

Perspective

Newsletter of the Institute for Christian Studies

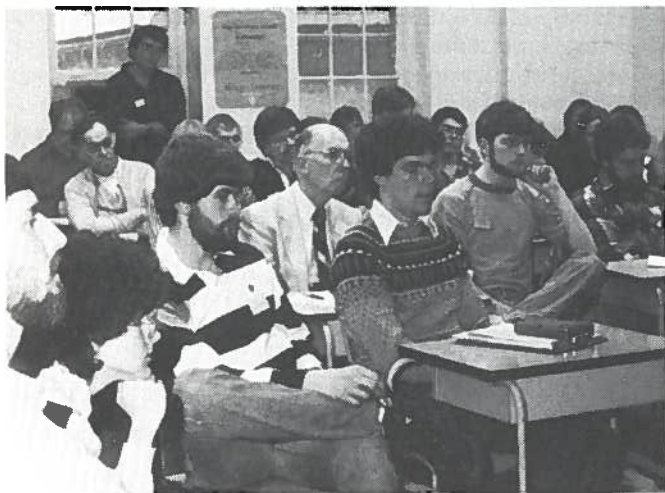
Volume 18, No. 2 — April 1984

Discovery '84 Challenges Students to Think Biblically

by Susan Bower

For the second year in a row the ICS sponsored a very successful student conference. Discover '84 again brought together undergraduate students and insightful Christian leaders in a weekend of learning, laughing and thinking.

The conference theme was "Thinking Biblically." On Friday night Al Wolters addressed this theme by outlining the basics of a biblical worldview. Wolters is known for his lucid speaking style and that evening he excelled. Then, on Saturday morning, Paul Marshall picked up where Wolters had left off; he addressed the question "Why Think At All?" His task was to arouse in the participants a yearning after clear and coherent reflection upon the issues of our society today. This he accomplished with not a small dose of humour.



The conference drew in over 100 participants. They came from several universities and colleges in Ontario including McMaster, University of Toronto, Waterloo, Ryerson Polytechnical, London and more. A number came from Montreal and Detroit, and from as far away as Dordt College in Sioux Centre, Iowa. There were some working people who have been out of school for two or three years.

The workshops on Saturday covered a wide range of topics. ICS Senior Member Hendrik Hart spoke on the relation of biblical faith to intellectual systems. Clarence Joldersma, an ICS alumnus, paralleled that with a talk on the relation of a Christian worldview to natural science. All the other speakers represented institutions other than the ICS. Redeemer Christian College was represented by Barbara Pell who spoke on the relation of faith and fiction writing, and by Harry Van Belle who, despite having the flu, gave a thorough critique of reductionism in psychology. Other highlights included Peter DeGroot's seminar on the value of efficiency and its role in moulding the mindset of the engineering student, Gloria Delisi's talk recounting the important ideas she's learned as a community services agent, and a fascinating lecture by John Fraser, national editor of the *Globe and Mail*, who shared his experiences in China as a means for teaching what a joyful task journalism can be.

The students seemed to be very appreciative of all the workshop leaders. There was plenty of time to meet and chat with one another in the halls during refreshment times and in the question-and-answer periods. The cozy character of the ICS building is quite conducive for having heart-to-heart talks. In the evening we celebrated the weekend with a cabaret, led by a theatre troupe called Trinity Theatre Toronto. They performed a play about the life of Robert Baldwin and his fight for responsible government in 19th century Ontario. After the play conference participants had the opportunity to sing, read a poem, etc. The weekend closed with a Sunday worship service and lunch.

A conference like Discovery '84 is important for the ICS in many ways. It brings new people into our circles, and also provides an avenue for the ICS to host professors from other institutions who are also engaged in the renewal of scholarship. A student conference which focuses on the task of being a student, urging students to think critically about the relation of their faith to their discipline, is a needed service in Ontario. Discovery is a chance for Christian students from many different affiliations to join together in analysing the difference faith can make on the secular campus. Discovery is also a setting in which ICS staff members are challenged to communicate a Reformed world-and-life view in a way which highlights its relation to biblical teaching. A weekend spent teaching young adults about our call to be cultural witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ is also a weekend spent affirming the calling of the ICS.

Susan Bower is Director of the Hearing and Doing program at ICS. She organized the Discovery '84 conference.

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In This Issue . . .

This *Perspective* once again reflects the busy pace of life at ICS. Not that we'd ever call it a "rat race," but no one could say that one day is the same as any other.

We begin with Susan Bower's account of the Discovery '84 conference which posed the interesting question: "Why think at all?" That gave many college and university students who attended something to think about! Bernard Zylstra describes his meetings with the presidents of several American evangelical colleges in his "President's Point of View." And although Al Wolters' decision to go to Redeemer is not as happy an event, we expect that his going will also occasion many times for coming back to ICS for conferences, lectures, and the like.

Jim Olthuis takes his turn at writing the *Perspective* meditation, bringing together the message of Paul's epistle to the Philippians with his motivation for being at ICS. Notice that we've changed the title of the column to "Moorings"; we hope to stick with that one in coming issues.

Some of the news items in this issue indicate that we continued to welcome guest lecturers to ICS throughout the past few months, as well as the ICS trustees and curators. Harry Groenewold's report offers concise insights into why these meetings were held and what came out of them.

Kathy Vanderkloet completes her introductions of new junior members at ICS. The interviews reveal fascinating aspects about each student, and point out the challenge ICS has in trying to meet the expectations of students who come here with varied interests and backgrounds.

In case you think we're in for a long breather this summer, Bob VanderVennen lets you know in his report on upcoming conferences that you're somewhat mistaken. Read on and see what's in store for all who participate in our academic and family conferences.

As ever, we ask for your prayers for God's blessings on all the activities we report on in *Perspective* (and all those we have no room for) and also on the ponderings of ICS board members, staff, students and friends on the kind of biblically obedient place ICS should be.



From the President's Point of View

by Bernard Zylstra

Christian College Presidents Assess Their Task

On March 22 - 24 I had the privilege of speaking at the spring retreat of the presidents of the colleges joined together in the Christian College Consortium. The member colleges are: Asbury (Kentucky), Bethel (Minnesota), George Fox (Oregon), Gordon (Massachusetts), Houghton (New York), Malone (Ohio), Messiah (Pennsylvania), Seattle Pacific University (Washington), Taylor University (Indiana), Trinity (Deerfield, Illinois), Westmont (California) and Wheaton (Illinois). They represent a variety of denominational backgrounds - Baptist, Wesleyan, Evangelical Free Church, Mennonite, Free Methodist, Quaker and Presbyterian. Some are interdenominational. They also represent the best among evangelical colleges in the United States.

My invitation to this retreat came out of a visit to ICS last fall by Dr. Carl Lundquist, former president of Bethel College and now president of the Consortium. In our discussions at that time it became apparent that the Institute has much in common with the Consortium: a shared evangelical outlook, a commitment to Christian higher education, and a clear awareness of the difficulties we face in articulating a cohering Christian philosophy in a secular university environment.

In my presentation to the presidents and their wives I spoke about the role of religion in American culture. Though the majority of Americans are Christians, the religion of the Bible has little cultural impact because *humanists* have defined the role of religion and have restricted its influence to personal piety, family values and church activities. However, humanists are not the only cause of the secularization of American culture. We, as evangelical Christians, bear equal responsibility because we have largely defined our religion in terms of the salvation of the individual soul instead of the redemption of God's creation. We no longer understand creation as the theatre of God's glory. We have no philosophy of culture, no Christian sociology.

