

Perspective

Newsletter of the Institute for Christian Studies

Volume 18, No. 6 — December 1984

There shoots a sprout out of the stump of Jesse!
A new growth out of the old roots, and it will bear fruit!

The Spirit of Yahweh shall rest upon him:
the spirit of wisdom and insight,
the spirit of considered counsel and restful strength,
a knowing spirit,
a spirit of fearing the Lord God Yahweh shall settle
down upon him.

And he will be just glad to be fearing the Lord Yahweh!

He shall not judge things by what his eyes can see
and shall never decide a matter on what his ears hear.
No, he shall rule the cowering, defenceless ones protectively
and speak law, judge with fairness for the poor,
hurt ones of the land.

He shall stop dead in their tracks, by the blow of his mouth,
the ruthless, violent ones,
and kill off the wicked by the breath of his lips.

So, Right-dealing fits snug to his loins like a girdle, and
Trustworthy Faithfulness clings to his hips like tights.

Then strangely,

wolf will become guest at the lamb's,
and leopard will lie down next to the kid goat;
calf and sinewy young lion and choice fat cattle
all together will be tended by a little boy;
the heifer and bear will associate peacefully
and their young shall gambol together;
lions shall eat pieces of straw like oxen —

And a breast fed baby shall be able to drool and goo right
right on top of
a poisonous snake's hole;
a weaned child shall be able to stretch out its little hands
to a nest of vipers:

Nothing evil shall happen anymore!
There will be no damaging, ruining, taking place
anymore in all the
strongholds of my holiness! [says the Lord]
Because knowledge of Yahweh shall fill the earth
Like the water waves cover the sea!



And on that day, the stump of Jesse, which had been standing
around only as a warning sign to peoples [of the earth]:
on that day, unbelievers will look it up, turn to the root of
Jesse questioningly listening —
and the places where the One coming lodges
shall be a place of stunning glory.

(Isaiah 11:1 - 10)

Calvin Seerveld

Perspective

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

Editor: Aileen Van Ginkel

Managing Editor: Phil de Haan

Editorial Committee: Phil de Haan, Kathy Vanderkloet, Robert VanderVennen, Aileen Van Ginkel

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

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

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

Inquiries from persons in British Columbia and Pacific Northwest states may be directed to Nick Loenen, ICS Western Office, 9331 No. 2 Road, Richmond, B.C. V7E 2C9, Telephone: (604) 274-3868.



From the President's Point of View

by Bernard Zylstra

ICS Needs a New President

I have announced to the Board of Trustees my resignation as ICS president and desire to return to my position as full-time senior member in political theory. The effective date of my resignation is June 30, 1985. This decision requires some explanation.

There are three basic reasons for my decision. In the first place, there is my clarity concerning my long-range plans; secondly, the burdensome nature of the presidency; and thirdly, my assessment of the need for new staff leadership at the ICS.

I came to the ICS in 1968 as senior member in political theory — to help shape a team of Christian political theorists and to publish a few significant books in my field. I think the Lord has blessed my efforts in shaping a new team of political theorists. In the late seventies I was beginning to feel a book or two taking clear shape in my mind. But then, in 1978, I was appointed as academic principal of the ICS and, in 1982, as president. The books had to be set aside.

So I face the question: do I want to be an academic administrator or a professor of political theory? I have resolved the issue. I wish to contribute to the formation of a team of reformational political scientists, and thus I need time for research and writing. I am committed to being a part of the ICS endeavour, but I think I can give ICS more as a senior member than as president.

Apart from taking time away from my academic work, I found that my administrative duties brought me some heavy burdens. For one thing, ICS has had to live with financial restraints which have made it difficult for me to give shape to our programs as I would like.

Also during the past year I was directly involved in the processes of examining the direction of ICS — processes which were initiated by the Board of Trustees. I participated in those discussions not only as president but also as one academic partner among several. This dual role led to an unhealthy tension in my life. As president, I was called upon to represent the institution as a whole, and remain relatively neutral with respect to the differences of opinion on ethical issues which had surfaced among the staff. As a full-time senior member I will now be able to voice my own opinions more clearly.

And then there is the leadership factor. ICS faces an entire range of new challenges which requires new leadership. Let me mention a few of the outstanding ones.

A year ago we received our charter. Next year a new Senate will take over the role of academic governance from the Curatorium. ICS must find its place alongside The King's College in Edmonton and Redeemer College in Hamilton. There is even talk of a North American Reformed university.

In This Issue . . .

In our brave effort to outsmart the post office and beat the Christmas mail rush, we gave ourselves a tighter deadline than usual. In his first time as managing editor, Phil de Haan rose to the challenge, however, and managed to gather plenty of copy for a full *Perspective* menu. There's always lots to tell about — usually more than our page limits allow.

Brian Walsh contributed the Advent meditation which he first gave at a service at the McGill University chapel. With Richard Middleton, Brian is a celebrated author now that *Transforming Our Vision* has been published by InterVarsity Press. (See further on for more details.)

Along with the Walsh and Middleton book, we've all been excited to see Hendrik Hart's book, *Understanding Our World*. The last few months have been busy ones for those at ICS involved with publications — just ask Robert VanderVennen or Betty Polman who have to keep up with the book orders.

Board meetings also added to the busyness of October. Heather Marsman reports on the Trustees' meetings, highlighting a number of important developments at ICS.

One of those developments is Bernard Zylstra's upcoming move from the presidency back into his position as full-time senior member. Zylstra explains his decision in his "Point of View" column.

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, Brian reminds us that we wait continually in Advent expectation for Jesus' second coming. In that hope we're continuing to work to make ICS a true servant to the Christian community and God's Kingdom.

From all of us at ICS come our wishes for the Lord's blessings on you at Christmas time and through the New Year, another year of our Lord, 1985.

