



INSTITUTE
FOR CHRISTIAN
STUDIES

News from the graduate school with a difference.

Vol 20, No. 5 — October 1986

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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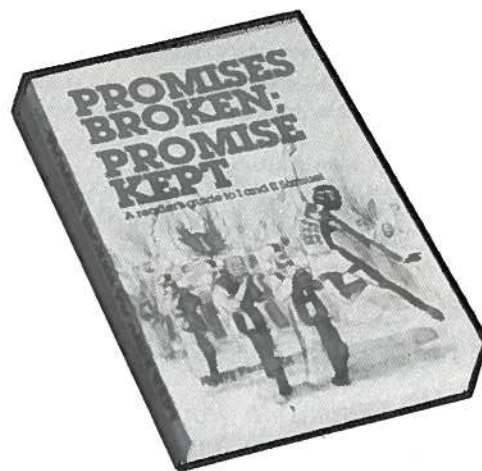
Olthuis and Fernhout each publish books this fall

by Dr. Robert E. VanderVennen

Dr. James Olthuis and Dr. Harry Fernhout, members of the ICS faculty, are each authors of books that were published in September.

Olthuis's book, *Keeping Our Troth: Staying in Love Through the Five Stages of Marriage* is the long-awaited sequel to his 1975 bestseller, *I Pledge You My Troth*.

Fernhout's book, *Promises Broken; Promise Kept: A Reader's Guide to 1 and 2 Samuel* is also a sequel of sorts, following the earlier publication of his similar book, *Of Kings and Prophets*.



In his first two chapters, Olthuis deals with intimacy, and then he works with five stages of marriage: romance, power struggle and its relation with personal identity, shifting gears, mutuality and co-creativity.

He says, "I hope that all of us will gain a sense of empowerment which flows from the realization that growth in our sense of self is at the same time the best guarantee for deepened intimacy with another person."

He emphasizes that "the struggle to keep the troth in the complexities of life is itself our way of staying committed to God as well as a route to a deepened inner experience of God."

In his book, Fernhout wants us to understand the biblical books of Samuel as a powerful, inspired story "... of the Lord's unfailing faithfulness to His promises despite the wavering of human faith."

The root of Israel's life — and of our own lives — rests in the Lord's covenant love. We can deepen our awareness of how God is busy in our lives as we hear the story of how he was busy in the lives of our spiritual ancestors many, many generations ago.



Keep troth through trials

Olthuis's book on marriage, published by Harper and Row, draws on his own experience of marriage, his experiences as a marriage and family therapist, and his teaching and research in the relation between theology and psychology. He is strongly committed to keeping our marriage troth through the trials and turns of the marriage passage. The focus of his book is on marriage as a struggle and journey toward a deeper joy and fulfillment.

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Perspective

OUR
30th.
YEAR

Perspective

Perspective newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

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Authorized Second Class Postage paid to the USA and Territories, mailed from Box 110, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

All other copies mailed under authorized Second Class privileges from Toronto, Ontario.

Send all address changes and other inquiries directly to ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

In This Issue

The Institute for Christian Studies is much more than a building located at 229 College St. in downtown Toronto. It is a president whose zeal for ICS is unflagging. It is a Senior Member who has stuck with the Institute through thick and thin for 20 years. It is new books written by Senior Members. It is exuberant family conferences held across Canada. It is students who travel across continents and cultures to reap the harvest of Christian graduate education.

These are just some of the pieces that make up the complex jigsaw puzzle that is the Institute for Christian Studies, which you will read about as you turn the pages of this autumn issue of Perspective.

Vision, perseverance, fresh fruits, exuberance, eagerness, and the promise of a new harvest. These are the things of which the Institute is made. Please rejoice with us as we rejoice and pray to a faithful God as we do. We can't do it alone.

CAV



From the President's Pen

By Clifford C. Pitt

Carol-Ann Veenkamp: I hate to press you on this, Dr. Pitt, but all of the copy for *Perspective* has already gone to the printers; your column is the only hold-out.

Dr. Pitt: Carol-Ann, I'm really embarrassed but I've just been swamped, there's been so much to do this fall . . .

To begin with, Adriana Pierik and Harry Kits and I have been spending a lot of time presenting the needs of ICS to all of the Classes of the Christian Reformed Church across Canada.

Carol-Ann: What is important to say to our Classes?

Dr. Pitt: Well, I think many of them are still loyal to the vision of ICS: that the Institute might provide university-level education with a Christian, specifically reformational, perspective. As ICS Trustee Nick Terpstra said recently, "In fact that dream is being realized — and right under our very noses!"

By "under our noses," Nick meant, of course, that many are not aware of the present-day realization of the dream; that tiny ICS has been remarkably successful in its business of producing for the universities professors "with a difference" who bring a Christian perspective into their college classrooms. Many were surprised to learn that 40 to 45 ICS alumni at this very moment hold down professorships all over the world, including: **Calvin:** Chairman of the Department of German, Professors of Political Science, Religion, and Philosophy; **Calvin Seminary:** Professors of Philosophy, Religion, and Old Testament Studies; **Dordt:** Professors of Economics and others; **Redeemer:** Vice-President, Academics, and Professors of Political Theory, Sociology, Philosophy, Music; **Trinity:** Professor of Political Science; **Northwestern:** Professor of History; **The King's:** Professor of Philosophy of Science; **Institute for Christian Studies:** Senior Members (professors) of Education, Political Theory, and Philosophy of History.

Our alumni also hold professorships in universities such as: York, Waterloo,

Toronto, Dalhousie, Potchefstroom, the Orange Free State, and Florence.

In fact, the massive truth is that over their total careers these 40 to 45 professors may well influence with their Christian scholarship and their Christian perspective on all of life, perhaps a *quarter of a million college students!*

This is to say nothing of the ICS thinking and research which has resulted in the publishing of over 30 books: a very great influence on Christian scholarship in general, and (as university-level textbooks) on college students in particular. Right on Nick! The dream is coming true right under our noses.

The other thing that caught the Classes' attention was the costliness of acquiring the Ph.D. degree, which is the professor's union card, so to speak. In Ontario, for example, a university receives about \$9,500 for the complete education of a bachelor's degree (B.A., B.Sc.) student, and \$85,000 for a Ph.D. student! This is surely an indication of the tremendous importance the province (and the country) attaches to the new ideas (research) and leadership developed at the Ph.D. level.

