business. ☐



## Like father, like son

Six-year-old Benjamin Goheen, to the envy of his sisters, spent a recent afternoon in class at ICS with his dad, Ph.D. student Michael Goheen. While his father participates in the seminar, Ben draws pictures.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp



## KEEPING UP WITH ICS FACULTY

On January 17, ICS's senior member in philosophy of education **Dr. Harry Fernhout** presented the annual Christianity and Culture lecture at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont. The title of his talk was, "Hallowed Be Thy Name, But Not in School: the Place of Christianity in Our Educational Vision and Story."

On February 1, Fernhout, in his role as academic vice-president, and President Clifford Pitt traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with other Christian college and university presidents interested in forming the Reformed University of North America (RUNA).

On February 17 Fernhout led two workshops on "Doing Philosophy Between Vision and Practice" in Fruitland, Ont. at the professional development day held for the Guelph and Niagara districts of the Ontario Christian Schools Teachers Association (OCSTA).

Fernhout has also been participating in an ongoing consultation on religious education in public elementary schools, which is being sponsored by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

On March 23 Fernhout presented a talk entitled, "The Bible's Role in Public Education" to a class of education students at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont.

"Eindgericht en Getuigenis" (Apocalypse and Witness) is the title of an article written by **Dr. Hendrik Hart**, senior member in systematic philosophy, which was published in the October 1988 issue of the Dutch journal *Beweging*. The article dealt with the church's role in contemporary political and economic matters.

On February 9, Hart traveled to Hamilton, Ont. where he presented a paper entitled, "But Deliver Us From Reason" to the philosophy department and student chaplaincy at McMaster University.

From March 7 through 13 Hart recruited students for ICS at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and Northwestern College in Iowa. The philosophy department at Calvin hosted Hart as he gave his paper entitled, "But Deliver Us From Reason." At Dordt Hart presented a series of three lectures under the title, "Reason, Authority, and Norms in the Christian Community."

On January 13 and 14 **Dr. Paul Marshall**, senior member in political theory, attended a discussion group in Memphis, Tennessee on Thomas Sowell's *A Conflict of Visions*, a book which attempts to uncover the roots of liberalism and conservatism.

On January 25, Marshall spoke at the faculty colloquium at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont. on philosophies of human rights.

In early February Marshall left Toronto to teach a course at the Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands while doing research on pluralism and human rights as part of his semester-long sabbatical project.

**Dr. James Olthuis**, senior member in philosophical theology led a retreat for the young people's groups of Sussex and Goshen Christian Reformed Churches of New Jersey at Harmony Heart Camp in Jemyn, Pennsylvania January 6 through 8. The theme of the retreat was "Relationships . . . the Dance of Intimacy."

On January 17, Olthuis met with a Bible study group from Little Trinity Anglican Church in Toronto.

Olthuis's article, "The Family, God's School for Compassion" was published in the November 21, 1988 issue of *The Banner*.

On March 9, about 30 counselors from the Toronto area met at ICS to get better acquainted with one another. Olthuis introduced his views of therapy under the title, "Spirals of Love and Healing."

On January 20, ICS's senior member in aesthetics **Dr. Calvin Seerveld** opened an art exhibition called, "Homage a Senggi: a retrospective of Henk Krijger in North America" at Redeemer College.

On February 7, Seerveld was interviewed by *Faith 20*, the television ministry of The Back to God Hour operated by the Christian Reformed Church of North America.

Seerveld was a featured speaker at the annual Jubilee conference held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania February 24 through 26. His seminars included, "The Necessity of a Christian Philosophy for Integrating the Humanities," and "Redemptive Art and the Problem of Propaganda."

On March 16 through 18, both Seerveld and **Dr. William Rowe**, senior member in history of philosophy, participated in a "Symposium on Philosophy in the Reformed Undergraduate Curriculum" sponsored by Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois. The symposium was supported by funds raised in memory of Dr. Martin Vrieze, former professor of philosophy at Trinity. Rowe presented a paper called, "Philosophy and the Problem of Foundations" concerning the idea of philosophy as a core discipline in the college curriculum and Seerveld wrapped up the conference with his paper, "Where do we go from here?"

Rowe spent the month of January at Calvin College where he taught an interim course on "The Foundations of Reformational Philosophy."

*Gregorianum*, a journal put out by the Gregorian University in Rome, published an article by **Dr. George Vandervelde** entitled, "Vatican Ecumenism at the Crossroads?" In

the article Vandervelde, senior member in systematic theology, deals with a recent historic response by the Vatican to the landmark ecumenical document, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*.