AVG

In my view these challenges mean that the self examination the ICS is now going through cannot be limited to the differences within the staff. We need a much broader institutional renewal that will shape the ICS for Christian university studies in the next generation. We will have to redefine our relation to the network of Christian undergraduate institutions in both Canada and the United States. We must search for more creative ways of relating to the public university world, particularly the University of Toronto. And we must find new sources of funding our ministries — in the Christian communities, in the government, in the business world, and among charitable foundations.

I have come to the conclusion that the institutional

renewal of the ICS will require new leadership. We need new blood. With respect to the question at hand — we need a new president!

I hope that a new president will come from outside of the ICS staff, will represent a different generation, will bring a new reservoir of insight and experiences, will bring healing where today there is tension, will soon win the confidence of the supporting constituency, and will lay the basis for expanding our work.

The search for a new president is in the hands of the Trustees. The future of the Institute continues to be in the hands of the Lord.

Board of Trustees Report

by Heather Marsman

On October 29th and 30th the Board of Trustees of the ICS met for their fall meeting. Since the recently granted Charter stipulates that a senate must be in place by Spring 1985, the trustees had, as one of their main tasks, the adoption of rules for this body and the appointment of non-staff, non-student members to it. The Senate will be composed of eight trustee appointees, two faculty members and two students, with the president as member by virtue of his office. It is larger than the present Curatorium but will serve the same function of encouraging and supervising the academic work at the Institute.

The message and manner in which ICS communicates its academic insights was a recurring theme in many of the trustee discussions. A dialogue and screening procedure for potentially divisive speeches and articles was adopted. On a positive note, the Director of Educational Services, Robert VanderVennen, presented an impressive list of publication projects, both completed and in process, including a range of material from scholarly to more popular books, papers and manuals. The trustees also heard of progress in VanderVennen's plans for correspondence reading courses and of hopes for expansion of the campus outreach program.

The Director of Development, Aileen Van Ginkel, introduced an outline of a new lecture series to start this winter in eight Ontario communities and Winnipeg. This series arises out of a trustee initiative taken at the last meeting, an initiative designed to encourage dialogue with the supporting community. It was felt that such interaction needed to be revived because senior members were no longer giving many popular lectures, and because concerns or disagreements over positions on troublesome cultural issues could best be addressed face to face.

The trustees were heartened to see figures on membership statistics showing that the ICS has slowly but steadily gained members over the past years. They also had to face more unfortunate figures which showed that the organization fell short of budget last year by \$63,000 — \$15,000 beyond what was projected. This means that ICS must continue to do

more with less. However, it is hoped that present membership drives in Western Canada will help ease this financial constraint.

Perhaps the single most important item on the trustee agenda was the report of the Confessional Stance Committee. The committee's mandate came out of the self-examination process begun in the Spring. The document it produced will be reworked for the next trustee meeting. The committee stated that the document

is not intended as a comprehensive and exhaustive presentation of all important questions or even all sides of the questions it does address. It is a statement however, which is confessional in character, and one which we all assent to, and, indeed, may hold each other to, as we work together within its limits.

The confessional stance statement was first presented on Saturday at a joint retreat of curators, trustees, senior members and senior staff. It led to a cordially frank interchange. Debate centered on how to go about giving responsible answers to key cultural issues of the day, and how the document could function as an internal set of guidelines. The discussion also helped to point out positively how very much united were all present. It also led into a further examination of the Institute's leadership or servant role, how it relates to the supporting community and the expectation that community has of the organization.

At their meeting the trustees also regretfully accepted Bernard Zylstra's decision to step out of the presidency of the Institute. They respect his desire to go back to his first love, that of working full time in political theory as a senior member. They also accept his wish to become a full participant in the present dialogue going on at ICS rather than remain its overseer. A new president will be sought outside of the present makeup of the Institute. For all the foregoing decisions and plans the trustees ask your hopeful patience and prayers, trusting that God will surely lead us.

Heather Marsman is Trustee-at-Large, now living in Victoria, British Columbia.

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES
TORONTO LIBRARY CANADA

An Advent Meditation

by Brian Walsh

Healing is for sick people and hope is for people who experience hopelessness. It is only when you know your own brokenness and the brokenness of those around you, when the cries of the hungry reach your ears, when you know the depths of fear that nuclear holocaust strikes to the heart and experience empathetically the anguish of victims of war, when you know that we are powerless to heal ourselves—only **then** are you ready to hear God's word of advent in Isaiah 11.

Isaiah 11 is not for people who self-confidently believe that **progress** is inevitable if only we have the right amount of rational insight, technological development, economic growth and a few sessions with the psychotherapist. **That** kind of secular advent has not brought renewed blessing, but further curse.

No, Isaiah brings good news to people who have no such self-confidence. His word of hope is to a people who have been reduced to but a stump of their former selves. Indeed, the images of destruction, fire and war that Isaiah uses conjure up pictures not unlike the aftermath of the nuclear attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima — a once proud people and flourishing culture reduced to stubble.

But from that dried up stump a shoot springs forth, a new growth out of the old roots — and it will bear fruit. A second David will arise from what appears to be a lost cause—the cut-down, fire-charred stump of Jesse. That new beginning, in God's redemptive plan for creation, is what Christians celebrate at advent because advent is a celebration of and an earnest waiting for the One who has come and is still to come — the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Advent is not a season one progresses through naturally, like winter or summer. It is a time you enter into only by faith — faith that the One who was promised here in Isaiah — the One upon whom the Spirit has rested; the One who is filled with wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength; the One who is full of the knowledge of the Lord and simply delights in the fear of the Lord — **that One has come!** "The Word became flesh and we beheld his glory, full of grace and truth."

What advent is all about is setting-things-right. It is about renewal and restoration. It is to know that the Messiah comes as a king who judges with righteousness and restores the poor, as he does away with those who through their double-dealing and empty rhetoric have somehow justified their riches at the expense of the poor. Isaac Watts caught the heart of advent when he wrote in "Joy to the World":

He comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found.