In other words, we as evangelicals should engage in very honest self-assessment in order to see whether the all-embracing biblical revelation of creation/fall/redemption really shapes our piety, worldview, practice, societal priorities and cultural strategies.

The American evangelical colleges are faced with a unique challenge. No other country has the equivalent of the hundreds of American colleges, many of which were established in the last century as the frontier moved westward. Many of these colleges are still independent; many of them are still based on distinct Christian confessions. These colleges are institutionally best suited to prepare a new generation for Christian cultural leadership, both within and outside of the church.

The most encouraging experience at this retreat was the willingness of the participants to engage in this self-assessment. The meetings were marked by a frank discussion of our failures, within the colleges as well as their supporting constituencies. But we did not stop with critical self-examination. In the end there was renewed commitment to the crucial and positive mission God gives to Christian educators at a time when literally thousands of students are yearning for spiritual direction in their studies and career choices.

This retreat pointed out once again the great need for *graduate-level* Christian scholarship. Professors at Christian colleges are profoundly shaped by the philosophies they encounter during their graduate studies. ICS is a place where, among other things, our aim is to educate people who are planning college careers. And we seek to realize that aim on the basis of a coherent biblical worldview.

Crest Competition

The charter that ICS received from the Ontario government last November gave the Institute official status as a degree-granting institution. Along with this new "identity" came the idea that it is now time for ICS to have its own official crest (see samples below). A crest would give easy identification with anything coming out of ICS, and would symbolize the traditions of ICS.

So sharpen those pencils and creative talents! The field is wide open for friends of ICS to enter in a competition for the best crest design. Entries will be examined by a qualified jury, and the best design will receive a prize of \$150. The deadline for entries is July 15.

Calvin College



Redeemer College



University of Toronto



Board of Trustees Takes ICS Bearings

by Harry Groenewold

On March 29 - 31 the Board of Trustees of the Institute met in special session with the Board of Curators to discuss several key issues which had surfaced during the past months. In calling this meeting, the Board of Directors had expressed serious concern about the following: (a) the confusion within both the ICS staff and constituency regarding the confessional stance and direction of the Institute, (b) the signs of erosion in ICS' relationship with its supporting community, and (c) finances and fundraising. Directors and trustees readily agreed that the financial issue could not be resolved until the Board took action on the issues of confession, direction and community support.

The trustees devoted Thursday evening and Friday to discussions of the various contentious issues. They encouraged students, staff and administration to participate in the exchange of views. The curators also contributed extensively to the analysis of the difficulties facing the Board of Trustees.

During the course of this open and frank exchange several key concerns were raised repeatedly. One very important issue - perhaps the most crucial one - was ICS' commitment to its historic confessional stance and the urgent need to define the limits of allowable differences within that stance. There is no doubt that all staff members are sincere and committed Christians. Yet, this united faith stance does not preclude profound disagreements about controversial issues (such as language about God, abortion, nuclear arms), disagreements so serious as to become obstacles to the operation and well-being of the Institute.

Much of the discussion centered on the difficult and complex relationship between confessional stance and cultural issues. Interviews were held with senior members in order to explore the nature and extent of the debate about confession, direction and allowable differences taking place within the Institute. These discussions and interviews confirmed the conclusions of the directors that serious differences do exist within the ICS community, especially as they relate to cultural issues and to sensitive ethical matters.

These differences not only affect the internal operation of the Institute, but they also influence the relationship between the ICS and the supporting community. The support base is weakening and loyal supporters are becoming increasingly doubtful, expressing reservations about the direction of the ICS. Many loyal members sense and are disturbed by the lack of unity in the ICS. As well the ICS is too far removed from the daily lives of many supporters and from their involvement in the Christian community and in culture. It was suggested that at times the Institute's agenda appears to be at variance with that of the supporting community, and that ICS and its constituency seem to be drifting apart. Is this a sign of growth and positive leadership or does it indicate that ICS is moving out of its historic perspective?

This lengthy and exhausting soul-searching helped to bring clarity to some of the key issues confronting the ICS and the Board of Trustees. All agreed that the Board must provide leadership for the ICS and the supporting community. It must clearly and unequivocally state "the reformational stance of the Institute and define the parameters

of allowable differences within that stance." It must reassure the supporters that the ICS *is and will remain obedient to the Word of God*. And it must clearly formulate the lines and flow of authority and and define the nature and task of office within the Institute.

These general conclusions provided the Board of Trustees with the needed framework within which to take the following actions: (1) A committee was appointed to draft a statement clarifying the confessional stance of the ICS, showing how it functions and ought to function with respect to (a) academic teaching, research and publication at the ICS and (b) cultural and ethical issues. The committee will submit its report in November.

(2) The Board of Trustees reaffirmed its responsibility to monitor adherence to the confessional stance of the ICS. It will hold annual reviews which will include reports from the Board of Curators and the president.

(3) The Board of Trustees instructed the ICS administrative staff to draw up a plan for regular reporting to the community on the research work of the senior staff.

(4) The Board of Trustees instructed the ICS academic staff to work out among themselves a publication policy which will ensure formal screening of any speeches, articles or position papers that are potentially explosive.

(5) Combined meetings of the boards, faculty, staff and

students will be held annually to deal with substantive issues and developments at ICS. Such combined meetings will give senior members the opportunity to present their thinking on foundational and cultural issues.

(6) The Board of Trustees urged the Institute to seek ways in which the larger ICS community can be involved with the ICS staff in addressing controversial and crucial issues.

Although the Board of Trustees addressed primarily the issues of confessional stance and constituency relations, it also found time to deal with the financial pressures on the Institute. The trustees agreed to participate later this spring in a fundraising appeal to ICS members and supporters. They also adopted a plan for a membership drive which will be held during the next two years in different parts of Canada and the U.S.

The Board made its decisions in a unanimous awareness that it was rightfully dealing with problems that had been causing concern for some time. While realizing the difficult issues could not be resolved at a single meeting, the Trustees are confident that they will do so in the future, on the basis of ICS' confessional stance, adherence to the Scriptures, and in the spirit of fairness and humility which characterized their March meeting.

Harry Groenewold, professor of history at The King's College in Edmonton, is Trustee for Region 2.

Wolters Leaves for Redeemer College

On February 15, 1984, Senior Member Al Wolters announced that as of July, 1984, he would be joining the faculty of Redeemer College in Hamilton, Ontario. Wolters' announcement made official a decision he had been contemplating since before Christmas, 1983.

Wolters' position at Redeemer will include teaching Bible and classical languages. At the same time he will have opportunity to pursue further studies toward a graduate degree in biblical studies.

Wolters' decision to leave ICS for Redeemer was based in the first place on his wish to switch from the field of history of philosophy to biblical studies. The opportunity for such a change was offered by Redeemer but was not a feasible option at ICS. A secondary factor in Wolter's decision was his growing uneasiness about the confusion both within and without ICS about its spiritual direction. His concerns are similar to those which were addressed by the Boards of Trustees and Curators at the end of March (see report elsewhere in this issue).

As a special article in the forthcoming issue of *Perspective* will show, Wolters will be leaving behind him a gap difficult to fill. While regretting his departure, we can, however, appreciate the new opportunities for service which Wolters' move will bring him.



Vandervelde Tours Alberta

Senior Member George Vandervelde took a week out of his busy schedule in February to travel in his home province of Alberta. He visited Lethbridge, Calgary, Lacombe, Edmonton and Neerlandia, speaking to groups on "Confessional Erosion and Renewal."

