

# Perspective

Newsletter of the Institute for Christian Studies

Volume 19, No. 4 — August 1985

## 962 attend ICS conference

By Carol-Ann Veenkamp

For most Canadians, the first weekend in August was just another holiday, but for 962 people those days were an opportunity to explore what it means to be created in the image of God, the theme of the 27th annual Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) conference held at Niagara Christian College near Fort Erie.

ICS senior member, Dr. James Olthuis, kicked off the workshop sessions in delivering the keynote address, "The Image As Gift and Call."

Dr. Olthuis explained that the gift of being image-bearers is also a call to be image-bearers — to love as God loves, to

work, and to play as God does.

Imaging is reserved for humans who are created after God's kind, to be co-creators, co-partners in a covenant of love and blessing, he said.

Also, in Jesus Christ, the human partnership with God the creator is renewed as a partnership of liberation and redemption, he pointed out.

One's identity is found not in asking, "Who am I?" as much as by asking, "Whose am I?" since image-bearing means belonging to the Creator, Dr. Olthuis said. "I was loved, therefore I am."  
*con't on pg. 3*



*The congregation at the evening worship service rises to sing at the ICS conference.*

# Perspective

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## From the President's Point of View

By Clifford C. Pitt

Well! Now I've *really* seen the strength of ICS! Dorothy and I thoroughly enjoyed the Niagara Conference and particularly the warm Christian fellowship and hospitality of so many of you! It was good, too, to meet separately with special circles of our supporters, the groups from Chatham, Brampton, St. Catharines, London, Barrie and Sarnia. We both felt very much at home: we had very much a sense of being in the midst of the Lord's people.

You will read elsewhere in *Perspective* of the Niagara Conference highlights. Very personal highlights for us included Derk Pierik's ministry, a wonderfully moving remembrance of our Lord on Sunday morning, Peter Slofstra's unusual sermon-cum-song vesper service, Jim Olthuis's stimulating address, the obviously deep personal impact and involvement of the workshops, the glorious singing that went on to well after midnight, and much, much more!

In my own ten minutes before the assembly at Niagara, we went back to Christ's Sermon on the Mount, to "the city set on a hill lighting up the darkness of the night for *all* to see." Again, that's the way I perceive the Institute for Christian Studies, no more than the flicker of a small flashlight at times perhaps, but nevertheless Christ's Invaders shining into areas where His Lordship is unknown, into the academic disciplines of history and philosophy and science and all the rest and, indeed, into the areas of politics and the arts and psychology and medicine. Just yesterday morning after church a friend, a much-travelled missionary-statesman, gave me a fresh reminder of the uniqueness and practicality of the Institute's work. My friend said that from the Institute and reformational thinking came the only Christians he'd ever met who believed it at once appropriate and imperative to apply a Christian perspective to, for example, so practical a field as agriculture, a major missionary endeavour.

So, I continue to be excited about the Institute for Christian Studies and the Invaders! At Niagara I challenged all of our faithful CRC adherents to so generously support ICS that we might extend it *as a gift* to the whole of the Christian Church in Canada. It is my firm belief that that's where the Institute belongs, not selfishly to us alone, but to the whole Christian fabric of this wonderful country. Will you join the rest of us in trying to make such a gift possible?

In fact, many of you now are supporting ICS with new vigour and a fresh excitement in the vision that had waxed dim or out of focus. Personally, I am much encouraged. For example, the Niagara Conference Sunday offering for ICS was up 87% over last year! It would appear that donations from all sources for July/August will be 57% higher than for the same period last year. God has placed us in a land of wonderful freedoms and wonderful blessings; for even the poorest of us, compared to the rest of the world, it is a land flowing with milk and honey. Should we be saying "Thank you, Lord!" in more substantial ways than we presently are? I

*cont'd on pg. 3*

## In This Issue . . .

Summer conferences provide plenty of material for our summer issue of *Perspective*. There's always plenty to share. The challenge is to give you a feeling for what a conference was about in the short space we have available. The Niagara Conference in particular is one which provides enough variety in themes and human interest to fill an entire issue of *Perspective*. We're confident, however, that you'll get enough of a sense of our summer conferences to make you wish you could have been there yourself. (Don't worry, though; more conference opportunities will be coming up.)

One of the happiest things we could possibly convey to *Perspective* readers is the positive news about Dr. Bernard Zylstra's health. He'll tell you about it himself in an open letter to *Perspective* readers.

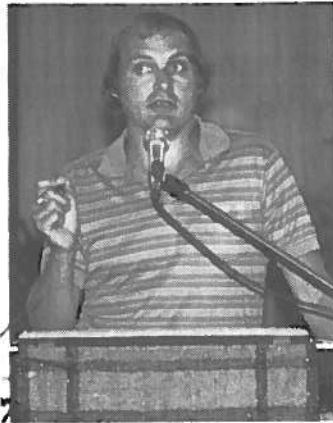
I won't spoil Bernard's letter by summarizing for you what he says, but I will give you enough of a quick peek into Dr. Clifford Pitt's column to whet your appetite. Dr. Pitt writes about the Niagara Conference as a first-time attendee, and lets you in on his own impressions of what went on there. I think you'll find that Dr. Pitt's enthusiasm as new ICS president will be as catching for you as it is for us who work with him daily.

Harry Fernhout and Alice de Koning are two more new additions to ICS whom you'll read about.

Since her touch won't always come with an easily identifiable by-line, you should know that there's also a new person behind the scenes of *Perspective*. In this issue Carol-Ann Veenkamp takes over as managing editor for the first time. We're looking forward to seeing her talents unfold in many issues to come.