But when the Prince of Peace comes to bring **that kind of**

redemption, the whole world will seem strangely upside-down — wolves living in peace with lambs, and little kids hanging out with poisonous snakes! We have become so used to living with the curse, that things will have to be turned upside-down before they will ever be right-side-up again.

And when this stump of Jesse, which had only been a warning sign to let the people know what happens if the path of obedience is not followed sends forth its branch of new life, then, says Isaiah, the nations will rally to it — wisemen from the east will come to see what's happening in Israel and even Gentiles will be grafted into that new branch. And where the Messiah rests will be a place of glory.

Advent came with the birth of a little boy to a poor couple in a little village called Bethlehem almost two thousand years ago. His name was Immanuel — God-with-us. But it is not easy to see how God is "with us" today. Peace has not come. We are still broken and lonely — the tears have not all been wiped from our eyes. The curse of evil still haunts us in most grotesque ways. Isaiah 11 still waits to be completely fulfilled. And Jesus the Messiah promises to complete that fulfillment when He comes again.

To live in advent, then, is not to have **arrived** but to be faithfully waiting for and earnestly expecting the day of the Lord. To truly wait in that way, however, requires that we bear the **fruit** of the stem of Jesse in our lives. To live in advent-hope is to seek the renewal of creation which Isaiah portrayed. To look for the Messiah is to care for the poor, bind up the broken and seek justice. It is to do scholarship in a way which is rooted in the knowledge of the Lord (lest it become foolishness). It is to offer hope to the hopeless.

To enter into advent is to come to the stem of Jesse to **be** healed. It is to have our eyes opened to see that there is hope for us and for our world at the brink of disaster. It is to see that this hope runs deeper than anything we can accomplish on our own, and know that the shalom of the Lord and the restoration of the creation is certainly coming. We can be assured of our hope because our faith is in Yahweh — the One who keeps covenant, the One who raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

And that very Jesus says, "I am the Root and the off-spring of David, the bright morning star. The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let the one who is thirsty, come. Come and take the water of life at no cost." And we say, Amen, Come soon Lord Jesus.

Brian Walsh is an alumnus of ICS now continuing his studies in theology at McGill University in Montreal.

Curatorium Gives Way to Senate

When the Board of Curators met from October 25 - 27, it sat for the last time as an official body of ICS. Since 1969, the Curatorium had held 58 meetings as it fulfilled its mandate to regulate and formulate academic policy at the Institute.

The ICS charter states that the function of the curator is now to be carried out by a new body, the Senate. The major change in the new structure is not in mandate but in composition.

The Senate will be made up of eight trustee-appointed persons (some of whom will be former curators), three senior members, two junior members and the ICS president.

The curators have usually functioned in a behind-the-



scenes fashion, yet what they did was extremely important for shaping the academic program at ICS. Curriculum, faculty appointments and other considerations received the careful scrutiny of the curators before recommendations were passed on to the trustees. To all the curators who volunteered their time and insights, the ICS owes its thanks. And to the new senators comes the worthy burden of carrying on the curators' tradition of responsibly directing the academic paths of the Institute.

Hart's New Book – Breaking Through Academic Barriers

by Robert E. VanderVennen

A publishing event of great importance to us has just taken place at the Institute – the publication of Hendrik Hart's substantial philosophy book, *Understanding our World: An Integral Ontology*. The 474-page book was co-published by

University Press of America and the Institute. It is a fruit of many years of Hart's research and teaching at ICS.

This new book moves into the intersection of distinctive Christian philosophy and the crisis of current mainstream philosophy which tries to be religiously neutral. The distinctive Christian philosophy, initiated in Amsterdam some fifty years ago, chiefly by

H. Dooyeweerd and D. Vollenhoven, was studied in great depth by Hart as a doctoral student at the Free University of Amsterdam in the 1960s.

Mainstream philosophy is at a crossroads with the decline of positivism, which has dominated 20th-century philosophy with its attempts to be completely objective and rigorously rational. It has been found impossible to keep philosophy clear from unprovable assumptions, with the result that the idea that reality can be represented as an unbroken web of logical inter-relations has fallen apart.

Hart's book suggests a way out of this troubled situation. In its introduction he says:

My aim is to contribute to the renewal of systematic philosophy as a discipline whose purpose is to reflect on the unity, totality, and coherence of the world's general structures . . . I hold that our empirical universe is an ordered world which consists of individual things exhibiting properties and existing in relation to one another. These properties and related things are creatures who have their origin in a Creator who determines their nature . . . I agree that philosophy

should be primarily argument. But I also subject that faith plays a crucial role in philosophical argument, even though I accept that this should not convert philosophy into confession.



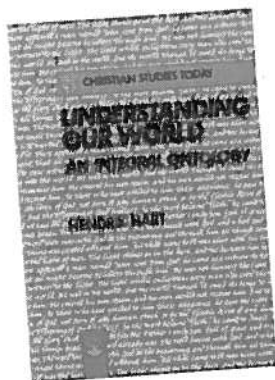
ability to the Christian faith, since it presents a firm understanding of our world rooted in Christ.

This book is solid philosophy, and is likely to be used as a textbook in college and university philosophy classes. Yet it was written to be read not only by professional philosophers, but also by undergraduate students and by people educated in other areas of study. Since the book takes the position that any system of philosophy that tries to give an understanding of the world must inevitably rest on unprovable personal beliefs, in an appendix Hart has given us in some detail his own biblically based beliefs which underlie his philosophical work.

Following the publication of this book, which gives a basic perspective on how to understand our world, Hart is now at work on a book which will help us know what we mean by **knowledge**. What does it mean to know something, and what is the place of rational knowledge? Tentatively this work is to be titled, "Understanding Rationality." These two books may well break through academic barriers to distinctive Christian ways of thinking about our world.