But other things are demanding too. A lot of preparation went into several significant meetings in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The discussion with the other college presidents on an organizational structure for a Reformed University of North America came up with a new suggestion which suddenly makes the whole project seem more feasible.

. . . . Then I thoroughly enjoyed a couple of hours with the man who has had more to do with shaping the Institute for Christian Studies than any other: retired Calvin College Professor Dr. H. Evan Runner. He talks with the speed of machine gun, the passion of an evangelist, and with sweeping vision and formidable academic knowledge. I was glad to represent the Institute in acknowledging our great debt to him. . . . On the special Task Force of Christian Schools International (CSI), we wrestled with problems of criteria for student admission, society membership, and govern-

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Zuidervaat to teach interim

A 1975 graduate of ICS's master's program in philosophy will lead an interim on "Marxism, the Arts, and Society" from January 6 through 28 at the Institute for Christian Studies.

Lambert Zuidervaat graduated from ICS in 1975 and in 1981 became the first student to obtain his Ph.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam through a cooperative program between the Free and ICS.

This interim course arises from Zuidervaat's research on one of the leading Marxist aestheticians, Theodor W. Adorno, for his doctoral dissertation, "Refractions: Truth in Adorno's Aesthetic Theory."

Zuidervaat chose to study Adorno because Marxists have typically struggled with two questions which are also of great interest to Christians: is the practice of an art form neutral; and what are the factors that shape one's artistic practice?

Explore questions

In the interim course, the class will explore those questions as well as try to determine how things such as religion, economics, and political factors hang together in the practice of art.

The course is designed to provide an introduction to Marxist aesthetics, its history, and its central themes. Students will read and discuss short writings by Marx, Engels, Trotsky, Walter Benjamin, and Adorno.

Institute faculty members will give special lectures, and students will attend performances, exhibitions, or screenings in Toronto. Attention will be focused on film, literature, music (both popular and otherwise), and paintings. Students will be expected to do assigned readings; participate in daily three-hour seminars, and outings; interview activists, artists, or scholars; and write a report.

Zuidervaat will bring with him to Toronto a group of undergraduate students from Calvin College where he is currently serving as associate professor of philosophy. Graduate students will be expected to write a paper and lead a seminar.

Undergraduate students too

The course is intended for mature undergraduates and for students in a master's program. Ideally, a student will have taken some philosophy and/or historical courses in one of the arts. Practical training in one of the arts would also be an asset.

"Marxism, the Arts, and Society" will be of special interest to students majoring in philosophy, German or English literature, art, communications, or music. Students majoring in history and the social sciences might also enjoy this course.

Registration is open to a limited number of non-ICS students who meet admission requirements. The tuition fee for non-Calvin students will be \$225. Other expenses for books, materials, tickets, and local transportation have been estimated at \$125.

Phone or write the ICS Admissions Office at (416) 979-2331 or 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4 for an application form and more information. Deadline for applications is December 31.

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"Books" continued from page 1

A major strength of this book is how it brings the stories of the books of Samuel together into a unified picture of God's work in history. The book also stresses the importance of developing an appreciation of 1 and 2 Samuel as a literary whole, in contrast to our tendency to focus only on interesting fragments or episodes.

Published by the Joy In Learning Curriculum Development Centre (CDC), Fernhout wrote *Promises Broken; Promise Kept* while he was a staff member of CDC, located on the third floor of ICS's building at 229 College St., and at a time when CDC was financially assisted by ICS. His research for the book drew upon his study for the master's degree at ICS under Olthuis.

We strongly recommend both these books. They are the result of good scholarship, but are written for the general reader, not for the academic specialist. Both books will make excellent and much-valued gifts for birthdays and Christmas. You can purchase both books from ICS by using the order form in this issue of *Perspective*. [P]

Variety of students enroll in ICS's full-time programs

Although the incoming class at the Institute for Christian Studies for 1986-87 is not large at seven students, it is global in its representation of ethnic backgrounds and denominations.

The four students in the Master of Philosophical Foundations (M.Phil.F.) program represent England, Pakistan, the USA and Canada.

Nik Ansell came to ICS from Britain to study philosophical theology with Dr. James Olthuis. **Dr. Nesa Lysander** is originally from India but has been a resident of Canada for many years; he too is studying with Olthuis. **Henry Luttikhuisen** calls Hudsonville, Michigan home, but has put down temporary roots in Toronto to study aesthetics at the Institute. And **Tim Schouls** drove 2,000 miles from Edmonton, Alberta to study political theory with Dr. Paul Marshall.

The Institute also welcomes three full-time students to its new one-year master's level programs. **Beverley Boothe**, a Torontonion, is taking time out from her job as a social worker to pick up some Christian perspective in the master's program in Christian studies, with an emphasis in psychology/counselling. **Bernice Moreau**, an immigrant from Trinidad, is taking a break from her Ph.D. program at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia to gain a Christian foundation upon which to build her graduate studies. And **Fran Wong**, a former high school teacher, decided to enhance her B.A. degree by taking Dr. Harry Fernhout's master's program in education.

New part-time students

Other new students include part-timers **Rev. Aren Geisterfer**, **Rev.**
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Peter Van Egmond, Denise Natishan, and Joanne Anquist in Olthuis's psychology/counselling course on "Human Nature, Counselling, and the Christian Faith."

Tim Vickery is taking a philosophy course with Hart and **Tim de Jager-Seerveld** is auditing Dr. William Rowe's history of philosophy course.

Part-timers in Fernhout's Monday evening Biblical Foundations course include **Alice Verbaas** and **Philip Kuntz**; and **Karen Gerritsma, Karen Kemp, Kathleen Larmour, and Ike Witteveen** are taking his Wednesday evening course on "Moral/Values Education in Christian Perspective."

Five M.Phil.F. students returned for their second year of classes at ICS. These include **Thom Corbett** of Nova Scotia who is studying systematic theology with Dr. George Vandervelde, **Nigel Douglas** of England and **Sung-Hagch Choe** of Korea who are studying systematic philosophy with Dr. Hendrik Hart, **Priscilla Reimer** of Manitoba who is studying aesthetics under Dr. Calvin Seerveld's guidance, and **Kuk-Won Shin** of Korea who is in special studies with Hart.

