

# Perspective

Newsletter of the Institute for Christian Studies

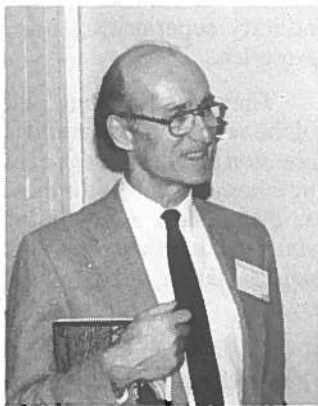
Volume 19, No. 1 — February 1985

## Discovering Our Christian Calling

by Phil de Haan

A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. The Anatomy of a Worldview. The Parable of the Good Punk Rocker. Psychotherapy. Neurosurgery. Highway building. Like a good stew or a spicy chile, Discovery '85 brought together ingredients of varied flavours and produced a dish that was hearty, enriching and satisfying.

Keynote speaker Dr. Arthur Holmes began the weekend conference, entitled "Christian Calling in Contemporary Culture," on Friday night, January 25, with "An Anatomy of a Worldview." Holmes — chairman of the Philosophy Department at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois — prefaced his lecture by noting that concern over worldview is neither distinctively Christian nor modern. The distinctive thing about a Christian worldview is the God/creation relationship and its effect on human beings in creation, sin and grace.



Arthur Holmes

Saturday morning Holmes addressed another capacity crowd, focusing on "Persons in Contemporary and Christian Perspective." Holmes, often called the dean of Christian philosophy in America, said that a biblical understanding of persons is central to our whole Christian worldview. There are numerous contemporary myths about persons that a biblical understanding can debunk.

Over 120 conference registrants from Ontario and the Eastern U.S. attended the afternoon workshops, led by speakers that conference coordinator Anne Burghgraef called "excellent." Although the workshop leaders came from diverse professions and vocations they all share well-thought Christian perspectives within their field.

Dr. Harley Smyth, a well-known neurosurgeon at Toronto's Wellesley Hospital, gave a workshop entitled "Notions of Human Worth." ICS Senior Member Cal Seerveld led a popular workshop on art. Psychologist Mary VanderVennen gave a lecture entitled "The Task of Psychotherapy." Other workshops ranged from hunger to theatre to building roads, houses and cities as Christians. The difficult thing was deciding on which two workshops to attend.

The Parable Players presented a package of parables in their two-part Saturday evening performance. They began the show with a series of short sketches. Their interpretations were fresh and entertaining. The second half of the show was a thought-provoking look at the parable of the Good Samaritan. Entitled "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Jericho," the one-act play proved funny and unsettling.



The Parable Players

Some light entertainment followed the Players: ICS Junior Member Mark Roques and Business Administrator Phil Travis recounted the Old Testament story of David and Bethsheba, guitarist Brian Deheer sang, and Richard Middleton read from *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Cal Seerveld led Sunday's combined worship service with First Christian Reformed Church, Toronto, a service which included liturgical dance. Following a communal lunch, over 100 people jammed the ICS large classroom to hear Dr. Bob Goudzwaard unmask the idolatry of the arms race. Goudzwaard a professor of economics at the Free University in Amsterdam, has written several books, including *Idols of Our Time* which examines idols modern-day Christians fall prey to.

As a project of ICS' Hearing and Doing program, Discovery '85 attempted to reach and examine the concerns of 20th-century life. In past years the conference has focused somewhat narrowly on philosophy. This year's exploration of more diverse areas was a focus which reflects well the ICS' belief in integrating Christianity with the whole of life.

Phil de Haan is Development Assistant at ICS.

# Perspective

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## From the President's Point of View

by Bernard Zylstra

### Maps and Compasses

ICS has just launched a new public lecture series on the theme "Maps and Compasses: Charting Our Course in a Changing World."

We, as God's people, are part of history. That means we face change, inevitably so. God's people are called to be the light of the world, the salt of the earth. If they are to be that, they need maps and compasses to chart their course in the midst of change.

Aileen Van Ginkel, our Director of Development, started the series, focusing on the change in our society since World War II. Aileen has a master's degree from the University of Toronto in modern Canadian history. She is well-equipped to deal with the impact of social change on the Christian community. In doing this she set the stage for the entire series.

Especially in a rapidly changing economic and political world people look for anchors, for certainties, for securities they can count on. These anchors are idols apart from Jesus Christ, the Lord of history. This is the theme of Bob Goudzwaard, Free University economist and long-time friend of ICS. Bob focuses specifically on the idol of material security in the crisis of the welfare state and the idol of military superiority in the arms race between Russia and America.

Then Hendrik Hart, philosopher at ICS, at the midpoint of the series, turns our attention to Jesus Christ, the Alpha of creation and the Omega of history. Christ is the Morning Star by whom we can set the direction of our course each new day, as dependable as the rising sun. If we realize that Christ stands at the core of the Bible, the Bible itself keeps us on the narrow path, guided by the Holy Spirit who leads us into the truth.

On that foundation, the changes we encounter in our daily life need not be a threat to faith. They can be a challenge to faith, to its enrichment, its deepening, its broadening. That's the point of the presentation by James Olthuis, ICS theologian and ethicist. Faith is personal certainty, in a world of uncertainties, because it means finding rest in God's covenantal promise and because it means finding support in the community of fellow believers. Christians don't have to go it alone. They are members one of another.