Vandervelde's speeches dealt with the theme of church creeds and confessions and their importance in the lives of Christians. One confessional statement on which he focussed was the Christian Reformed Church's "Contemporary Testimony," a document which he helped to formulate, and which is now being circulated in the churches for reaction.

While he was in Edmonton, Vandervelde also spoke about the Roman Catholic Church and particularly about the significance of Pope John Paul II's planned visit to North America.

Though the lecture tour did not always attract large audiences, it gave Vandervelde a valuable opportunity to gain insight on his work in a group setting.

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of members of ICS will be held on Saturday, June 2, at the Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street, Toronto. Rev. Dick Pierik, campus chaplain at the University of Toronto and Trustee for Region 7, will speak at 1:30 on the topic, "Teacher, Beware!". Everyone is invited to attend.

Moorings

“Salvation : A Gift But Also a Calling”

by James H. Olthuis

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:12 - 13

When I am asked for a Scripture passage that has especially inspired and comforted me through the years, Philippians 2:12 - 13 immediately comes to my mind. For me this is the covenant text *par excellence*: We are called to “work out” the salvation which God has “worked in” our lives. God and humanity are thus in covenant partnership.

Sometimes Reformed Christians have been afraid of or have toned down the phrase “work out your own salvation.” It gave, we thought, too much place to humankind. It was, I was assured at one point in my youth, an Arminian text that Baptists like to overuse. I was counselled to emphasize the next phrase, “it is God that works in you both to will and to do.” That phrase was much more comfortable for Calvinists who highlighted divine sovereignty. I remember feeling vaguely uncomfortable with such an emphasis, as if there is an inevitable tug-of-war between God and people, as if the only way to honour God is to limit our humanity.

Imagine my delight when I learned that the text does not force us to choose between human responsibility and divine sovereignty. We are called to action, to struggle and growth, *because* God is working in us. We are to work out our salvation *for* it is God who works in us. The little word “for” in the text is the all-important connector. In Christ there is no tension between my work and the Spirit in me.

It is not that we earn our salvation. No, that is a gift of God. But the gift received becomes a calling to be done. Having been given the gift of life and healing in Jesus, being

plugged into the Spirit of God, we are to accept the gift and let loose its wholesome energies in our lives. We are to let our “manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ” (1:27).

Such work is not easy. It is done with “fear and trembling,” a hard-fought battle, a struggle that will involve suffering for the sake of Christ (1:29). We stumble along the way and need to be picked up as we press toward perfect communion with Christ and complete maturity in the Spirit of Christ (3:12 - 14).

The work to which we are called is both internal and external. We have long emphasized the need for healing, cultural acts of justice and mercy. There is also the “internal cultural mandate” – God’s call to inner personal healing. We need to work so that God’s work in us “to will and to do” will break through in our lives and break out into the world. Then we will, says Paul, be spreaders of the light because we have the gift of the Word of life (2:15, 16).

To be light-bearers in a dark age and care-givers in an era of anxiety and broken dreams is what being Christian is all about. And if there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation of the Spirit, we who are in Christ will be of one love, one soul and one mind (2:1 - 3).

What we attempt to do at the Institute for Christian Studies in our teaching and research is respond to the movement of God’s Spirit in our hearts. We are dedicated to the continual task of working out our healing, for it is the Lord who works in us. And that is our comfort and joy.

James Olthuis is senior member in philosophical theology at ICS.

Guest Lecturers at ICS

Storkey Visits ICS

by Chris Gousmett

The Institute was privileged to have Mr. Alan Storkey of England visit for a week in February. While at ICS Storkey participated in a number of regular classes on an informal basis, and shared his stimulating and fresh insights both there and in many discussions in the corridor and lounge at ICS. As well as this generous giving of his time and wisdom on an informal basis, Storkey presented two lectures, one on the institutional causes of unemployment and the other on the current crisis in the social sciences.

In the first seminar, Storkey argued that the standard analyses of unemployment, which locate the causes in national economies or in market forces which are hindered from solving the problem by external interferences, are unable to account for the many factors which have a bearing



on unemployment. He then suggested that four societal institutions – family, financial institutions, companies and unions – contribute to the problem of unemployment because of the way they presently function.

The large number of broken families, the drive for personal fulfillment in careers, and the desire for personal affluence all increase the supply of labour. On the other hand,

the money earned tends to be saved or invested in ways that benefit the individual rather than society, thus reducing

consumption of goods and in turn causing a lower demand for labour. Financial institutions tend to invest in areas which do not produce employment (such as land, international finance, and government bonds) and to move funds from areas of high unemployment to areas of low unemployment, making decisions on a centralised basis without reference to local needs. Similar centralised decision-making influences companies, along with fixed capital investments which permit flexibility only in the labour supply. Greater flexibility in capital investment (such as leased equipment) and higher commitment to the workforce would be a more satisfactory way to cope with fluctuating demand. And unions tend to make decisions which in the short term may preserve jobs but in the longer term tend to increase overall unemployment.

These factors all induce high unemployment, which can only be reduced by changing attitudes and policies at each level. Government alone, or an unhindered market alone, cannot solve the problem, for they are not solely responsible. Indeed, Storkey suggested, the family, with its desire for affluence and security of assets, may be the root cause.

The second seminar dealt with the current crisis in the social sciences. Storkey showed how crises in theories of knowledge, which provide a foundation for the social sciences, have generated this crisis in the social sciences. The belief that certainty and reliability could be obtained through method and analysis in and of themselves is now being questioned.

The problem, according to Storkey, is that they are attempting to find certainty in a study of creation, rather than in the God of creation. The solution is to move to a dependency on the Holy Spirit, which leads us to respect reality within a framework of obedience. Our faithful response to God with respect to his creation would result in certainty and reliability in our work.

These two seminars presented a fresh and challenging approach to a number of difficult problems. It is hoped that eventually the ideas presented will be worked through in greater detail, and so contribute to the ongoing task of reforming scholarship in obedience to Christ.

ICS Takes Time to Think About Time

by C.T. McIntire

Dr. Robert Banks, a historian and Biblical scholar from Australia National University, visited ICS from February 21 - 23 as part of his tour of North America. He is the author of a remarkable new book, *The Tyranny of Time* (London: Paternoster Press, 1983) as well as several other books and articles on interdisciplinary themes. He lectured on "Time" in the Interdisciplinary Seminar and in C.T. McIntire's Philosophy of History seminar. He traced changes in the understanding and use of time in Western civilization, noting especially how we have come to think of time primarily in rationalist physical terms (our watches, clocks and calendars) and in capitalist commercial-industrial terms (as a commodity, wages, measured for profit). He suggested that regarding time in these ways not only distorted science and commerce,

but had detrimental effects on everyday life. By contrast, he suggested that the view of Ecclesiastes holds promise for today - there is a time for everything under the sun, each in its own time.

Linguistics Professor Lectures at ICS

by Mark Roques

On February 17, Dr. Dan Hendriksen, a linguist at the University of Western Michigan, presented an interesting and amusing lecture on language.

Hendriksen's basic thesis was that all language and dialects are well-formed, and that no language or dialect is intrinsically inferior to any other. Such a view would come as quite a shock to many upper-class Englishmen, whose faces crease with displeasure whenever they chance upon a cockney accent.



It is all too true that correct language is normally equated with the "posh" dialect, while the regional dialects are strongly discouraged, particularly in England. Such an approach tends to lose out in terms of the variety and richness of language.