Ph.D. students enrolled full-time in the Ph.D. program which ICS offers in cooperation with the Free University of Amsterdam include **Carroll Guen** of Utah, **Kanji Fuki** of Japan, **Vaden House** of Ontario, **Robert Rogers** of Pennsylvania, and **Gary Shahinian** of New Jersey.

Students in the thesis-writing stage in the M.Phil.F. program are **Jeff Dudiak** of Ontario, **Glenda Hildebrand** of Ontario, **Harry Kits** of Ontario, **Donald and Jeanette Knudsen** of Massachusetts, **David Pascuzzi** of New York, **Vera Lynne Pavlischek** of Pennsylvania, **Rick Pearcey** of Missouri, **Jeff Wells** of Ontario, and **David Woods** of England.

[P]

Trustees elected

Region 1 – Sam Van Randen, reelected

Region 7 – Herman Praamsma, reelected
Fred Reinders, elected

Region 8 – Leo Jonker, reelected

Trustee at large – Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, elected

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Keeping up with ICS Faculty

Over the summer **Dr. Harry Fernhout**, Senior Member in Education, saw his work with two projects come to fruition in the form of his reader's guide to 1 and 2 Samuel, *Promises Broken; Promise Kept*, published by Joy in Learning Curriculum Development Centre, and *Theirs is the Kingdom*, a New Testament story Bible for which he served as project manager, printed by Eerdmans Publishing Company of Grand Rapids, Mich.

A committee consisting of Aukje Masselink, Angela Terpstra, and Fernhout organized a conference on "Teaching Christianly: What Is It?", held September 20. In addition to his role as conference chairman, Fernhout served as one of four respondents to John Van Dyk's conference presentation.

In October, Fernhout led workshops at two teachers' conventions. On October 23 he led two sessions on "Moral Education in the Christian School" at the Ontario Christian School Teachers Association convention held at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont. The following week, he made a presentation on Lawrence Kohlberg's theory of moral development to the convention of the Canadian Reformed Teachers Association in Hamilton, Ont.

ICS Senior Member in Systematic Philosophy, **Dr. Hendrik Hart**, recently served on the program committee of the Society for Christian Philosophers (SCP), which looks after organizing SCP meetings simultaneously with the meetings of the Learned Societies in Canada. In May of 1987, the SCP meeting in Hamilton will concentrate on St. Augustine as a Christian philosopher on the 800th anniversary of his conversion.

On the weekend of September 13, Hart attended a philosophy conference sponsored by the philosophy department of McMaster University in Hamilton.

From October 16 through 18, Hart and **Dr. William Rowe**, Senior Member in History of Philosophy, attended the 25th annual conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Phil-

osophy sponsored by the University of Toronto graduate department in philosophy. Hart went on to attend the meetings of the Ontario Philosophical Society on October 18 and 19 in Toronto.

From September 11 through 14, Senior Member in Political Theory, **Dr. Paul Marshall**, presented lectures at a Reformed Presbyterian college, Geneva College, in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania on "Modern Individualism" and "Pluralism and Party Systems." He also spoke at a combined conference of the Association for Public Justice and Christian Educational Services in Ligonier, PA on "Strategic Defense Initiative: An Evaluation."

Marshall met with the Reformed college presidents regarding the establishment of a Reformed university in North America from October 8 through 10.

Dr. James Olthuis, Senior Member in Philosophical Theology, was a featured speaker at a "No Splits" conference put on by College House in Cambridge, England from August 28 through 31. His keynote addresses were, "Being Human," "Identity and Intimacy," and "Ages and Stages."

Olthuis resumed his teaching duties in September after a year on sabbatical, which culminated in the publication of *Keeping Our Troth: Staying in Love Through the Five Stages of Marriage*, Harper and Row, Publishers.

Dr. Calvin Seerveld, Senior Member in Aesthetics, is currently on sabbatical.

On September 26 and 27, **Dr. George Vandervelde**, Senior Member in Systematic Theology, led a retreat for Bethel Christian Reformed Church of London, Ontario. He gave three presentations on "The Church in a Changing Society."

Vandervelde also acted as co-chairman of a consultation between the Pentecostal churches and the Commission on Faith and Order of the National Council of Churches at Fuller Theological Seminary from October 22 through 24.

[P]

The doctor is not in

by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

At 50, Henk Hart doesn't like to give out his business card simply because it ascribes to him the title of Dr. Hendrik Hart. The name Henk is quite adequate, he says.

Anyone familiar with the Institute will likely have heard of Henk Hart — ICS's Senior Member in Systematic Philosophy. Back in 1966, Henk was executive director of the Institute's parent organization, the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship (AACS). A year later, when ICS officially opened its doors, he was its only professor and its only student.

Henk recalls how back in the fall of 1967, he received a telephone call from a young woman who had just arrived in town. The reformational movement had so excited her that without any prior correspondence she traveled from Australia to Toronto to enrol at the Institute for Christian Studies — a place whose reputation had preceded its development.

"She was a woman with a great sense of humour," Henk says. "When she realized that there was no Institute to go to, she became a secretary for ICS and later a teacher at Toronto District Christian High School. Her name was Wilma Cummings."

Underground existence

A series of misunderstandings led to the Institute's board thinking it had legally set itself up at 141 Lyndhurst Ave. in Toronto. But the zoning laws did not



Hart hands out a diploma in earlier days at ICS.



Hart leads a seminar in early '70s.

allow for a school to be run from that house, and living under the nose of a next door neighbour who just happened to be an Ontario cabinet minister, added to the sense of subterfuge.

"You must realize that it was counterculture time, and for the Institute to have an underground existence was quite acceptable and exciting," Henk says.

Eventually the students arrived. At times they came in droves to partake of the curriculum of counterculture, presented from a Christian perspective. When formal class was in session, all the curtains were drawn to prevent the neighbourhood from looking in. But with 25 cars parked around the house and large numbers of young people coming and going daily, the neighbours knew more than a family reunion was going on.

