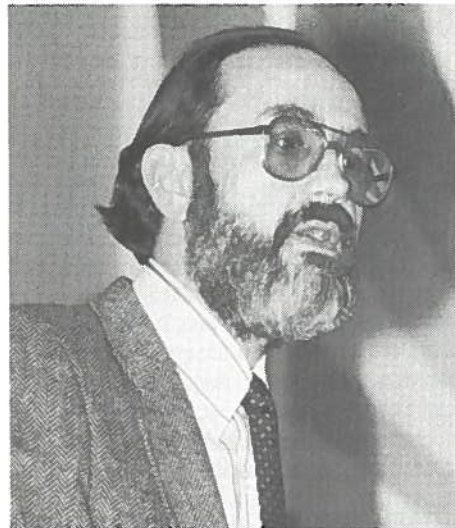


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Westphal reflects on Christian approach to atheistic thinking

by Nigel Douglas



Dr. Merold Westphal

The words of the prophet Jeremiah, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt: who can understand it?" (Jer. 17:9 RSV) furnished the theme for the 1987 Christianity and Learning Lectures given by Dr. Merold Westphal at ICS on February 25 and 26.

An expert in modern European philosophy, Westphal pursued his interest in 19th and 20th century European thought by focusing on the work of Freud, Nietzsche, and Marx. Currently a professor at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, Westphal has previously taught at Yale University and Wheaton College.

Given under the title "The Religious Uses of Modern Atheism: Explorations in the Hermeneutics of Suspicion," Westphal's message can best be described as a sustained meditation on the text from Jeremiah. He examined the critiques of religion offered by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud not as criticisms of the *truth* of Christianity, but of the *function* of Christian truths.

Westphal argued that these thinkers were frequently correct when they saw religion functioning as a mask, fulfill-

ment, and legitimation of human desire and self-interest.

Beliefs not enough

He challenged his audience of ICS students, professors, and other academics to recognize that holding the correct beliefs, even with the best intentions, is not sufficient. We need to be aware, he suggested, of our hidden motives and the way in which our beliefs function, and ask ourselves: Do our beliefs simply satisfy our selfish wishes? Do they serve our self-interest? Are they used to justify unchristian practices? If so, then this does not mean that our beliefs are untrue, but it does suggest that our motives are impure, and that Christian truths are being misused. And if this is so, Westphal said, we are guilty of "third commandment idolatry" – taking the Lord's name in vain. Examples of such idolatry abound in the history of the church. Orthodox belief and good intentions condoned and thus gave legitimation and respectability to slavery in the past and are used to justify the practice of apartheid in South Africa now.

Westphal encouraged his audience to ask whether similar examples could



Photos by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

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Perspective

OUR 31st. YEAR

Perspective

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In This Issue

Yes, "From the President's Pen" is missing from this issue. Rest assured that the scribe is alive and well. Dr. Pitt simply found himself in need of a vacation this month.

While in our cover story, Merold Westphal laments over the state of the human heart, one of our students shares her joy in her relationship with the Saviour in poetic form.

You'll read why Trustee John De Groot and Senator Ian Rennie work so hard for ICS; and you'll also meet a student who withdrew from a Ph.D. program because she wouldn't sacrifice her Christianity in the war over conflicting ideologies. After a year at ICS, she is now able to return to her program, confident that she can handle the battle before her.

Listen to the enthusiastic words a computer scientist has for two ICS professors who helped her gain a Christian perspective in a field where intelligence – artificial and human – reigns supreme.

CAV

"Westphal" continued from page 1

be found in contemporary North America. He suggested that we might ask whether a male-dominated church merely seeks to preserve male privilege when it uses certain biblical texts to justify discrimination against women in church office. He cautioned that we should also be suspicious of the close connection some draw between Christianity and capitalism, for this may simply be an attempt to give a respectable façade to the otherwise naked self-interest of middle class churchgoers. To what extent, he asked, does our desire for comfort, security, and approval cause us to edit down the biblical revelation of God?