Another article, entitled "The Gift of Prophecy and the Prophetic Church" appeared in *The Holy Spirit: Renewing and Empowering Presence* for which Vandervelde also served as editor.

On January 8 and 9, **Dr. Brian Walsh**, senior member in worldview studies, co-led a retreat with ICS alumnus Richard Middleton for Brock Christian Fellowship in St. Catharines around the theme, "Imaging God in a Secular Culture."

On February 10 and 11, Walsh led a workshop on "Urban Values: How We Make Our Choices" at Walmer Road Baptist Church for "Context: A Conference on Urban Mission in Canada."

"A Christian Worldview in the Medical Profession" was the title of a talk Walsh gave March 18 at the Christian Medical and Dental Society's annual retreat held in Aurora, Ont.

The Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) Local #17 hosted Walsh's talk on "The Transforming Vision of Work" at their annual meeting held March 3.

On March 7 Walsh left Toronto for a week-long recruitment trip to British Columbia and Washington State. On March 8 he gave a talk entitled, "The Christian Worldview of Bruce Cockburn" to students at Trinity Western University (TWU). On March 9, "Who Turned Out the Lights?" was the title of his talk at Regent College. The next day he presented a chapel talk on Psalm 115 at TWU as well as a lecture on Old Testament worldview to the Old Testament Studies class. Walsh was also able to meet with interested professors and students on an informal basis. In Coquitlam, Walsh spoke to a group of ICS supporters on, "Beyond Worldview to a Way of Life" March 11. On March 12 Walsh preached a sermon on Psalm 104 at First Christian Reformed Church in Victoria. ICS adjunct faculty member Dr. Al Greene Jr., who is also executive director of Alta Vista College in Seattle, Washington hosted Walsh who gave his lecture, "Who Turned Out the Lights?" at the college on March 13.

Little Trinity Anglican Church in Toronto was the setting for Walsh's April 9 talk on "Christian Faith in a Secular Culture." P

## Meet a student: Janet Wesselius



Janet Wesselius

I grew up on a farm just outside of Brandon, Manitoba and was raised within the community formed by Brandon Christian Reformed Church. I attended The King's College in Edmonton, Alberta for two years before going on to complete my B.A. degree in philosophy at the University of Alberta. So, when the time came for me to choose a graduate school, ICS was a natural choice. I had been raised with the insight that "life is religion" and that one's education cannot be separated from one's faith. ICS claimed to take seriously both education and faith.

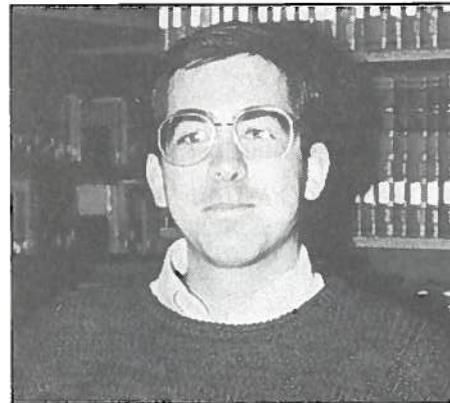
The University of Alberta provided me with a good education in philosophy and I knew that it could provide me with a good master's program. However, I missed the Christian fellowship and study that was part of being a student at The King's. Moreover, I felt the need to more fully work out the relationship between my academic pursuits and my faith. I knew about the existence of ICS since I was a member of the Christian Reformed community in Edmonton and through my professors at The King's. I also knew from my professors that ICS had a good academic reputation. At the same time that I was considering ICS, my husband, Peter Sinnema, became interested in studying English literature at York University. We decided to move to Toronto since both of us would then be able to study at the graduate school of our choice.

I have not been disappointed in my choice. I know that I cannot understand philosophy in a truly thorough and basic way unless I gain a fundamental understanding of God's relationship to it; at the same

time, I know that the study of philosophy better my understanding of God and God's creation. ICS has given me more freedom, support, and guidance in my study of philosophy from a Christian perspective than I could have expected at a secular institution. As well, there is a balance between deepening my understanding of a Reformed, Calvinian tradition of which I have been a member since birth and being challenged to rethink that tradition for myself.