Consequently, the city inspector was often called to investigate. However, the inspector accepted the explanation that ICS had honestly thought it could legitimately occupy the Lyndhurst house as a school. So, he exercised "gentle pressure" to find a solution, Henk recalls.

Equipment in the coal bin

But while the solution was being sought, the understanding inspector would call 24 hours before coming to give the Institute staff time to make Lyndhurst look like a normal house. Office equipment was hidden in the coal bin and some of the students temporarily

moved beds and belongings into the classrooms on the main floor.

The third floor was rented out, but Henk and his wife, Anita, daughter Esther and eventually infant son Klaas, lived on the second floor.

Esther, at age three, received an early grounding in the foundations of philosophy as she sat in on many of the classes. She loved the students and the students loved her, Henk says.

In due course, student entertainment became an extension of the Hart's home life. And beginning to feel like the woman in the nursery rhyme who lived in a shoe and had so many children she didn't know what to do, Anita prepared food for student gatherings, cleaned the huge house, and cared for her own growing family.

The last straw

The straw that finally broke the camel's back was a toothbrush, or rather a student who banged on the Hart's door at 4 a.m. to ask if he could borrow a toothbrush. Anita decided then and there that they would move to a place with a little more privacy.

By the summer of 1970, the seams of 141 Lyndhurst had begun to burst as the house tried to accommodate four Senior Members, a growing administrative staff and an expanding student body. The board's search for a building which ICS could legitimately occupy and which would meet its changing needs took on a note of urgency.

One afternoon, the telephone rang while the board and staff were meeting. Executive director John Olthuis went out to answer it. He took a long time to return; but when he came back he was crying tears of joy. Their prayers had been answered — the housing problem

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A typical scene in Hart's office mid-year in 1984.

"Hart" continued from page 5

would finally be solved. An anonymous donor had just offered to purchase a building for ICS. After a year of searching for a suitable building to buy, ICS took ownership of 229 College St. in the heart of downtown and across from the University of Toronto in 1971.

The move to the College St. address served to help ICS begin the process of maturing into an institution from the movement it had originally been, Henk remarks, and Calvin Seerveld's inauguration as a Senior Member in Aesthetics in 1972 was the last significant "movement" event. Seerveld drew almost 900 enthusiastic supporters from across the continent.

ICS begins fence-mending

"The counterculture movement began to die out. We were changing too," Henk recalls. ICS began to follow a formal curriculum and to hand out grades. The Institute also began a conscious program of mending fences, for during its heyday it had alienated many would-be supporters.

One of the more dramatic gestures of reconciliation came in the form of a

meeting between ICS and the faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary, which had been severely critical of ICS's "Dooyeweerdianism," described by a Westminster student as a "modern form of synthesis religion." The meeting was held at a neutral half-way point in New York State.

A speech by Nicholas Wolterstorff published in 1974 in both *The Reformed Journal* and *The Banner* under the title, "The AACS in the CRC" (Christian Reformed Church) signaled the end of the alienation period and placed ICS back into wholesome relationships with others in the church, Hart says.

In the final paragraph of his speech Wolterstorff states, "I sense that these features of movementism are beginning to somewhat diminish within the AACS. Likewise I sense that the movement is beginning to show some psychological and spiritual maturity If these judgements of mine are correct, then I believe that in the future the contribution of the AACS to the CRC will be less conspicuous than it has been thus far. At the same time, though, it may well prove to be far greater."

Henk thanked Wolterstorff for his

"fair" evaluation through an open letter to both publications, further opening the lines of communication between church and Institute.

According to Henk, the roots of Wolterstorff's sympathy for ICS were laid at a series of meetings held on the Knollcrest campus of Calvin College and Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Representatives of the college and seminary met with ICS trustees, curators, and staff members to explore the possibility of Calvin and ICS leading a peaceful co-existence.

Twenty years of passage

Twenty years have passed since Henk boarded the ICS ship, and over the years his explorative nature has often taken him into uncharted waters. His faith always brings him safely to shore again.

Those who know Henk become privy to a treasure trove of ICS folklore as the not-so-ancient mariner shares the spoils of living history in every conversation in which he engages.

The name Henk, as it defines ICS's Senior Member with the most seniority, continues to be completely adequate.

[P]

Over 70 teachers attend ICS workshop

by Nicholas Terpstra

"Very inspiring!" "A huge success!" These were some of the reactions to a recent workshop for teachers sponsored by ICS on September 20 and held at John Knox Christian School in Brampton, Ont.

Over 70 teachers from across Ontario participated in the day-long event and their responses confirmed the need for the new master's program in education offered by ICS.

Those at the workshop studied the question, "Teaching Christianly: What is it?" with feature speaker Dr. John Van Dyk, a professor of philosophy at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa and former ICS curator and trustee.

Van Dyk opened by noting that in the drive to develop Christian curriculum, the act of teaching itself has often been neglected. He offered **guiding**, **unfolding**, and **enabling** as the intertwined essentials of good Christian teaching.

Guiding, unfolding, enabling

Guiding, he said, is directed to help-
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ing students recognize what it means to be a disciple of Christ. With infectious, Spirit-filled enthusiasm and through encouragement and motivation, the teacher can provide a model of discipleship. Class devotions give this model the biblical context of Christ's redemption leading to lives of stewardship and healing.

Unfolding has two sides: the subject and the student. Unfolding the subject through Christian curriculum means more than just getting the facts straight — it means showing God's presence and design in the creation, together with the effects of sin and the promise of redemption. But teaching this effectively requires knowledge of how students develop and learn — how they, like creation, unfold. Unfolding the wonder of creation and redemption leads to a life of worship. The teacher helps in this living worship by **enabling**, that is, helping the child to respond to God as a committed servant, steward, and peacemaker.

Requires rethinking

Christian teaching on this model of guiding, unfolding, and enabling cer-

tainly requires a rethinking of the content and organization of a school curriculum. More than that, it calls for methods of evaluation sensitive to marking progress not only in knowledge and skills, but also in discipleship. Most of all, it calls for teamwork among teachers, administrators and parents if students are to be helped to recognize and practice Christian discipleship.