As always, best wishes for a very pleasant reading of *Perspective*, one which I trust will be informative about ICS as well!

AVG



*Dr. Olthuis sends his points home while delivering keynote speech.*

In being gifted with God's image, humans are called to become that image, to put off old ways and to don the new ways of Christ, until in the final day of the Lord, "we will be fully human," he said.

Imaging is a dynamic process that takes a life-time and continues on into glory, he said.

In winding up the conference Monday afternoon, Dr. Olthuis told the audience that by committing themselves to discovering their own unique giftedness as image-bearer, and by finding an arena in which that giftedness may flourish, they would be manifesting the glory of God's kingdom "that has come and is coming."

"Life beckons and invites. The calling, we have discovered, is our identity. We need only to respond," he declared.

"In your chosen place, with your particular giftedness, in communion and with the support of like-minded people, live as new images of God you are in Jesus Christ," he charged, before adding, "and whatever you do, do it in the name of love, for it is to love that you've been called. The world is waiting!"

The theme was further explored in the workshops which

followed the keynote speech. Topics examined included, "Image of God as Male and Female," led by Rev. Derk Pierik and Mary VanderVennen, "Different Images," a seminar on being handicapped, led by Dr. Leonard Kirk who is himself wheelchair-bound, "Room for Imagination," by Wilber Sutherland, "The Scratched Image," by Dr. Al Wolters, a discussion of medical ethics under the direction of Dr. Bruce Rowat, "Spirituality - The Shape of Daily Life," by Dr. George Vandervelde, "To be Alone and In Community," by Dr. Remkes Kooistra, and three workshops held exclusively for teenagers, "Taking the Tiger By the Tail," an examination of rock videos by Ken Heffner, "Free to be Me," by Dr. Olthuis, and "Listening - The Road to Friendship," by Christel Vonk-Zeyl.

Other highlights of the weekend included a concert entitled, "Malice Gives Way," by Rev. Peter Slofstra, who also led a musical sermon Sunday evening, and Sunday morning's service, which was attended by approximately 1,000 worshippers, and conducted by Rev. Henry Lunshof. Rev. Pierik preached the sermon.

Donations received at the conference totalled \$7,800 or 87 percent more than was collected last year at the ICS conference.

#### **Dr. Pitt cont'd**

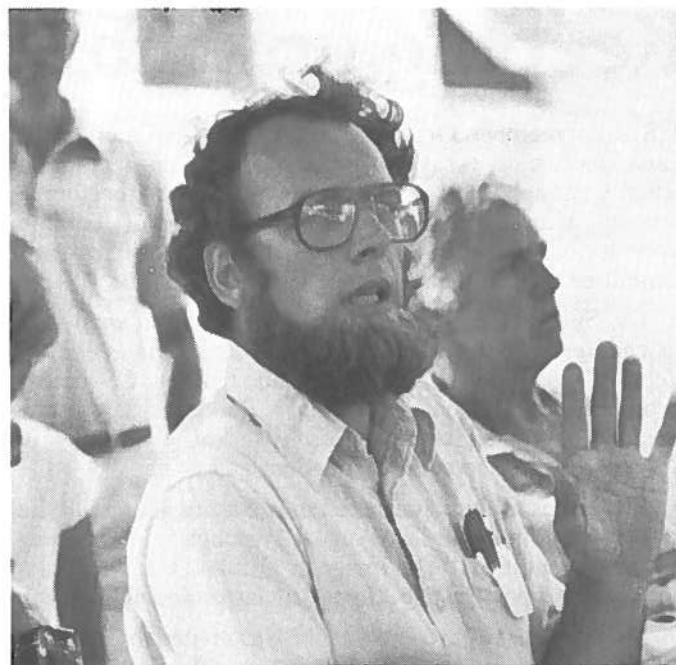
don't know and certainly cannot tell you. *The Lord can*; please pray that He will guide you about the needs of ICS amidst all of the other needs that properly lay claim to your Christian stewardship.

*But the greatest need of all is for your prayer support.* I much covet the fervent, effectual prayers (James 5:16) of the Lord's people that ICS may be given the wisdom that is from above, and the will to follow that wisdom and not our own.

We are most grateful for all your helpfulness and counsel and kindnesses. May the Lord bless you most richly in ways that you cannot fail to recognize as from Him.

## **Inauguration date set for Nov. 2**

Dr. Clifford C. Pitt will be formally inaugurated as president of ICS in a ceremony to be held November 2 at 2:00 p.m. at Knox Chapel. All friends and supporters of the Institute are invited, and a standing reception will be held afterwards.



*Dr. Al Wolters speaks about "The Scratched Image."*



# New faces at ICS

New faces in the "front office" mean new ingredients in the flavour of ICS. They also mean taking leave of some of the people who gave their own unique contributions to ICS's administrative make-up.

Alice de Koning replaced Betty Polman as general secretary in June. Alice came to ICS with a degree in history and in Christianity and culture from the University of Toronto. She spent the two years after her graduation working and taking an intensive French course before taking up the secretary's post.