When I was first asked to write about my reasons for coming to ICS, my first (joking) response was, "I came to ICS because that's the way my parents raised me." I realise now that perhaps that response is closer to the truth than I first thought. ICS is the continuation of a Christian education for a graduate student. At this institution I have found the freedom and support to learn what it means to be a Christian philosopher. P

## Meet a student: Jeremy E. Fisher



Jeremy Fisher

This morning, as I entered the hallowed halls of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS), a sudden and glorious euphoria uplifted my spirit. I was perplexed at this unexpected experience. But the mystery was soon solved. For there, filling three library shelves, were the complete works of Martin Luther. Ah! Such gladsome light!

To me, a Lutheran (ELCA) from Charlotte, North Carolina, the feeling I encountered this morning at ICS could only be most satisfactory. One would think though, that if I am such a staunch Lutheran enroute to the ministry, in whatever vein that may be, a Lutheran seminary would perhaps appeal to me more that a

graduate school founded in the Dutch Calvinistic tradition. What is it about ICS that appeals to me?

In my search for graduate studies, I looked for a program based on the English tutorial system to complement my double major in theology and philosophy from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C. But more entered into my decision to study at ICS. Its major appeal is the integration of Christianity and scholarship. ICS follows through on its claim of integrality. And its interdisciplinary work between the fields of philosophy and theology puts it on a pedestal above other programs that attempt a solid separation. It makes ICS open and understanding to today's critical, secular, scientific world.

Also, as I discovered early in my studies in philosophical theology here, I can quite comfortably remain a Lutheran while simultaneously standing in the grip of ICS's pedagogical rubric.

As I near the completion of my first year at ICS, I find that I am still a solid Lutheran. However, in this educational venture, I have found a new and enriching appreciation for ecumenism.

By the way, I'm 23 and single. P

## Meet a trustee: Wendy Helleman



Wendy Helleman

Wendy Helleman, 43, is serving her first year as a member of ICS's board of trustees; she is also a member of its executive committee. A member of First Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, Helleman is an assistant professor of classics at the Scarborough campus of the University of Toronto.

Helleman's appreciation for a graduate school like ICS has grown

over the years. During her own student days, she realized the need to integrate her studies with her commitment as a Christian. She gratefully notes that this is one of ICS's main reasons for existence. As a teacher, she has observed that the need for students to integrate their faith with learning is urgent.

"Today students are working under great pressure; the material to be covered in undergraduate courses is increasing. Few students can permit themselves the luxury of a well-rounded education. I believe that ICS can continue to play a meaningful role in helping them to see their particular areas of study in a broader context and to develop a Christian critical appreciation of their subject and of the role they can play as they enter the work force. For this reason I would like to see ICS continue its policy of publishing high quality materials useful for students in their various fields of study. I would also like to see more students from Ontario take courses at ICS or enrol on a full-time basis."

Helleman brings to her position as trustee an A.B. from Calvin College (1967); an M.A. from the University of Toronto (1971); as well as a Drs. (1973) and a Ph.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam (1980).

Helleman and her husband Adrian, a minister of the Christian Reformed Church currently engaged in Ph.D. studies, have three children, Sharon, 14, David, 12, and Pauline, 10. 

## Seerveld on Faith20

ICS's Calvin Seerveld will be featured on two **Faith20** programs taped for **The Back to God Hour**, a radio and television ministry sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

"The Mind of Christ" will be aired May 1 and "Using the Bible" will be shown May 24. Both programs will appear on the Vision channel; check your local cable television guide for times. 

## Reserve May 13

Reserve Saturday, May 13 for ICS's general annual membership meeting. Members within driving distance will receive details as to time, place and program in the mail. 

## ORDER FROM NEW SELECTION

### New and beautiful ICS books

- The Holy Spirit — Renewing and Empowering Presence*  
by George Vandervelde, editor \$13.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
What does Reformed theology say about the Holy Spirit? Richard Mouw, George Vandervelde, Jan Veenhof, Richard Gaffin and others give fresh insight, with an introduction by Clark Pinnock
- On Being Human: Imaging God in the Modern World*  
by Calvin Seerveld \$ 7.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
Meditations on what the Bible teaches for our day about the beauty and responsibility of being people created in God's image. Strikingly illustrated with artistic reproductions and songs.
- The Greatest Song, in critique of Solomon*  
by Calvin Seerveld (paperback) \$14.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
(hardcover) \$24.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
Seerveld's exciting translation and interpretation of the biblical "Song of Solomon" now reprinted; illustrated with woodcuts and original music. An outstanding gift.
- Stained Glass: Worldview and Social Sciences*  
by Paul Marshall, Sander Griffioen, and Richard Mouw (editors) \$15.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
A definitive treatment of worldviews and their use in social sciences by scholars from ICS, Calvin College, and the Free University of Amsterdam; includes Wolterstorff, Wolters, Olthuis, Rowe, Griffioen and Marshall.
- Social Science in Christian Perspective*  
by Paul Marshall and Robert VanderVennen (eds) \$20.95 \_\_\_\_\_
- Keeping Our Troth*  
by James Olthuis \$18.95 \_\_\_\_\_
- A Hermeneutics of Ultimacy*  
by James Olthuis \$11.50 \_\_\_\_\_
- Telling the Next Generation*  
by Harro Van Brummelen \$20.95 \_\_\_\_\_
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by M. D. Stafleu \$21.95 \_\_\_\_\_