And that means that God's people are gifted not only with faith in an uncertain world. They have more. They have hope for the future. That is the final theme of the series, introduced by Derk Pierik, University of Toronto campus chaplain and president of the ICS Board of Trustees. Yes, that is the remarkable beauty of God's people. They are people of hope, of which there is so utterly little in our dark world. Millions, faced by uncertainty, build securities for today and tomorrow because they see no light at the end of the tunnel. Christians

## In This Issue . . .

With the months flying by as fast as they do it's sometimes hard for us to keep track of all of the things that should be covered in *Perspective*. We want to make sure to keep you up-to-date on any special events that have taken place here at ICS. At the same time we want *Perspective* to give you a fresh sense of the everyday developments at ICS every time you read it.

This issue once again offers a blend of reports on special events and features on the ongoing character of ICS—under-the-surface sorts of things that often go unnoticed if we're not focusing on them.

The guest lecturers who come to ICS continue to give occasion for rejuvenating insights and refreshing ideas. The last few months provided plenty of such opportunities, but perhaps the most exciting of all was *Discovery '85* when 120 people, most of them students from Ontario and the eastern U.S., joined in on the act of listening and learning.

Arts and aesthetics were topics of recent interest at ICS due to the visits of Nigel Goodwin and the Kurelek exhibition. As our "Highlights" feature suggests, these events are fruits of the ongoing developments in Cal Seerveld's academic activities.

It's unfortunate that it sometimes takes a death to make us stop short and reflect on the significance of our busyness. The deaths of two founding members of ICS—Evert Kok and Henry Van Andel—were occasions for looking back in thankfulness to those who initially put into concrete form the vision that Christ's Lordship must be honoured in scholarship.

We hope that you'll read *Perspective* in that light—looking through the various events and developments at ICS to the threads that tie them together and give them meaning. It's something we all need to do now and then as we continue in our efforts to contribute to the forming of Christian minds.

AVG

do see light; they have hope, because Christ is the Lord of history, and thus the key to the removal of the obstacles we face, personally, communally, nationally, worldly.

From 1969 to 1975 the ICS sponsored the Discovery lecture series which reached numerous communities in Canada and the United States. "Maps and Compasses" for now is limited to Ontario and Manitoba. We may continue the program, and include the U.S. and the Canadian West next year.

## Moorings

by Dave Woods

When I was a Christian at university in England, I used to see the Bible as a theological textbook. One took various verses from the Bible, stringing them all together, and there was one's theology. For instance, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:26, Isaiah 53:6, I Peter 3:18, I John 1:9 and Revelations 3:20 make up what one might call a nugget gospel, containing in only six verses all the important gospel themes of sin, grace and salvation.

The trouble with using the Scriptures in this way is that I always used to wonder why God gave them to us in such a jumbled up form, so that we had to unravel them to make any sense. Wouldn't it have been much easier if He had given them to us in a clear theological language, which would have left no doubt and saved endless denominational, and factional conflicts over the centuries?

Nowadays I think I have greater appreciation for the Bible, looking at it as a history book. It is more varied, more interesting and easier to relate to the Bible in this way than it would be if God had chosen to give us our faith as a list of so many theological propositions.

As Ted Plantinga says in his excellent little book *Reading the Bible as History* the Bible is our history, it's the history of God's people and of all who are heirs to the promise given to Abraham. It tells us about our roots, about those with whom we stand in solidarity and fellowship, and allows us to place ourselves historically and make sense of the world in which we live.

The relevance of faith/history was brought home to me when I was reading a book called *Causality in Economics* by English economist Sir John Hicks. Hicks also has a sense of history and its relationship to his faith, though his is a faith in reason and science. He tells about the Middle Ages when people had a simple-minded approach to causality. Influenced by theology and religion they tended to see every event as being caused by an agent, be it human or divine, natural or supernatural. Everything was either caused by someone or was an act of God. Often this led to unfortunate incidents. When events could not be explained in human terms people were quick to blame witches, demons and supernatural powers.

Looking back with a derisory sneer, Hicks moves on to

Doing this kind of thing is risky because facing change is always threatening. Nevertheless, doing this kind of thing is imperative if God's people are to be a salt, a light. ICS is ready for the risk, in dialogue with its supporters and friends, because the foundation of our life is a Rock higher than we are.

*Bernard Zylstra is president of ICS.*

discuss what he calls the 'new causality' of the Enlightenment in which men such as Hume and Kant taught us about a mechanical, secular world where we don't need supernatural irrelevancies like God anymore. At the back of his mind Hicks has an idea of two testaments, an old testament of Greek philosophy and a new testament of the new age of science, with a kind of barren inter-testamental period of the Middle Ages neatly tucked in between. The history he writes is of men who suffered for science – of people, like Galileo, who were persecuted for their views. It is an account of the struggle against the forces of ecclesiastical darkness by mighty heroes – Newton, Kant, Hume: And a depiction of ultimate victory.

Hicks rejoices in the extent to which this idea of a mechanical, secular world has penetrated our minds. He quotes Canon Streeter who, in dealing with the historical period of the Acts of the Apostles, rejects any hint of miraculous or supernatural happening. As a modern historian, he feels that he cannot, on the canon of probability, accept items involving miracles. Hicks comments: "Canon Streeter was a priest in the Anglican church. Hume and Gibbon have won through." Hicks is doing more than narrating some interesting facts about a past period; he is telling us of his faith.

What Hicks says annoyed me, but it also helped me to see that everyone needs to understand their faith historically – precisely what the Bible does for us as Christians. It is the history of our faith. What I find exciting is not only that it tells about the deeds of men and women, about what humans have done, but that it tells of the mighty acts of a powerful and compassionate God – a real God. Yahweh leading his people through the Red Sea and Elijah's showdown with the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel are events which are of a different order and dimension than anything Hicks can tell of.