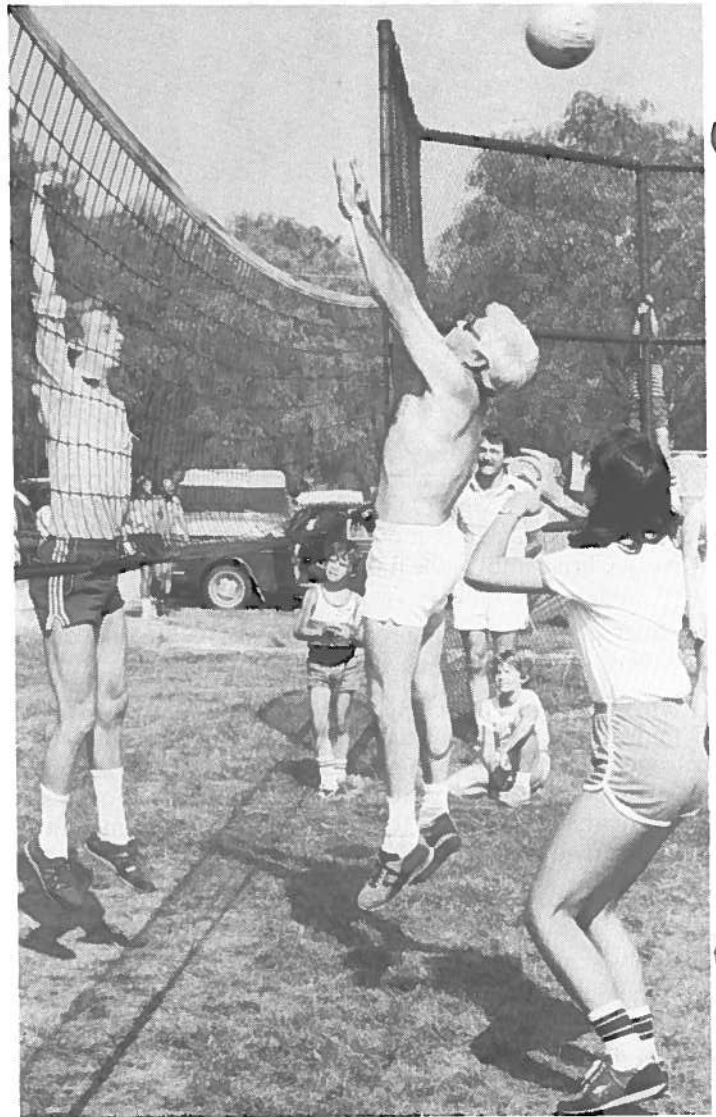
*Alice de Koning*

Carol-Ann Veenkamp fills the position of development assistant vacated by Phil de Haan in July. She took her degree in English from Calvin College to Weyburn, Sask., where she worked as a reporter for the *Weyburn Review*. Ontario called her back after three years, and now Carol-Ann puts her communications skills to work as managing editor of *Perspective*.



*Carol-Ann Veenkamp*

We're confident that both Alice and Carol-Ann will help ICS put its best face forward as it looks toward another exciting school year.



*All ages play volleyball at the conference.*

## Keeping up with ICS Staff and Students

ICS senior member, Dr. Calvin Seerveld, co-president of the Canadian Society for Aesthetics, presided over that organization's annual board of directors and business meeting in Toronto May 24 and 25. With University of Toronto professor, C. Cloutier, Dr. Seerveld served on the program committee for papers at the meeting.

Dr. Seerveld also presented a shortened oral version of his chapter to be published soon in the book, *The Legacy of Herman Dooyeweerd*, at a conference held at ICS June 1 through 3. ICS alumnus, Dr. Lambert Zuidervaat, who was recently appointed associate professor of philosophy at Calvin College, served as respondent and critic.

Dr. James Olthuis presented the keynote address at the annual ICS conference held August 2 through 5. His opening speech was entitled, "The Image as Gift and Call," and the closing speech bore the title, "Image-Living in God's Creation."

Dr. Hendrik Hart reports that he was invited to be a guest professor at the Free University of Amsterdam for the third trimester of the 1985-86 year.

In June, Dr. Paul Marshall attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association in Montreal, Que. where he chaired a session on "Human Rights."

From July 8 through 12, Dr. Marshall was at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. for a conference entitled, "Worldview and Social Science," which was jointly sponsored by Calvin, ICS and the Free University of Amsterdam, where he was on the organizing committee and gave the closing address.

Dr. Marshall also has an extensive review of Nicholas Wolterstorff's *Until Justice and Peace Embrace* in the latest issue of *Philosophia Reformata*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (1985).

In his capacity as vice-president, Dr. Marshall attended a meeting at Calvin in June to discuss possibilities of a Reformed University. In July, he was again at Calvin to discuss joint projects with the Free University and Calvin. He also attended Redeemer College's ground-breaking ceremony held in Ancaster on June 22.

## ICS conference volunteer

During the school year, Aukje Masselink is a counsellor with the Scarborough Board of Education, but for a month each summer she puts in up to 60 hours a week orchestrating arrangements for the annual Niagara Conference.

She spends the month of July commuting to the Institute to coordinate the conference, and to staff the name Aukje has become synonymous with industrious.

No detail was too small to escape her attention, and she put to use her ability to inspire others to volunteer their efforts. Suddenly, people in her congregation found themselves mixing ingredients for play-dough, and even her 84-year-old mother was still cooking finger-paints for the children's program the night before the conference was to begin.

With a twinkle in her eye, Aukje reports that only one "kid" went missing out of the group of 300 children supervised over the weekend, but the Cabbage Patch Kid was eventually found and returned to her owner.

When Aukje volunteered to take over the job of coordinating the conference two years ago, she admits she didn't realize how phenomenal a task it was going to be. But she's game to try it again next year and is already jotting down ideas for the '86 conference.

### Dear Friends:

Josina and I wish to take this opportunity to express our deep-felt appreciation for the phenomenal support which you – members and friends of ICS – have shown to us since June. We have received visits, flowers, phone calls, letters and cards from the entire ICS constituency, in Canada, the U.S.A., and overseas. We were particularly touched by the "card" from the Niagara Conference signed by more than 400 persons!