I can only applaud Dr. Hendriksen's thesis. Why, after all, should all Englishmen speak Oxford English? We should always remember that so-called correct English is itself merely an extremely successful dialect!

Chris Gousmett and Mark Roques are junior members at ICS; C.T. McIntire is senior member in history and historiography.

Certainly the foremost battle of our time is the one to bring the revealing light of God's Word to bear upon the central issues of cultural life and, in particular, upon the science and theory which of late have come to assume a so much greater place in our culture taken as a whole. If we are to stem the now centuries-old, and recently stepped-up process of secularization in our life; if ever the Christian Body is to throw off its irrelevance, its impotence and its apathy, and rise again to the mission of its already victorious Head and put down the spirit of apostasy and deception that is abroad in the world; then we His disciples, in the power of the gifts our Lord bestows, must come even yet to grips with the tremendously difficult problem posed for us by the existence of this strongly secularized world of science and learning.

- from "Place and Task of an Institute of Reformed Scientific Studies," adopted by the AACS in 1965.

From the Inside Track

by Kathy Vanderkloet

In the last issue of *Perspective* we introduced you to six of our new junior members in theology. This issue you'll get to meet the remaining six: four in political theory, one in aesthetics, and one in the history of philosophy (but moving into aesthetics).

David Woods comes to ICS from Cambridge University in England, where he studied economics. He was brought up as an Anglican, but says that "that didn't mean much until I went to university and came to know some evangelical Christians." His was not an on-the-spot conversion but a "gradual thing; only afterwards did I realize I hadn't really been a Christian before."



A friend at university with whom David formed a prayer partnership first got him interested in the idea of Christian scholarship. It took him a good year to realize that his faith did relate to his studies. He began to read some reformational literature, including books by Dutch economist Bob Goudzwaard, and became very excited about them. He also knew that there was a Christian economist on the faculty of Cambridge University (Dr. A.B. Cramp), and though David did not take courses with him, "it was a comfort to know that there was someone in the faculty who would be sympathetic to my views. Cramp helped me with a thesis I wrote on a Christian critique of orthodox economic theory."

After finishing his studies at Cambridge David worked for a year at a home for psychiatrically ill people run by the Church Army (which is similar to the Salvation Army). While working there he decided to come to ICS for a year. He entered the Certificate Program, taking the biblical and philosophical foundations courses as well as Senior Member Bernard Zylstra's course on Dooyeweerd's political thought. He was also able to make arrangements to take an economics course with Professor Abraham Rotstein at the University of Toronto. "Rotstein's course has opened up a lot of new ways of looking at things in economics," he says. "We concentrate on studying primitive and ancient economies where the market element is usually small or non-existent. It has made me realize that the market economy is not necessarily the norm in economics."

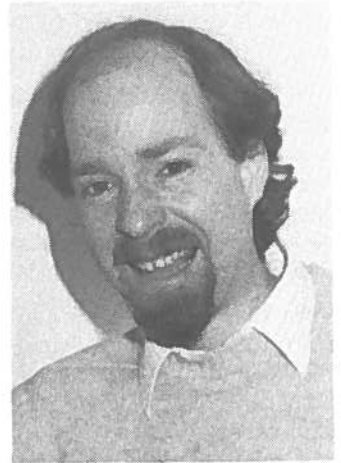
He has particularly enjoyed the biblical foundations course, taught by Senior Member George Vandervelde. "There's an emphasis on reading the Bible in terms of God's purposes for history, rather than individualistically. And we study it in the context in which the various books were written. It's exciting to read it in this way, and to discover that it has much more to say to us than we think it does."

From his reading of Goudzwaard, David had hoped that a reformational approach to politics could provide a radically different "third way." He has been disappointed to find that

there seems instead to be a split at the Institute between senior members who are more right-wing and those who are more left-wing politically. He also notes that although there is a big emphasis on applying God's Word to all of life, "the spiritual element seems to be missing sometimes."

David has decided to stay an extra year and work on in the masters degree program, focussing on political economy, under the guidance of Senior Member Paul Marshall. When he returns to England, he hopes to earn a Ph.D. degree. He would also like to work with Christian groups there to open people up to a broader, Reformed view of Christianity. "Many people are disillusioned by the narrowness of Christianity as they know it," he says. "They don't realize that their other interests are not competing with their faith but should be shaped by their faith."

Lloyd Davies is studying aesthetics under Calvin Seerveld at ICS. He comes into the aesthetics field with impressive credentials: a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree in piano performance from the California Institute of the Arts, and a B.A. degree in comparative literature from the University of California. He thus combines a practical involvement in the arts with a theoretical philosophical interest.



Lloyd first heard about ICS while at L'Abri in Switzerland, where he spent nine months between undergraduate degrees. After obtaining his B.A. degree, he and his wife, Libby, began to work for L'Abri in the United States, first for one year in California, then for another three years in Minnesota. The work included some lecturing and teaching and some administrative work.

Why come to ICS after all that? "I wanted to return to more formal study," says Lloyd. "I had a lot of different questions to explore in greater depth." He's interested in the ideas of Owen Barfield, whose writings he began to read at L'Abri. Barfield was an English writer of literary criticism and of the history of ideas, and a lifelong friend of C.S. Lewis. Barfield believed that in order to understand history and cultural activity one has to be able to see beyond the surface expressions of a culture to its core assumptions and presumptions. Lloyd felt that ICS would be the place to study this because it stands in a tradition of Christian scholarship which is aware of its own foundational religious and philosophical assumptions.

He's been a bit disappointed on that score with the Institute. He came "hoping to find a developed method of analysis by which to become conscious of the basic assumptions at the core of a culture," but that is not always explicit in the classes. "That's partly a problem of how the junior members fit into the structure at ICS; are they supposed to be taught reformational philosophy directly, or are they supposed to simply absorb a method in the course of observing the different senior members in their work? But it's more than that as well. ICS does not open its own philosophical position to examination and critique, either as Institute or as individual senior members. It makes certain assumptions which are taken for granted and which are not articulated to the

junior members and perhaps not even to and among the senior members."

Lloyd would like to see more situations in which the whole ICS faculty and student body come together in common learning experiences. He suggests, for example, a senior member lecture series at the academic level, intended for the entire student body, or a series of lectures by ICS Fellows (scholars at other universities who share the interests and concerns of the ICS). "Scholarly work should be a communal activity in which people's ideas are known, discussed, debated, refuted, and so on. In a place as small as ICS this should be happening more frequently than it is."

Though he considers this lack of interdisciplinary interaction to be a weakness, Lloyd notes that the close working relationship between junior and senior members in the classes is very good and makes it possible for real scholarship to take place within each discipline.

Lloyd's work at ICS is "a prelude to a doctoral degree in the U.S." He's not sure what he'll do after that. He wants to remain in the field of education in some way, though not necessarily as a teacher. He's interested in ideas about knowledge and learning which are implicit in educational philosophies, and would like to help develop a theory of education that will be consistent with Christian philosophy.

Vera Lynne Pavlischek can easily recall the time when she had never heard of Dooyeweerd, or even the Christian Reformed Church, and when Calvin and the Reformation were a more or less irrelevant blur. That was a year ago, when she came to ICS to attend the Discovery '83 student conference. She remembers that she didn't understand much of any of the workshops, but was impressed by the Saturday evening entertainment (a dance), and by Senior Member Calvin Seerveld's Sunday morning sermon, as well as by informal conversations in the halls between workshops. Having grown up in a church in which Christians were marked as Christians by what they didn't do (like smoke, drink, dance, have fun), and having rebelled against that, it was a surprise and relief to learn that not all Christians viewed their faith in that way.



