

# Over 1,000 conferees explore spirituality at ICS weekend

by Carol-Ann Veenkamp



Rev. Derk Pierik

*In some cultures it is considered taboo to photograph someone because it's believed that by doing so one tampers with the spirit of that person. As I look through the reams of negatives I have from the 1987 Niagara Family Conference, I find that my camera has indeed captured something of the spirit of those who attended.*

*But by committing the Sunday morning worshippers or the workshop leaders or the volleyball players to film, my camera hasn't diminished the spirit of the conference participants. Rather, it has merely recorded many ways in which conferees expressed their innate spirituality — the central theme.*

*Most of those who attended will have received an extra helping of the Spirit over the holiday weekend as keynote speaker Rev. Derk Pierik defined spirituality and explored avenues of reception of the Spirit. The theme was probed further at both Sunday services by Rev. Henry Lunshof of Meadowvale Christian Reformed Church and Rev. John Vissers, professor of theology at Ontario Theological Seminary, and at the various workshops.*

## Search for spirituality

A campus chaplain for the Christian Reformed Church at the University of Toronto, Pierik said the authors of a book, *Understanding Cults and New Religions*, noted that currently there is a frantic search for new spiritual ideas by Christians and others as the Christian systems are being eroded by modernity. The influx of world religions into our society and the enormous variety of views on spirituality, even among Reformed Christians, have challenged traditional ways of thinking.

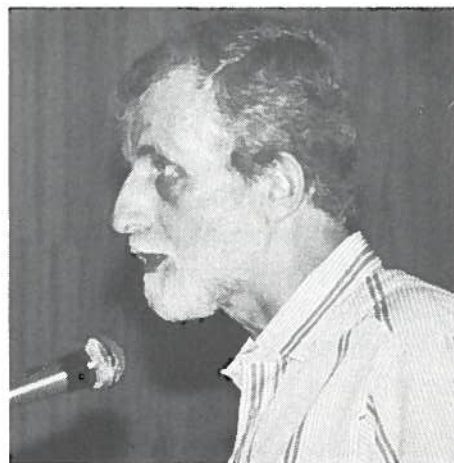
In his keynote address, Pierik strove to define spirituality. Simply stated, he said spirituality is our response to God's calling us to be holy.

Being close to God means being holy or pure. In order to become pure, we must confess our sins because the forgiveness of sins is as important as our daily bread as Jesus indicates in the Lord's Prayer, Pierik pointed out.

The first step toward holiness is "knowing God," he added. To know God means that "you must believe what the Bible says about God, about Jesus Christ, about you and that following Jesus is the sum total of your life," he said.

## Must come to God as child

Pierik told how he knew about God as a child; but that knowledge was  
*continued on page 2*



# Perspective

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## In This Issue

*Spirituality is our response to God calling us to be holy. It requires becoming pure by confessing our sins. It means striving to know God by reading and listening to His Word. It means recognizing that following Jesus is the sum total of your life.*

*That is the summation of Rev. Derk Pierik's address to over 1,000 people gathered to explore the meaning of spirituality at the annual ICS family conference held in Ontario – a weekend of events which permeate this issue of Perspective.*

*Similar family conferences were held in Alberta and British Columbia, and we'll have reports on those in the next issue.*

*It's exciting and encouraging to us at the Institute to see graduate level research done here reach out across barriers of age, education, and culture at these conferences. It makes the circle complete.*

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*"Spirituality" continued from page 1*  
clouded by a sense of fear. He compared that feeling to the fear he had for a grandfather whom he also loved. In his teens, Pierik rediscovered God, but feelings of anxiety and guilt held over. Gradually he realized that there could be no doubt that a God who would join us in our humanity, as God did in Jesus Christ, could love him.

He confessed that as a pastor he had tried to operate out of his own strength until in his late 30s he realized that it was all right to have weaknesses and to allow God to be a father to him.

"Only when we become as a child can we become one with God," he stated.

Becoming a child of God isn't a patchwork process, but requires a radical change inside, Pierik said.

"If you are in Jesus Christ, you are a new creation."

He cautioned that we must not ask what is included in spirituality, but rather, what could possibly be excluded from our lives. The Bible addresses aspects of our lives ranging from prayer to sexuality, from farming to international relations. Our spirituality also gives definition to every area of our lives. However, it is not always easy to translate spirituality to life, he said.

### Human nature resists takeover

Since the fall human nature has not been inclined to God. It resists the radical takeover God requires, Pierik said. He compared our resistance to renting our entire house to God, but only letting him occupy a few rooms or areas of our lives such as church, tithing, or devotions.

Similarly, in his work as a chaplain at the university, Pierik said that while he is encouraged to counsel students and to say public prayers, he is not welcome to comment on educational matters. He is expected to restrict his Christianity to certain acceptable areas.

"Christianity," he said, "has become a chaplaincy."

This divided view or dualism is the result of the human sinful tendency to limit God so he won't make disturbing claims on our lives.

### Discerning God's will

Tied into receiving spirituality is discerning God's will, which can be known through the Bible, creation, history, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, he said.

The closest way to talk with God is through reading and listening to the Scriptures, and taking to heart the sum-

mary of the Ten Commandments, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind," he said.

The revelation of God is so clear in creation that it leaves humanity with no excuse for failing to acknowledge God as creator. Pierik compared the interconnectedness of creation to the workings of a clock. He admitted that he loves to take a clock apart to see how it works. But he also knows that if he doesn't put it back together correctly, it won't work. Creation is the same, he said. You can't violate the laws of God's creation and expect things to work.

The Bible is a book of history written by people inspired by God. The Old Testament prophets spoke out of a deep sense of God's righteousness in the world.

"We need prophets who can read God's history," Pierik declared. "If the Old Testament prophets could speak to us, they could take the Old Testament books and send them right back to us."

Jesus Christ is the revelation of God Himself. He is God made flesh. "He who has seen me has seen the Father," Pierik said, quoting John 14:9.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God and of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is that which moves us. It is Christ embodied in us; we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, he explained.

It's important to listen to the "murmurings of your own soul and to stay attentive to the Holy Spirit in prayer. Listen also to the voice of Christ inside you," Pierik counselled.

### Worship cultivates spirituality

In worship we cultivate spirituality. Our worship is the "lovemaking of our relationship to God," Pierik said. "Worship should stir us, increase our heartbeat – it is a way to meet with God in a most intimate way."