I became sick on May 25, the date of the annual ICS membership meeting. On June 12 I was admitted to the hospital, and a week later the diagnosis was clear: adrenal gland cancer which had spread to the liver. Josina and I were told that from a human point of view I am terminally ill. We accept the seriousness of the diagnosis. However, we pray daily that the Lord will heal, that He will bless the chemotherapy, that He will continue to keep pain far from me, and that He will strengthen both of us as we journey through this dark valley. Your prayers and concrete support show us that the people of God travel this journey with us. We are not alone.

The Lord listens to you and our prayers. He hears them, He answers them, in his own sovereign but gracious way. My health has improved remarkably during the last six weeks. I no longer have pain, I eat well, I sleep well. On August 7, I was discharged from Princess Margaret Hospital. Each day I am improving. The cancer remains but it seems to be arrested by the chemotherapy. It is therefore our fervent wish that we may return to as normal a lifestyle as my health permits. This means a return to my sabbatical project and spending as much meaningful time together as possible.

We thank God for each new day. We thank you for your prayers, your concern, your support.

Bernard and Josina Zylstra



*Aukje Masselink adjusts a crown.*



*Over 400 sign card for Bernard Zylstra.*

# Herman Dooyeweerd inspires interdisciplinary appraisal

By Mark Roques

It would be no exaggeration to argue that Herman Dooyeweerd has had a phenomenal impact upon the world of Christian scholarship. Fifty years ago, when Dooyeweerd's "De Wijsbegeerte der Wetsidee" was first published, the sneers and derision of a secular intelligentsia would have been activated by the mere mention of a "Christian physics" or a "Christian mathematics." Certainly snickers would be noticed today; the great dons of Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge would chortle, slapping their rich thighs, downing their Madeira. "So theology isn't enough for you!" they would say.

And yet, today we can speak of a distinctively Christian approach to the foundations of both physics and mathematics, and this summer ICS also hosted a conference focussing on a Christian approach to the foundations of science by Dr. M. F. Stafleu, a philosopher/physicist who has been inspired by the philosophy of Herman Dooyeweerd.

Recently, ICS sponsored a conference entitled, "The Legacy of Herman Dooyeweerd" at which six past and present ICS senior members presented papers in which they critically appraised the value of Dooyeweerd's work in their own particular fields. To encourage the rapier-like cut and thrust of intellectual debate, suitably gifted respondents were requested to fuel the intense interchange of Dooyeweerdian repartee with their own critical comments of the papers.

These respondents came from all parts of the world — South Africa, Holland, Peru, New Zealand and even Harvard Law School.

Jim Olthuis delved into Dooyeweerd's understanding of religion and faith and suggested some new ways to approach the "pistic" modality. Albert Wolters alerted the participants to the neo-Kantian and phenomenological influences upon Dooyeweerd's philosophy. C. T. McIntire suggested that Dooyeweerd's historical modality should be promoted to transmodal status and Calvin Seerveld attempted to persuade the group that Dooyeweerd's grasp of aesthetics did not strike harmonious chords within a Seerveldian Weltanschauung. Hendrik Hart chiseled away at Dooyeweerd's Gegenstand theory and suggested certain refinements. Paul Marshall gave some insights into Dooyeweerd's empirical insights.

Danie Strauss demonstrated his technical mastery of Dooyeweerd's systematics. One has only to mention an extremely obscure Dooyeweerdian concept and Strauss is able to cite the exact page and paragraph reference where that concept first found genesis in Dooyeweerd's magnum opus. Even Hendrik Hart seemed lost in some of the more subtle Straussian onslaughts; a day of sweet, if vacarious revenge for those who have been humbled all too often by the Hartian intellect.

John Witte, Jr., of Harvard Law School, was equally impressive in his response. He expressed considerable appreciation of Paul Marshall's work, but reproached him for his failure to consult the original Dutch sources.

In conclusion, the conference proved stimulating and enjoyable, within a friendly and jovial atmosphere, and aroused within the participants a deep respect and admiration for the work of Herman Dooyeweerd.



*Seerp Van Popta, Seerveld, Strauss discuss Dooyeweerd at conference.*

*Mark Roques is currently studying systematic philosophy with Dr. Hendrik Hart.*

## Alumni Action

The March 1985 issue of *Christian Home and School* contained an article written by ICS graduate, Dr. Judith De Jong, in which she reports the results of her research on beliefs, concerns and attitudes of Christian high school students.

Dr. De Jong received her master's degree from the Institute in 1978, and obtained her Ph.D. in psychology from Catholic University of America. She is now a developmental psychologist in Washington, D.C.

Brad Breems, who obtained a M.Phil. from ICS in 1975, recent completed, with R. A. H. Robson, a major study of discrimination and personal abuse encountered by Indo-Canadians in the Vancouver area. The 347-page report was published by the B. C. Civil Liberties Association.

After completing his degree at ICS, Breems worked in Vancouver for the Christian Labour Association of Canada, and then began studies towards a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of British Columbia.



*Adrian Sybenga, age 7, is a veteran of 4 conferences.*

# Fernhout to teach at ICS

By Robert E. VanderVennen

It's exciting news that the Institute is moving into research and teaching in the area of teacher-education! A full-time faculty member, Harry Fernhout, 37, takes up this work in September about the same time he receives his Ph.D. degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), which is part of the University of Toronto.