Vera Lynne graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in the "administration of justice," a course of study of crime, criminals, criminology and criminal justice. "I was brilliant," she says. "But in my last year I realized that while I had a variety of perspectives on crime, I didn't have a Christian one I could call my own. So I decided to go and find one."

Her brother Keith, then a student at ICS, suggested that she come to the Institute for a year. Taking into account her experiences at Discovery '83 and a few other factors, she decided it was worth a year anyway. By the time she finished "bootcamp," the intensive two-week introduction to philosophical foundations, she'd changed her mind; one year would not be enough time. She loved bootcamp. "Al Wolters is the best explainer of things. I actually understood what he said in bootcamp! Dooyeweerd actually made some sense!"

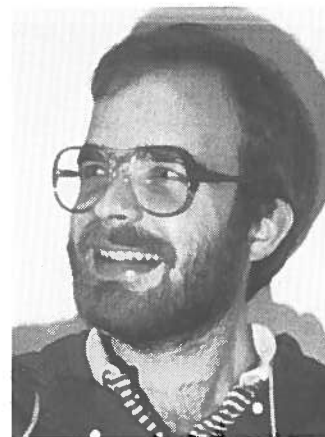
Vera Lynne is working with both Paul Marshall and Jim

Olthuis at ICS. With Olthuis she's "getting to understand the human side of things: what does it mean to be human? how does that relate to what a criminal is? how do we relate to a criminal as an image-bearer of God and in the light of his sin?" Under Marshall she's approaching her field of study from a different angle: what is crime? law? what is the relationship between law and state? Both these perspectives – the human and structural – are necessary for a good understanding of criminology.

She has no illusions about finishing the masters program in two years. "I'll be here three years," she says casually. "After that, I'll probably go on to get another masters degree – a real one – in criminal justice. After that, who knows?"

It's springtime, and **Cliff De Groot** is itching to get out of school and into the fields to prepare for spring planting. Farming is in his blood, and will likely always be; that "makes it hard to be a student at this time of year."

Cliff comes from the small Alberta town of Neerlandia, a staunchly Reformed (and largely Dutch) farming community some 90 miles northwest of Edmonton. There he attended the public elementary school. It is in fact, however, a Christian school, as the local school board and teachers are committed to and teach out of the perspective of the Reformed tradition.



It was a big step for Cliff to go to Dordt College in Iowa after graduating from high school, even though educationally it was the natural step to take. It meant leaving the positive surroundings of the community and the closely knit family for an unknown and distant community. He originally planned to go to Dordt for pre-seminary training, but in his second year took a political science course which caused him to change his mind, thus setting the stage for his present studies in political theory under Paul Marshall. He graduated from Dordt with a major in political science and is now working toward the Master of Philosophical Foundations degree.

His class with Marshall is "definitely the best class," he says. "I'm very challenged and stimulated by the topic and by the course work. It's also very demanding in terms of preparing class presentations and doing book reviews." Marshall's course, "Early Modern Political Thought," is a historical study of political thought during the Reformation, with a focus in the second semester on ideas about toleration. The foundations courses (biblical and philosophical) Cliff finds rewarding and refreshing, not only for content but also because of the diversity among the students which comes out in the classes. "It makes me aware of the wideness of God's love. At the same time it makes me appreciate my own background, and my parents' and family's deep respect and love for and obedience to God."

He also appreciates the diversity at the senior member level. "That diversity is based on a prior and basic commitment to the Word of God and to a biblical working out of that in a Reformed perspective," says Cliff. "It's important to see that basis, rather than only the different peaks that stand out. It would be a sorry day if the diversity, which I consider to be one of ICS' strengths, were squashed."

With regard to his future plans, Cliff is looking at one year at a time. "I'm taking it one step at a time. I'll finish the M.Phil.F. and then I'll look again."

Like Cliff, **Harry Kits** has his roots in the Reformed community in Canada. The son of a Christian Reformed Church minister, Harry grew up in a variety of towns in the United States and Canada as his father first studied and then moved from one congregation to another. In one of these towns he met his wife, Marian.

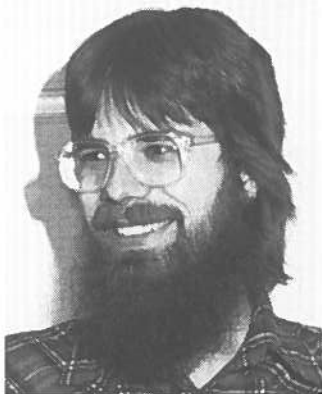
Harry went to Dordt College to study law, but decided to continue in political science when James Skillen (now executive director of the Association for Public Justice in Washington) joined Dordt's staff. Harry graduated with a major in political theory and an all-but-major in philosophy.

Going to Dordt has made him more of a Canadian patriot, he says. "There's a lot of general theory in reformed circles, but few specifics about Canadian politics." He would like to help change that. His main interest now is Canadian politics, especially early Canadian thought. For his thesis he would like to study the effect of Scottish common-sense realism on the Canadian Confederation. "There hasn't been too much work done on the historical roots of Canadian intellectual thought," he says. "That's what I want to explore."

Closely connected with this interest in political theory is the question of how the church relates to the state. "Many mainline churches have set up taskforces of various kinds to try to have a concrete influence in the political life of the nation," he explains. "But there's a discussion within Reformed circles as to whether that is a violation of sphere sovereignty. Is it the task of the church *as church* to be involved in political affairs?"

Though he's not thrilled with the classroom/lecture hall situation ("I'd rather sit in my study at home and do research") he is enjoying his two political theory classes. Marshall's course "is not just a study of other ideas of toleration, but also an attempt to develop a biblical theory of toleration." Zylstra's course on Dooyeweerd's political thought "gives me the chance to react critically to Dooyeweerd and to develop my own ideas about the state and how it functions," he says.

A major concern for Harry is the very real problem of translating the academic work done at ICS and the ideas generated here into language that can be understood by people who are not academics. "I'm thinking especially of our supporting community," he says. "I'm part of that community. I have lots of friends and relatives who are not academics but with whom I (and ICS) have to maintain contact. ICS has to be able to give people a reason for supporting it. It's not enough to say that what we do is worthwhile; ICS has to be able to communicate to its members and show concretely that it really is worthwhile."



Mark Roques' concerns are similar to Harry's, though the focus is different. "The reformational movement has exciting, fascinating ideas and perspectives," he says, "but it hasn't yet found imaginative ways to communicate those ideas. That's one reason why it hasn't spread. Look at existentialism: it got its grip on our world through its literary wing, not through *Being and Nothingness!*"



The literary wing – more specifically, the comic side of the literary wing – that's the area Mark would like to work to strengthen. Communicating the insights of the Reformed world-and-life view in ways that are cheeky, imaginative, ironic, humorous, outrageous – this is what is lacking in the Christian world at large. Part of the problem is the image God has in the world today. "Humanists are basically saying: Well, of course God doesn't exist, but if he did, he would be extremely dull and tedious, and those would be his *best* features. Christians say: Well, basically we agree with all that, except that God *does* exist. No wonder a lot of people don't want to become Christians. But if we show that God really is worth knowing – that he's a God of love, anger, judgment, humour, laughter, mercy, justice – then people will become jealous of us Christians and will want to worship Him as well. And repentance and obedience will flow from that!"