Worship is something that arises from spending 72 hours together at a conference, singing through the night, coping with an all-day downpour, and grappling together with questions, he said, referring to the shared experience of those at the Niagara campus.

In wrapping up his address, Pierik urged the 1,000 conferees to take some of what they had learned over the weekend back to their home congregations.

"Now take it back and you may stir up things. The only people who do not disturb are dead people," he concluded. **A transcript of Derk Pierik's keynote speech is available from ICS upon request.**

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# ICS summer courses attract 14 students

Over the summer, 14 students participated in two ICS courses for graduate credit in the fields of education and psychology with adjunct faculty members Dr. John Van Dyk of Dordt College and Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen of Calvin College.

Van Dyk is the director of Dordt's Center for Educational Services, which was created to develop understanding in what it means to teach Christianly.

He was particularly excited about teaching a course on "Instructional Theory and Practice" at ICS because it gave him an opportunity to work out a model for distinctive Christian teaching through daily contact with classroom teachers. A quick tally showed that the members of his class had over 100 years of combined teaching experience – a wealth of information from which to draw.

His students responded favourably to Van Dyk's courses. Ike Witteveen, a principal at John Knox Christian School in Brampton, Ont. recommends that "all our Christian school teachers take this course."

Another student, Hendrika Slopesma, a teacher at Toronto District Christian High School (TDCH) echoes his recommendation. She wrote, "If I had any input into the training of our Christian school teachers, I would make this course a requirement. Too many of us think a teacher who is a Christian is therefore a Christian teacher."

Another TDCH teacher who took the course, Hilda Roukema, noted that "all Christian school teachers ought to be exposed to and involved with this topic (teaching Christianly), especially if Christian education is to survive and to become more Christian!"

## The person in psychology

Van Leeuwen is a professor of interdisciplinary studies at Calvin College. As a Canadian, Van Leeuwen felt a responsibility to try to combat the "great Canadian brain drain" to the U.S. by returning to teach at ICS for the summer. She also wanted to tap into ICS's sensitivity to worldview concerns in the wake of post-positivist philosophy of science.

Also, the course "The Person in Psychology", gave Van Leeuwen a unique opportunity to teach from her book of the same title and to use other current material written from a Christian perspective.

Van Leeuwen will be on sabbatical from Calvin during 1987-88 while she works on her new book, tentatively titled, *Gender, Sex, and Christian Freedom*. She'll be back at ICS in January to teach a three-week course on "New Directions in the Psychology of Women."

Carol Knibbe, office coordinator for Citizens for Public Justice in Toronto, said she would recommend the course to students interested in the potential for change in the discipline of psychology.

"... this course equips you to see beyond the current paradigm and to explore personal challenges. A key concept was that a well-articulated Christian worldview is an advantage, not an impediment to rigorous scholarship, by virtue of its centralness to theorizing and theory adjudication."

As a youth worker with Youth for Christ/Canada (YFC), Doug Moore is encouraged to advance himself academically in order to stay abreast of current thought. He investigated summer courses at ICS and decided to study with Van Leeuwen for three weeks.

He said, "Personally, I was attracted to ICS because I was in search of a good summer course. I asked a couple of my mentors about their impressions of ICS and they said that ICS's scholarship is second to none. My expectations that the course be academic were met; but there was also a good mention of practical applications in social work, youth work, education, and psychology."

Based on the success of these two courses, ICS plans to hold summer courses again in 1988. An education course on the foundations of curriculum with ICS adjunct faculty member Dr. Harro Van Brummelen is already being planned. P



*Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen stresses a point in her psychology class held at ICS in July.*



*Dr. John Van Dyk makes a point in his education course held at ICS this summer.*  
Photos by Dorothe Rogers

# Two vice-presidents to share workload at ICS

By September 1, ICS staff will have been enhanced by a vice-president of administration as well as a vice-president of academics. Ross Mortimer, 71, will be ICS's first administrative vice-president, and Dr. Harry Fernhout, 39, will replace Dr. Paul Marshall as academic vice-president.

In the tradition of ICS's president, Dr. Clifford C. Pitt, Mortimer had already retired from his former position as general manager of Ridpath's Furniture in Toronto when he applied for the ICS position. For the past year-and-a-half, he has been working in the corporate donations department of World Vision Canada in Mississauga.

In a memo to the ICS staff, Pitt stated, "All of Mr. Mortimer's evident leadership and experience in fundraising, in finance, in administration, and in church and community service, will be of tremendous help to ICS. But it is fair to say that the search committee felt that Mr. Mortimer's No. 1 qualification was his evident commitment to the Lord's work wherever that might lead and what-ever might be involved."

Fernhout, ICS's professor of philosophy of education, accepted the board's appointment as vice-president academic in addition to his teaching duties. He will assume the title of acting president whenever Pitt is absent.

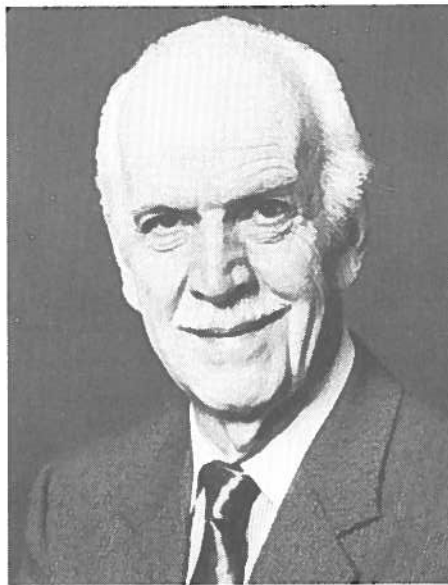


Harry Fernhout

According to Pitt, Fernhout will bring his "achievements and talents to this post, including his scholarly work in his appointment as senior member in philosophy of education, his leadership in working with Dr. Paul Marshall on the development of our projected M.Ed. program, his organizational ability in developing workshops/conferences for Christian teachers, his earlier work in developing curricula for Christian schools, his books on the Old Testament, his attractive public presence in representing the Institute, and above all this is his helpfulness and wisdom in our internal discussions of the Institute's academic concerns and his desire to serve God in His work here."

Pitt also thanked Marshall for his two years of service as vice-president academic without benefit of a vice-president of administration.