We can be encouraged in our faith and encourage each other by reading of God's acts in history. Just as God told the Israelites to encourage their children with the story of the exodus from Egypt, so too we can be encouraged today. When things are going badly it helps to remember times when God came through for us in an unmistakable way, to reassure ourselves that He is still there with us and always cares about us.

*ICS Junior Member Dave Woods is a second-year student studying in the Master of Philosophical Foundations program in political theory. He is a native of England.*

# Two Students Receive Degrees

by *Phil de Haan*

Two students recently completed and successfully defended theses, and have received Master of Philosophical Foundation degrees from ICS.

On November 9, New Jersey native **Gary Shahinian** met with external examiner **Clark Pinnock**, McMaster Divinity College; **Jim Olthuis**, thesis supervisor; **Henk Hart** and **Paul Marshall**.



*Henk Hart, Gary Shahinian, Clark Pinnock, Jim Olthuis*

During the two-hour examination Shahinian discussed and defended his work on "The Problem of Evil in Griffin's Process Theology." David Griffin, a theology professor at Claremont College in California, argues that the existence of evil in this world conflicts with a belief in God's omnipotence. Griffin is unable to accept the idea that God can be all-loving and all-powerful, and still allow evil to exist. The existence of evil, he feels, denies God's all-lovingness.

Shahinian's well-thought response to Griffin begins with the suggestion that Griffin makes a basic error in attempting a rational explanation of evil. It is impossible, Shahinian states, to thus understand and explain evil.

Shahinian came to ICS in 1982 after graduating from Calvin Theological Seminary with a Master of Theological Studies degree. With a second master's degree now completed, he should be well-equipped for his doctoral studies. He has enrolled in the ICS/Free University Ph.D. program and plans to teach eventually at a college or university level.

**Keith Pavlischek** journeyed to Toronto in mid-December to defend "An Analysis and Evaluation of Cornelius Van Til's Doctrine of Common Grace." Pavlischek met with Pinnock, Olthuis, Marshall and thesis supervisor **George Vandervelde**.

In his thesis Pavlischek gives a detailed historical orientation and context to Van Til's doctrine, analyzes the reconstruction of the doctrine of common grace, and states why Van Til's work was "less than satisfactory."

Pavlischek is now working on a second master's degree at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He too is planning to pursue a doctorate degree and is currently investigating a



*Jim Olthuis, George Vandervelde, Keith Pavlischek, Clark Pinnock*

number of Ph.D. programs. He came to ICS in 1981 after a four-year stint in the U. S. Marines, and is a graduate of Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania.

## On the Deaths of Evert Kok and Henry Van Andel

by *Phil de Haan*

In the months since the deaths of Mr. Evert Kok and the Reverend Henry Van Andel much has been said and written, and many have looked in fond retrospection at the work both men pursued during their lifetimes. An item of frequent mention in these reflections, and a link between the two men, concerns the close relationship Kok and Van Andel had with ICS. Both men were, in fact, original signatories of the Association for Reformed Scientific Studies (ARSS) constitution in 1961. (ARSS was the founding organization of ICS.)

Rev. Van Andel was part of the reformational movement in Holland and Canada. Education was a concern that was always very important to him. It was this concern that prompted Van Andel's involvement in both Christian Schools International and the Institute for Christian Studies. Van Andel served as an ICS board member during the 1960s, a time of often difficult growing pains for the young institution. His leadership and insight were especially important. Dr. Bernard Zylstra remembers Van Andel as a man who could get to the heart of an issue and then give advice "based on experience, knowledge and foresight." Complementing this wisdom was a bold sense of adventure. Van Andel was never afraid to try new things. "He was an old person," Zylstra said, "with a young heart."

Mr. Kok has been described as a full-blooded Kuyperian. Among Kok's many pursuits was his active involvement in ICS. Kok served as an ICS board member in the early 1960s and was an active member throughout the history of ICS. He was man of wisdom and sincere concern, two traits which lent themselves well to his role in the Institute. It was a role which was vital and valuable to ICS' often halting development as an institution of true Christian learning. In looking back we realize the importance of both men to ICS. Their contributions will be missed, but they have helped lay foundations which will remain a legacy and reminder of their presence.



# Kurelek Film Attracts Capacity Crowd at ICS

by Anne Burghraef

The recent exhibit of art by William Kurelek at the Art Gallery of Ontario renewed interest in this unusual but popular Canadian artist. Well known for his panoramic landscapes, childlike depictions of everyday life and overt use of Christian symbols, Kurelek is an enigma. He delights and he disturbs. Themes of God's grace and God's judgment are woven throughout his work.

More than 90 people squeezed into the ICS classroom on November 22 for a behind-the-scenes look at Kurelek's life, as it is sensitively recounted by Kurelek and his family in a documentary film entitled "The Maze."

The child of a pioneering Ukrainian family, Kurelek grew up knowing the joys and struggles of prairie farm life. He was also aware of the qualities necessary for survival in this frequently hostile environment. He, however, did not seem to fit into this environment. He leaned toward introspection and "sissier" things like painting.

Despite his father's disapproval, Kurelek continued to paint. Increasingly he thought of himself as a failure because of his inability to live up to his father's expectations. His growing bitterness and confusion led him to attempt suicide. During his stay in a psychiatric hospital, Kurelek, "overwhelmed by God's grace," converted to Roman Catholicism. Things seemed to make sense for him then, even his parental disapproval. Eventually he was reconciled with his father and old confusion gave way to new themes in his work. Believing his art to be a gift of God, Kurelek felt driven to paint about the impending doom of our time and the way of salvation.