In his doctoral study, Fernhout specialized in the philosophy of moral development and in "moral-values" education. He has become expert in the thinking of Lawrence Kohlberg, the leading secular thinker on moral development in children. In fact, the meeting of the Association of Moral Education scheduled for Toronto in November will include a public three-way discussion among Fernhout, Kohlberg and Dr. Bernard Shapiro, the current director of OISE (and successor at OISE of ICS president, Clifford Pitt), on the theme "The Grounding of Moral Education in a Pluralistic Society."

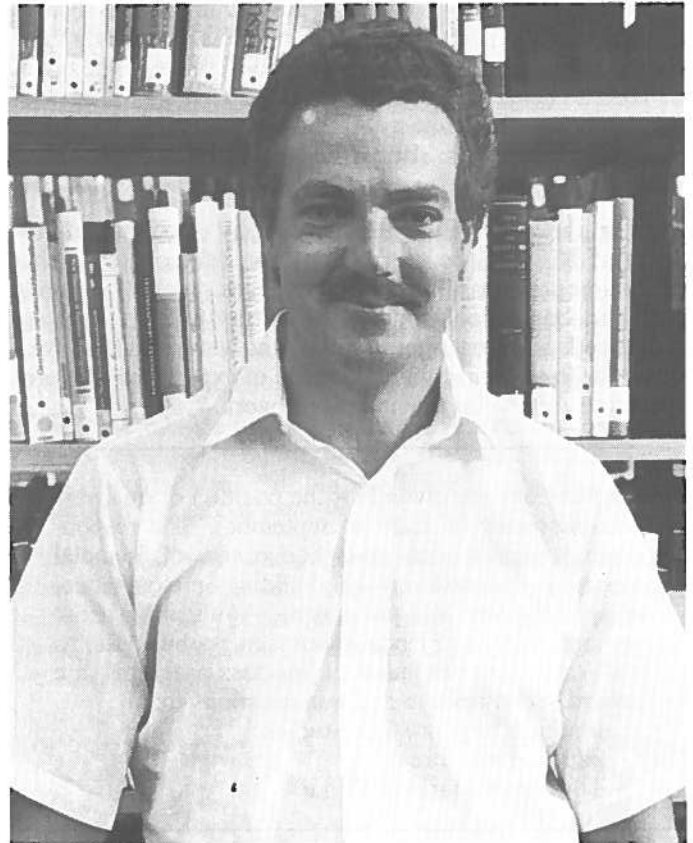
Initially, Fernhout's teaching and research in philosophy of education at ICS will focus on learning theory and moral development. He is planning two courses for the coming year, one from September to December and the other from January through April.

The first course, "Moral Values Education: A Christian Critique," will be taught on Thursday nights for classroom teachers, school principals, parents, pastors and school board members as well as full-time ICS students. Different approaches to moral values education will be carefully studied: "values clarification," the "reflective approach" of Clive Beck and others at OISE, and, of course, the work of Lawrence Kohlberg—who may actually attend the ICS class when he comes to Toronto in November. The class will look at the underlying assumptions of each approach, such as their views of what a human person is, and at how each approach affects classroom teaching. The latter part of the course will include an effort to build a constructive Christian approach in this field as an alternative to Kohlberg, Beck and others.

The second course, to start in January and also to be offered at night, will be "Contemporary Christian Philosophy of Education." The class will examine recent contributions to philosophy of education from thinkers representing a variety of Christian traditions.

As examples of Reformed perspectives, the course will deal with the book *Shaping School Curriculum* by Steensma and Van Brummelen, and the writings of people like Harry Jellema, Jaarsma, Beversluis, Oppewal, Peter De Boer and Arnold De Graaff. The class will also examine philosophies developed by church educationists, by Catholic thinkers, and by representatives of fundamentalist Christian schools. Each approach will be studied to see how they deal with four or five critical educational issues.

Fernhout is excited about research in the philosophy of education at ICS because of its strong interdisciplinary emphasis. Philosophy of education touches on the nature of knowledge, the nature of being human, child development, and many other areas. His own research and writing, as well as his supervision of master's degree theses at ICS, will expand on themes on which he has already worked, such as faith and moral development, learning theory, and philosophies of education.



*Harry Fernhout will teach philosophy of education.*

These themes are already the subject of various publications by Fernhout. His paper "Faith in Autonomy: Developments in Kohlberg's Thought on Religion and Morality" was recently published in the journal *Religious Education*. Trinity Christian College is publishing Fernhout's paper "Autonomy as Ideal: A Critique of Kohlberg's Anthropology" as a chapter in the book arising from its 1984 conference, "Christian Approaches to Learning Theory." Another book chapter, "Faith: Searching for the Core of the Cube," will be published soon in a book on James Fowler's theory of faith development. His doctoral dissertation, supervised by Dr. Dwight Boyd at OISE, is entitled *Conceptions of Moral Autonomy and Religious Commitment and their Implications for Moral and Religious Education*.

Fernhout studied at ICS from 1970 to 1975, receiving the Master of Philosophy degree for study with James Olthuis and for a thesis entitled *Man, Faith and Religion in Bavinck, Kuyper and Dooyeweerd*. From 1975 - 79 he worked for the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC), writing two books to be used as classroom Bible study resources: *Of Kings and Prophets* and *Promises Broken: Promise Kept: A Reader's Guide to I and II Samuel*, which is to be published soon by CDC.