"I would be ungrateful indeed, and so would the Institute, if we did not say a deeply felt 'thank you' to Dr. Paul Marshall for taking on what we all *now* recognize as an inordinately heavy load as vice-president academic. It is fair to say that he remained in this post, last year, *only* as a service to ICS; his heart is really in his work as a scholar, and we wish him God's blessing and inspiration as he now has more time for his research and writing," Pitt stated. P



Ross Mortimer

## *Four ICS faculty members participate in conference held at Free University*

Four members of ICS's faculty flew to Amsterdam in August to participate in a five-day conference entitled, "Normativity and Contextuality in the Social Sciences" sponsored by the Free University of Amsterdam, Calvin College and the Institute for Christian Studies.

The idea behind the conference was to look at how the work of Christian social scientists is actually shaped by their commitment, presuppositions, and methods. Case studies from various fields, which illustrated the religious dynamics at work in choices of method and approaches, were examined.

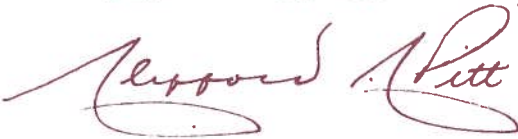
**Dr. Paul Marshall**, ICS senior member in political theory, presented a paper on "Ideology and Human Rights Theories" to which Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff of Calvin College responded. **Dr. Harry Fernhout**, senior member in philosophy of education, read his paper, "The Metaphor of 'Development' in Moral Education," and **Dr. William Rowe** responded to Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen's paper on "Christian Maturity in Light of Feminist Theory." Van Leeuwen is a professor at Calvin and an adjunct faculty member at ICS. **Dr. James Olthuis** responded to a paper by Dr. Andre Droogers of the Free University on "Normativity and Contextuality in an Anthropologist's Study of Syncretism."

ICS graduate and Calvin College philosophy professor Dr. Lambert Zuidervaart also participated in the conference by responding to a paper by Dr. Johan van der Hoeven of the Free University on "Development in the Light of the Notion of Encounter." Zuidervaart is also an adjunct faculty member of ICS.

ICS senior member in systematic theology Dr. George Vandervelde also attended the conference. P



# President's Annual Report 1986-87

by 

## The Academic Task of ICS

The Institute for Christian Studies saw six students graduate in 1986; five students received the Master of Philosophical Foundations degree and one student received the Certificate in Christian Studies. In total, this year we had 27 full-time students; of these 21 were working at the master's level and six were in the Ph.D. program.

Our average of full-time students for the past two years, 27.5, is down from the average of 30.6 for the previous 10 years. But our part-time student enrolment has increased to 40 for the past two years from an average of five for the previous 10 years.

There continues to be substantial evidence that we are successful in one of our chief goals, training professors with a Christian perspective for university and college teaching. Last fall, Ph.D. candidate Vaden House was appointed as assistant professor of philosophy at The King's College. This September David T. Koyzis, who graduated from ICS in 1982, goes to Redeemer College as assistant professor of political science. Another Redeemer College appointee is ICS alumnus Jacob Ellens. A trio of ICS alumni take up academic appointments in September at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, (Chicago) Illinois: ICS graduate Brad Breems will be assistant professor of sociology; ICS graduate Don Sinnema will teach theology; and ICS alumnus George N. Pierson will be instructor of philosophy. I remind our supporters that 40 to 45 Institute alumni presently hold professorships in public universities or Christian colleges. Over the lifetime of their professorships they will influence for Christian life perhaps a quarter of a million young people who will become tomorrow's leaders in church and community. It is the voluntary donations of our supporters which make all this possible.

The Institute for Christian Studies is much concerned about making it possible for fully employed persons to study with us. To that end, this past year we offered six evening courses in biblical studies, education, and psychology/counselling. Then, this July two strong ICS supporters, Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen of Calvin College and Dr. John Van Dyk of Dordt College, taught three-week summer courses on "The Person in Psychology" and "Teaching Christianly" respectively.

In order to supplement our regular faculty for the projected master's programs in education and Christian studies, we have this year added the following adjunct faculty: John Van Dyk, Ph.D., professor of philosophy at Dordt College, Harro Van Brummelen, Ph.D., professor of education at Trinity Western University, Alice Oosterhuis, Ph.D., professor of educational psychology at The King's College, Robert Bruinsma, Ph.D., professor of education at The King's College, Gregory Maffett, Ph.D., and Albert E. Greene, Jr., Ph.D., executive

director of Alta Vista College. Two of our own graduates, Lambert Zuidervaat, Ph.D., professor of philosophy at Calvin College, and Brian Walsh, Ph.D. will also serve as adjunct faculty this year.

These new additions brings our complement of adjunct faculty to 12. Those previously appointed include Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, Ph.D., professor of interdisciplinary studies at Calvin, Stan Skarsten, D.S.W., psychological counsellor at the Institute for Family Living, and Albert Wolters, Ph.D., professor of religion and theology at Redeemer College. C. Thomas McIntire, Ph.D., professor of history at the University of Toronto, is an adjunct senior member.

## Conferences

The conferences which we organized during the year were varied and well attended:

- The 1986 Niagara Family Conference dealt with the sensitive issue of "Changes and Choices" and attracted about 1100 people. Many felt that this was perhaps the best Niagara Conference ever. Very profitable and enjoyable conferences were also held in Alberta and British Columbia; these drew about 200 people each.

- Our two-day annual Christianity and Learning Lectureship featured Dr. Merold Westphal of Hope College. He gave three lectures on "The Religious Uses of Atheism" to about 45 people.

- On May 19 Dr. Hendrik Hart spoke on his "applied hermeneutics" to 25 invited pastors, teachers, and other community leaders.

- On June 12 and 13 we hosted the research team of the Center for Christian Scholarship from Calvin College on the topic, "The Crisis in Central America: A Reformed Christian Approach" attended by 65 people from a considerable range of national and denominational backgrounds.

- An invitational consultation of 15 biologists on July 23 and 24 dealt with philosophical issues in biology.

## Publications: Books

Our staff was instrumental in bringing about the publication of three books in 1986-87:

- Two were written by Dr. James Olthuis. One is a careful study of commitment in marriage, published by Harper and Row under the title, *Keeping Our Troth*; this is a follow-up of his earlier book, *I Pledge You My Troth*, which has sold something like 30,000 copies. The second book, *A Hermeneutics of Ultimacy: Peril or Promise?*, published by University Press of America (UPA), is an academic discussion of Jim's method of interpreting the Bible, in which the ideas he presents are critiqued by three other theologians: Clark Pinnock, Donald Bloesch, and Gerald Sheppard, followed by Olthuis's response.

- Dr. Harry Fernhout's Bible study guide, *Promises Broken, Promise Kept* was published this year by the Curriculum Development Centre.