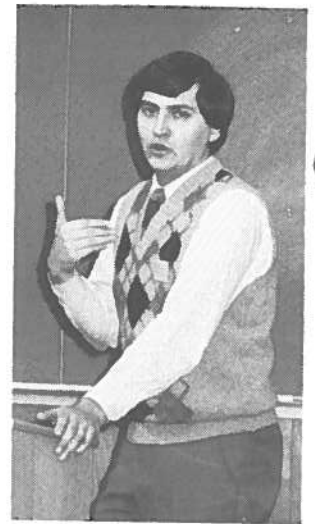
A native of England, Mark came to ICS because "in spite of all its faults it is tackling issues in a sensitive, sophisticated Christian way. There is not distinctively Christian reflection on issues in England, and therefore there's a tremendous sense of paralysis amongst Christians. Students in universities are ashamed of being Christians; they don't know how to speak from a Christian perspective." However, he noticed that when he conveyed the insights of the reformational perspective to students at Cambridge University in lively, satirical, ironic, humorous ways, they responded with enthusiasm. He is convinced that comedy and satire are very powerful means of communication which can and should be developed by Christians.

Mark often finds that he has to justify himself for wanting to be a writer of comedy. The standard response among Christians seems to be: "How *nice* that you want to be a comic writer; wouldn't it be *better* to be an evangelist?" That notion, says Mark, reflects a very neo-Platonic way of thinking. "It creates a hierarchy of importance. It depreciates some parts of creatureliness while elevating others, but in effect it means that you seek your solace in some other part of the creation order rather than in God." Somehow the idea of a "chain of being," in which higher means better, has to be broken. That's where he finds Dooyeweerd's idea that creation is not *being* but *meaning* helpful. No part of creation is self-sufficient; all of creation is dependent on God and finds its meaning in God. Mark hopes to explore some of these ideas in a thesis "analyzing humour from a Christian perspective in terms of an analysis of the history of ideas."

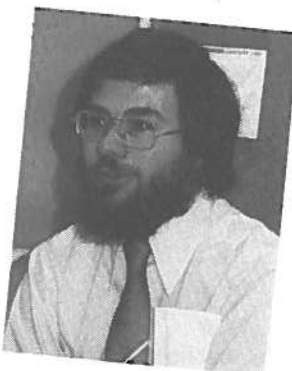
Mark has been studying under Al Wolters this year, but with Al's decision to leave ICS, will continue his studies under Seerveld.

Kathy Vanderkloet is Administrative Assistant at ICS.

DISCOVERY '84



Photographs by Martin Mobach and Rita Vander Veen





Serving Through Public Education

by Robert E. VanderVennen

Pick Your Conference

The Spirit—Empowering Presence July 16 - 19

We expect that this major conference, organized by George Vandervelde, will attract a wide range of people. Overseas speakers are Jan Veenhof of the Free University of Amsterdam and James D.G. Dunn of Durham, England. Other featured speakers are Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., of Westminster Seminary, Richard Mouw of Calvin College, Ian Rennie of Ontario Theological Seminary, and George Vandervelde of the Institute.

Speakers at the conference will address such questions as: who is the Spirit and how does he relate to the person and work of Jesus Christ? How does the Spirit manifest himself in the church and the world? What is the nature of the gifts of the Spirit and how are they to function within the body of Christ and in the world God loves?

We are excited about bringing these theologians together because theological study of the Holy Spirit is very much needed to give biblical leadership in an area which has been a problem for many people. We are hoping that this conference will be a blessing to many pastors, and to teachers and students of theology, so that the insights can be a healing and energizing blessing to many. Write us for a brochure.

Christianity and the Classics June 5 - 7

A very special conference is planned for teachers of Latin and Greek – and for all who are interested in a Christian evaluation of the rich heritage of ancient Greece and Rome. How are we Christians to accept this pagan heritage to which we owe so much? How have Christians in other ages received the Greco-Roman heritage?

We need to keep this cultural heritage alive among us because our feelings and attitudes, as well as our own ideas, are still being shaped by this invisible hand. We especially need to stimulate each other to develop distinctive Christian insight because university graduate schools discourage Christian evaluation. We don't want to lose touch with our cultural roots, but Christian evaluation is vital if we are not to have education and living that are merely secular.

This conference takes advantage of the fact that Toronto universities are strong in classical studies, that the ICS has resources for organizing conferences, and that Dr. Wendy Elgersma Helleman is living in Toronto this year and has initiated the conference. Speakers include David Jeffrey, Arvin Vos, Bert Verstraete, Donald Zeyl, Albert Wolters, William Rowe, Theo de Bruyn, Donald Sinnema, Wendy Helleman, and others. Write us for a brochure.

Technology as a Christian Servant June 15 - 16

Understanding and shaping modern technology in normative Christian ways is the aim of this year's research team at the Center for Christian Studies of Calvin College. This team, as in previous years, is coming to the Institute in June to give a preliminary report on its work. The Institute will provide people to respond to their talks and stimulate discussion of the ideas presented.

Egbert Schuurman expects to present his new ideas on the biblical conception of the cultural mandate, working with Daniel's example of a God-fearing person who strongly interacts with his contemporary culture but with a critical distance. Arie Leegwater is preparing a historical perspective on the relation between science and technology. Eugene Dykema is working from normative considerations to a presentation on economic valuing in technology. Lambert Van Poolen is concerned that technological design arise from value judgments that are properly normed. Clifford Christians works with different dimensions of responsibility in thinking about prophetic witness and responsible technology. Stephen Monsma uses his experience in Michigan's political affairs to deal with control and regulation of technology by the public sector.

This promises to be a fascinating two days at ICS. Join us if your interests lie in these lines. Write or phone for details.

Fundraising Conference May 16, 17

One year ago ICS brought together representatives of a number of Canadian non-profit organizations which operate largely among Christian Reformed Church members. The aim was to have these leaders talk about their ministries, and especially about their finances.

A second annual conference is now being planned and is open to all who have a staff or board position with a Christian organization. Robert VanderVennen has again served as coordinator of the planning and will be conference chairman. Officially sponsored now by Christian Stewardship Services, the conference is scheduled to be held at Redeemer College. Write to Redeemer or ICS for registration information.

Family Conferences

Again this summer the Institute and its members are sponsoring four family conferences in Canada with enjoyable programs. More information is given on the back cover of this issue.

Publication News

Albert Wolters was a formative figure in the new book **All of Life Redeemed: Biblical Insight for Daily Obedience** (Paideia Press, 1983), written by four staff members of the Coalition for Christian Outreach, based in Pittsburgh. Wolters has been an instructor in the Coalition's staff training program for several summers in the area of Christian worldview and philosophy. The authors – Bradshaw Frey, William Ingram, Thomas McWhertor and William David Romanowski – give special thanks to Wolters and to Dr. Peter Steen. Wolters also wrote the books' **Introduction**. The book can be purchased from ICS for \$6.95 plus 75¢ postage, or can be ordered directly from Paideia Press.



Development Notes

by Aileen Van Ginkel

"More than the Money"

It's been a month now since I returned from a two-week trip to Alberta, but the memories and impressions are still fresh.

Although I don't look forward to extended periods away from home, I often find that being "on the road" is an invigorating experience. It's more than just the chance to see different parts of Canada and the U.S. And it's also more than just the fact that I enjoy meeting people to talk about ICS.