Response to these ideas came from all teachers present. First a panel of four teachers from elementary through graduate school level offered comments. Then in discussion groups, the teachers could review Van Dyk's ideas in light of their own experiences and problems. Comparisons and evaluations were exchanged in a final session where Van Dyk also answered questions.

"Let's have more!" "Good — keep up the work!" The teachers' enthusiastic responses were a sign of the great need for the work of places like the Dordt College Studies Institute where Van Dyk has developed and tested his ideas in exchanges with Christian school teachers. It also showed the potential for constructive cooperation between ICS and local Christian colleges across North America.

[P]

Southern British Columbians seek answers on mountaintop

by Henry Smidstra

The mountaintop overlooking scenic Cultus Lake in southern B.C. was a beautiful, peaceful, yet fittingly symbolic location to receive scriptural vision and to highlight the radical nature of discipleship as 161 of us came out to attend the Southern B.C. ICS Family Conference held at Columbia Bible Camp.

The conference theme, *Responsibility and Revolution*, came on the heels of a season of ICS lectures exploring the winds of change in the church and world.

Dr. Peter Schouls, a professor of philosophy at the University of Alberta and chancellor of ICS, led us around the jagged rocks and crags of Cartesian philosophy, as embedded in Marxist and capitalist heresies. Though this was heady fare, we never lost our heads, but managed even to be silly as we warbled and twittered late into the night.

The children's programs were greatly enjoyed by the young ones and left the parents free to go to lectures and workshops. Organizing and running the children's program was no small task, for of the 161 people at the conference, 90 were children. For this program, we have Sandra Hoosenberg and her assistants to thank. The pools, trampolines, and the spacious airy campus also helped forestall a children's revolution.

All in all, our mountaintop conference was an experience of fellowship, recreation, and critique of enlightenment thinking.

Faithful dependence on God's Word

Faithful dependence upon God's Word was stressed as indispensable in producing Christian perspective and vision as the church goes through the passages of change and time. Schouls outlined the radicalness of the "declaration of independence" from God as declared especially in the philosophy of Descartes.

After Descartes, God's Word and norms for life are no longer seen as relevant or necessary, and man no longer needs God, for man has come of age "enlightened," Schouls said. Man is the master of his own fate, the captain of his own ship. This revolution against God began in the garden of Eden, where man and woman in alliance with the devil attempted to become like God and be creators, rather than image-bearers. And in Descartes the revolution essentially has its ideological consummation.

Today western thought is revolutionary and disregards God and His norms, since it is heir to Cartesian thought. Marxism and capitalism, since they share in Cartesian ideology, are by nature revolutionary and rebel against God's created structures. The past is swept away, and a new order is to be brought about by the labour or revolution of man.

A revolutionary age

Schouls pointed out that Christians

today live in a revolutionary age, not only of social and political revolution, but also of the philosophical revolution which has declared God out of the picture. He stressed that though revolution is attempted on almost every side, all revolution after the spirit of the fallen Garden and Descartes are doomed to fail for they go against God's norm for life and are contrary to His will.

Thus the Christian, in response to needs and social justice must rebel against the modern humanistic spirit, but in reliance on God's word and with faith, go forward in hope, sharing our deeds of love and mercy according to God's Word. The radical call is not to progress or revolution, but to service both to one's neighbour and for the glory of God.

All of this left us wrestling for answers to the burning global issues of today such as warfare and civil unrest in so many Third World countries, and racial unrest in South Africa. And we got a little defensive when we looked into the closets of our own traditions. Statements such as tradition for tradition's sake; capitalism is more revolutionary than Marxism; conservatives and revolutionaries are often bedfellows, made us jittery.

A mountain of revelation

Although we came to realize that the call to discipleship was not a call to indulge in luxury, and that our response was not going to come easily, but with fear and trembling, we did not leave with heavy hearts. We left feeling closer to Him and to each other. As we left our mountain of revelation, we pledged to return next year looking for answers that evaded us this time.

Many contributed to make the conference a success: Rev. Bill Tuininga, Rev. John Ooms, and Alice and George Yntema who were involved with the Sunday services, Helen Breems for the singing, Wilma Bouma, Sam Van Randen, and Jeff Wubbs for the administration, Art Boersma and Richard Roos for publicity, and Ed Noot and Warren Piers for the fellowship programs.

Many others gave much also. But the winds of change were obvious as Nick Loenen, after 10 years of emceeing the conference, sat in the audience with clean-shaven cheeks, having yielded the platform to his bearded successor, John Kamphof.

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Southern B.C. conferees take in Schouls' lecture

Photo by John Stadt

ICS to offer evening courses this winter

Although the Institute for Christian Studies is located in Toronto, it is supported by members and donors from across Canada and the USA. Unfortunately, ICS can't be everywhere at once, which means students have to come to Toronto to study here.

But even though ICS can't be accessible to everyone, we have moved some of our courses into evening time slots so that those within a 60-mile radius of Toronto can attend after their day jobs.

This winter those courses include the second half of Biblical Foundations, which will be taught by Dr. George Vandervelde Monday evenings from January 12 through April 13. He will concentrate on the New Testament, focusing on the specific message of each of the Gospels, the central themes of the Pauline epistles, and some basic approaches to the second coming of Christ.

Education course

On Tuesday evenings, from January 13 through April 14, Dr. Harry Fernhout will lead a seminar entitled, "Central Issues in Christian Philosophy of Education."

The course will provide a context for addressing major issues which are pivotal to the development of a Christian philosophy of education. Fernhout encourages those studying to be teachers and those who are teaching to take the course.

Marital therapy seminar

Wednesday evenings, from January 14 through April 15, have been slotted for "Marriage and Marital Therapy," a course in the master's program in Christian studies, within the discipline of psychology/counselling. ICS adjunct faculty member, Dr. Stan Skarsten, will lead the students in examining, from a Christian perspective, some common cultural assumptions about marriage and marital therapy in particular. The class will also take a critical look at current major approaches to marital therapy, and the role and mandate of the therapist.

Skarsten specializes in marriage and family therapy; he co-founded the Institute for Family Living in 1972 and is now director of clinical services for 10 associates. P

Northwestern British Columbians confer on shores of Tyhee Lake

by Teresa Rietsma

A challenging ICS Family Conference revolving around the theme of "The Christian Community in a Secular World" was held on the peaceful shores of Tyhee Lake in Northwestern British Columbia August 2 through 4.