Bible also critical

In this way, Westphal urged the audience to examine how the insights of modern atheism might help to purify our Christian belief and practice. He contended that critiques of religion similar to those offered by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud can also be found in the Bible, citing as examples Jesus's criticisms of the Pharisees or the commentary on Israel's and Judah's backsliding by the Old Testament prophets.

By revealing the purgatorial flames to be found in the writings of modern atheists, Westphal's words were uncomfortable for Christian ears. He admitted that an appropriate subtitle for his lecture series may well be, "A Hermeneutics of Lent," and confessed that he saw the lectures as a means of demolishing illusion and increasing self-understanding. Thus, he suggested, modern atheism may, by the grace of God, function as a means to our sanctification.

Complementing his message, but in a more devotional atmosphere, Westphal led the weekly ICS chapel service held at lunchtime Thursdays. Taking his cue

from the opening song, "When in our music God is glorified," Westphal commented that it was indeed a very special thing when we glorified God rather than ourselves. Reading Psalm 100, Westphal pointed out that there we proffer praise not because of what God does for us, but because "the Lord is good" and in himself worthy of our praise.

Responses to Westphal

Responses to Westphal's lectures focused mainly on the uncritical way in which he seemed, at times, to accept the diagnosis delivered by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. Several questioners sensed that while Westphal brought the Gospel into his scholarship in order to save us from the most extreme consequences of modern scepticism, it was less clear that he was aware that the whole criticism offered by these thinkers needed to be transformed by biblical teaching.

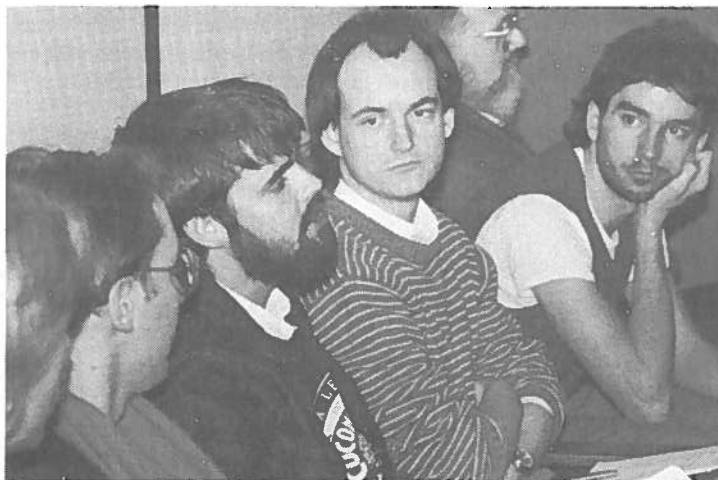
At times Westphal's presentation appeared profoundly pessimistic; it seemed that all our belief and action was irremediably stained by self-seeking. Like Thomas Becket in T. S. Eliot's play, we wanted to cry out,

"Is there no way, in my soul's sickness, Does not lead to damnation in pride?"

Yet, Westphal, like Eliot, suggests that only through unremitting and ruthless pursuit of self-knowledge can our lives be purified of pride and selfish desire.

Christian learning, Westphal said, should show us our true selves, and steer us to a point where all we can do is pray with the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Nigel Douglas is a student of systematic philosophy at ICS and managing editor of ICS's newsletter for reformational thought, *Anakainosis*. [P]



Students question Westphal following his lecture.

British computer scientist gains perspective at ICS

Two thousand years ago the Greeks proved a certain mathematical theorem. This theorem was lost to future generations until a computer rediscovered it in the twentieth century. Obviously, the ancient Greeks used thought to prove the theorem; but how did the computer arrive at the same conclusion? Was it simply accurate programming by a human operator or did the computer also think its way through to the answer? Can computers think? Is there such a thing as artificial intelligence?