"Understanding our World" can be purchased by mail from ICS for \$18.50 in U.S. funds or \$24.95 in Canadian funds, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Robert VanderVennen is Director of Educational Services at ICS.



Memorials for Robert Lee Carvill and Peter Steen

Ten years ago, on August 15, 1974, Robert Lee Carvill's battle with leukemia ended in victory when he was taken to be with his Lord. At around the same time, Peter Steen discovered that he was beginning his battle with Hodgkin's Disease. Ten years later, on June 23, 1984, he too ended his struggle victoriously.



America. Many of the junior members at ICS will long be his legacy.

Both Robert Carvill and Peter Steen contributed in various ways to the furthering of God's Kingdom. Carvill's fondest vision was for the reformation of literature and journalism. He was active in, among other things, Wedge Publishing Foundation and *Vanguard* magazine. Steen was instrumental by way of various endeavours in advancing the reformational vision throughout North

In recognition of the work of these two men, ICS has established two memorial funds — each appropriate to the man who gives it his name. The "Robert Lee Carvill Memorial Book Fund" came out a request from Barbara Carvill that the ten-year anniversary of her husband's death be recognized in a special way. The fund will generate proceeds to be designated annually for the production of a book published under ICS auspices. The selected book will then be known as the 19xx Robert Lee Carvill Memorial Book.

After Peter Steen passed away in June a number of his friends remarked that a Peter Steen scholarship would be a fitting way of acknowledging his work with students. The "Peter Steen Memorial Scholarship Fund" will be a welcome means of enlarging the range of scholarships available to ICS junior members.



A gift made out for either of these funds would be used by ICS in grateful recognition of the opportunities for meaningful service into which the Lord led Robert Lee Carvill and Peter Steen.

Announcing "Maps and Compasses" – A Series You Won't Want to Miss!

Beginning in January, 1985, ICS will be launching a series of presentations on the theme, "Maps and Compasses: Charting our Course in a Changing World." The series, to be held in nine locations, may remind some of the popular "Discovery" lectures sponsored by ICS in the 1970s. (We're calling the new series "Re-Discovery" for short.)

The initiative for the series came from the growing understanding that ICS needs to have more interaction with its supporting community, and also that ICS has certain unique resources that it can offer to Christians struggling to gain Christian perspective on cultural issues.

The "Maps and Compasses" series will focus on the many changes occurring within and without the Christian community — changes which affect lifestyles and attitudes in startling ways. A central question to be examined is this: Changes often produce fear and insecurity; how can we develop a response to the issues that confront us which is biblically obedient and which strengthens our confidence in God's faithfulness?

Speakers and titles for the series will include: Aileen Van Ginkel, "1945 - 1985, Four Decades of Change and Continuity"; Bob Goudzwaard, "Idols of Our Times: From Whence Does Our Help Come?"; Hendrik Hart, "A New Commandment: A Reformational Reflection on the Bible as a Reliable Guide"; James Olthuis, "Growing in the Faith and Knowledge of the Lord"; and Derk Pierik, "hope for the Future: Strategies for Dealing with Change."

"Maps and Compasses" will be directed in its first year to

audiences in Chatham, Sarnia, London, Kitchener, St. Catharines, Brampton, Toronto, Thunder Bay and Winnipeg. To those not living in the communities which will hear the first round of presentations, a welcome word: If all goes well, ICS hopes to sponsor the same series in Western Canada, as well as other centres in the U.S. and Ontario, in 1986 and 1987.

Check the back cover of *Perspective* for the 1985 schedule, and stay tuned for further details!

Reluctant Conclusion to Competition

After we announced in *Perspective* that we were holding a competition for an ICS crest design, our daily mail was brightened for a while by the colourful entries we received. It was clear that many hours of thought and effort went into their design.

However, the "jury," which had the job of judging the entries, came to the reluctant conclusion that it could declare no winner to the contest. Ironically, the thing which held it back from choosing a crest design was often the very thing which showed that the entries came from people close to ICS. The most interesting designs were filled with various symbols related to the Institute, but were considered too "busy" for use as a seal or on stationery.

We were truly grateful for all those who took the time to express in artistic form what ICS means to them, and hope that they will continue using their talents in God-glorifying ways.

ICS Courses: Cultivating Christian Learning

The classroom is often the seedbed of the fresh ideas that come from the Institute in our work toward the advancement of Christian scholarship. The interaction of professors and mature graduate students can sharpen emerging ideas and bring new insights when someone in the class looks at a question from a new angle.

Courses meet once a week for three hours straight, and when small classes meet in that pattern there is much time for discussion involving everyone. Students, too, make class presentations based on their reading and research. These ideas often are expressed later in books, papers, speeches and theses.

The base of the teaching program is two courses which we call Foundations, one in Bible and theology, and one in philosophy. All new ICS graduate students must take these two courses or show that they have covered the same ground earlier. They set the stage for the courses in the specific subject areas.

Bernard Zylstra is the coordinator this year for the Philosophical Foundations course. The course started with two weeks of intensive all-day, every-day classes in which ICS alumni Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton used material from their new book (see page 11) to immerse the new students in elements of a Christian worldview. The point was to sharpen the students' Christian thinking about the world so that it could provide categories of thought useful for philosophical thinking. Such categories include creation, sin, the nature of humans, and the movement of history. As students develop their philosophical understanding, they begin to read materials which show how philosophical ideas give formative shape to the fields of study in which they are most interested, which may be politics, history, aesthetics or others.