Conference participants were stimulated by the keynote addresses of Dr. Henk Van Anandel, president of The King's College in Edmonton, Alta. and long-time member of the Institute for Christian Studies.

Van Anandel presented three lectures. In his first lecture, "Unity Amidst Diversity — The Nature of the Christian Community," he said that although a Christian community must be made up of people of the Lord working together, we are constantly faced with divisions among denominations and within individual denominations. But as Christians, we need to strive for a common mission to be able to promote Christian goals.

In his second lecture, "Providing Christian Alternatives — The Task of the Christian Community," Van Anandel said that although our world belongs to God, it is run by non-Christian forces. Christians have a tremendous task to work at reclaiming this world for God, and by working communally, we will be much more effective in building God's kingdom. We must learn to understand one another and to be patient with each other's differences as we seek biblical direction for all of life.

The theme of Van Anandel's third lecture was "Breaking Out of Isolation — The Witness of the Christian Community." Here he urged us to work together as Christians because we cannot change secular thought patterns alone. We need to renew our enthusiasm in order to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. In all areas of life, we must be like an army moving the church of God, he said.

Sunday morning's worship service was conducted by Rev. Harry Bierman of Smithers, B.C. on "The True Foundation," Romans 3:21-31. He said that in order to get out of spiritual depression, which results in ineffective Christian witness, we need to realize and live in God's forgiveness! By putting our hope in Jesus Christ, we will find joy and peace in Him alone.

Other weekend activities in the beautiful Bulkley Valley included a family folk dance, singing, wiener roasts, action-packed games for the whole family, and a pancake breakfast. A spirit of working together was always evident.

The weekend was filled with fun, fellowship, and growth as we were stimulated and encouraged by Van Anandel and each other to reach out further as Christians into our communities. We thanked God for His rich blessings on another ICS conference and vowed to strive together to be His faithful servants.

P



Northwestern B.C. conferees in potato sack race.

Photo by Teresa Rietsma



Left to right, Calvin Seerveld, James Olthuis, Henry Venema, and James Ferris.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

Four students complete M.Phil.F. requirements

This summer Henry Venema started the ICS degree mill churning by completing his thesis on "Philosophical Anthropology: An Interpretive Analysis of Paul Ricoeur's Philosophy of Will."

Venema, a Dordt College graduate, wrote the thesis as partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain a Master of Philosophical Foundations (M.Phil.F.) degree with an emphasis in philosophical theology. He studied under Dr. James Olthuis during his years at ICS and is now a Ph.D. student at McGill University in Montreal.

A native of Burlington, Ont., Venema was orally examined by Olthuis, Dr. Calvin Seerveld, and external examiner Dr. James Ferris of Knox College, University of Toronto.

Aesthetics graduate

Lloyd Davies followed in Venema's footsteps by receiving an M.Phil.F. in aesthetics after being examined on his paper, "Owen Barfield's Aesthetics: Worldview and Poetic Consciousness" by Dr. Hendrik Hart, Dr. William Rowe, Seerveld, and outside examiner Dr. G. B. Tennyson of UCLA.

Originally from California, Davies received his B.A. degree from the University of California at Riverside, and is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

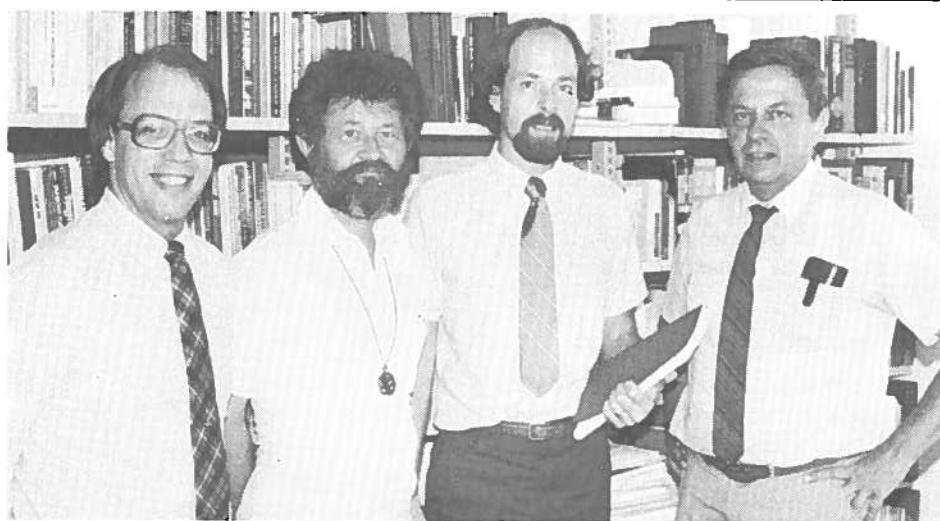
Graduate in political theory

The third student to complete the M.Phil.F. program over the summer was Gary Duim, also a Dordt College graduate, and native of Washington State.

Duim's thesis is entitled, "Political Tolerance of 'Religious' Differences: An Exposition and Critique of the Lockean Theory With An Alternative Approach." Duim studied under the late Dr. Bernard Zylstra and Dr. Paul Marshall.

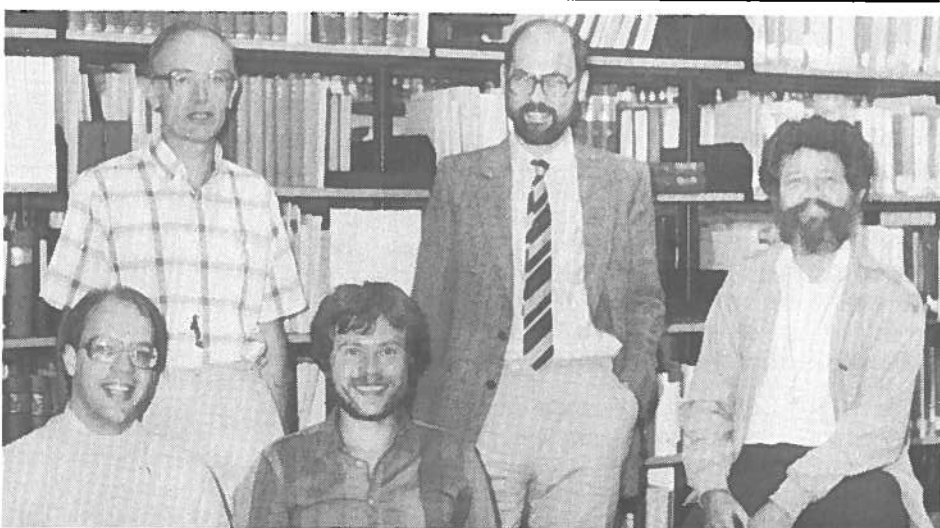
Duim defended his thesis before Marshall, Olthuis, and external examiner Dr. David Snyder, visiting assistant professor of philosophy at Calvin College.

