

Perspective

Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship
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Goudzwaard will spend 1979-80 academic year at ICS

by Bernard Zylstra



Professor Bob Goudzwaard of the Free University of Amsterdam will be guest professor at the ICS in 1979-1980.

Goudzwaard's relation with the ICS goes back a long way. In 1970 we extended an appointment to him because an institute like ours simply cannot do without an economist. At that time personal obstacles stood in the way of his family's coming, so he joined the faculty of the Free University instead. But on a very regular basis--in 1972, 1974, 1976, and in 1978--Goudzwaard came to the ICS. He lectured in two summer conferences, one January interim, and participated in last year's social science seminar. Because of his exceptional contributions to our work, he was appointed a Fellow of the Institute in 1974.

Dr. Bob Goudzwaard

Goudzwaard's guest professorship comes at the right moment, because Sander Griffioen is returning to Amsterdam after a stay of three years. Griffioen has systematically begun work in economic theory and social philosophy. But this work must be continued, and Goudzwaard's coming will serve as a bridge.

Goudzwaard will be teaching two courses during his stay. The first will focus on Christian economic theory, and will be intended primarily for graduate students. In this course he hopes to complete the basic sketches for a new book on what might be called "an alternative economic theory." This will be a follow-up to the book that has grown out of his earlier ICS lectures, *Capitalism and Progress*, which will be published by Eerdmans and Wedge in the spring of this year.

A second course will be of a more practical nature, and will be open to every

ICS student. Goudzwaard will develop the content of this course around concrete issues in politics and economics, and it will thus be of interest to both theorists and practitioners. For several years he has been highly involved in the staff training program of the Christian Trade Unions in Holland, and this second course will doubtless be of benefit to similar action groups on this side of the ocean.

Goudzwaard will be involved in other activities as well. At the end of the 1978 ICS social science seminar, as well as at the end of the Second International Conference for Christian Higher Educational Institutions in Grand Rapids in August, several participants expressed a desire for closer cooperation in the future. Goudzwaard has already placed on our table a rough sketch for a book in economics to be written jointly by scholars from several institutions. His presence in Toronto will make it possible for him to establish contacts with economists at places like Calvin College, Dordt College and Gordon College.

It is a great privilege for the ICS to have Goudzwaard join its staff for a full year. Our century is the century of economic growth. Among Christian scholars who are trying to come to grips with a responsible understanding of this growth, Goudzwaard ranks very high. He is not only a theorist. For years he served in the Dutch parliament, and his work in the political realm absorbs a great part of his time even now. Moreover, in a unique way he has shown amazing ability to communicate with persons from a wide variety of backgrounds.

We owe the Free University much for letting him spend a year on this side of the ocean--at its own expense! And now we hope that several graduate students from Canada, the United States and other countries will make use of this opportunity to come to grips with basic questions in economic theory and practice under Goudzwaard's guidance at the ICS in the next academic year. His presence--and that of his delightful family!--should make that next academic season an unusual one!

Bernard Zylstra is Principal of the ICS, and Senior Member in Political Theory.

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Amazing grace

We rejoice and give thanks to God for the amazing way AACCS ended last year financially. We did not have the financial deficit we thought we would have--our 1978 income was even greater than our expenses, allowing us to reduce our 1977 deficit from \$32,000 to \$15,500.

For a more detailed explanation and comparative figures for 1978 and 1979, see our 1978 Annual Report which appears later in this issue.

The field of economics at the ICS

by Evelyn Kuntz Hielema



Bruce Weinstein

To most of us the field of economics is probably a most confusing and frustrating topic. When we are busy paying our Chargex bills and looking for the cheapest place to buy bananas, we don't really care to be bothered about "methodologies in economics" and we would prefer to have nothing to do with "quantifiable social indicators."

Yet, by supporting the Institute for Christian Studies, we are saying we *do* believe that the heavy discussions in little university classrooms around the world can have an effect on our lives. We realize, at least theoretically, that what goes on in the heads of economists will grow and work its way, like yeast, into the business world. And that, in turn, is where decisions are made about the price of our bananas.

So it matters what happens in those little university rooms. And if we support a group of people who try to think Christianly about these things, it matters too what goes on there. The attempt in

this article will be to give supporters of the Institute some idea of what kinds of things happen in the economics classes here. In the next issues of *Perspective* we will look at other fields at the Institute.

The economics class at ICS this past year has consisted of three Junior Members and Sander Griffioen. The Junior Members are Rick Kleer, Peter Stubbs and Bruce Weinstein. In addition, Harry Antonides, researcher for the Christian Labour Association of Canada, has been sitting in on the classes.