The Biblical Foundations course is coordinated for the first half of this year by George Vandervelde and during the second half by ICS alumnus Donald Sinnema. The course is designed to help students use the Bible as the authoritative foundation for academic study. George started the course with discussion of the nature and authority of the Bible, and James Olthuis followed with four sessions on how to interpret it. Paul Marshall will lead three sessions on the creation mandate, work, politics and justice. Calvin Seerveld will teach from the "wisdom literature" of the Bible. There are different assigned readings for each session, and each student must write a 25-page paper dealing with a Bible book or theme, exploring the basic thrust of that book and its relevance today.

There are two advanced courses in theology this year. James Olthuis is teaching the course "Theology of Creation" as part of his research program to understand the Word of God for creation. The theology of creation is underdeveloped compared to christology and ecclesiology, for example, and compared to the great need today for clear thinking about

what the world is and who we are in it. In addition to academic goals, an important aim of the course is to help students find meaning in a vision of life that helps them live constructively in creation.

The other advanced theology course is on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, taught by George Vandervelde. The students will look at the challenge of the contemporary charismatic movement to the church and will explore the relationship of Spirit and Word in personal, cultural and cosmic renewal through readings, discussion and the writing of papers.

Human rights is the subject of a course in the area of political theory taught by Paul Marshall. The course shows how modern conceptions of human rights developed, and what contemporary theories exist today. The subject is important because it is central to discussions of the duties and limits of governments. Unfortunately "human rights" is stretched in popular thinking to cover all kinds of human problems, especially in Canada where the new Charter of Rights is being tested from every direction.

In his course on the history of aesthetic theory, Calvin Seerveld uses Vollenhoven's Christian perspective on philosophical history to help students understand how philosophers from the ancient Plotinus to the modern Nietzsche and John Dewey have understood beauty, literature and art and how they have evaluated art works. The course is part of Seerveld's ongoing research to develop a distinctive Christian framework for a systematic theory of art.

The course in systematic philosophy that Hendrik Hart is teaching this year is in epistemology, or what may be called true and false knowing. What do you really know for sure, and how are you sure you know it? Answers have varied over the centuries, and different kinds of answers are being examined by Hart with his nine students. Included are those proposed by the 20th-century Christian thinkers Dooyeweerd and Wolterstorff, as well as those of Hart himself. They also examine the biblical roots of true knowledge. This course is part of Hart's research for his new book on the subject of knowing.

The capstone course for ICS students is the Interdisciplinary Seminar which comes in their second year. The four senior members leading this seminar-type course each choose a key idea or crucial category in their field and show how that idea or category gives shape to their field. The other senior members and junior members find echoes in their own fields, so that bridges are built from one field to another. Hendrik Hart deals with the relation of a particular thing, such as an animal, and the created laws which govern the existence of that thing. Calvin Seerveld discusses the concept of "symbol" in its historical and current meaning, and what it means for written and spoken communication. James Olthuis presents his understanding of the development of personal

faith. Paul Marshall shows how the concept of "power" functions in the political sphere, whether it is coercive, how it relates to authority, and how political power differs from other kinds of power. When a group of 15 - 20 senior and junior members discuss these ideas together in a structured academic setting for a year, learning can become quite exciting. It also becomes clear that this can only happen when the faculty and students have a common worldview and philosophical foundation.

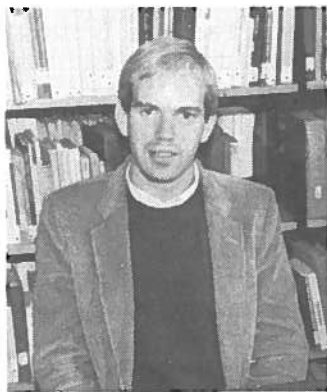
Is there anything in these courses that catches your interest? If you are not able to come to the Institute to join these classes, you can benefit in a different way through the writing and speaking that comes out from the Institute as we seek to serve in a diversified way the faithful people who support us.

On the Inside Track

by Phil de Haan

In this issue of *Perspective*, "Inside Track" begins, once again, to examine the many varied and unique human components which make up the ICS educational mosaic. Nine new full-time students joined us in September. In this issue we will meet two of these new faces and learn a little more about the individuals who grace these ICS halls.

Since becoming a Christian two years ago, **Paul Eastwood** has developed a penetrating interest in an integration of religious belief and career goals. A worldview study group at the University of Guelph, led by former ICS student Richard Middleton, piqued Paul's interest in the Institute. After attending the 1984 Discovery conference, Paul decided to continue his post-graduate education here.



"I was impressed and excited," he recalls, "to see man viewed in response to God's calling in all areas of life." He was intrigued by the realization that Chris-

tians were asking political and philosophical questions within a post-graduate framework.

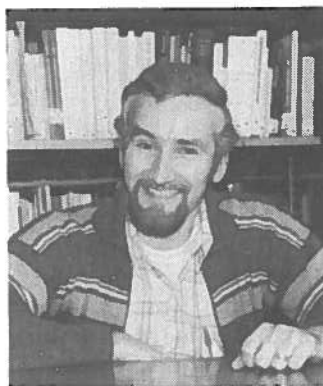
Originally from Manchester, England, Paul has lived in the Guelph area since the age of four. There he attended the University of Guelph, from which he graduated in August with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He considered further education at York University and Guelph but felt convinced that it was important and necessary that his studies take hold in a Christian grounding.

Thus far Paul is impressed with and excited about his ICS education. "The diversity and backgrounds of the junior members provide an excellent opportunity to learn from each other within the unity which comes from a singular commitment to Christ. I had hoped," he continued, "that the work would be challenging, and it is."

Paul hopes to continue his trek along the educational continuum after completion of his Master of Philosophical Foundations degree here at ICS. Eventually he would like to teach political theory at a university level. He is enthusiastic about teaching political theory from a Christian perspective.

Paul is taking four classes this year. "It's enough to keep me busy," he says with a smile. He takes Political Theory, Biblical Foundations, Philosophical Foundations and Guided Readings, in which he does independent readings in Political Theory.