Following the film, ICS Senior Member Cal Seerveld led a discussion which opened up other dimensions related to Kurelek and to art in general. Seerveld showed genuine appreciation for Kurelek's work, but noted that Kurelek's overt Christian symbols and strong didactic messages tend to distract from the subtlety of his paintings.

One point which was driven home to many of the people who attended the evening was the importance of nurturing an environment that encourages the creative development of gifts that reflect a Christian understanding of the world in praise of our Creator.

*Anne Burghraef is Admissions Counsellor and Coordinator of the Hearing and Doing Program at ICS.*

## Lost and Found

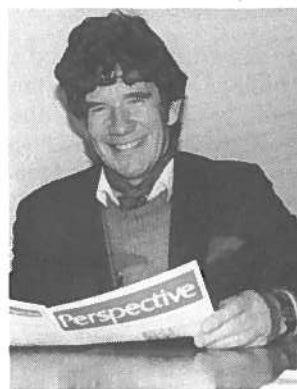
Are you missing a three-piece grey suit? Some shirts? Towels? Shoes? These items, and others, were left behind at the Niagara Conference this past summer, and have never been claimed. Before we bring them to the Salvation Army, we thought we'd give you one last chance to reclaim your belongings. If we haven't heard by mid-March, we'll be packing off all lost and found items. Contact us if you need more information.

# British Artist Visits Institute

by Robert E. VanderVennen

With the visit of Nigel Goodwin from England on November 26 and 27 the Institute became a place for Christian reflection on the arts, as well as a place for Christian scholarship. Goodwin came at the end of a month-long tour of North America at the invitation of Calvin Seerveld, who had come to know him in London.

A professionally trained actor, Goodwin's strength is encouraging Christians in their full-time work as artists. He



and his wife decided to convert their home in London to a place where artists could drop in to share their good times and bad—even actors who needed a place to unwind in the middle of the night after an evening's performance. This ministry has grown to become the 800-member Arts Centre Group, and has given birth to a daughter organization in New York City. It strengthens artists through Bible study, prayer and conference programs, and is a strong witness to artists who are not yet Christians.

At the Institute Nigel Goodwin met privately with a number of Christian artists from the Toronto area, and had an hour-long meeting with ICS students, faculty and staff. The highlight of his visit was a one-man evening show in our seminar room attended by 45 people, including Christian artists from all around Ontario. He presented his basic Christian view of life and the place of God-honouring artistry in it, recited Shakespeare, and read movingly from the poetry of Steve Turner, poet laureate of the Greenbelt Festival in England.



Goodwin expressed genuine appreciation for the work of the Institute and pleasure at having this firsthand acquaintance with our vision and activity.

*Robert E. VanderVennen is Director of Educational Services at ICS.*

# Global Group of Guest Lecturers

The Institute has hosted a varied group of guest lecturers in recent months. On December 7, 1984, **Professor Jakob Klapwijk** of the Free University in Amsterdam presented a lecture entitled "The Idea of a Transformational Philosophy."

In his lecture Klapwijk argued that reformational philosophers should be involved in utilizing and transforming what is good in secular thinking. Christian philosophers do not work in a vacuum, in total isolation from what is going on around them. They are part of the academic climate of their time and are concerned with the same problems and issues as their secular counterparts. Thus Christians can, and must, learn from the academic world in which they operate.

Klapwijk illustrated this idea of benefitting from God's blessings on the world with the biblical example of the



Israelites. In Exodus 12 the Israelites are told by God to plunder the Egyptians of their precious goods. Later this gold and silver was taken up into God's service when it was melted down and used to furnish the tabernacle (Exodus 35).

This process of transformation can be misused, however, as it was by the early church fathers who seized on the

Exodus example to justify their indiscriminate use of pagan Greek philosophy. A Christian scholar needs to be sensitive to the religious struggle, and aware that secular concepts and insights have to be transformed and critically assimilated into one's biblical view of reality before one can use them.

On December 17, 1984, the Institute welcomed **Dr. Ed Echeverria** who read a paper entitled "Rationality and the Theory of Rationality." Several years ago Echeverria, a philosophy professor at Rhodes University in South Africa, wrote *Criticism and Commitment*. In this book he explores the problem of whether it is possible to hold a view of knowledge that emphasizes how historical context and worldview commitments condition our exercise of reason without thereby falling into either relativism or dogmatism. If

reason is relative to time, place and religious and philosophical presuppositions, is it then condemned to mere rationalization? Does it merely defend and preserve preconceived convictions?

Much of Echeverria's lecture was devoted to exploring a rational justification of rationality. Although it has often been maintained that this is an impossibility, Echeverria's examination of the subject and his particular focus on the work of Karl Popper explored some attempts to do so. The one important issue over which there is little disagreement is that any acceptable account of rationality should avoid giving comfort to arbitrariness and irrationality.



**Professor Ward Gasque** of Regent College in British Columbia spoke at ICS on January 18, 1985. In a lecture entitled "The Acts of the Apostles" Gasque gave an enjoyable and enlightening analysis of *Acts*, a book he called "exciting and essential."

Gasque noted that *Acts* contains mass miracles, persecution, martyrdom and sea voyages "worthy of Cecil B. DeMille." Hence the books' excitement. There is also "the bedrock message the book has for us today." In his lecture Gasque presented a seven-point analysis of what he feels are significant messages in *Acts* for twentieth-century Christians.



*Acts* is extremely important to an understanding of effective Christian witness and evangelism. *Acts* provides important models for witnessing but also gives us encouragement and support. The work of Paul serves as a shining example of the strength of the Holy Spirit. In *Acts* there is clear proof that divisions can be overcome through the sovereign power of the Word of God.