Griffioen has been especially concentrating on the *philosophy* of economics this year. In the past few years he has concentrated on specific economic problems like unemployment and the future of our economic order, but his emphasis this year is a study of some of the major economists and how their views have molded the lives of people, as well as how their views have been affected by the actual problems they confronted in their time.

In his interview with me, Griffioen explained that for a long time social scientists and economists have tried to keep the crisis of Western culture out of the classrooms of the universities. Scientists in the 1950's wanted economics to be a very refined and scholarly science, which would concentrate on facts and figures and would try to keep its hands clean from the religious and moral problems of society.

Max Weber was one important philosopher who had a great influence on this way of thinking. Although in his heart he did not want to remain neutral, he felt that the university would be destroyed if spiritual struggles were allowed to influence science. So he tried to work in a way that would avoid these value-problems. Because of the influence of people like Weber, Griffioen said, economics and the social sciences tended to become formal and sterile, almost to the point of viewing real-life problems as a hindrance.



Rick Kleer

In the 1960's, students began to rebel against this movement in the sciences. Griffioen became very interested in that struggle during the 60's, and has since then kept closely in touch with these discussions.

In addition to study of the philosophy of economics, the class is constantly busy trying to formulate a Christian view of the science. Griffioen said that this year's seminar has made him more aware of how useful the basic ideas in Reformational philosophy are for shedding light on other economic views.

He mentioned that one of the great advantages of the Institute is the chance to communicate with people working in other subject areas. He has asked Dr. Hart, for example, to give some lectures in his class on the philosophy of science. Because of the smallness and the unified direction of the faculty, that kind of interaction is possible.

The Junior Members in the class are working on papers which are closely related to the general class discussions. They are able to contribute a great deal to the class by giving additional information and ideas which they have discovered in their readings. In this way, Griffioen hopes that the class will gradually grow to be a real work group.

Peter Stubbs, a second-year Junior Member, is writing a paper on Dr. Goudzwaard's new book (to be published this year) entitled *Capitalism and Progress*. He is trying to discover Goudzwaard's underlying ideas on the relationship between history and economics, and especially on the idea that God is unfolding, opening-up, his creational laws. Ultimately the question then becomes: how do you study economics in a rapidly changing world? That is a question the class is constantly concerned with.

Rick Kleer is a new Junior Member from Niagara Falls, Ontario. Rick studied economics for two years at university, is now spending a few years at the ICS, and will then return to university. His paper for the class deals with Marxist and Neo-Classical economics, and he is able to relate this to the Marxism seminars which are going on at the ICS.

Bruce Weinstein, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received his B.A. in economics in 1975. Since then he has worked at various jobs, including a one-year job as research assistant for the U.S. governmental Institute for Water Resources. He is presently enrolled in no specific program at ICS, but is considering working toward an M.Phil. Bruce is writing his paper about the contemporary Swedish sociologist Gunnar Myrdal, and is working on the ideal of objectivity in economics.

Since he came to the Institute, Sander Griffioen has wanted to find a way to tie together the theoretical and practical aspects of his work. This year an interesting opportunity arose for that to happen. Griffioen and the three Junior Members are working closely with the Committee for Justice and Liberty on the topic of "social indicators." As Bruce Weinstein explained it, a major concern in the secular world today is an effort to come to conclusions about society by using graphs and figures and statistics. Governments, for example, try to measure the level of racial prejudice in their country by looking at the statistics of black unemployment. The study group which has been formed between ICS and CJL is attempting to critique this method of using numbers to come to conclusions about things that cannot be measured. They hope to write a position paper on the topic.

Rick Kleer has also been working individually for the CJL. He is doing a thorough study of Canada's position on nuclear energy, and is trying to discover how the government's world-and-life-view affects such policies. When he has completed his study and has formulated some ideas about the use of nuclear energy, Rick will dialogue with Christians who hold different views. The CJL hopes that then, working from out of that discussion, it will be able to formulate some of its own ideas and policies on the issue.

The promise of Dr. Bob Goudzwaard's coming to ICS next year has caused a stir of excitement and thankfulness. We had thought that, with Griffioen leaving for The Netherlands, the economics field would be cut off for the time being. But Goudzwaard's coming will instead be a great boost to the ICS's work in that field. Because Goudzwaard is so very different from Griffioen, the focus of the field will most likely change considerably. While Griffioen, in Bruce Weinstein's words, "has an excellent grasp of philosophical economics," Goudzwaard will deal much more with the practical nitty-gritty economic problems that he was so closely involved with in his work in The Netherlands. So Griffioen has built a philosophical foundation upon which Goudzwaard can continue to build with the actual economic problems. Since Goudzwaard is planning to write another book during his time at ICS, which will deal with "an alternative introduction to economics," there will be a chance for students to interact with him and help him in that work.