- This August the University Press of America has released a new book on the history and philosophy of science, *Theories at Work*, by M. D. Stafleu, based on a course which Dr. Stafleu gave at ICS in the summer of 1985.

- We have five other books in various stages of publication, all of which have been accepted by publishers.

## Academic Papers

We have prepared for distribution and promoted the availability of seven new papers arising from our work and enhancing our goal of advancing Christian scholarship. Two were written by our faculty, two by our graduate students, and three by other good friends of ICS. They are:

- James Olthuis: "Faith development in the adult life span"

- James Olthuis: "Evolutionary dialectics and Segundo's *Liberation of Theology*"

- Priscilla Reimer: "A time to keep silence and a time to speak"

- Henry Venema: "Aristotle and imagination"

- T. Harry Leith: "Faith and scientific theory"

- David Caudill: "Law and worldview"

- Wentzel van Huyssteen: "Rationality and creativity"

## Master's Theses and Manuals

We have added the master's degree theses of two of our recent graduates to the lengthening list of those we duplicate and make available to those who wish to share in the fruits of our scholarship:

- Bruce Clemenger: "Human Action and Economics in the Liberal Thought of Ludwig von Mises"

- Henry Venema: "Philosophical Anthropology: An Interpretive Analysis of Paul Ricoeur's Philosophy of Will"

This year we produced two 50-page manuals for group and individual study:

- Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin: "Reflection on the Arts"

- Jon Chaplin: "Christian Perspective for Political Action"

Both manuals arise out of the teaching in which the authors were engaged as part of ICS's campus outreach while they were graduate students here. These manuals are available to the general public.

## Correspondence Courses

Our correspondence reading course program, directed by Dr. Bob VanderVennen, is off to a good start following a publicity campaign in February. We have started with five courses:

- Dr. Brian Walsh: "Christian Worldview"

- Dr. Harro Van Brummelen: "Christian Schools: Their Bases, Goals and Practices"

- Charles Adams: "Technology in a Christian Perspective"

- Jasper Lesage: "Introduction to the Economy"
- Dr. Robert VanderVennen: "Science in a Christian Perspective"

By mid-July 62 registrations had been received for these courses. The most popular courses are Christian Worldview and Christian Schools, the latter being taken by many Christian school teachers to deepen their understanding of the foundation of Christian schools. Another five or six courses are actively in preparation. A student who completes 10 courses will receive a *Diploma in Christian Studies*\* from ICS. (\* This diploma is not to be confused with the Institute's graduate degrees.)

## Reformed University of North America

ICS has continued a substantial involvement in the movement toward a Reformed University of North America, a possibility which has been explored over the past two years by the presidents and vice-presidents of the Institute for Christian Studies, and Calvin, Trinity, Dordt, Redeemer, and The King's colleges. Rev. Derk Pierik started this ball rolling; Paul Marshall is on the small committee responsible for planning. The Long Range Planning Committee calls on us to pursue this relationship with a watchful eye on our own integrity and continued existence.

## Finance and Property

The Institute has been particularly well-served by a number of special committees. The Finance and Property Committee is comprised of John Jeronimus (chairman), Syl Gerritsma, Bert Kennedy, Rev. Henry Wildeboer, Dr. Paul Marshall and myself, and earlier, Dan Van Leeuwen.

In addition to recommending the initial budget for 1986-87 and then monitoring the statements of revenue and expenditure month by month, this committee has addressed a particular proposal this year: the possible redevelopment of the building. We advertised for such proposals from groups or individuals and were pleased with the several serious, documented proposals presented to us. These are presently under careful scrutiny. While I reported to some of you, in another connection, that we might have to sell this historic building at 229 College Street, dear to many ICS hearts, all of the proposals presented make provision for the Institute to remain in this building in some form or other.

As I mentioned in my report of a year ago: "In the spring of 1985, the board of trustees made a very major decision and took a new path financially. They decided to expand the faculty and programs of the Institute and to finance the new mood and the new developments by borrowing against the value of the building." The Lord has been very good to us in that the value of our building has now appreciated by perhaps 60% over a period of less than two years.

The board of trustees has ruled that we continue borrowing against the building only as long as inflation continues to increase the building value faster than we are increasing our debt load and as long as our loan borrowing capacity continues.

## Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) was composed of: Marinus Koole (chairman), Dr. George Vandervelde, Fred Reinders, Dean Ian Rennie, Rev. Henry Wildeboer, Dr. Hendrik Hart, and Dr. Paul Marshall. The board of trustees adopted the committee's recommendations virtually in their entirety.

In one of its most significant moves, ICS's board invited Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont. to develop with us "concrete, practical, and achievable ways of closer cooperation" with a "declared aim of some sort of affiliation as soon as appears wisely and practically achievable." The board asks Redeemer College to establish a joint committee with us for this purpose as soon as possible.

I should point out that affiliation does not mean a joining together of the institutions into one or any action which might jeopardize the identity of either school. Rather, the trustees seek a mutual recognition and, in whatever ways possible, a working together to advance the cause of God's kingdom in higher education. The report also looks toward formal and effective relations with other institutions such as those involved with the Reformed University of North America (RUNA) talks and other Christian institutions such as Regent College, Trinity Western University, and the Ontario Theological Seminary.

The LRPC also recommended that our master's programs be expanded by a degree which would be helpful to pastors, church leaders, and others interested in issues related to faith, church, and theology. This would be in addition to our new master's programs in education and Christian studies (which still wait upon official approval of the Ontario government). The committee felt that since we have now developed a graduate degree program to help the Christian *school* community, we should now parallel that with graduate studies to help our *church* community.

Indeed, the board is also determined to pursue strongly all of the LRPC's specific recommendations for ICS giving leadership in ways which will be of real service to the Christian community as a whole.

## Administrative Organization

The Administrative Review Committee (ARC) was chaired by Derk Pierik with members Aukje Masselink, Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, Aileen Van Ginkel, Paul Marshall and myself. This committee made a thorough review of the administrative organizational structure of the Institute, developed job descriptions for each position, and made a set of recommendations to the trustees on such matters as vacation schedules, a general agreement of employment, professional development of staff, and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

## Administration

Dr. Paul Marshall has served much beyond the call of duty over these past two years as his appointment as vice-president academic draws to a close. I could not have asked for a more supportive associate, as Paul gave leadership to the academic side of ICS, especially in the

development of our projected master of education and master of arts in Christian studies degrees. The Institute owes him a very great debt of gratitude, for, besides his duties as vice-president academic, he was also responsible for the administration portfolio as acting president during my absence in the winter. *Paul has been a great source of strength to me, personally, and I am deeply grateful to him for all his help.*

I am sorry indeed that Dr. Marshall has decided to leave this post but I am pleased to report to you that Dr. Harry Fernhout, Senior Member in Philosophy of Education, has been appointed to succeed Paul as vice-president academic, effective September 1, 1987. Many of you will be familiar with Dr. Fernhout's creative work in curriculum for Christian schools and his books on biblical studies: *Of Kings and Prophets* and *Promises Broken, Promise Kept*. I look forward to working with Harry in the development of our academic programs.