In 1983 **Gus Polman** left his teaching position at Fraser Valley Christian High School in Burnaby, B.C. for "a several-year period of retooling."



"I wanted concentrated study," he says, "to sharpen skills I already have and gain a solid theoretical footing to assist in utilizing these skills."

He came to the Institute for Christian Studies in September, after the exploration of many options and alternatives. He decided that ultimately ICS would best prepare him for his future goal of work in the public justice sphere.

Gus studies Political Theory and Philosophical Foundations at ICS as well as journalism at Ryerson College. He hopes to utilize both academic pursuits within the realm of a single Christian organization or journal. His work here is important to his career plans, but more than that, it is also a significant force in "creating a personal, familial and communal understanding of the responsibilities God has humbled us with."

Gus was born in the Netherlands but moved to Canada at an early age. As the son of a Christian Reformed minister, he quickly gained first-hand knowledge of much of Canada. Eventually Gus settled in the greater Vancouver area where he has been since 1972.

He worked for several years as a steam engineer before continuing his post-secondary education at Simon Fraser University. He graduated from Simon Fraser in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

Phil de Haan is Development Assistant at ICS.

"Very few languages exist through which we can address life's more encompassing questions. We find ourselves left only with scholarly tools which are very precise in their capacity to communicate within a given specialty. We are, in other words, intellectually unable to grasp some of the great human questions. Think of all the great rubrics that our civilization is founded on - concepts like human dignity, respect, freedom - and try to pass on these notions through contemporary forms of academic inquiry. You come out with very little on the other side."

— Richard L. Morrill, American Association for Higher Education Bulletin, May 1984



Development Notes

by Aileen Van Ginkel

I've noticed a few times over the past two years references to the rise of "volunteerism" in North America. Because of increased leisure time, say the experts, many more people are responding to the call for volunteers in many areas where their services are needed.

I wonder if these experts ever bothered to check with the many people who make up the ICS supporting community. There they would have found that volunteering is no new thing.

In fact, I'm running more frequently into a statement that goes along the lines of, "Sorry, I can't take that on. I just have to learn to say no." To that I can only reply in sympathy, and back away from my request for involvement in some kind of promotional or fund raising effort.

Why is it that so many of the persons who've worked hard for their church or a Christian organization are the same ones working for related organizations? The reasons aren't always clear, but the response must surely be that more people need to take hold of the vision for organizations like ICS. Those now carrying the load are carrying too heavy a burden.

Related to the above is a further comment. Recruits for the task of representing and promoting ICS in various communities should be sought out amongst those of the younger generations. New blood is needed not only to spread the work over more people but also to ensure that the vision for Christian higher education will continue for years to come.

A person's willingness to volunteer depends on more, however, than having the vision. It also must be fostered by others who encourage him or her to apply his or her gifts where they are needed. The willingness needs some direction.

Learning to say no is a good thing for those who are overburdened by volunteering. But for those of us who depend on volunteers, it helps tremendously when a no is accompanied by, "but I know someone else who might."

Aileen Van Ginkel is Director of Development at ICS.

"One of the tragedies of the recent past is that too many liberal arts colleges too easily accepted the notion of value-free education (as well as other features of undifferentiated pluralism that were mistakenly deemed essential to teaching and learning at its best). That tragedy will be compounded if these colleges continue to imitate what they consider to be essential features of world-class universities only to discover that, precisely when they arrive at the goal, their university mentors have left it for another location, one that looks amazingly like the place these colleges abandoned."

— Warren Bryan Martin, American Association for Higher Education Bulletin, May, 1984.

From the Edge of the Pacific

by Nick Loenen

Last October 12th some 250 persons shared a unique, behind-the-scenes encounter with Andrew Kuyvenhoven, editor of *The Banner*, at an ICS-sponsored meeting in Burnaby. Kuyvenhoven explained, as one Bible-believer to others, the process whereby he has come to hold his views on biblical revelation pertaining to the role of women, particularly in the church.

Obviously burdened by the charge that he harbours a liberal theology, Kuyvenhoven explained both from Albert Schweitzer and Rudolph Bultmann how theological liberalism denies that Jesus dies for us, and in our place. The Bible, according to liberalism, is full of stories of heroic deeds for us to emulate. Over against that Kuyvenhoven shared his confession that the Gospel is a testimony to historical facts—in particular, that Jesus died and rose again, and that he did in our stead, and for our sins.

And yet, whenever we read the Bible we need to ask what it means and what God is telling us. Interpretation is inescapable. Citing many examples, Kuyvenhoven showed how our understanding and interpretation of God's word changes over time. In particular, we were asked to consider how difficult it was a mere 130 years ago to support the abolition of slavery. The Bible then seemed to be entirely on the side of the slaveowners.

Kuyvenhoven finished by asking consideration for the instruction from Titus 2, that all our conduct should be such as to avoid blasphemy and disrepute of God's Word. If Christians in today's world, with our current appreciation for human rights, were to insist on reintroducing slavery because the Bible says so, they would bring God's Word into disrepute. Kuyvenhoven asked his audience to similarly consider whether the church's conduct regarding women may not also bring disrepute of God's Word in the face of contemporary culture. A lively discussion followed, Kuyvenhoven's frankness and sensitivity allowed a very fruitful interchange between all points of view. We learned, in oneness of spirit, to struggle for God's will for our lives in our times.

Nick Loenen is ICS Western representative.

ICS LOAN PROGRAM

If you have funds available and are willing to put them to work at ICS, consider our loan program. Interest rates for loans repayable on 30 days notice are set quarterly in tune with interest rates for daily interest savings accounts; interest for 3-year loans is at 9%, for 5-year loans at 11%.