He has also been responsible for overseeing the development of a children's Bible story manuscript *Theirs is the Kingdom* to be published in 1986 by Eerdmans. He has done considerable administrative and promotional work for CDC

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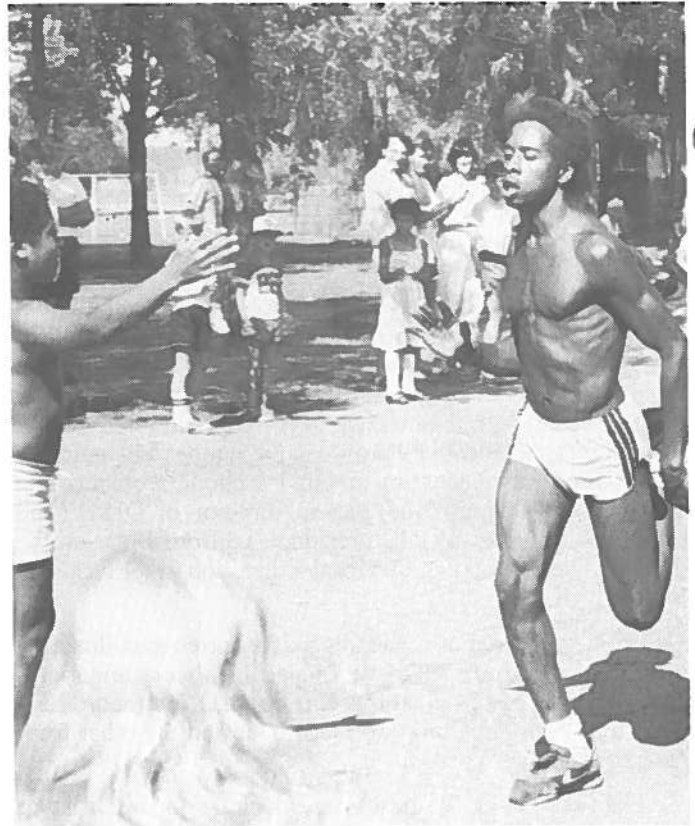
over the past several years. He is the author of numerous popular articles on education, and has conducted a number of workshops for school teachers.

Fernhout grew up in Thunder Bay, Ont., but has lived in Toronto for the past 15 years. He and his wife Hilda have four children. He's been active for several years on the board of Toronto Central Christian School, and has served as elder at the Fellowship at St. Matthew's Christian Reformed Church where he is also active in the church education program.

The challenge of the new philosophy of education program at ICS will be to develop it in relation to teacher education programs in Christian colleges, to existing public and Christian schools, and to the nearby OISE. There are great needs and great opportunities, and we are glad to have a person with the sensitivity and range of experience of Harry Fernhout to take up this important work.

Applications are invited for the position of **business administrator** to start in September. The responsibilities include accounting, budget control, financial reporting, supervision of building maintenance, tenant relations, and purchasing. Applications from persons with experience in managing a business, as well as recent graduates of business programs, are invited. Send resume and qualifications to:

Institute for Christian Studies  
229 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4

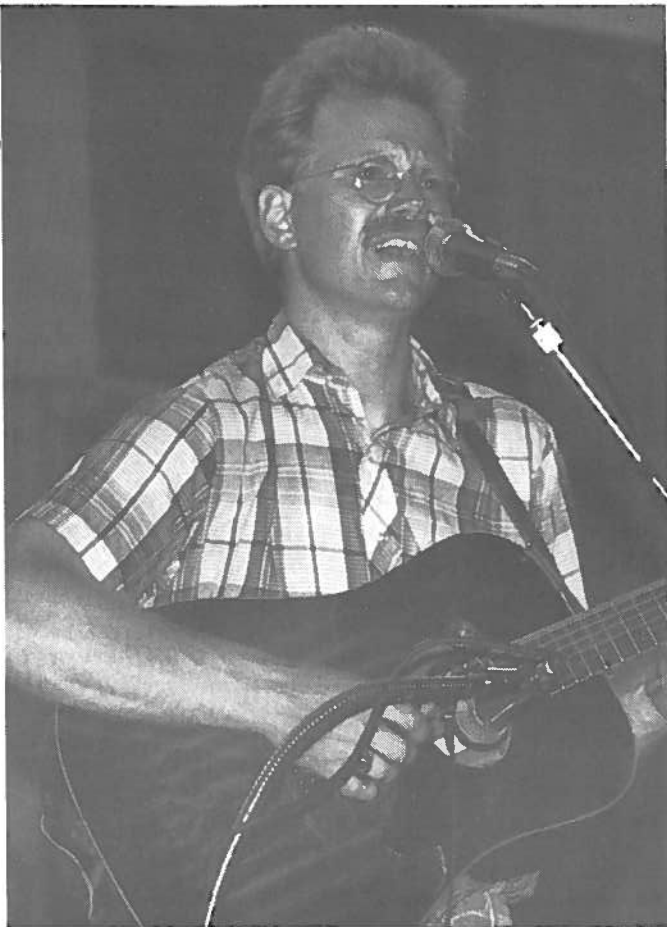


*Mark Slofstra takes the prize in a foot race at the conference.*



*Cal Langejans leads singing at the conference with the help of Henry Westerdorp and Bill Kapteyn.*





Rev. Peter Slofstra sings about what its like when "Malice Gives Way" at a concert presented at the Niagara Conference.

Dear Editor:

I was pleased with the interview with Dr. Pitt. He seems like a man of God who will do a good job for ICS. I trust that this appointment along with other steps of growth will continue to move ICS into the mainstream of the Christian community in Canada.

However, on the other hand, I was displeased by the report of Dr. Davis Young's visit. It's o.k. that he visited ICS and it's o.k. that he holds his personal opinions, but the report was written in such a way as to reflect bigotry and narrowmindedness in the extreme.