This is a question which intrigues Dr. Kathy Carter, a computer scientist from Cambridge, England who was recently in Toronto to participate in a week-long conference on "Computer Human Interface and Graphics Interface."

However, in order to think about the question of a computer's ability to think, Carter discovered that she had to first figure out the nature of being human and of human thinking. This quest led her to stretch out her time in Toronto so that she could explore the issue in a philosophical and Christian way at ICS.

ICS ties with Cambridge

Carter first learned about ICS from Rev. Douglas Holt, an ICS supporter in England. During a 1984 trip to Toronto, she dropped in at the Institute and met a fellow countryman, Steve Shaw, who

was then studying here. Once Shaw returned to England, he, along with Carter and others were instrumental in setting up College House in Cambridge (CHIC), an educational venture whose members meet regularly to thrash out the implications of a holistic Christian world view.

Last June, CHIC held a weekend conference entitled, "Do we need a Christian philosophy?" at which ICS Senior Member in Systematic Philosophy, Dr. Hendrik Hart, was the main speaker. ICS adjunct Senior Member in Philosophy of History, Dr. C. T. McIntire, gave an historical overview of Christian philosophy at the event. Then in August, Dr. James Olthuis, ICS's Senior Member in Philosophical Theology, was the keynote speaker at CHIC's first national conference, which centered around human wholeness.

Hosted by ICS staff member, Dr. Robert VanderVennen, Carter spent two weeks in March sitting in on classes with Hart and Olthuis and in individual sessions with them.

Carter noted that one of the differences between ICS and her education at Cambridge University is that at the Institute she was treated as a whole person rather than as a "thinking machine."

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Image of Jesus

*To most artists Jesus Christ is only a grand subject for painting;
An interesting theme for a scholar's article or book;
A beautiful form for the sculptor's statue; or
A thought for an entertainer's song.*

*But to us who have heard his voice,
Who have received his forgiveness,
Who are living daily in His presence,
He is music, light, joy, peace, salvation.
A friend who never forsakes,
lifting us up
When others try to put us down.*

*There is no name like Jesus
It is more inspiring than Jim's,
Harry's, and Paul's
More eloquent than Henk's,
Bill's, and George's,
More patient than Dr. Pitt's
and Dorothe's,
More forgiving than the Junior
Members, even Nigel,
More accommodating than the ICS staff.*

*Who like Jesus can pity
a homeless student;
Who like Jesus can welcome home
a wayward prodigal;
Who like Jesus can make a saint
of an atheist;
Who like Jesus can illuminate a
cemetery of university students
in preparation;
Who like Jesus can make a scholar
unto God of a woman rejected
by men of scholarship;
Who like Jesus can kiss away
ALL sorrows?*

*I struggle for a metaphor, an image,
With which to express Jesus.
He is not like the bursting forth
of an orchestra;
That is too loud and it may be
out of tune.
He is not like the sea when lashed by
a tropical storm;
That is too boisterous and threatening.
He is not like the majestic mountain
canopied with snow;
That is too solitary, remote, and cold.
He is more like a Lily of the Valley;
A rose in full bloom;
A breeze of sweet perfume
on a moonlit night;
A song in the night;
The bright morning and evening star.
To me Jesus is like a holy loving HUG
When everything in my life goes wrong.*

This poem was created by a student at ICS and read at a recent chapel service.

☐



Jim Olthuis, Kathy Carter, and Hendrik Hart compare aspects of an antique typewriter in ICS's library to modern computer technology. Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

"Carter" continued from page 3

"Whole new perspective"

Towards the end of her stay at ICS, Carter said that Hart and Olthuis had provided her with a whole new perspective. She said she now sees the computer within the context of a human community rather than in isolation.

"The Institute has provided me with a Christian framework within which to work. In the past two weeks, my thinking has been turned upside down," she said. "I'm incredibly grateful that people have given me their time."