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Left to right, Bill Rowe, Henk Hart, Lloyd Davies, Cal Seerveld.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp



Left to right, Bill Rowe, George Vandervelde, Mark Roques, Jitse van der Meer, and Henk Hart.

Photo by Rita Vander Veen

Development Notes



by *Adriana
Pierik*

Days, weeks, and months have a way of racing by, and we again find ourselves fast approaching the end of 1986.

We, in the development department, have the responsibility of keeping careful "tabs" on the voluntary income category of our budget. It is at this time of the year that we wonder if our year-end goals will be met.

As you know, ICS depends almost entirely on the faithful support of our members to meet our financial needs. In fact, we have come to look upon our supporters as "family members" who have helped us through thick and thin, and there are certain things that we share with "the family." These include our hopes, our joys, and our concerns.

Our hopes are that ICS may continue to equip a new generation of young scholars to become Christian leaders in all areas of life: the marketplace, the classroom, the political arena. To do this we need funds. Our hopes are also that this task will be supported by many more Christians from all walks of life.

Our joys are that we **have seen** this vision supported and undergirded by so many of you with your prayers and gifts for 30 years. Our joys are seeing the lives of students changed as they discover how their faith and learning integrate in their particular area of study and later as they assert the Lordship of Christ in their chosen professions.

Our concerns are more difficult to share. Our ongoing critical financial situation gives us great concern. As we have to pay our bills from month to month, many times we simply don't have the funds. Such is our predicament right now.

Another concern is that you, our members, get tired of hearing this. However, only with **your gifts** are we able to carry out our task.

How can you help? By giving us your ongoing support, by keeping our needs before the Lord, by communicating your concerns, by dropping us a line.

These are some of our hopes, our joys, and our concerns. Sharing them with us is what it means to be a "family member" of the Institute for Christian Studies. P

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Left to right, Paul Marshall, David Snyder, James Olthuis, and Gary Duim.

Photo by Rita Vander Veen

"M.Phil.F." *continued from page 9*

Duim is currently working in construction as he considers further graduate studies.

Degree in philosophy

The fourth graduate, Mark Roques, became the fortieth ICS student to receive the M.Phil.F. degree since the school's inception. A graduate of Bristol University in England, Roques wrote his thesis on "Popper, Darwinism and Third World Evolutionary Epistemology: An Exposition and Critique."

Roques studied systematic philosophy under Hart at ICS, and defended his thesis before Hart, Rowe, and outside examiner Dr. Jitse van der Meer, associate professor of biology at Redeemer College.

He has since returned to England where he is seeking employment.

Approximately 75 percent of ICS's M.Phil.F. graduates have gone on to do further graduate studies on their way to becoming Christian researchers and professors. P

Meet a new student: Tim Schouls

Coming to the Institute for Christian Studies was not an easy or automatic decision made by my wife Rita and I. The majority of both our respective lives had been spent in the Edmonton area where we had enjoyed meaningful relationships with family and friends.

In addition, Rita had a rewarding job working with handicapped people, and I, upon having completed a B.A. in political science at the University of Alberta, had applied for and been accepted into the U of A's master's program in political science.

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Tim Schouls is a political theory student.

Photo by Carol-Ann Veenkamp

"Schouls" continued from page 10

Periodic conversation with family and friends about ICS as a possible place for graduate work, coupled with my own misgivings about what the U of A could offer me as a graduate student, resulted in our reconsidering the decision Rita and I had made to stay in Edmonton.

Although the courses at the U of A were appealing, especially in the area of Canadian politics, most of them seemed to take as given certain theoretical assumptions that as a Christian I felt needed questioning. More often than not, courses in Canadian politics, if critical of the political process, were interested only in "fine-tuning" that which was already in place, rather than subjecting the whole political process itself, as well as the philosophical presuppositions which underpin the process, to a radical and specifically Christian critique. I believe that if I am to take my Christianity seriously as it has bearing on my work as a student of politics, I must learn how to search for and find the will of God as he calls the political order to obedience. The U of A was unable to equip me to my satisfaction with the tools necessary to begin this exploratory search.

Conversation with my family, Henk Hart while he was in Edmonton in the fall of 1985, as well as others, convinced Rita and me that ICS was the graduate school which could begin to assist me in developing the talents necessary to be able to hear God's command for recreation in a political order broken and distorted by sin. This fact, along with the promise of an equally rewarding job for Rita in the area of assisting handicapped people in Toronto, and the prospect of living in a city far larger and culturally and historically richer than Edmonton, convinced Rita and me that Toronto was the city we wanted to live in for the next few years. [P]

Vos tapes available

Changing Views in Changing Times is the title of a popular workshop led by Rev. Jack Vos at the 1986 Niagara Family Conference. By popular request, the tape of this workshop has been made available. Send \$5. care of ICS at 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4, and we'll send you the tape. [P]



Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

ICS serves the public through education in a variety of ways. Here are some of the recent exciting developments.

New Group-Study Materials in Politics and Art

From our teaching of Christian perspective courses at university campuses have come two new manuals to help groups and individuals gain better Christian insight into politics and art.

Jonathan Chaplin, who taught a course entitled, "Christian Perspective for Political Action" for two years while he was a graduate student at ICS, has now prepared his material for wider use. His manual of 73 pages is a guide to a series of readings set up for group study in 21 sessions. The manual uses Paul Marshall's book, *Thine is the Kingdom* and Bob Goudzwaard's book, *Idols of Our Time* (originally given as lectures at ICS), as well as various papers.