The second paragraph assumed that all geologists "are convinced that the earth is billions of years old," and states categorically that "there appears to be no compelling evidence for a worldwide flood." That is opinion stated as fact so as to put down the opinions of others who do not agree. That should be far below the academic dignity of ICS and *Perspective*. I, for one, and I know there are thousands more, feel there is significant scientific evidence for a young earth and a worldwide flood.

George Budd, M.A., Pastor,  
Edmison Heights Baptist Church  
Peterborough, Ont.



## Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

### Philosophy of science course advances Christian thinking

If you are a scientist – say that you are working in a field such as physics or astronomy – how could you engage in distinctively Christian thinking in your field of study? Is it even possible and meaningful to do that?

A two-week course on philosophy of science offered at ICS July 2 through 12 focussed on these underlying questions, while the academic purpose of the course was to examine how theories function in science, with particular historical illustrations from the period of Copernicus through Newton, also known as the "Copernican Revolution."

The course was genuinely interdisciplinary, and like all good interdisciplinary work was both difficult and exciting. It was taught by Dr. M. D. Stafleu, a Dutch teacher of physics and the history of science in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He taught from 12 chapters of a new book he has just written on the history and philosophy of science.

If you examine Stafleu's book, you see how he as a Christian thinks reflectively about science. Besides understanding science from the inside, he shows a firm grasp of systematic philosophy, and in this case, especially the philosophy of Herman Dooyeweerd. He is also deeply familiar with the history of science – how discoveries came about, the cultural climate of discoveries, and how the scientists needed to struggle to gain acceptance for new theories. He is also sensitive and academically clear about the place of personal commitment and belief in science.

For the 12 in the class, hearing Dr. Stafleu present his ideas was a valuable experience, and there were times of high excitement during the discussion period.

The class contained a good mixture of experienced science teachers and full-time ICS students (the students had the advantage of being well prepared for the course by their study with Dr. Hendrik Hart at ICS). Especially valuable was the integration of scientific history with the philosophy of science.

The course represented an advance in reformational thinking about science and the philosophy of science. It was unanimously agreed that Stafleu's new book should be published, and ICS will probably help with that, as it helped with the publication of his earlier book on the philosophy of physics, entitled, *Time and Again*.

### MOVING?

ICS is in need of office furniture, especially desks and chairs for reception areas. If you're looking for a way to dispose of unneeded furniture, give us a call at (416) 979-2331.

# Materials available from ICS on the human calling

## Books for the General Reader:

*The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View* \$9.35 \_\_\_\_\_  
by Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton. Biblical worldview confronting the spirits of our age, arising from ICS campus outreach courses (1984).

*Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview* \$11.25 \_\_\_\_\_  
by A. M. Wolters. Biblical roots for the Christian life-perspective, arising from A. Wolters' teaching at ICS (1985).

*History and Historical Understanding* \$9.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
edited by C. T. McIntire and R. A. Wells. Essays by noted Christian historians on the meaning of history (1985).

*Thine Is the Kingdom* \$11.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
by Paul Marshall. Biblical perspective on the nature of government and politics, by ICS's vice-president (1984).

*Every Thought Captive to Christ* \$5.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
compiled by K. W. Hermann. A bibliography of materials to build Christian thinking in fields of study; essential for Christian students (1985).

*I Pledge You My Troth* \$9.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
by James Olthuis. Biblical insight on friendship, marriage and family; over 30,000 copies sold (1975).

*Rainbows for the Fallen World* \$9.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
by Calvin Seerveld. A call and guide to living responsibly before the Lord with art and music and poetry (1980).

## Papers of Special Interest:

*Christianity and Mathematics: An Analysis of Differing Approaches to their Relationship* 75¢ \_\_\_\_\_  
by Calvin Jongsma (July 1985).

*The Gift of Prophecy and the Prophetic Church* 75¢ \_\_\_\_\_  
by George Vandervelde. A biblical study of prophecy and what it can mean for the church today (1985).

*Self or Society: Must We Choose?* 75¢ \_\_\_\_\_  
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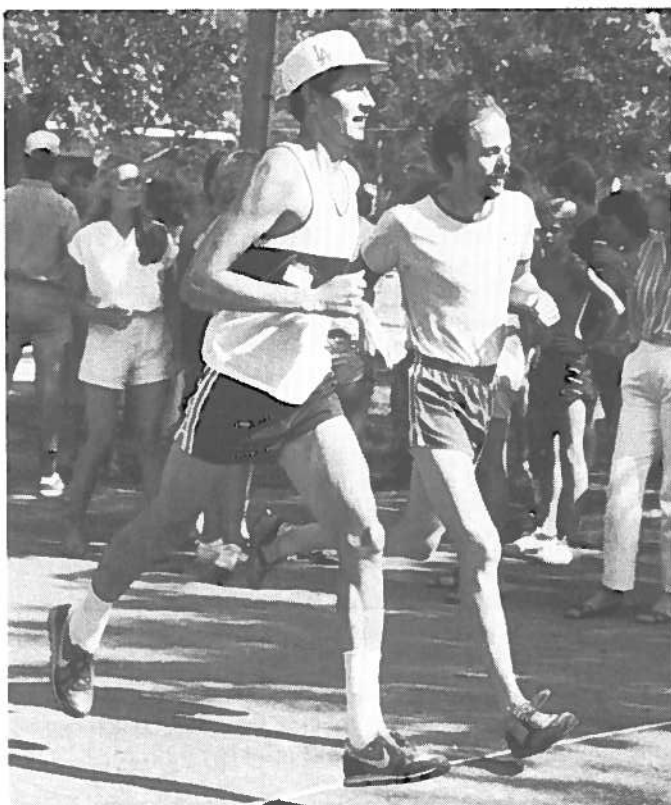
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Two men race towards the finish line during a sports event at the conference.