Carter reaffirmed CHIC's and her own personal appreciation of ICS: "We are so grateful to God for ICS, and the tradition it stands for, in giving us the foundations and motivation for CHIC.... We are looking forward to developing what we have learned and applying it in our own way in Cambridge. I'm sure God has many exciting things in store for us as we seek to live out our lives in the kaleidoscopic light of Christ!" P

Spirituality is conference theme

Reserve the weekend of July 31 through August 3 for the annual ICS Niagara Family Conference!

The conference will center around the theme of spirituality with Rev. Derk Pierik, campus chaplain for the Christian Reformed Church at the University of Toronto, as keynote speaker.

The campus of Niagara Christian College, near Fort Erie, Ont. will again serve as the location for the conference, and those who attend will have the choice of camping or lodging in the dormitories.

Workshop leaders lined up to date include Al Wolters, Bill Rowe, John Olthuis, Gerald Vandezande, John Vissers, Peter Moore, Wendy Helleman, Bob Sweetman, and Christel Vonk-Zeyl, with music by Cal Langejans and Henry Westendorp.

Rev. Henry Lunshof will lead the Sunday morning worship service and the vesper service will be led by Rev. John Vissers. Rev. Herman Praamsma will serve as chairman of the conference.

Conference coordinators Aukje Masselink and Nick Terpstra remind everyone that there will also be an extensive children's program, book sales, Third World crafts, and sports with Peter Buisman. P

Keeping up with ICS Faculty

ICS Senior Member in Philosophy of Education, **Dr. Harry Fernhout**, led a seminar on education at the 1987 Jubilee Conference sponsored by the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on February 28. The seminar, which dealt with the topic "Setting the Course: Curriculum in Christian Perspective," was attended by about 150 college students who are considering a career in education.

Fernhout is also serving as an evaluator of two volumes of a new curriculum series in biblical studies being developed by Christian Schools International in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Hendrik Hart, ICS Senior Member in Philosophy, spoke to Sarnia, Ont. ICS supporters on April 11 and preached at First CRC and Redeemer CRC on April 12. Hart also spoke to Chatham, Ont. supporters on April 25 and preached at Chatham Calvary CRC on April 26.

On February 20, ICS Senior Member in Political Theory, **Dr. Paul Marshall**, traveled to Grand Rapids to participate in a subcommittee meeting regarding the Reformed University in North America.

On February 28, Marshall, along with ICS senator Dr. James Skillen, led a workshop on "Justice in Central America" at Jubilee, and on March 1 he held a seminar on the "World of Work" for members of CCO in Pittsburgh.

Marshall's review of Robert L. Thornburn's *The Christian and Politics* was recently published in the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, Vol. 29, No. 3, September, 1986.

Dr. James Olthuis, ICS Senior Member in Philosophical Theology, led a workshop for married couples at Morningside Presbyterian Church in Toronto March 27 through 28. On April 8, Olthuis led a seminar on "Developing Intimacy" at Don Mills United Church in Toronto.

Dr. William Rowe, ICS Senior Member in History of Philosophy, visited and addressed ICS friends and supporters in Neerlandia, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary, Alberta in March.

Dr. Calvin Seerveld, Senior Member in Aesthetics at ICS was the Thomas F. Staley lecturer for a couple of days in February at Colorado Christian College,

which is the 1985 fusion of Rockmont College and Western Bible College, near Denver, Colorado. Seerveld met with faculty, gave public lectures, and answered many questions about the integration of biblical faith and artistic activity. Judy Jordet, an alumnus of both Rockmont and ICS also turned out for the visit.

In an article published in the January 1987 issue of *Faith and Philosophy*, Seerveld analyzes the imaginative dimension and order set down by God for creaturely reality. In the article, he argues for the nature and importance of imaginativity in human life as a gift from God which Christians as well as others are called upon to accept and exercise thankfully. The paper follows the pattern set by D. H. Th. Vollenhoven in *Hoofdlijnen der Logica* (1948) in which the Dutch philosopher analyzes the logical aspect of creation or God's analytic order for things. The paper was originally written for the 1984 Interdisciplinary Seminary held at ICS.