The above article was based on reports by Junior Members Vaden House and Dave Woods and Development Assistant Phil de Haan.

## The Search for a President

When the Board of Trustees accepted Bernard Zylstra's request to leave the presidency of ICS and return to teaching and research in political theory at the Institute, it also set in motion procedures to find a new president.

A search committee was appointed by the board with representatives from various elements at ICS. Herman Praamsma was appointed from the Board of Directors (Executive Committee), Ben Vandezande from the Board of Trustees, John Olthuis from the Senate, Betty Westrik from the membership-at-large, Calvin Seerveld from the senior

members, Lloyd Davies from the junior members and Robert VanderVannen from the administrative staff.

This committee has been meeting since November. It has refined a position description and statement of qualities desired in a president, advertised the position and talked with some potential candidates. Since the position by its nature requires certain academic and personal characteristics that not everyone has, the number of qualified people is not vast. Yet the search is going well and we have confidence that the Lord is preparing someone to lead us as president starting in July of this year.

We invite you to inquire about the position for yourself, or to write or phone us about people you suggest we consider.

## Calvin Seerveld: Learner and Teacher

Maybe you think school teachers are people who go to school for quite some time, then spend the rest of their lives teaching others what they learned. That's probably not true of any good teacher. It is far from true of ICS Senior Member Calvin Seerveld. He is always working furiously at learning more, using every chance to expand his knowledge.



Calvin Seerveld

Take for example the major course he is teaching this year. It is a course in the history of aesthetic theory, and he is teaching the important contributions made to aesthetic theory by such scholars as Plotinus, Kant, Schelling, Nietzsche, Dewey and Heidegger. Why especially these people—because he already knows their work well enough? No, because he wants to study them closely for himself, so he can test the spirits of the major contributors to aesthetic theory. His graduate students, too, do their own research in the course, which contributes not only to their knowledge but also to that of their professor!

Seerveld wants to learn all he can about the turning points, the major changes that have taken place over the centuries in understanding art and theories in art. He comes to new insights which he writes in the form of scholarly articles, and perhaps eventually in a book.

Alternating with the course on the history of aesthetics is a course on the methodology of art history. Here the question is how to go about the study of art and literary history, how to decide what is important in art history and what is incidental. In this area Seerveld likes to use a version of the methodology developed by his own teacher Professor Vollenhoven, which has helped him see some problems and motifs in art history that secular scholars have missed.

Like the other professors at the Institute, Seerveld teaches two courses each year. His other course is always the interdisciplinary seminar, which brings together most of the faculty and the advanced students. His own teaching – and

learning – in this year's course is on the meaning of *symbol*. He is probing, with Henk Hart, the nature of language, analysis and imagination, and with Jim Olthuis, the role of the symbolic in the growth of Christian faith, e.g. sacraments. Junior members in aesthetics have their own research tested in the course around the topic of symbol, language and aesthetic knowledge. Last year Seerveld dealt with imagination in the interdisciplinary seminar, and next year hopes to deal with style, not because he knows all about these topics but because he wants to learn more about crucial topics in aesthetics. Such studies lead to writing academic articles.

If he lives and learns enough, fast enough, he would like to write a book on how to study systematically the history of the art, philosophy, literature and music that was produced in the time period in which he has specialized, from about 1715 to about 1848, the period that set the aesthetic issues of our day.

This background of ongoing academic learning is put to use in many ways. Recently Cal wrote articles entitled "Christian Aesthetics" and "Christian Art" published in Baker's *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. He is a regular speaker at college and university campuses, recently visiting Regent College, Simon Fraser University, St. Michael's and Trinity College of the University of Toronto, Redeemer College, and York University. He gave a paper last summer for the International Congress on Aesthetics and co-edited a book of papers written by Canadian aestheticians. He spoke in British Columbia recently about the place of art in Christian life. He has recently written articles in church papers on the movie "Say Amen, Somebody" and on the work of Christian artist William Kurelek, and has also contributed a series of biblical meditations for *The Banner*.

What he enjoys most is what he calls his aesthetics lab, his service on the committee to produce a new song book for the Christian Reformed Church. Here many of his theoretical ideas on aesthetics are tested as they are applied to the verse and music of church singing. He deals with poets and musicians in concrete ways about the nature of a song, the difference between a hymn and a psalm, and criteria for different kinds of church songs. Some of his own psalm versifications may be included in the new book.

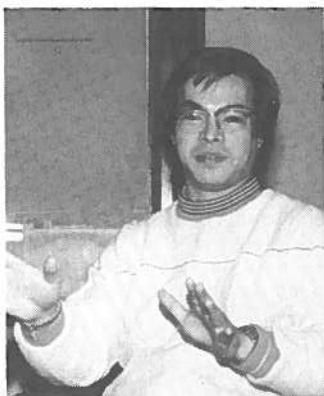
One of Seerveld's satisfactions this year was serving as outside reader-examiner for the doctoral thesis of Dirk van den Berg for a degree in aesthetics in South Africa. Dr. van den Berg studied with Seerveld in Toronto for one year in the '70s, and his thesis of over 500 pages is a masterful working out of many of Cal's seminal ideas.

I suppose you've never seen someone as constantly busy as Calvin Seerveld. The biggest reason for this is that he is always learning so much so fast, and always realizing painfully that there is still much to learn. And the reason that his teaching and writing and speaking are so exciting is that he keeps on learning and keeps on discovering delightful surprises in God's world.

# On the Inside Track

by Phil de Haan

"Basically I'm a Dooyeweerdian." A straightforward, conventional statement at ICS. This Dooyeweerdian however, is different. He speaks with deliberate care, an anxious concern that he be correctly understood, and a Japanese accent. His name is **Kanji Fuki**.