What helps me to fly or drive back to Toronto with renewed zeal is the affirmations of the importance of ICS' task that I hear from supporters. It gives us all a boost to know that we have their prayers behind us and their confidence that we're providing a valuable service in the Christian community.

I'm also encouraged, of course, when I'm able to take donations back with me. Time and time again I've been amazed at the generosity which you supporters regularly display – a generosity that is not self-conscious in the way of the Pharisees but that is simply an accepted part of living.

The faithfulness of our supporters in Alberta provided the strongest impression for me to take with me at the end of my latest trip. But I heard another note while I was there, and that one sounded like confusion. Is ICS still true to its founding principles? Does the Word of God still dominate the thinking that goes on at ICS? Is ICS moving in a single direction, or in many?

Questions like these are difficult to answer, but a thought which they reinforced in me was this: Our supporters need more opportunities to meet and talk with ICS senior and junior members. The junior members often talk about ICS with a fresh enthusiasm which can help rekindle that of long-time ICS supporters.

The senior members aren't expected to have all of life's answers. In fact, they may add to the list of life's questions. But one thing which shows through when a senior member speaks is his commitment to think and act in the light of God's Word.

The Boards of Trustees and Curators are convinced that the senior members should spend more time outside of 229 College Street. Putting the senior members on the road will not dissolve the confusion about ICS' spiritual direction. It is my hope, however, that ICS supporters will feel closer to the work of ICS through their interchange with senior members, and that the senior members in turn will experience the same joy I do when I'm amongst our supporters.

That's the joy that comes with shaking hands with God's people. And that's the upbuilding that comes with sharing insights about how Christians can live their lives as servants of the Lord.

From the Edge of the Pacific

by Nick Loenen

On April 13, Dr. John Boer addressed an ICS-sponsored meeting on "Mission in the Context of Global Economics," in which he discussed how Nigeria looks upon the West. Dr. Boer, a missionary to Nigeria, is associated with the Institute of Church and Society, which seeks to bring Bible-inspired healing to social, economic and cultural problems.

The **Bulkley Valley Conference** will be held on August 4-6 at the grounds of Pine Resort, just north of Houston. Dr. Emily Brink, music editor of the Christian Reformed Church, will lead this conference on Music and Liturgy. For information contact Chairman Ed Adema, Box 2282, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0.

The Labour Day, **Whidbey Island Conference** moves back to Canada. For the first time since 1972 this family conference will again be held at Columbia Bible Camp above Cultus Lake. These expanded and improved facilities will ensure that more people can participate and none will be turned away. Both dormitory and tenting accommodation is available. Plan your summer now to include this unique family experience for the Labour Day Weekend, August 31 - September 3. Dr. Loren Wilkinson of Regent College will give talks on the Christian Imagination.

Educational Services. We are pleased to help people of God in their search for Christian discipleship. Recently our western representative spoke on "Human Rights" to a high school audience, on "Friendship" to the Abbotsford Young Adults, and offered the services of our booktable at the CRC Classis B.C. meetings.

Nick Loenen is Western Representative for ICS.

Call For Nominations

ICS Members in the following regions are asked to send in nominations by May 30 for Board of Trustees elections to be held this summer.

Region 2 (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Thunder Bay)

- needs two representatives. Dr. Harry Groenewold has served one term, and is eligible for re-election; Rev. James Joosse has served two terms, and is therefore ineligible for re-election.

Region 3 (U.S., west of the Mississippi River)

- needs one representative. Dr. John Vander Stelt is eligible for re-election.

Region 6 (Hamilton/Niagara/Kitchener-Waterloo)

- needs one representative. Mr. Ben Vandezande is eligible for re-election.

Region 7 (Toronto, Central to Northern Ontario)

- needs one representative. Rev. Dick Pierik is eligible for re-election.

Library Cataloguing Project

by Kathy Vanderkloet

A little over a year ago ICS received word that it had qualified for a government grant of some \$62,000 to help catalogue its M.C. Smit Library Collection. We were thrilled to receive this grant and expected that this would enable us to catalogue the entire Smit Collection of some 10,000 books and journals by the end of 1983.

The grant has now been used up and the terms of employment of the people we hired for the work have ended. Approximately 3,200 of the books have been catalogued, mainly in the areas of theology, philosophy and philosophy of history. The others have been organized roughly by topic and placed on the shelves so that they can at least be used, even though they are not yet catalogued.

Our "team" of librarians consisted originally of five people: Richard Reitsma (subject and language specialist), Susan Dinsley (senior librarian and project manager), Louise Freyburger (librarian), Linda Longhurst (library technician) and Marcella Dayao (typist). Marcella left us in mid-August, to be replaced by Andrew Ross, a library technician. Richard also left in mid-August and was not replaced.

According to Susan Dinsley, there were a number of difficulties inherent in the project. The most formidable was the fact that most of the books are written in languages other than English; closely related was the fact that, with the

exception of Richard Reitsma, none of the team members were knowledgeable in the areas of theology and philosophy. Consequently, when Richard left, they had to rely on volunteers to help them with these aspects of the work. Most of the volunteer work was done by senior and junior members in their spare moments. In addition, Rev. J. Geuzebroek (hospital chaplain in Toronto) and Drs. Harry van Dyke (professor of history at Redeemer College) each came to ICS on a number of occasions for a morning or afternoon of work with Susan or Louise. Thank you! to everyone who helped us in this way.

While we are disappointed that not more of the books could be catalogued, we are grateful for the excellent work that was done by our team. We had no idea a year ago of the complexity of a librarian's task, and as a result we quickly discovered that our expectations of cataloguing the entire collection were quite unrealistic. We must now find other ways to catalogue the rest of the books in order to do justice to both the library and its users.

We were sorry to have to say goodbye to Susan, Louise, Linda and Andrew. In the months they were at ICS they had become part of the staff and it was not easy to see them go. Nor was it easy for them; in fact, Susan and Andrew surprised us by offering to come in occasionally on a volunteer basis to help us out, an offer we gratefully accepted. We wish each of them the very best as they now face the disheartening task of trying to find other jobs.

Kathy Vanderkloet is administrative assistant and library supervisor at ICS.

Keeping up with ICS Staff and Students

Senior Member **Hendrik Hart** recently received an invitation to read a paper at the meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association in June. Hart's paper deals with anthropological implications for the relation between theory and ideology. The Canadian Philosophical Association meets as part of the Learned Societies meetings, which will be held in Guelph, Ontario, this year.

Senior Member **Paul Marshall** continues to be in great demand as a public speaker. On January 19 he lectured to a class at Redeemer College, Hamilton, on "A Christian Perspective on Nuclear Arms." The following week he spoke at the University of Waterloo on "Christianity and Marxism" as part of "Christian Awareness Week," sponsored by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and the university chaplains. The next day, January 26, saw him at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, speaking on "Calvin's View of the Kingdom of God" in Prof. J. Langan's Christianity and Culture class.

He spoke twice on February 16 on the topic "A Christian Perspective on the Nuclear Arms Race," first for the Greater London (Ontario) Evangelical Ministerium and then at the Village Glen Baptist Church, also in London.

On March 13 Marshall gave "A Christian Critique of Human Rights" to a meeting of the Toronto School of Theology's Theological Students Fellowship. On March 20 he spoke at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto, on "The Christian and the Natural World," and on March 25 at

Toronto's Little Trinity Anglican Church on "Uncertainty and the Nuclear Arms Race."