"Being Christian and Reformed" was the topic of several workshops led by ICS Senior Member in Systematic Theology, **Dr. George Vandervelde**, at a conference held in February on "The Reformed Faith in Everyday Life." The conference was sponsored by Ottawa area Christian Reformed Churches and attended by approximately 150 people.

On March 20, Vandervelde presented a paper on "The Meaning of Apostolicity" at a meeting of the Commission on Faith and Order held in New Orleans, Louisiana. P

Annual meeting speaker will be Gordon Spykman

"The Bridging Task of Christian Higher Education" is the title of a speech to be given by Dr. Gordon Spykman at ICS's annual membership meeting to be held Saturday, May 9 at 229 College St. Spykman is a member of ICS's senate as well as a professor of religion and theology at Calvin College.

The annual event will begin with a business meeting at 2 p.m., and will be followed by Spykman's speech at 3 p.m. A reception will close the afternoon event.

All members and friends of ICS are invited to attend the meeting. P

Meet a senator: Ian Rennie



Ian Rennie

Ian Rennie, 57, has been a member of ICS's senate since the spring of 1985. A member of the Presbyterian denomination, Rennie is the vice-president and academic dean of Ontario Theological Seminary in Willowdale.

Rennie agreed to his appointment to the senate because of what he calls "the importance of ICS." He explains that he sees "ICS as a key element in the worldwide movement of God's spirit calling Christians to assert Christ's Lordship in every area of life." His prayer is that ICS continue in this vein.

When asked what he would like to impress upon ICS's membership, Rennie responded "that ICS interact creatively with the contemporary scene while maintaining the confessional, spiritual, and transformational commitments of Dutch Calvinism."

Rennie received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba, and a Master's and Ph.D. degree from the University of Toronto. He has done graduate study in theology at Fuller Theological Seminary and Knox College, and also studied at Cambridge University in England.

Rennie and his wife, Lee, have four children, and reside in Willowdale, Ont.

☐

Meet a trustee: John De Groot

Region 5, Southwestern Ontario

I have been an ICS board member for four years. I agreed to run for the position of trustee because I believe that ICS is at this moment one of the only universities on this continent that seeks to bring the claim of the Lordship of Jesus Christ to graduate level studies. I am convinced of the necessity of such an Institute at this time since most universities, although founded on a Christian basis, have been taken over by secular ways of thinking.

Since its beginning 30 years ago, ICS, through teaching and publications, has made a massive impact on the way of thinking of many people. This is reflected in the contents of our church papers, which show a remarkable change in perspective compared to two or three decades ago. ICS has given a renewed view of the task of our church in Christian education and Christian colleges, and has led to the establishment of other Christian organizations. Many individuals and scholars have been waiting for this movement and have joined our ranks.

Although many people shared the vision that the Lord's redeeming works encompass our whole lives, the vision ICS presents is an eye-opener in the North American setting, which has reduced Jesus Christ to the church and private lives.

The urgent need for a school like ICS has prompted me to contact different people in Christian Reformed communities, especially in the US, in an effort to bring the message that ICS, in spite of its flaws and mistakes, deserves to be a part of our Christian community. Its existence should not be solely dependent on a large number of donors, but should have a place in the hearts of our people and receive the support of their prayers and gifts.

As ICS tries to address the Christian Reformed people, it is faced with a difficult but challenging task. For many people it is not easy to imagine what a university means for the direction of thinking today and for future generations. They don't realize that a university like ICS, which requires large amounts of money, is necessary, especially since Christian elementary and



John De Groot, Sr.

high schools, which are much closer to the hearts of most people, are already taking a big slice of their income.