Kanji came to North America six years ago. He had completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics at Keio University in Tokyo and a Master of Divinity degree at Tokyo Christian Theological Seminary, but decided that his education was not complete. He had become familiar with Dooyeweerd through the teachings of two seminary instructors and wanted to learn more. In

1978 he and his wife Kayko left Japan. Kanji spent the next three years in Toronto taking classes at the University of Toronto and ICS.

In 1981 Kanji decided that his education would be significantly enhanced by study at the Free University in Amsterdam. He went to Philadelphia, enrolled in Westminster Theological Seminary's Master of Theology program, and began correspondence with the Free, hoping to enter their Ph.D. program. The Free suggested further study at ICS so in 1984 Kanji returned to Toronto.

Kanji is taking two classes this year. He studies epistemology with Henk Hart and philosophical theology with Jim Olthuis, and says he's enjoying it. "Both men," he adds, "are good mentors."

Kanji still plans to attend the Free and pursue a Ph.D. then return to Japan and teach at a seminary or Christian college. He spent the past summer in Calgary at a Japanese Gospel church, where he was active in many pastoral duties,

including preaching. It was an experience he enjoyed greatly.

**David Pascuzzi** is originally from Rochester, New York, but journeyed to Scotland and then Grand Rapids, Michigan before coming to ICS. David finished high school in 1975. He joined the navy, was trained as a naval nuclear engineer, and sent to Scotland.

In Scotland he came into contact with Christianity, and it was his conversion that led him to Grand Rapids. As he struggled with the relationship of his new-found faith to the complex issues of society, including his involvement with nuclear energy, he searched for structured guidance. He wrote to several friends in the United States about Christian education, and in 1981 began studying at Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids.

He heard about ICS while at RBC and was attracted by the ideas and atmosphere. After finishing his Bachelor of



Religious Education degree, he enrolled at ICS, and is working on a Master of Philosophical Foundations degree. He has four classes: interdisciplinary seminar, philosophical theology, philosophical foundations, and biblical foundations. Although the work keeps him busy David says ICS' whirlwind of activity is "a sign of life." The Institute isn't static.

After completing his master's degree David will continue his educational trek, and do Ph.D. work at the Ontario Institute for Studies and Education in Toronto. David's wife Elizabeth is a native of Brazil, and has a Master of Christian Education degree from Calvin Theological Seminary. Eventually the Pascuzzis hope to return to Brazil where they will pursue careers in education.

## ICS Remittance Form

The ICS is an association of over 2,000 members from 24 countries worldwide. Our purpose is to promote Scripturally directed learning and biblical reformation of scholarship. Our main project is providing graduate school programs for research and teaching.

Membership is open to all who agree with the purpose and religious position of the ICS.

Financial support is most welcome and needed, since most of our money must come from donations. Donations in support of our work are tax deductible for residents of Canada, U.S.A. and the Netherlands when sent to the organizations listed below. *Perspective* is sent free of charge to all members and donors. Non-donors are asked to pay a subscription fee of \$10 per year. *Perspective* is mailed to interested persons in a total of 44 countries.

Members and other friends can support ICS financially by making a donation to the following organizations:

### U.S.A.

AACS Foundation  
3201 Burton Street, S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

### Netherlands

Calvinistic World Association  
Potgieterweg 46  
1851 CJ Heiloo  
(gironummer 17 75 496)  
(Specify for ICS)

### Canada and other countries:

ICS  
229 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4

- ☐ Please send more information
- ☐ Enclosed is a donation
- ☐ Enclosed is a subscription fee
- ☐ I would like to become a member. Please send me an application.

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## Development Notes

by Aileen Van Ginkel

Reporting on the results of a financial drive is never easy, especially when the news isn't outstanding. But there's always a bright side, and a moral to be drawn from every story.

Compared to previous years, the total of our December appeal-related income was down. We received just over \$70,000 – down \$10,000 from the same period in 1982 and \$20,000 in 1983. Our approach was similar to previous years, but from a few verbal responses I got the idea that personal financial situations have not improved greatly for many people during the past few years.

But there is a bright side to the appeal story: Because of a good spring campaign we ended the 1984 calendar year in a position similar to the 1981 and 1982 totals, but down a bit from 1983. What we're seeing is a shift from earlier patterns when December was the month when donations income was highest. Now June has replaced December somewhat, although December continues to be an important month for donations. That the income is spread out more evenly during the year is a good thing.

And now the moral of the story: Knowing that we're behind where we should be gives us the push to work harder this spring. We've still got \$275,000 to go before we reach the level set by our 1984-85 budget.

In my work at ICS I've realized that donation income levels are closely related to enthusiasm levels. The more excited our supporters are about our work the more willing they are to give donations beyond what they gave in previous years. That's why I'm thankful about the progress of our "Maps and Compasses" series. It was wonderful for me to see the good turnouts and favourable responses to the first presentation in the series. I'm hoping that we can keep up the momentum of the series, and interest some new people in supporting ICS.

Now's my chance for another plug for the series. Anyone planning to attend the series should think of taking along a person or two who might be interested in the presentations. A series like this is a good way to introduce people to the sort of thinking that goes on at ICS. Seeing such new interest in ICS can in turn be a great way of reviving an older interest. And that's good news for us, with potential side-benefits as well (see the paragraph above).

It's hard to know exactly what God has planned for ICS in the next year, but one thing we do know. The reformational vision of Christ's lordship over all areas of life is as necessary now as it was when ICS was established eighteen years ago. It's in spreading that vision around that we especially need the help of our supporters. I've got my work cut out for me in the next six months; this is my challenge to you to work along with me in strengthening the support for ICS.



## Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

### Summer Course in Philosophy of Science

The Institute is offering a summer course in the philosophy of science July 2 through July 12, to be taught by Dr. M. D. Stafleu. The course will aim to clarify the nature of theological thought, especially the nature of scientific theories. Dr. Stafleu, author of the book *Time and Again* and many journal articles, teaches physics and the history of science in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Serving as a touchstone for the course is the Copernican Revolution, a period of philosophical upheaval spanning the years between the publication of Copernicus' *On the Revolution of the Celestial Spheres* in 1543, and Newton's *Principia* in 1687. This period saw intense struggle on the nature of theories among four philosophies: Aristotelian, Platonic-Pythagorean (as a reaction to Aristotelianism), Descartes' mechanical philosophy, and the empiricism of Bacon, Boyle, Newton and Pascal.

Dr. Stafleu will use the Copernican Revolution to test his own "theory of theories" for two reasons. First, the modern view of theories and science was born during this period to counter the Aristotelian need to start from accepted premises. Second, this period led to Newtonianism, then to positivism and finally to the post-positivistic views of Kuhn and Popper. Throughout these changes the Copernican Revolution has been the focus of much retrospective discussion.

The course is open to all who wish to be stimulated by reading about and discussing these issues. Study materials will be provided. Credit can be arranged with colleges and universities. Write to the Institute for more information.

### ICS Publishes Wolters Book on Plotinus

The Institute has arranged for the publication of the doctoral thesis of Dr. Albert Wolters under the title *Plotinus "On Eros": A Detailed Exegetical Study of Enneads III, 5*. The thesis, which runs to 274 pages plus a 64-page introduction, was originally written in 1972 and has recently been revised.

The thesis presents a close, detailed study of Plotinus' essay "On Eros." It includes Wolters' translation of the text into English and a painstaking analysis of its meaning. The commentary includes discussion and comparisons of the differing interpretations of "On Eros" since its publication.

Wolters notes that Plotinus is fast gaining recognition as a Greek philosopher to be ranked with Plato and Aristotle among the greats of ancient philosophy. Further, his impact on the Christian intellectual tradition has been incalculable. The essay "On Eros" has been more neglected and more

poorly translated than most of the other Plotinian treatises, which is especially unfortunate because it gives valuable insights into other aspects of Plotinus' philosophy.

The book will be a welcome resource for the increasing number of scholars worldwide who are studying the work of Plotinus. Leading Plotinus scholars have already remarked on the thoroughness and high academic quality of Wolters' book. It can be purchased from the Institute for \$11.95 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

## Alumni Action

**Steve Shaw** came to the institute in 1981 from College House, England, a reformational Christian ministry to young adults, including university students. Steve wanted a master's degree from the Institute, so that the Christian academic insight of the degree program could serve College House as it moved more substantially into a student ministry.

Steve and his wife Ruth returned to England and College House this year, and he writes that he has plunged into setting up a new College House centre in the university environment of Cambridge. Steve is employed two days a week by College House in Cambridge. He is teaching two Christian world-view courses at Cambridge, building on his teaching of similar courses in the Hearing and Doing program of the Institute. He is getting into the selling of reformational books

and papers, cooperating with such kindred spirits at Cambridge as Rev. Douglas Holt and Dr. Tony Cramp. Steve is also finishing his master's degree thesis for the Institute, and hopes to receive his degree this spring.

**David Coolidge** came to the Institute after completing his B.A. at Williams College in Massachusetts. As a special student in the first half of 1979, he worked with Sander Griffioen in the area of social philosophy and liberation theology until Sander returned to Amsterdam in July.

These days David works in Washington, D.C. for Justice Fellowship, a branch of Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship ministry that is working to reform the U.S. criminal justice system. He works in five different states, organizing groups of Christian citizens who are pressing for alternatives to prison for nonviolent offenders.

Married to Andrea Burgard since 1980 and the stepfather of an 8-year-old daughter, Jessica, David is a regular member of an Association for Public Justice group that meets on Capitol Hill. He is finishing up a master degree at Howard University Divinity School, serves as Treasurer of Calvary United Methodist Church, and continues to correspond with Sander (in his "spare time"!).

"Even though I only studied at the Institute for a brief time," David said, "it was a tremendously challenging and formative experience. I constantly return to insights I gained from Sander and the other Senior Members, and will always be grateful for my time at ICS."

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## Keeping up with ICS Staff and Students

Senior Member **Henk Hart** was recently a principal speaker at an International Conference on Calvinism and Racism held January 28 through January 30 at Calvin College - Grand Rapids, Michigan. Hart was one of three distinguished noon lecturers. He wrapped up the three-day event with a lecture entitled "The Just Shall Live: Reformational Reflections on Public Justice and Racist Attitudes."

Senior Member **Paul Marshall** spoke to several groups in recent months. On December 8, 1984, he was at Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church in Toronto, dining with a men's breakfast group and speaking on "Human Rights." The following day he gave a presentation entitled "Ways Into Politics" to Waymeet.

In January Marshall spoke at a Christian Labour Association of Canada banquet in St. Catharines on "The Future of the Work Ethic," and at a Redeemer College faculty colloquium he addressed the question "Is There a Calvinist Political Theory?"

On November 28 Senior Member **Jim Olthuis** presented two seminars on "Stages of Intimacy" at the All-Ontario Christian Reformed singles conferences in Brampton. In January he conducted a six-week course on "The Search for Intimacy: Marriage and Divorce" at Walmer Baptist Church in Toronto.