Senior Member **C.T. McIntire** gave two lectures at McGill University, Montreal, on February 1 and 2. For the History Department he gave a paper on "Historians' Commitments and the Study of History," and for the Department of Religious Studies he lectured on "Comparing Views of History: Method and Categories." He presented a public lecture on "Religious Commitment and Historical Study: Aspects of the Thought of Sir Herbert Butterfield, 1948 - 1956" at Trinity College, University of Toronto, on February 24, and attended the "Conference on Religion and Society in Maharashtra, India," held at the University of Toronto on March 18 - 20.

On March 15 McIntire participated in a discussion on Christian-Marxist dialogue at McMaster University, Hamilton. His dialogue partner was Prof. Rudolf Siebert of Western Michigan University and the Inter-University Center, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. The dialogue, whose theme was "What can Christians and Marxists Learn from Each Other?" was sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies of McMaster Divinity School and coordinated by Rev. Aren Geisterfer, the campus chaplain.

Senior Member **James Olthuis** led an Agape Fellowship Weekend on February 10 - 12 on "Relationships" for the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Toronto. The following day he presented a paper on "Faith and Feelings" to the

Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation's Toronto meeting. On March 20 he spoke to the couples' club of the Alliston Christian Reformed Church on "Stages of Intimacy," and on March 28 he addressed the Christian Fellowship at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, on "Friendship and Sexuality."

Junior Members **Rick and Nancy Pearcey** are active in the Toronto area in a variety of ways. Rick spoke on January 19 to the University of Toronto's Erindale College Christian Fellowship on "Evangelism with a Human Face." On March 2 - 4 he participated in a weekend retreat with the People's Church, where he delivered a series of lectures on "Christianity Without Chains: the Challenge of Discipleship in the 80s." On March 18 he led the sermon/Bible study at the Lighthouse Christian Community Centre. His topic there was "Samaritans, Machines and Mystics."

Nancy has learned that her article on sociology, first published in the Bible-Science Newsletter, has been accepted for re-publication as a separate booklet by Onesimus Publishing Company.

Nancy and Rick continue to host "Saturday Night Open" at their apartment, an informal bi-weekly time for discussion and goodies.

During January, Senior Member **Calvin Seerveld** spent a few days at Mennonite Brethren Bible College and Christian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to present five lectures on Christian rationale for artistic activity, art critique and art history. As well as interacting with both faculties and student bodies, he gave a public lecture sponsored by the Mennonite community on the meaning of clothes and games in a biblically directed Christian life.

In March he was invited to Montreal's McGill University by the Religion Department, where ICS alumnus Brian Walsh is currently a doctoral student. Seerveld lectured in Dean Joseph McClelland's class on "The Spirit and Contribution of Modern Art, with Alternatives," and also gave a presentation to the Doktorklub entitled, "An Introduction to an Ontological Framework for a Hermeneutics of Leadership." Discussion with the faculty and doctoral students was animated.

As a special event at the Popular Culture Association convention 1984 held at Toronto, Seerveld introduced his translation of the Old Testament *Song of Songs*, which was followed by its oratorio performance done by Trinity Theatre of Toronto. This combination introduction and performance was also held at Ontario Bible College on April 3.

As part of the ICS Faculty Lecture Series in London, Ontario, Seerveld gave his lecture on "Changing Images of the Crucifixion" for a student audience and also for a public meeting in the evening. This lecture was repeated in Toronto at the Institute on April 5.

Senior Member **George Vandervelde** was co-leader with Rev. Garth Wilson, Convenor of the Presbyterian Church's Church Doctrine Committee, of a one-day seminar on "Doing Theology in Context: A study of two contemporary expressions of faith." The program was sponsored by the Canadian Association for Reformed Faith and Action.

Director of Educational Services **Robert VanderVennen** spoke for the ICS Toronto Lecture Series on February 23 on the topic "Making Decisions in Churches and Christian

Announcing an eight-week discussion series on the theme:

Responsible Citizenship

co-sponsored by Citizens for Public Justice and the Institute for Christian Studies.

Monday evenings * May 28 - July 16
7:30 until 9:30

This joint educational venture is designed to stimulate awareness of and growth in our responsibility as actors in the arena of public justice. In addition to resources from community leaders, participants will have time to analyze their own sense of power in contributing towards the goal of public justice.

To register, phone Susan Bower at 979-2331 or Al Engelstad at 979-2443, by May 23.

Fee: \$60 working people, \$40 students, married couples, unemployed negotiable

(* except for the July holiday when we will meet on Tuesday night, July 3.)

Organizations." He led a discussion on "Faith and Learning" for the student group at York University, Toronto, on March 1. He met with the faculty of Durham Christian High School on March 28 for a presentation on the subject of "Humanism and the Christian School."

Senior Member **Al Wolters** attended a major meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, held at the University of Notre Dame in Grand Bend, Indiana, on March 10. He gave a paper on the topic: "The impact of Plotinus on Christian thought: was it good or bad?"

President and Senior Member **Bernard Zylstra** spoke four times in January and February on the theme "World Peace and Nuclear Arms." He presented this lecture twice in London, Ontario, on January 25, first to a group of students at the University of Western Ontario and then to a public meeting as part of the ICS Faculty Lecture Series. He also presented it on February 25 to a public meeting in Ingersoll, Ontario, and on March 17 to a public meeting in Chatham. While in Chatham he also spoke to a conference of church elders on the theme "What Does it Mean to be Reformed?" and preached two sermons there on Sunday, March 18.

As ICS president, he attended the inauguration ceremonies of James De Jong as new president of Calvin Seminary on February 9. And he spoke twice to the presidents of the Christian College Consortium at their spring retreat in Palm Springs, California (see "From the President's Point of View" in this issue for details).

ICS was once again well represented at the annual **Jubilee Conference** of the Coalition for Christian Outreach, held in Pittsburgh February 25 - 27. Three ICS senior members were major speakers: Paul Marshall spoke on "Economics and Stewardship"; Al Wolters gave a speech on "The Gospel and the Phases of the History of Philosophy" and participated in a panel discussion on a liberal arts education; and Calvin Seerveld lectured on "The Suicide of 'Art for Art's Sake Alone'" and presented historical background material on the role of artists in society so as to structure a discussion of the problem in today's society. Several other staff members and a number of junior members attended as well.

Perspective

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Upcoming Conferences

June 5 - 7

Christianity and the Classics. To be held at ICS. For details see description inside this issue, or write for a brochure.

June 15 - 16

Technology as a Christian Servant. The Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship Team comes to ICS again to share the fruits of its research on technology. See description inside, or write us for more details.



July 16 - 19

The Spirit – Empowering Presence. A major conference on the third person of the Trinity. This conference should be of interest to pastors and to teachers and students of theology. More details on “conference page” inside. Write us for a brochure and registration form.

August 3 - 6

Bulkley Valley Family Conference. Keynote speaker is Dr. Emily Brink. For information contact Chairman Ed. Adema, Box 2282, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0.

August 3 - 6

Niagara Family Conference. The theme for year's conference is “Joy in Living” and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Gordon Spykman of Calvin College. For details and registration please write to us.



August 31 - September 3

Alberta Family Conference. To be held at Gull Lake Conference Grounds. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Emily Brink. Contact Francis Ruiter, 22 Westridge Road, Edmonton, Alberta T5T 1B2.

August 31 - September 3

Cultus Lake Conference, B.C. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Loren Wilkinson, who will speak on the Christian Imagination. Details and registration forms available from ICS Western Office, 9331 No. 2 Road, Richmond, B.C. V7E 2C9.



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