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# DEVELOPMENT NOTES

by *Adriana Pierik*

I never find it an easy task to write this column; writing does not come naturally to me. But I find it to be particularly hard when I have to sound a note of alarm as I have to do this month. It is difficult to strike a genuine note of gratitude for the generosity of many of our supporters and at the same time face the realities of our financial statements. So, why the note of alarm?

With only three months left to go before our fiscal year ends, it appears that we will again end our fiscal year with a much greater deficit than we had anticipated. We hope that this negative situation can still be averted in the time that remains before June 30, 1989.

As our spring appeal letter from ICS board of trustees treasurer John Jeronimus indicated, we received very little donation income during the first three months of 1989. The way our finances stand right now, we have received about \$380,000 of our total voluntary budget of \$590,000. This shortfall has us deeply worried.

By now you may be tempted to read no further. You may be thinking to yourself, "So, what else is new?" or "We've heard it all before!" or "Why does ICS have a chronic deficit syndrome; won't this ever go away?"

There is not one single answer to these questions, but some factors are perhaps not fully taken into account by many people. To begin with, it costs an enormous amount of money to educate one student for one year. As Dr. Pitt has often mentioned, the Ontario government will give over \$100,000 to a public university to produce one Ph.D. graduate, and about \$15,000 to produce one B.A. graduate.

Similarly, it costs ICS a great deal of money to produce one Ph.D. or one master's graduate. However, we

receive no government funding for our students nor are they eligible for government study grants. Instead, we need to subsidize the education of our students. This is why we have appealed to you in the past to help sponsor a student.

Public universities also receive much money from the public purse for their operational, administrative, and capital projects. In some provinces in Canada direct funding is given to private schools and colleges. ICS receives no such support. We rely totally on the gifts of many people for the academic costs and operational needs of ICS.

A graduate school is by its very nature usually small. Few students continue beyond the B.A. level to study at the graduate level. Colleges, therefore, will usually have a large student body. So, tuition fees constitute a large portion of their income. Again, this is not the case with ICS.

In addition, graduate education is an intangible thing; its value is not easily proven and therefore not always readily accepted as worthy of financial sacrifice.

Yet another factor to consider are current economic changes. Inflation, unemployment, the high cost of housing, drought, high interest rates, increased taxes — these affect us all. On my desk right now is a pile of letters from people who are unable to continue their previous level of support or to support us financially at all due to economic causes. Of course, this directly influences our cashflow situation.

There are so many other good Christian causes that ask for your support. We know. We are in a time of tough competition for dollars. People begin to resent yet another appeal or become totally immune to them. So, what are we at ICS to do? We wish we did not have to ask

for money. But repeatedly we have found that unless we ask we don't receive. Literally!

Another significant factor is that ICS has always had a small support base and we have failed to broaden that base. We would welcome any suggestions as to how we might in fact be more successful in this. However, I still believe that no amount of promotional strategy can ever replace the effectiveness of a face-to-face discussion you might have with a friend about the work and vision of ICS. People need to hear from you why you believe a Christian graduate school is essential.

We must not conclude from the rather somber tone of these notes that ICS is no longer viable. The reason for telling you this is that we wish to remain viable.

On the positive side, we can point to many reasons for optimism and joy — the growth in student enrolment; the sale of the building to a partnership of concerned people; the long-term financial stability this venture will give to ICS; the increased support received from the churches over the past three years; and the faithful prayer and financial support of so many of you — gives us a sense of gratitude and hope for the future.