On December 13 Junior Member **Rick Pearcey** attended an Inter-Varsity retreat near Fox Lake, Ontario. He led a seminar on "The Validity of the Christian Mind." He also

published an article in a recent issue of the *Creation Social Science Humanities Quarterly* entitled "As A Man Thinketh, So Is He."

During November Senior Member **Cal Seerveld** presented lectures at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto; Trinity College, University of Toronto; and Redeemer College - Hamilton, Ontario. Seerveld also has articles on aesthetics and Christian art in the newly published *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* put out by Baker Book House.

Director of Educational Services **Robert Vander Vennen** was "Honorary Visitor" at a debate at Hart House, University of Toronto, in November. In response to the proposition that "Secular Education is Religious" Vander Vennen was able to make a case for the conviction that all of education has religious underpinnings. A lively discussion followed.

During the month of January Director of Development **Aileen Van Ginkel** led off the ICS "Maps and Compasses" series with a presentation about change on the levels of personal and communal experience. Van Ginkel gave her presentation to audiences in Brampton, Chatham, Sarnia, Toronto, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Kitchener, St. Catharines and London.

She met with good turnouts and enthusiastic group discussions about the effects of and responses to change.

## New Books From ICS

Qty.	Book	Each	Cost
—	<b>Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview</b> , by A.M. Wolters. Scriptural roots for the Christian life-perspective, arising from Dr. Wolters' teaching at ICS. Published Feb. 1985	\$10.50	—
—	<b>The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View</b> , by Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton. Biblical worldview confronting the spirits of our age, arising from ICS campus outreach courses.	\$ 9.35	—
—	<b>History and Historical Understanding</b> , edited by C. T. McIntire and R. A. Wells. Essays by noted Christian historians giving Christian insight into the meaning of history.	\$ 9.25	—
—	<b>Thine is the Kingdom</b> , by Paul Marshall. A biblical perspective on the nature of government and politics today, a fast-selling new book by an ICS professor.	\$ 6.95	—
—	<b>Christians in the Crisis: Toward Responsible Citizenship</b> , by Gerald Vandezande. The articulate wisdom on public and political issues by the Public Affairs Director of Citizens for Public Justice, with contributions by Canadian leaders.	\$11.95	—

— **Idols of Our Time**, by Bob Goudzwaard. Material from lectures given at ICS which urges us to flee from the idols of revolution, nationalism, materialism and militarism to faith in the living God. \$ 6.55 —

— **Understanding Our World: An Integral Ontology**, by Hendrik Hart. A major philosophical presentation of reformational Christian ideas on the nature of created reality, by an ICS professor. \$24.95 —

— **Angels, Apes and Men**, by Stanley L. Jaki. Celebrated Benedictine philosopher shows how views of man have changed over the ages in response to philosophical and scientific thinking: first presented as lectures at ICS in 1981 (reprinted). \$ 6.50 —

— **Plotinus "On Eros": A Detailed Exegetical Study of Enneads III,5**, by A. M. Wolters. Revised doctoral dissertation published by ICS breaks new ground in Plotinus scholarship. \$11.95 —

Subtotal —

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**TOTAL** —

Order from ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4

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### The Institute for Christian Studies

invites applications, nominations and inquiries  
for the position of

## PRESIDENT

Candidates should have the doctorate, experience in higher education, and commitment to the advancement of scholarship that exhibits the coherence of all reality in Christ.

Send communications to:

**Presidential Search Committee**  
c/o Robert E. VanderVennen  
Institute for Christian Studies  
229 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4  
Telephone (416) 979-2331

# ICS

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kerry and Marcia Hollingsworth on the birth of a nine pound, ten ounce baby girl – Stephanie Nicole! Marcia came to ICS in 1972 and served as ICS Director of Development for five years, from 1976 through 1981. Kerry and Marcia are now living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Kerry will be teaching political theory at will be teaching political theory at Calvin College, during its second semester.

# Perspective

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## Maps and Compasses: Charting Our Course in a Changing World

*Still to come . . .*

- Hendrik Hart** — Setting Our Sights by the Morning Star: Reformed Reflections on Scripture as a Guide on Life's Journey
- James Olthuis** — Growing in the Faith and Knowledge of the Lord.
- Derk Pierik** — Hope for the Future: Strategies for Dealing with Change.

Brampton: February 18, March 11, April 1  
Chatham: February 21, March 14, April 4  
Sarnia: February 22, March 15, April 5  
Willowdale: February 27, March 20, April 10  
Winnipeg: March 1 and 21, April 11  
Thunder Bay: March 2 and 23, April 13  
London: March 5 and 26, April 16  
Kitchener: March 6 and 27, April 17  
St. Catharines: March 8 and 29, April 19

### Summer ICS Conferences

#### June 3 - 5: The Legacy of Herman Dooyeweerd

Appraisal of Dooyeweerd's philosophy by six ICS Senior Members, with outside respondents and open discussion, celebrating 50 years since the publication of the "New Critique" and the founding of the Society for Calvinist Philosophy.

#### June 7 - 8: The Cosmos as Creation

Presentations by six Fellows of the Center for Christian Scholarship from Calvin College, with respondents.

#### July 2 - 12: Theories in Science

Two-week course in the philosophy of science taught by Dr. M. D. Stafleu, author of "Time and Again."

#### August 2 - 5: Imaging God

Annual ICS Niagara Family Conference at Niagara Christian College.

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NOTES: Discovering Our Christian Calling [Discovery '85: 'Christian Calling in Contemporary Culture], Maps and Compasses [lecture series], Two students receive degrees, British Artist Visits Institute, Global Group of Guest Lecturers, Calvin Seerveld: Learner and Teacher

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