- ☐ Please send me more information about the ICS Loan Program
- ☐ Enclosed is \$_____ for a
 - ☐ loan repayable on 30 days notice
 - ☐ 3-year loan at 9% interest
 - ☐ 5-year loan at 11% interest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Keeping up with ICS Staff and Students

On October 11 Senior Member **Paul Marshall** spoke to Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at the University of Guelph. His talk was entitled "Jesus and Politics." Marshall attended the annual conference of the Christian Legal Fellowship from October 25 - 27. Here he presented a lecture which dealt with "Justice from a Christian Perspective."

On November 4 Marshall spoke at the Bloor Street United Church where he dealt with the issue, "Faith and the Workplace." On November 16 Marshall journeyed westward speaking to ICS gatherings in Alberta and British Columbia. On his whirlwind speaking tour he managed stops in Edmonton, Neerlandia, Lacombe, Calgary, Vernon, New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria.

Senior Member **Jim Olthuis** led the Fall Retreat of the Christian Fellowship at McGill University on September 28 - 30. "Intimacy and Self-Identity" was the theme of the weekend.

Senior Member **Cal Seerveld** recently completed a tour in British Columbia, speaking to hosted-supper audiences in connection with the B.C. membership drive. Seerveld's talk on "Rainbows for a Fallen World: Christianity and Aesthetics" was much appreciated by people in Abbotsford,

Smithers, New Westminster and Victoria. While he was in B.C., he was also able to speak to groups at Regent College and at the Fraser Valley and Bulkley Valley Christian high schools.

Senior Member **George Vandervelde** was also in the West recently. In early October he travelled through British Columbia giving a talk entitled, "Biblical Worldview - Its Importance for Daily Life." On October 31, Vandervelde spoke at the University of Guelph. "Real or Hype - The Gifts of Visions, Miracles, Speaking in Tongues" was his topic for discussion.

Director of Educational Services **Robert VanderVennen** travelled to sunny Virginia Beach, Virginia, on October 12 - 13. Here he represented the ICS at the Educator's Conference and the dedication of the new library at CBN University. On October 26 VanderVennen led a workshop on "Humanism and the Christian Schools" at the Ontario Christian School Teachers' Convention in Hamilton, Ontario. The following day VanderVennen returned to Toronto to preside at the annual meeting of the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation, which he serves as Chairman of the Executive Council.

Guest Lecturers at Institute

by *Phil de Haan*

On November 2 ICS welcomed Dr. Roy Clouser as guest lecturer, speaking on the theme, "Is God Eternal?" On the surface there seems little room for discussing the question. To answer with anything other than an emphatic and resounding "yes" would seem a denial of not only Judeo-Christian teaching but also biblical evidence.

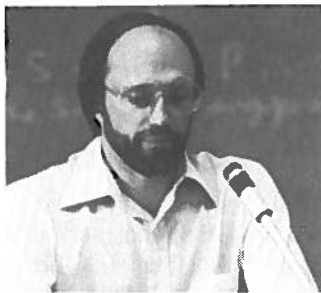
The issue is in fact an object of much concern among today's Christian philosophers. Clouser, of the Trenton State College philosophy department, in Trenton, New Jersey, calls the question "a religious issue of the first order."

Clouser visited the Institute to share his ideas and concerns regarding the problem of God's eternalness. He read a three-part paper in which he indeed responded with a hearty "yes" to those who query, "Is God eternal?"

Clouser's paper is a response to a position among Christian philosophers which states that while God can be said to be everlasting in time, he cannot be called eternal since the notion stems from pagan Greek thought.

In the reading of his paper and the ensuing discussion much theoretical food for thought was served. It was food to be savoured, enjoyed - and taken slowly, with care.

On Oct. 15 ICS commemorated the sesquicentennial of the *Afscheiding*, the splitting in two of the the Reformed Church in the Netherlands, with a public evening lecture by **Prof. F.R.J. Knetsch** of the University of Groningen on the topic "The Relation between the Reveil and the Afscheiding." (The Reveil - "revival" - was a movement of spiritual revival



within the Reformed Church which partly predated the *Afscheiding*, but which remained distinct from it, refusing to join the secession.)

For those who are somewhat familiar with the events of the 1820s and 30s in the Netherlands, Knetsch's lecture was a fascinating and very detailed exploration of developments there. He described the general political and religious situation in the 1820s leading up to the actual *Afscheiding* in 1834, and explained how the Reveil came about through a dissatisfaction not with church doctrine but with the spiritual laxness of church members. Not content with the regular church services, the leaders of the Reveil also held regular prayer meetings and Bible studies to supplement their Sunday worship. But they firmly rejected schism as a legitimate means of reform. Indeed, the leaders of the Reveil (Groen van Prinsterer, de Costa, Bilderdijk and others) strongly emphasized continuity with the past, drawing direct lines back to the Synods of Dort and to the Golden Age of Dutch history.

Knetsch led his audience through a wealth of detail which included readings from correspondence between Reveil leaders commenting almost day by day on events in the north of the country, where the *Afschiding* was rooted. From these letters it is clear that while the Reveil leaders were sympathetic to the critique levelled by the *Afscheiding*, they were strongly opposed to schism within the church. They perceived and element of fanaticism and intolerance in the leaders of the *Afscheiding* (Groen described de Cock as a man "who displays more zeal than competence") which they deplored. So, while the concerns of the two movements might have made them compatible, they remained distinct because of their very different approaches to solving the problems within the church.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion which helped not only to clarify some details but also revealed that the spiritual heirs of both the *Afscheiding* and the Reveil are still present today.



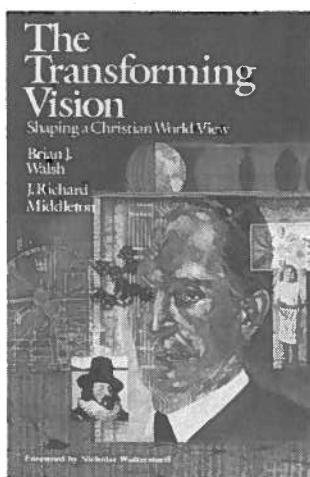
Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

New Book Arises from "Hearing and Doing" Program

Their exciting "Christian Worldview" courses at university campuses from 1977 to 1983 have now been put into book form by Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton. This new book, published by InterVarsity Press, carries the title "The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View." The Foreward is written by Nicholas Wolterstorff.