We at ICS are confident that people of faith and vision will continue to recognize that Christian graduate education must be a top priority in an increasingly secular society where Christ's lordship over all of life is denied. I pray that God will reward that faith with his blessing. ☐

## Calvin team to ICS

On June 2 and 3 ICS will host a conference on "Youth, Electronic Media and Popular Art" to be presented by the Centre for Christian Scholarship of Calvin College. The conferees will examine the impact of the electronic media on young people and how the Christian community may use and promote the popular arts. Featured speakers will include William Romanowski, Quentin Schultze, Lambert Zuidervaart, James Bratt, Roy Anker, and John Worst. For registration information contact: ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4 or (416) 979-2331. ☐

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## Niagara conference

August 4 through 7 — keep these dates open so that you can attend the 31st annual ICS Niagara family conference! This year's topic, "Educating Disciples: Shaping Memory and Vision," will be presented by ICS's Harry Fernhout, senior member in philosophy of education.

Dr. Calvin Seerveld, senior member in aesthetics, will lead both the morning and evening worship services on the Sunday.

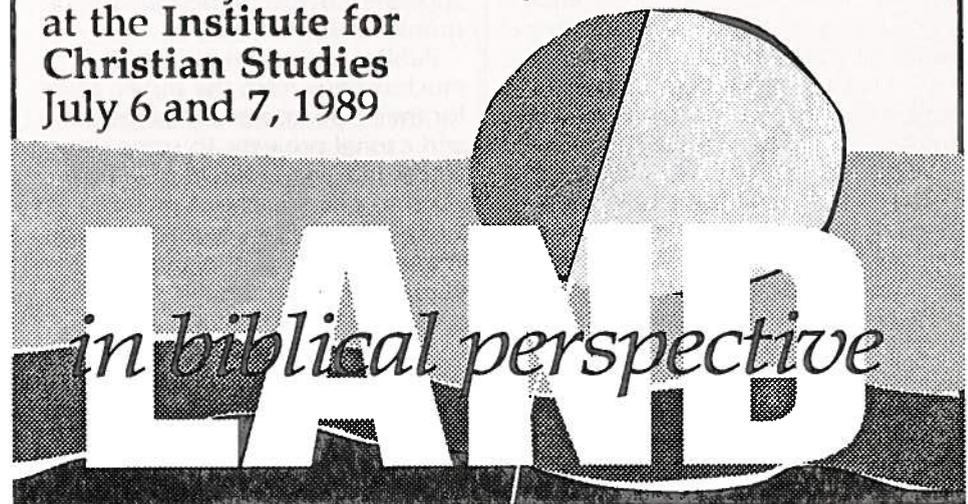
The conference, held every year on the campus of Niagara Christian College, is open to all ages of people who wish to spend the last holiday weekend of the summer together in an atmosphere of learning and celebration. 

## Summer course

How does faith develop as children and adolescents grow up? What role does the teaching of the Bible play in their faith development? These are some of the questions which will be addressed by ICS's senior member in education Dr. Harry Fernhout this summer in a course called, "Teaching the Bible: Developmental and Foundational Perspectives."

The July 4 through 21 course is open to those who teach Bible in Christian schools or churches. For registration information, call ICS Admissions at (416) 979-2331 or write ICS at 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4. 

A two-day seminar with John H. Stek  
at the Institute for  
Christian Studies  
July 6 and 7, 1989



John H. Stek is associate professor of Old Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was a major contributor to the translation of the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible and NIV Study Bible. He currently serves as editor of Calvin Theological Journal.



Registration deadline:  
June 30, 1989  
Fee: \$60.00  
Call ICS at  
(416)979-2331 for  
more information.

Five lectures to be offered by John H. Stek:

**1. BASIC CONCEPTS:**

*Survey of biblical language relative to land and elucidation of the biblical view of land and its place in the scheme of things.*

Thursday, July 6, 1989, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**2. HUMANITY AND LAND:**

*Elucidation of humanity's relationship to land.*

Thursday, July 6, 1989, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**3. LAND IN SALVATION HISTORY: THE PROMISE**

*Examination of the history of the promise of land in the progress of redemption (Genesis — Deuteronomy)*

Thursday, July 6, 1989, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

**4. LAND IN SALVATION HISTORY: POSSESSION AND ITS TEMPTATIONS:**

*Survey of the history of the fulfillment of the promise of land and of Israel's succumbing to the temptations of possession.*

Friday, July 7, 1989, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**5. LAND'S DESTINY: ITS PARTICIPATION IN REDEMPTION'S FULFILLMENT:**

*Overview of the biblical witness to land's participation in the whole sweep of God's redemption of his people.*

Friday, July 7, 1989, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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