Speaking about the academic side, I thank most heartily administrative assistant Dorothe Rogers for her very competent and responsible administrative work in conjunction with Dr. Marshall and the academic council.

One of the most difficult decisions made by the board of trustees this year was to discontinue Educational Services as a separate department but to maintain most of its services by incorporating them in other departments or having them done on a contract basis and requiring that all programs, except publications, be self-supporting financially. It is hoped that this change will move us much closer to a balanced budget. The restructuring of Educational Services means that next year we lose, at least as a full-time staff member, the expertise and wisdom of Dr. Robert VanderVennen. Bob has been particularly expert in shepherding our faculty's research and writing through to publication as books or articles.

The Institute owes a very great debt indeed to Bob who has given leadership in varying capacities as director of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship (AACS) from 1974 through 1982, and from 1983 on as director of Educational Services. I am glad that Bob has agreed to continue his book publishing activities for us on a contractual basis and has been appointed an associate staff member of ICS. He will share office space with us for his direction of the correspondence program and other Institute activities.

It is with great joy for her, but with much loss to ICS – and to me, most particularly – that we said "Congratulations!" and a loving "Farewell! God bless you!" to administrative assistant Kathy Vanderkloet whose service to the Institute has been marked by a great sense of responsibility and integrity and by signal competence. We pray that the Lord will richly attend her in all her opportunities for her personal growth and service to Him that stretch before her in Nigeria and beyond. We thank her very much indeed for five years of very dedicated service to ICS.

Alice de Koning, who was for two years receptionist and publications typist and who held Kathy's job for a four-month stint, is now entering what I predict will be a very successful career with a large accounting firm in Toronto. Sarita Baker has deferred going back to her third



year at Calvin College in order to become the president's secretary.

Business administrator Rosalind Deck, who looks after financial matters, will soon be taking up full-time studies for an M.Ed. in Counselling in the Applied Psychology Department at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. We knew this to be her intent when she came to us. She has been greatly generous to the Institute, serving her entire first year as a volunteer.

We pray God's rich blessing upon both Rosalind and Alice as they embark on their new careers.

The board's decision to appoint a vice-president administration was made in view of Rosalind's leaving and the fact that we have never really filled the post vacated two years ago by Phil Travis. It gives me great personal pleasure to announce that the board's executive committee has appointed to the post Ross Mortimer who has spent the last year-and-a-half in the corporate donations department of World Vision. For 30 years Mr. Mortimer has been vice-president and general manager of Ridpath's Furniture Ltd. in Toronto. As chief executive officer he managed all aspects of finance, their custom furniture factory, sales staff, and administrative staff. He is a fine Christian and has been involved as a Sunday School superintendent or chairman of Christian Education in the last three Baptist churches of which he has been a member. He will surely be a blessing to us.

## Development

Again, we have much to praise God for in this area. Director Adriana Pierik, associate director Harry Kits, and communications officer Carol-Ann Veenkamp, have been dedicated indeed. At long last, through the persistent efforts of development secretaries Rita Vander-Veen and Margaret Schoemaker, we now have computerized our donor records back to 1984. *I must say that it is tremendously encouraging to look back through older records to see how hundreds and hundreds of supporters have stood with us through thick and thin over the years!*

Voluntary giving has increased over last year by 13.6%. That is really encouraging, I think, and especially when we remind ourselves that this is the first year that Adriana and Harry have worked in fundraising.

At this point I have a personal "Thank You!" to convey to my readers. Our cash flow problems in the fall were so severe that we were not able to meet our October payroll. Thanks to the response of our members to an emergency call I sent out, we were able to pay all staff by the end of that month.

Perhaps the most significant change in our voluntary giving is the increase in gifts from the churches, up 35% over 1985-86! This was in response to our appeal for part of the "monies saved" from the reduced Calvin College quota of the Christian Reformed Church. As Adriana Pierik, Harry Kits or myself attended and addressed most regional classes in Canada, I was delighted with the understanding reception we had.

Our promotional materials have been reviewed and revised. A major undertaking was the development of a very attractive 17-minute promotional video produced by Gerrit Verstraete of Christian Communications Centre and the development

department. The video tells something of the story of a reformed perspective in thinking and education in general and at ICS in particular. We would be delighted to have an invitation from you to show it to small groups in your home or at a young people's group (or an older people's group!) or at your Christian school staff meeting. This project was financed by Christian businessmen in Europe and Canada outside of regular donations.

## Student Recruitment

This year Harry Kits has conducted the beginnings of what will probably be the most systematic approach to student recruitment in years, with Carol-Ann Veenkamp, who is admissions counsellor in addition to serving as managing editor for *Perspective*. Harry visited seven universities and 11 Christian colleges over the year. Also, over 2,000 letters introducing ICS have been sent to students at the Reformed Christian colleges.

With respect to recruitment materials, I particularly commend to your interest our latest brochure "Why Study at ICS?" I commend it to you because it contains comments from students about what they get out of ICS. If you have any doubt at all about whether your supporting dollars are doing the Lord's work, read their comments!

The 1986-88 academic calendar describing our degree programs and courses is a fine piece of work. If you can tell us of a student or teacher or pastor who could make good use of one, please let us know.

I look forward to renewing contact with our worldwide alumni through a questionnaire survey which has been developed by Harry Kits. If you are a former ICS alumnus, it would be great to hear from you.

## Financial Update

The Institute for Christian Studies is a graduate school. That means it awards only master and doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees and that a bachelor's degree is required for admission to our graduate degree programs. As far as I know, the Institute for Christian Studies is the only Protestant graduate school in North America wholly committed to developing a biblical Christian perspective at the university level.