Furthermore, the prophetic voice of ICS which confronts us with Christ's claim over all our activities goes against our grain since we would rather keep Jesus Christ between the boundaries we want to erect than completely surrender to Him.

Through my contacts I have realized the difficulty of trying to convince people of the value of ICS. However, over and over I have been reminded by those who share our views that the Lord has entrusted to us a unique perspective that we may never give up. Will the Lord show us in the coming years that the vision of His kingdom will increasingly penetrate our way of thinking?

I have discovered encouraging signs among our younger generation who are starting to question the purpose of life, the task of the church, and to ask what Christian education is all about. As we look back on the history of ICS, we become aware that the Lord has performed many miracles in the past. He holds the future of ICS in His hands.

May He bless the commitment of those who are closely engaged in the work of ICS so that the vision of His kingdom becomes evident in our community and society at large.

Mr. De Groot, 72, is a retired nurseryman. He and his wife Agnes live in Sarnia where they attend First Christian Reformed Church. They have 10 children and 20 grandchildren.

☐

Meet a new student: Bernice Moreau



Bernice Moreau

The circumstances which led to my enrolment at ICS as a student cannot be explained in any other way than as direct guidance from God. I had come to a point in my academic career where I had to make a decision either to give up my academic career for my faith in Jesus Christ or be pressured into accepting an atheistic world view. My Christianity was not sufficiently integrated with my education for me to survive in the existing warfare of conflicting religious ideologies. With a feeling of defeat, I withdrew from my program. But I continued to search for a more tolerant educational institution.

My assistant pastor, Christine MacDormand, gave me an ICS academic

calendar and suggested that I read through it to see if the Institute could be of any help to me. I did not understand what ICS was all about. I concluded that it was a seminary and college combined. However, I decided to apply, expecting to be rejected since I had not done philosophy. Also, I was not sure whether Christian philosophy was what I needed.

Today, I am sure that it was the Holy Spirit who nudged Dorothe Rogers (Administrative Assistant at ICS) to get me to leave Nova Scotia for ICS in Toronto. My hesitation caused me to be five weeks late for classes. I was told by one of ICS's professors that for me to commence a program five weeks after the term had begun with no previous knowledge of ICS's approach, curriculum or study habits would be for me "a baptism by fire." It has certainly been all that he suggested and more.

Becoming a Christian scholar is not an easy path to follow. It takes more than intelligence, ability, and perseverance. The key is integration – allowing the Spirit of God to re-educate me in uniting my scholarship with my faith commitment. That is ICS's strength – teaching students how to integrate their scholarship with their Christian world and life view.

I have been accepted into a Ph.D. program at a secular university – I feel God is calling me to continue my studies in sociology of education. The difference now is that I have the confidence (in God) with which to complete my academic career. My scholarship and my Christianity have at last been integrated. Truly ICS is a graduate school with a difference. P

Staff changes

After five-and-a-half years at ICS, Kathy Vanderkloet, is leaving her position as administrative assistant to work for another ICS – Institute of Church and Society in Jos, Nigeria.

Vanderkloet joined ICS in 1981 as front office secretary and became administrative assistant to the president when Dr. Bernard Zylstra was appointed to that position in 1983.

The Institute of Church and Society is an indigenous Nigerian organization which deals with the interface between church and society, Vanderkloet explained. Starting in May, she'll serve as assistant to the coordinator of the northern area office for eight months while John Boer, who is "on loan" to the African Institute from Christian Reformed World Missions, is on furlough.

At the time *Perspective* went to press, the position of administrative assistant was still open. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying, please give ICS a call.

New Development Secretary

Margaret Schoemaker joined the Institute staff as Development Secretary on March 2, replacing Rita VanderVeen who moved to the Netherlands in February.

Schoemaker comes to ICS from her job as a data entry keyboarder at Wardair. Originally from Goderich, Ont. she now makes her home in Downsview.