From their supervision and teaching of our Christian perspective courses at colleges and universities Brian and Richard developed excellent ways of communicating the heart of the Gospel in an academic context. They learned to organize their ideas and to communicate them effectively, since if they didn't get through they could immediately see the glazed eyes of their students. The book, as a result, shines with the same enthusiasm as their courses which were formative in the lives of many university students.



The book begins with some very readable examples of how worldviews are reflected in how people act. Then there is a clear presentation of the biblical worldview whose focus is on the meaning of creation, the fall into sin, and redemption through Christ. Against this biblical view is set its distortions, by Christians who restrict Christian principles to "sacred"

corners of life, and by unbelievers who live according to the call of alien spirits. The final section of three chapters shows concretely the biblical worldview in action.

We are especially proud that this book was written by ICS junior members, our mature students who have been very effective in putting into practice what they learn at ICS. The program of teaching Christian worldview courses at secular campuses is a valuable experience for those students who participate in it.

This book can be purchased from local bookstores or from ICS for \$9.25 (\$6.95 U.S.) plus \$1.00 for mailing.

TOP CHOICES

Qty.	Book	Each	Cost
_____	The Transforming Vision by Walsh and Middleton	\$ 9.25	_____
_____	Understanding our World by H. Hart	\$24.95	_____
_____	Thine is the Kingdom by P. Marshall	\$ 6.95	_____
_____	Christians in the Crisis by G. Vandezande	\$11.95	_____
_____	Idols of Our Time by B. Goudzwaard	\$ 6.55	_____

Subtotal _____

Please add 10% for mailing _____

TOTAL _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

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.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

TORONTO LIBRARY CANADA

Perspective

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

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

Is your address correct?
Address change requested
Return postage guaranteed

discovery '85

christian calling in contemporary culture

A conference for students interested in the integration of their faith with their studies and vocations.

Friday, January 25 - Sunday, January 27, at the Institute for Christian Studies

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Arthur Holmes, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Wheaton College and author of *Contours of a Worldview*

Keynote Speeches: 1) The Anatomy of a Worldview
2) Persons in Contemporary and Christian Perspective

Workshops: Harry Antonides, "Work and Labour Relations Revisited," Gillette Elvgren, "Theatre: Vision for the 80s," Gerald McQuigan, "Technology for Good or Ill?" Marcia Middleton, "The Injustice of Hunger," Richard Middleton, "Imago-Dei in the Biblical Worldview," James Olthuis, "Intimacy in Relationships," John Roney, "Developing a Christian Social Perspective," Calvin Seerveld, "The Suicide of 'Art for Art's Sake'," Harley Smyth, "Notions of Human Worth," Mary VanderVennen, "The Task of Psychotherapy," Ben Vandezande, "Is there a Christian was to build roads, provide housing and plan cities?"

Registration: Deadline is January 11, fee is \$30.00. Register by phone or mail, with attention to Anne Burghraef, Hearing and Doing, ICS, 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4 (416) 979-2331

Maps and Compasses:

Charting Our Course in a Changing World

Brampton:	January 7, February 4 and 18, March 11, April 1
Chatham:	January 10 and 31, February 21, March 14, April 4
Sarnia:	January 11, February 1 and 22, March 15, April 5
Willowdale:	January 16, February 6 and 27, March 20, April 11
Winnipeg:	January 17, February 8, March 1 and 21, April 11
Thunder Bay:	January 19, February 9, March 2 and 23, April 13
London:	January 22, February 12, March 5 and 26, April 16
Kitchener:	January 23, February 13, March 6 and 27, April 17
St. Catharines:	January 25, February 15, March 8 and 29, April 19

Institute for Christian Studies Institutional Repository

ARTICLE: 19841806

TITLE: Perspective: Newsletter of the Institute for Christian Studies

AUTHOR: Institute for Christian Studies

ISSUE DATE: December 1984

TYPE: Journal

SERIES/JOURNAL: Perspective; v.18, no.6

KEYWORDS: Institute for Christian Studies, ICS, presidential search, Bernard Zylstra resigns, ICS Senate, Paul Eastwood, Gus Polman, Robert Lee Carvill, Peter Steen, courses, book reviews,

NOTES: [Isaiah 11:1-10 translated by Calvin Seerveld], An Advent Meditation by Brian Walsh, Guest Lecturers at Institute ['Is god Eternal?' Dr. Roy Clouser and 'The Relation between the Reveil and the Afscheiding' Prof. F.R.J. Knetsch], Understanding our World: An Integral Ontology by Hank Hart [book review],

CITATION FORMAT: Perspective. Toronto, ON: Institute for Christian Studies, 1984.

dc.creator: Institute for Christian Studies

dc.contributor: Seerveld, Calvin

dc.contributor: Zylstra, Bernard

dc.contributor: Walsh, Brian J.

dc.contributor: de Haan, Phil

dc.contributor: VanderVennen, Robert E.

dc.title: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

dc.date.issued: 1984-12-31

dc.date.accessioned: 2012-04-16

dc.type: journal

dc.format.mimetype: application/pdf

dc.language.iso: en

dc.subject: Humanities

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--History

dc.subject: Bible. O.T. Isaiah XI--Translations into English

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Faculty

dc.subject: Bible--Meditations

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Students

dc.subject: Clouser, Roy A.

dc.subject: Knetsch, Frederik Reinier Jacob

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Education. Lecture series

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Curricula

dc.subject: Book reviews

dc.rights: Copyright, Institute for Christian Studies, all rights reserved.