Every public graduate school is heavily subsidized by government *because society recognizes that the graduate school is the chief single tool for developing the thinking, the creative new ideas, the inventions, the attitudes, and the leadership of the next generation.* Government grants tell the story. In Ontario, for example, the government gives any university \$4,800 per annum for each bachelor's student; \$10,900 per year for each master's student; and a whopping \$25,250 per annum for each Ph.D. student!

That is the context within which the Institute for Christian Studies, "the graduate school with a (Christian) difference" operates. It is a very costly business, for one of our chief purposes is to produce professors, one of the costliest of training programs for any human vocation.

What are the financial facts in this very expensive business?

● Our greatest problem is our deficits: \$240,000 in 1985-86; \$136,000 in 1986-87;

and a projected \$112,000 in 1987-88. It is true that this year's deficit is \$104,000 lower than last year, an improvement of 43%, but that is not good enough. We must aim at a balanced budget.

● The Lord's people have rallied strongly to the support of ICS over the past two years. Support is not going down; it is going up: a 16% increase in 1985-86; a further 14% in 1986-87. That's an increase of almost 32% over two years ago.

● The support from Christian Reformed Churches (CRC) has increased dramatically by 35% over the past year. That increase came when the CRC Synod supported the decision of Classis Toronto that its churches could donate to ICS whatever portion they wished out of the monies saved from the Calvin College quota reduction for Canadian CRC churches. This ruling applies to all Canadian CRC churches of course, so I hope that our supporters in various church consistories will move to suggest substantial donations to ICS.

● Why is there a gap between revenue and expenditures? First, we have expanded our degree programs. Besides extending the Master of Philosophical Foundations and Ph.D. programs into seven areas, we have structured a master's program in education and another master's program in Christian studies. We have also mounted evening classes and summer sessions.

● Secondly, the cost of living in the ICS area has increased by 11% over the past two years. Donors might wish to ask themselves whether their gifts are allowing for this inflation. Thirdly, with thanks to God, while we have substantially leased more space than a year ago, there is still some vacancy in our building. Please pray about that.

● We have dealt with the deficits by borrowing \$1.3 million against a building worth \$3 million or more. That is a mortgage for 43% of its value. That is not unreasonable. It is unreasonable that deficits should go on forever even when they are reducing. We must master this problem within the next two years.

## Conclusion

What has happened to this Institute for Christian Studies over the past year impresses two thoughts upon me: one, that God—who is at once distant, awesome, sovereign Lord and yet approachable, loving father—has blessed us greatly; two, *that we are completely dependent upon Him for anything really good and useful coming out of ICS!* I am under no illusions about that latter and I think all of us at the Institute share that view.

I say that the Lord has blessed us in many ways, not the least of which is in the volunteers across this country who support us in all sorts of ways: from a Sam Van Randen who presents our case to a British Columbia Classis to an Arie and Marie de Jong who host development director Adriana Pierik on her Calgary trip to a Sharon Loerts who helps us with major mailings.

Of all our helpers, I am inevitably most aware, of course, of the contributions of trustees and senators and, most especially, of the executive of the board. Of these, chairman Fred Reinders is a real power house, with enormous enthusiasm for the Institute and for its support;

and vice-chair Aukje Masselink is simply without peer in her devotion to the needs of ICS.

This brings me to the way in which you can help us most. For *all* of you who support us, and for those few of you whose special gift from God is your wrestling with Him in prayer, please pray for us.

- Pray that our trustees and senators, and our faculty and administration, will together have a secure sense of the directions in which God wants to take us and that we will take those paths. *That is No. 1 and all important.* Pray that prayer especially for any of these whom you may know personally.

- Pray that God will send us more students, both full-time and part-time, and especially students whom the Lord will after graduation place in influential positions.

- Pray that we might make the right decision regarding proposals for our valuable building in downtown Toronto.

- Pray that in 1987-88 we will take a giant step toward a balanced budget.

- Thank God for so many supporters increasing their donations by 32% over the past two years.

- Thank God for the dedicated work of faculty, most of whom receive far less than secular universities would pay them, and for similarly dedicated administrative staff whose salaries are also below what the world can offer.

- Thank God for unsung volunteers who are a real part of ICS as they serve in all kinds of ways.

- Thank God that directly or indirectly the

teachings of the Institute touch thousands upon thousands of people across North America, and from Korea to Australia to the Netherlands to Britain and elsewhere.

*And now I thank you, and my wife Dorothy joins me, for all your love and support over another year at ICS. In certain wonderful ways, I've never encountered Christians quite like you! You're great!*

## Board of Trustees

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## ICS Comparative Budgets and Financial Statements 1984-85 to 1987-88

	Budget 1987-88	Budget 1986-87	Actual 1986-87	Audited Actual 1985-86	Audited Actual 1984-85
<b>General Fund -</b>					
<b>Revenue</b>					
Dues and Donations	\$470,000	\$485,000	\$400,136	\$357,224	\$303,970
Churches	45,000	30,000	37,415	27,682	26,994
Tuition	59,075	74,800	44,129	33,173	35,849
Education Services	55,900	60,300	62,795	56,133	59,107
Rent	56,500	—	67,439	39,597	88,860
Other	1,300	1,000	5,933	4,823	4,428
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>687,775</b>	<b>651,100</b>	<b>617,847</b>	<b>518,632</b>	<b>519,208</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Academic	273,000	263,850	262,206	259,004	177,495
Educational Services	73,575	97,300	81,714	90,035	100,770
Student Aid	40,000	43,000	23,996	47,700	41,795
Administration	134,050	132,550	129,454	136,512	136,792
Development	160,850	150,300	142,424	136,511	136,791
Building			5,933	4,143	2,063
Financing	118,500	100,000	108,080	84,700	76,188
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>799,975</b>	<b>787,000</b>	<b>753,807</b>	<b>758,605</b>	<b>671,894</b>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue	(112,200)	(135,900)	(135,960)	(239,973)	(152,686)
<b>Restricted Fund -</b>					
<b>Revenue</b>					
Donations			31,628	64,733	24,340
Interest			3,512	2,090	549
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>35,140</b>	<b>66,823</b>	<b>24,889</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Student Aid			17,350	9,913	11,899
Other			48,690	30,821	4,540
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>66,040</b>	<b>40,734</b>	<b>16,439</b>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue			(30,900)	26,089	8,450





# Development Notes

by Harry J. Kits

It is once again a time of thanking at ICS in the development department. We have closed yet another fiscal year with an increase in voluntary giving and an increase in applications by potential students.