Bob VanderVennen has taken a part-time position at *Calvinist Contact* as editor of the education page while he continues to work two days a week at ICS as director of Educational Services. P

Employment opportunity at ICS

The Institute for Christian Studies seeks applications for the position of Director of Administration. Duties include supervision and coordination of all ICS activities in the areas of general administration and business and finance. Previous administrative and financial experience required. Apply to Dr. Paul Marshall, ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4.

The Institute for Christian Studies seeks applications for the position of Administrative Assistant to the President. Duties include assisting the President in most facets of his work and managing other administrative staff. Experience required. Position available as of May 4, 1987. Apply to ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4, or call (416) 979-2331 for more information.



Margaret Schoemaker, development secretary



Development Notes

by Harry J. Kits

I have discovered that Christian liberal arts education abounds in North America. In my capacity as student recruiter, I have visited 12 Christian colleges over the past three months, including Redeemer (Ontario), Dordt and Northwestern (Iowa), Sioux Falls (South Dakota), Calvin and Hope (Michigan), Trinity Christian, Trinity, and Wheaton (Illinois), Trinity Western University (British Columbia), and The King's and Camrose Lutheran (Alberta).

These are just a few of the colleges which are attempting to educate young Christians so that they can serve God in all areas of life. Many professors and students at these colleges have expressed interest in the work of ICS, especially since few other institutions are able to offer studies from a Christian perspective at a graduate level.

From Christian elementary schools through to graduate studies at ICS, North America has been blessed with a complete spectrum of Christian education from which students can emerge ready to witness in this secular age.

Two young colleges in Canada which share the Institute's Reformed heritage, The King's and Redeemer, are gaining more credibility and are joining the ranks of bona fide Christian colleges in North America. Recent developments have seen Redeemer students qualify for study grants from the Ontario government. The King's has been granted the privilege of offering three-year B.A. degrees and will confer the new degree upon its first class this year. These two institutions deserve to be congratulated for their distinctive Christian approach to education which does not compromise their academic quality.

Students from these and other schools

have expressed an interest in studies at ICS. At this point we have almost 20 applicants for study at ICS for 1987-88 and eight of them have been accepted by ICS as full-time students. Please pray that we will continue to receive qualified applicants who will choose to study at ICS.

We have sent our fiscal year-end appeal letter to our regular donors and members. Contributions from our faithful supporters help us to purchase seed for the coming year's planting.

We continue to need your financial support to help keep our seed supply up—to allow us to employ those who teach our students. As you plant your flower and vegetable seeds or your wheat fields or see others doing this, please remember that ICS must sow seeds too.

None of the work which ICS does would be possible without our supporting community. On my most recent trip through Alberta in March, I was accompanied by ICS Senior Member Bill Rowe who spoke at small meetings with ICS supporters in Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary. At those meetings Bill compared ICS supporters to farmers who sow their seed in faith—a faith which can weather storms of controversy and which hopes for abundant harvests given by the Lord.

ICS partakes in sowing these seeds—seeds of Christian scholarship. Our seed supply, however, needs replenishment at this time of year. We have used much seed in telling students around the world about opportunities for study at ICS. We have sown seed in the form of publications and conferences and student groups at the universities. We have sown heavily in our own classrooms. □



Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

How can we make sense of the human agony the media shows us in countries like Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras? Do U.S. policies help the people? Are refugees from there merely trying to escape poverty? Are the churches constructively engaged?

These and other questions will be addressed at a conference at ICS on Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13, led by the research team of the Calvin College Center for Christian Scholarship. ICS is providing a respondent for each of the six presentations by the Calvin speakers, and there will be opportunity for general discussion. The speakers will deal with a wide range of issues in the complex interrelated situation. The conference is open to the public. The registration fee is \$45.

Evening slide program

A Friday night slide program titled "Sights and Sounds from Central America" will be a feature of special interest to people in the Toronto area who cannot attend the whole conference. The slides and commentary will come from the six weeks the research team spent in five Central American countries. This program will accent the personal and cultural situation of the people in Central America.