Chaplin builds on a foundation of a biblical perspective, using the theme of creation, fall, and redemption. He discusses a Christian understanding of society, forces which shape politics today such as technology and economics, and compares and contrasts the political perspectives of individualism, collectivism, pluralism, Marxism, and liberalism. He also deals with international relations and nuclear arms. All the books and papers used in the course can be purchased from ICS.

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin has written a beautiful study guide on "Christian Perspective on the Arts," arising from a course she taught twice while a graduate student at ICS. She explores the question of what really is art, and the nature of specifically Christian art.

Having taught a course for art students at the Ontario College of Art, she especially directs herself to the ways Christian artists experience art and the attitudes they experience from other Christians towards art and artists. She deals with art history and art criticism and is particularly concerned about the communal aspect of art and the need for Christian artists to have community support. She draws very much from the

thinking of ICS Senior Member in Aesthetics, Dr. Calvin Seerveld, and the late Dr. Hans Rookmaaker, an art history professor from the Free University of Amsterdam.

These manuals are prepared for group study, such as in church education programs and by Bible study groups, but individuals can also enjoy working through the manuals and the readings accompanying them. Each manual sells for \$4.50, plus \$1 per copy for mailing.

Anakainosis

This Greek word meaning "renewal" (Romans 12:2) is the name of a quarterly "Newsletter for Reformational Thought" published by ICS. A year ago *Anakainosis* underwent a "renewal" itself with my taking over as managing editor, and Mark Roques and David Woods, ICS graduate students, as associate editors. Now with the graduation of Mark, Nigel Douglas has come in as a new associate editor.

Anakainosis promotes ICS's vision of Christian scholarship through academic articles, reviews, and news and commentary on events such as conferences. Recent articles have been by Nigel Douglas on Morris Berman's book, *The Reenchantment of the World*, on natural theology by Richard Russell, on Weber's Protestant ethic by Paul Marshall, and on human rights by Jonathan Chaplin. This quarterly paper is especially welcomed by our friends who live on other continents. We publish writings that show fresh thinking in the line of reformational Christian scholarship, and we welcome subscriptions at the price of \$15 per year.

Correspondence Courses

The announcement of this new program of Correspondence Reading Courses from ICS is drawing much excited response. Courses can be ordered from the order form in this issue of *Perspective*.

Courses are now available on Christian worldview, Christian understanding of science, and Christian schooling. [P]

Perspective

newsletter (USPS 335-530) is published bi-monthly by the Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4. Telephone: (416) 979-2331.

ISSA 0384-8922. All other copies mailed under authorized Second Class Reg. No. 2091, Toronto, Canada. Send all address changes and other inquiries directly to ICS, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

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"President" continued from page 2

ment in the Christian schools Some western Michigan friends, organized by Dr. Paul Schrotenboer, had invited us to talk to them about how they might help the Institute it was enormously encouraging hearing from them (a majority of them college professors) how profoundly they valued the Christian and reformational perspective taught at ICS.

September was a particularly busy family time for me. Dorothy and I celebrated our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary! The Lord has been marvellously gracious to us and to our family over those years:

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great
is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies
I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord,
unto me!*

One of my heaviest assignments this month was to be a main speaker at a conference on "Christianity and the Marketplace," held in Toronto and attended by about 75 business people, mostly middle managers, chief executives of large companies, and owners of small ones. I talked about how the principles and values of the Kingdom of God might provide guidelines for the future development of society and business. (You can't have a better Christian Reformed opening than that!) Inevitably, I found much help in the writings of people like Sander Griffioen, Edward Vanderkloet, Paul Marshall, Harry Antonides, Gerald Vandezande, Bernard Zylstra, John Olthuis. *I am newly impressed with how much the Reformed tradition has to say to the rest of the Church. . . . and how well the rest of the Church listens!*

So you see, Carol-Ann.! ☒ P

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Institute for Christian Studies Institutional Repository

ARTICLE: 19862005

TITLE: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

AUTHOR: Institute for Christian Studies

ISSUE DATE: October 1986

TYPE: Journal

SERIES/JOURNAL: Perspective; v.20, no.5

KEYWORDS: Institute for Christian Studies, ICS, I pledge you my troth, Promises Broken Promises Kept, book reviews, interim, Lambert Zuidervaat, marxism and the arts, marxism and society, Henk Hart, ICS beginnings, christian education workshop, summer family conferences, graduates, M. Phil. F. graduates, Lloyd Davies, Henry Venema, Gary Duim, Mark Roques, Tim Schouls, Jonathan Chaplin, political action course, Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, arts

NOTES: Zuidervaat to teach interim [Marxism the Arts and Society], Over 70 teachers attend ICS workshop [Teaching Christianly: what is it?], Southern British Columbians seek answers on mountaintop [Responsibility and Revolution--Southern B.C. Family Conference], [New Group-Study Materials in Politics and Art,

CITATION FORMAT: Perspective. Toronto, ON: Institute for Christian Studies, 1986.

dc.creator: Institute for Christian Studies

dc.contributor: VanderVennen, Robert E.

dc.contributor: Pitt, Clifford C.

dc.contributor: Terpstra, Nicholas

dc.contributor: Smidstra, Henry

dc.contributor: VanderVennen, Robert E.

dc.title: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

dc.date.issued: 1986-10-31

dc.date.accessioned: 2012-05-02

dc.type: journal

dc.format.mimetype: application/pdf

dc.language.iso: en

dc.subject: Humanities

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--History

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Faculty

dc.subject: Fernhout, Harry

dc.subject: Olthuis, James H.

dc.subject: Books--Reviews

dc.subject: Pitt, Clifford C.--Interviews
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Interim.
dc.subject: Zuidervaat, Lambert
dc.subject: Hart, Hendrik
dc.subject: Christian education
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Workshop.
dc.subject: Marxism and culture
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Congresses
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Seminars and Conferences
dc.subject: Schouls, Peter A.
dc.subject: Descartes, Rene, 1596-1650
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Master of Philosophical Foundations
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Students
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dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Curricula
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