We had an overall increase of 13.6% in donations over last year including a 35% increase from churches. We are really grateful for your support and thankful that so many churches have seen fit to increase their support for Christian graduate education in addition to what they do for colleges and local elementary and high schools.

Thank you to all those who responded to our telethon. The staff and board really enjoyed talking to so many of you and appreciated hearing your frank concerns about ICS, your willingness to support ICS, and your words of encouragement.

Though our deficit this year still came to \$135,900 we are grateful that it is down from last year's \$239,900. We are still working towards fulfilling the commitment we made in 1985 to expand our teaching staff and program offerings. That commitment has produced much

fruit in our primary task of education but we still need to work at ways of finding more support for that work.

We have decided to hold the line on our budget as we plan for next year and thus have budgeted again for \$515,000 in voluntary income. We hope that you, our faithful supporters, will once more rise to this challenge to support Christian graduate education during our next fiscal year. For those who have not yet sent in membership dues for 1987 please try to do so this fall to help us make a good start on this goal for the new fiscal year. We will also be undertaking an aggressive campaign to find new supporters to help out with the support of ICS.

We have received over 30 applications from students for full-time programs beginning in the fall, up from 22 last year. Of these, 15 students have been accepted as qualified for graduate study at ICS. Again we are grateful for the leading that the Lord has given to these people who come to receive the unique Christian graduate education which you have provided for them by your support of the Institute for Christian Studies. [P]

## Voluntary Income Statistics

Total needed by June 30, 1987 .....	\$515,000
Total received by June 30, 1987	<u>\$437,551</u>
SHORT	\$ 77,449
Total needed by June 30, 1988	\$515,000
Total received by July 31, 1987	<u>\$ 27,628</u>
STILL NEEDED	\$487,372

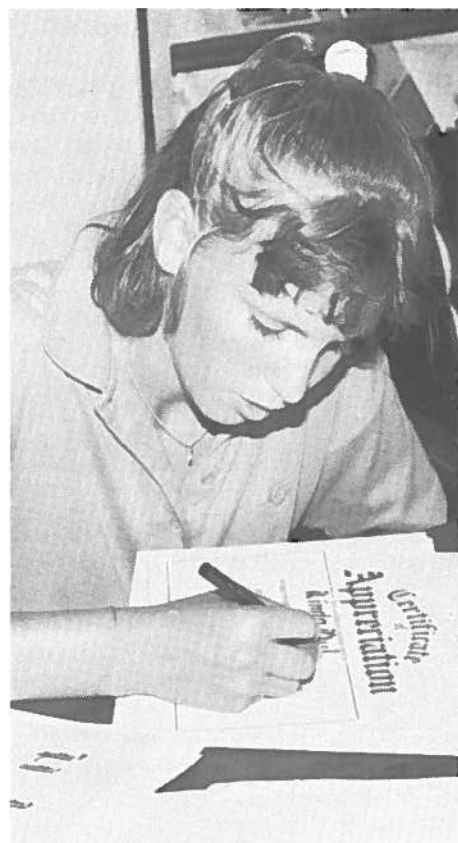
## Letter to the editor

"I enjoyed the story on Spykman's talk and noted that ICS can do more by way of building bridges - 16 of 18 reported activities of faculty were isolationist (talking within Christian communities); only Rowe's attendance at the Canadian Philosophical Association and Van Leeuwen's book appear to be pontifical. Though the graduates of ICS

do appear to be moving into the secular world and this is encouraging.

I also read VanderVennen's informative article on *Transforming Economics*; please send me a copy."

Sincerely,  
Frank Jones  
Ottawa, Ont.

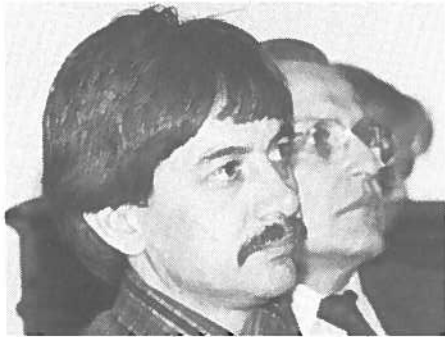


*The ICS conference depends on volunteers like Jennifer de Groot, top, who practiced her calligraphy skills and below, Rika VanderLaan who helped with the registration of over 1,000 conferees.*

Photos by Carol-Ann Veekamp



## Valk replaces Sinnema at UNB



*John Valk*

ICS graduate John Valk, 1979, will be replacing another ICS graduate, Dr. Don Sinnema, as campus minister at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. As reported in the June issue of *Perspective*, Sinnema accepted an appointment as associate professor of theology at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois.

In his new capacity as campus chaplain, Valk will be teaching non-credit courses in biblical studies, counselling students, and working with faculty members interested in integrating the Christian faith with their academic field.

"The perspective I gained at ICS while a student there will be very helpful in pursuing various aspects of this campus ministry. I will draw on the resources of ICS . . . and the questions I'll be raising will also be raised in various courses here," Valk said during a brief interview.

After receiving a Master of Philosophical Foundations degree from ICS, Valk studied at St. Michael's College to obtain an M.A. in theology in 1981. Since then, he has been working on a Ph.D. program at the University of Toronto's Centre for Religious Studies. He expects to complete his dissertation, "The School in the City of Utrecht in the Nineteenth Century" this year.

Another 1979 ICS graduate, Dr. Brian Walsh, has accepted the board's appointment as an adjunct faculty member at the Institute. This year he will teach Biblical Foundations and Worldview Foundations.

Walsh will also be teaching a course entitled, "The Theology of Culture" at Ontario Theological Seminary in WilLOWdale. This fall, he'll be offering a worldview course in Hamilton under the sponsorship of Rev. Aren Geisterfer, campus chaplain for the Christian Reformed Church at McMaster University.

## Vandervelde receives government grant for sabbatical

Dr. George Vandervelde has been awarded a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of the Canadian government to cover expenses incurred in his sabbatical project for 1987-88.

Vandervelde has been accepted as a Resident Fellow at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, which is connected with St. John's University, in Collegeville, Minnesota for his sabbatical year.

A senior member in systematic theology, Vandervelde will deal with the differences in the understanding and experience of the church by Protestants and Roman Catholics under the title "The Church as Focal Point of Differences and Unity."

Vandervelde's research proposal to the council was assessed as excellent in all five categories, including scholarly significance, social or practical importance, theoretical or conceptual approach, research plans, and competence of the applicant.