A range of dimensions of this culture in crisis will be presented, including the political, societal and theological. **Dr. Gordon Spykman**, coordinator of the program and professor of Religion and Theology at Calvin, will speak on "Liberation Theology: How Reformational Is It?" **Dr. John Stam**, professor at the National University in Costa Rica, will deal with the place of the Bible in coherent evangelistic witness. **Dr. Michael Dodson** of Texas Christian University will speak on the U.S. government's policies in support of democracy in Central America. **Dr. Lance Grahn** of Calvin College is concerned with Indian struggles to hold to their cultural identity in the face of Western pressures. **Dr. William Cook** of Costa

continued on page 8

Voluntary Income Statistics

Total needed by June 30, 1987	\$515,000
Total received by March 31, 1987	\$272,894
Total needed by June 30, 1987	\$242,106

* June 30, 1987 is ICS's fiscal year-end.

Perspective

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Rica will analyze the role of church congregations which have a transformational view of the Kingdom of God; he asks whether this is a new Reformation or a Marxist tool. **Dr. Sidney Rooy** of Buenos Aires will discuss various models of church in relation to society in Central America.

Response to crisis

This promises to be an exciting conference which arises out of a serious effort to understand and respond in sensitive Christian ways to the heartrending crisis in Central America. No longer are responsible citizens able to ignore the victims of oppression in other countries in our hemisphere, especially because in economic, political and military ways, our own countries are involved.

You can write or phone ICS for the full program and for registration information.

* * * * *

Consultation on Biology

ICS is inviting a number of biological scientists for a two-day consultation in July to discuss issues at the foundations of the biological sciences. Among Christians there seems to have been a lack of study and discussion of philosophy and theory of biology in recent decades because of the intense public controversy over evolution, an issue which has not been a subject of much research by biologists themselves

There is interest among some Christian biologists in discussing together such subjects as methodology and worldview, developmental biology, reductionism and hierarchy theory, and the nature of life. If you would like to have some information about this consultation, and wish to consider taking part in it, write to Bob VanderVennen at ICS. P



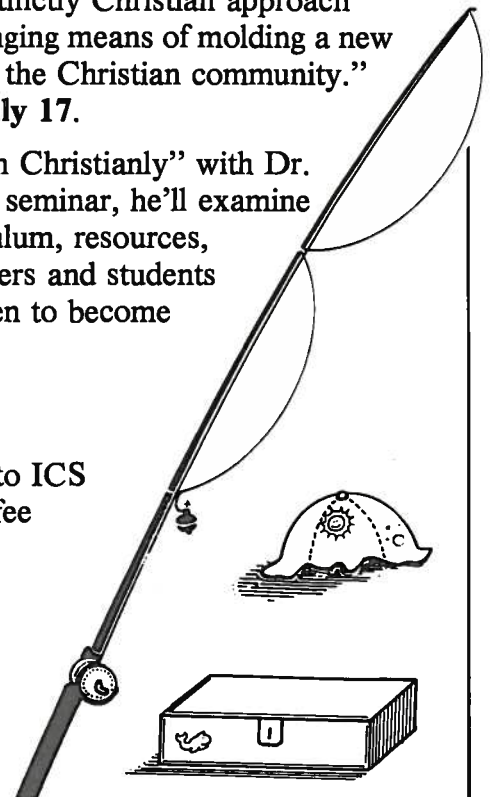
Drs. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen and John Van Dyk won't be hanging out their "Gone Fishing" shingles this summer. Instead they'll be at ICS to lead those in the counselling and education professions through three weeks of refreshing ideas.

Join Dr. Van Leeuwen in a graduate level seminar on "The Person in Psychology." Her distinctly Christian approach has been described as "a challenging means of molding a new psychology of great promise for the Christian community."
Mornings, June 29 through July 17.

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