## Gousmett completes studies in 20 months



*Chris Gousmett, M.Phil. recipient.*

New Zealand native Chris Gousmett recently completed work towards a Master of Philosophical Foundations degree in just 20 months — the shortest time in which any ICS student has finished the course.

Examined by ICS senior members Dr. James Olthuis and Dr. George Vandervelde, and outside examiner Dr. Al Wolters, he studied with senior member Dr. James Olthuis, and wrote a thesis entitled, “The Miracle of Nature and the Nature of Miracle.”

While 20 months is the time specified by the academic bulletin for the completion of a master’s degree, most students, for a variety of reasons, take more time.

In a recent interview with former *Perspective* managing editor Phil de Hann, Gousmett attributed his speedy completion of the degree to having a good understanding of reformational thought, which most of the courses at ICS presuppose.

“That’s why I was able to catch on to what was going on a lot quicker than those who have no background in reformational thought whatsoever. That’s why most students take longer than the standard time for a thesis. They need that much to tune into what’s going on here,” he said.

Gousmett’s interest in the doctrine of creation developed while he was taking courses in the Old Testament.

“It’s a doctrine which is dealt with mainly from a pretty liberal perspective. There is, in fact, very little written from a perspective faithful to scripture in developing the doctrine of creation, so I wanted to work in that area,” he said.

Gousmett explained that by doctrine of creation he means an understanding of the coming into being of everything that is, and how it relates to God the creator.

“The other side of the thesis was the doctrine of miracle. I worked on how the doctrine of miracle is always correlated to specific views of creation. To focus on this I worked on Harry Diemer’s work on nature and miracles, since his work is the most explicit in the reformational movement on the subject. The thesis is basically an analysis of his views and a critique of them, and also a contribution towards an alternative

position to replace some of his less satisfactory views,” he said.

Thesis-related work which Gousmett anticipates continuing includes the development of a few of the implications of a biblical view of creation for a Christian worldview.

“One thing I developed in the thesis to indicate the direction I want to go is the relationship between a doctrine of creation and political theories, showing how views of the state are related to various views of creation. I want to carry on working with some of those features, showing how political life flows out of how we understand the relationship of God to creation,” he said.

Gousmett said the conservative view of economics, with a free market society and minimal government intervention, comes from a dualistic view of the relationship of God to creation — where the creation is functioning according to natural laws and God intervenes into these laws only to perform a miracle, he explained.

Gousmett also plans to teach courses in reformational worldview for students and the Christian public in general at the popular rather than academic level.

He said the biggest need in the reformational movement is to be able to communicate academic research to people who are interested and supportive.

In summing up his 20 months at ICS, Gousmett had some criticisms of the Institute’s curriculum structure and teaching style.

Gousmett also said there’s room for further biblical studies from a reformational point of view at ICS.

“I still think there’s an urgent need for graduate-level biblical studies from a reformational perspective at ICS. The task of reforming scholarship from a Christian perspective is hindered by the lack of serious graduate-level biblical studies,” he added.

However, Gousmett had high praise for the library at ICS.

“I think it’s a very good library for reformational studies. I think the library should be given careful consideration as the primary graduate-level reformational library in North America and focus on that rather than on trying to compete with other libraries. I appreciated having access to a lot of out-of-print and old reformational materials,” he concluded.



*Gousmett meets with Dr. Olthuis, Dr. Wolters and Dr. Vandervelde.*



# Perspective

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## Discovery '85 - '86

### "Discerning the Spirits"

Friday, November 8 – Sunday, November 10

- Keynote address:** "The Candy Man's Gone: Christian Discernment in a Secular Age" – Friday, 8 p.m.  
**Keynote speaker:** Richard Middleton, co-author of *The Transforming Vision* and Ph.D. candidate in religion and philosophy at Syracuse University, New York
- Keynote address:** "Why the Skinnerians and Jungians Are Not On Speaking Terms" – Saturday, 9:15 a.m.  
**Keynote speaker:** Brian Walsh, co-author of *The Transforming Vision* and Ph.D. candidate in philosophy of religion at McGill University, Montreal
- Workshops**
- History:* Dr. Thomas McIntire, professor of history at Trinity College, University of Toronto.
  - Natural Sciences:* Dr. Robert VanderVennen, director of educational services at ICS.
  - Arts:* Wilbur Sutherland, president of IMAGO.
  - Education:* John Hull, M.Ed. OISE, M.Phil., teacher at Durham Christian High School.
  - Theology:* Dr. George Vandervelde, professor of systematic theology at ICS.
  - Counselling:* Diane Marshall, M.Ed., psychotherapist at the Institute for Family Living.
  - History of Philosophy:* Bob Rogers, Ph.D. candidate in the history of philosophy at ICS/Free University of Amsterdam.
  - Science:* Tim DeJager-Seerveld, Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.
  - Law:* Marty Klein, executive director of the Christian Legal Fellowship and member of Brown, Klein, Bruce Associates.
  - Business:* Hank Vander Lann, president and founder of Trojan Technologies Inc. and vice-president of Canadian Cable Systems.
  - Ethics:* Dr. Calvin Seerveld, professor of aesthetics at ICS.

**Concert** — Saturday, 8 p.m. with *Bill Romanowski*

"Let 'em Build Their Kingdom," a penetrating analysis of popular music and culture.

Worship Service and communal luncheon at ICS on Sunday.

(For registration information, call ICS at 979-2331.)

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