An independent referee gave Vandervelde "unreserved endorsement" of the project, and wrote, "Throughout the twentieth century the question of Christian unity has been a major item on the theological and practical agenda of the churches. It is, furthermore, the belief of Christians that their own (lack of) unity is of vital significance to the destiny of the entire human community. On those terms, the importance of Dr. Vandervelde's study is obvious."

Before going to Collegeville, Vandervelde planned to travel to Amsterdam, Geneva, Strassbourg, and Munich to consult with theologians who are authorities in the field of ecclesiology, and to use European libraries and archives for bibliographical work.

On his way to a conference sponsored by the International Council for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Lusaka, Zambia in August, Vandervelde stopped in Nairobi, Kenya to visit the Institute for World Evangelism.

## Meet a student: Fran Wong



*Fran Wong*

Last September I signed up for *one* course at ICS. Then, when I realized there was no more work available at Centennial College where I had been teaching, and that many ads for English teachers asked for a master's degree, I decided to go to ICS full-time and become a master!

I began in ICS's master's program in education, and at Christmastime, having discovered what a delight it was to be a student again and wanting to study longer, I switched to the M.Phil.F. program in aesthetics.

After taking an interim course in January on Marxist aesthetics with Lambert Zuidervaat from Calvin College and enjoying writing a paper on Chinese cinema, I decided on film as the area of aesthetics I wanted to concentrate on. Images generally, and film in particular, have a tremendous impact on our society, and it is important for Christians to be involved both in creating and in critiquing these works.

I took two courses on film at the Semiotics Institute at the University of Toronto in June and learned something about feminist criticism. Because of the worldview of each of these courses, I found I felt ambivalent about feminist film criticism.

God willing, I shall write something about feminist film criticism, and the relationship between art and Marxism in Chinese cinema. I thank God for the gift of ICS - this community of scholars who are Christ's that I now belong to, a support base for the unexpected but exciting turn my life has taken.



## Staff changes

After two years as a secretary at ICS, Alice de Koning has taken a secretarial position with a major accounting firm in Toronto. Her position is still open and those with secretarial skills and experience with word processing, typing, and reception are invited to apply.

Sarita Baker of Sarnia, Ont. was added to the staff as temporary help this summer, but has deferred returning to her third year at Calvin College this September to assume the position of secretary to the president.

## ICS to sponsor two conferences

The Institute for Christian Studies will be coordinating two conferences this fall. The first conference, **Let's Talk Curriculum**, will feature Dr. Harro Van Brummelen, professor of education at Trinity Western University and author of *Telling the Next Generation*.

The one-day event for Christian teachers will be held on Saturday, September 26 at John Knox Christian School in Brampton.

The second conference, **When School Meets Government: A Response**, will explore how Christian school supporters can deal with Ontario's changing educational landscape. The two-day conference will be held November 2 and 3 at Five Oaks Centre in Paris, Ont.

The speakers at the plenary sessions will include Dr. Paul Marshall, professor of political theory at ICS, Gerald Ensing, assistant inspector of independent schools in British Columbia, and Bryan Finlay, a lawyer with Weir and Foulds, Barristers and Solicitors in Toronto. Their respective topics will be: "A Christian View of the State, and Implications for its Role in Education," "Making Principles Work in School-Government Relations," and "This is the Law: The Legal Framework and Legal Prospects for Independent Schools in Ontario."

For registration information on either conference, contact ICS at (416) 979-2331 or at 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4.



## Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

### Biologists consult at ICS

The current state of scholarly Christian thinking in the biological sciences was discussed by 16 biologists and historians and philosophers of science by invitation at ICS on July 23 and 24. A number of them had asked for this opportunity for the past couple of years, so Bob VanderVennen convened the meeting and chaired the discussions as part of the Educational Services program of ICS.

Distinctive Christian thinking in biology has been hampered in recent years because biologists have needed to explain and defend their ideas on evolutionism, and have even needed to keep a low profile to avoid destructive controversy. This small-sized consultation gave biologists the chance to share ideas on Christian thinking, to assess how they might relate to the subject of evolution, and to consider whether evolution or scientific naturalism is really the enemy.

Central to the discussion was the place of biology in relation to other areas of thought. This came in the form of papers on "hierarchy theory" presented by Dr. Jitse van der Meer of Redeemer College and by Dr. David Wilcox of Eastern College, located near Philadelphia. Is there a hierarchy of fields of study, and if so, how is biological knowledge related to other kinds of knowledge? It is well known that this was a significant interest of Herman Dooyeweerd, and among its implications are the questions of the difference between humans and animals, important for current "animal rights" activism as well as for thinking about evolution.

Three papers were directly on the subject of evolution. Dr. Pattle Pun of Wheaton College presented the case for "progressive creationism" on which he has written a book. Paul Fayter argued from research he is doing for the Ph.D. degree at the University of Toronto's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology that in the 19th century there were almost no anti-Darwinists in England. Tim deJager-

Seerveld, also working for the Ph.D. at the same Institute, presented some current professional challenges to Darwin's theory of evolution. He is a graduate of ICS's master's program.

Dr. William White of Philadelphia gave a paper on computer developments underlying which are theories of information similar to those presented by Dr. Wilcox in his hierarchy theory. Others participating in the consultation included Dr. Daniel Osmond and Dr. Ian Taylor, both of the University of Toronto Medical School; ICS graduate Clarence Joldersma, a teacher at Smithville District Christian High School in Ontario; Dr. Hank Bestman of The King's College; and Dr. Hendrick Hart of ICS.

Participants expressed great appreciation to ICS for the opportunity to get together. ICS is not publishing the papers presented, but some of them can be obtained from the authors. The group was happy to learn that Redeemer College is trying to get funds to set up a special centre of research and information on Christian scholarship in the biological sciences.

**Just Arrived!!!**

### *Theories at Work*

by M. D. Stafleu

Book from an ICS summer course on the structure and functioning of theories in science, in particular during the Copernican Revolution.

Published by:  
University Press of America

**\$22.00 Cdn or \$16.50 US**  
plus \$2.00 for mailing

*A new book on history and philosophy of science.*

# Perspective

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*Linda Dykstra, left, leads conferees in the theme song "Being Near to God", accompanied by flutist Anne Heemsergen.*



*Children and young people were a vital part of the ICS Ontario Family Conference held July 31 - August 3. Above, children sing in choir formed for the Sunday evening worship service. Below, teens listen to Syd Hielema's seminar on the musical group U2.*

Photos by Carol-Ann Veenkamp



*Two girls contribute a duet to the Sunday evening service.*





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