Griffioen will be leaving for The Netherlands in July, after completing some work for the Marxism seminar. He will be lecturing in social philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam and will also be a professor in Reformational philosophy at the University of Leyden.

Besides his regular teaching and researching, and besides serving as chairman for the Marxism seminar this year, Griffioen is presently also busy with writing two rather extensive essays. One of them is on "corporatism," written for the Christian Labour Association of Canada, and the other is on Hegel, to be published by the Free University in a book of essays next year.

Although Griffioen mentioned that the heavy workload, especially this past year, has put a strain on him, and has sometimes prevented him from keeping in touch with the Junior Members as closely as he would have liked, he is thankful for the work he has been able to do. For our part, we will always be grateful for the way Griffioen has opened up the field of economics at the Institute.

Evelyn Kuntz Hielema is secretary of the AACS.

AACS Remittance Form

The AACS is an association of over 2,000 members from 13 countries worldwide. Its purpose is to promote Scripturally directed learning and biblical reformation of scholarship. Its main project is the Institute for Christian Studies, a graduate school for research and teaching.

The membership fee is \$25 year; \$5 for full time student. *Perspective* newsletter is sent free of charge to all members and contributors. Non-contributors are asked to pay a subscription fee of \$5 per year.

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Escobar speaks of identity crisis for Latin American Protestants

by Peter Stubbs



Samuel Escobar

Samuel Escobar, Associate Secretary of the International Federation of Evangelical Students (which has recently moved its headquarters to Lima, Peru) spoke to a large group of ICS members and friends at the Institute building on January 5, 1979.

It was a rare chance for ICS members, who are currently studying Latin American liberation theology, to receive a first-hand, up-to-date report on the rapidly-changing situation in Latin America. Mr. Escobar's report is summarized below.

The main feature of theological debate at the moment in Catholic circles seems to be polarization, a moving to opposite extremes. There are signs of a retreat in the church. Among other things, the church is withdrawing from positions of social concern that it can share with Protestants, to a uniquely Catholic preoccupation with the Virgin Mary. On the other hand, Catholics are criticizing traditional Catholic theology even more harshly than liberation theologians did a few years ago.

In 1967 Latin America was boiling. It appeared possible that revolution could occur any minute, particularly in Brazil, Argentina, and Peru. In the popular mind this seemed to be proof for the Marxist analysis of capitalist society. Today revolution no longer seems imminent. Events such as the immediate recognition of Chile's repressive Pinochet regime by China have damaged the Marxist image. There is widespread doubt among Marxists about the role of Cuban soldiers in Africa and a realization that Cuba is costing the Soviet Union well over a million dollars a day--thus raising the question of the fate of a similar revolution in a larger country on the Latin American mainland. But Marxism still continues to dominate the universities.

Protestants in Latin America are thus posed with a major problem. In the popular mind they are associated with the hated capitalist system, while the movement of the Catholic church is now away from them. Certain large Pentecostal denominations, especially in Chile, have reacted to this situation by seeking to become the established church. This solution is unacceptable to most Protestants. Consequently they are left with an identity crisis. Protestants say they are neither capitalists nor communists, but this alone is a weak position in the dynamic Latin American situation. They feel urgently the need to produce their own tools for theoretical work.

Escobar is a member of a new community called "Kairos" which has been formed to attempt this task and to create a new life-style. He said that Kairos feels like a very small group, and that it would like all the international cooperation it can get. The purpose of the Marxism seminars at the ICS has been to help out groups like Kairos by working at a Reformed Christian critique of Marxism, helping to produce the theoretical tools that the people in Latin America so badly need.

Peter Stubbs is a second-year Junior Member in economics at the Institute.

1978 AACCS Annual Report

January, 1979

Introduction

As required by the law that governs charitable corporations, a meeting of the general membership of our Association is held each year to transact its basic business. The financial statement for the previous year is presented and approved, and the budget for the coming year is discussed and adopted, along with the program of which the budget is the financial expression.

The occasion of the Annual Meeting is used by the AACCS as the time when the Board of Trustees reports to the membership on the stewardly trust the members have given it, and opportunity is given for members to raise questions to the Board. Staff members supply information about the ongoing work and are able to respond to questions of detail which members may wish to know.

Good as this may be, a limitation is that the 2200 members of the AACCS are spread geographically over North America and other continents, so that only a relatively small number of them are able to attend the meeting in person. We try to reduce the effect of this limitation by printing for all the members the reports given at the annual meeting so that all can share them. We also warmly invite members to write us of questions they have about the reports and comments and advice they may wish to give.

We hope you will find this report helpful in bringing this work of Christian education closer to your heart.

Report on the Institute for Christian Studies

*Dr. C. Thomas McIntire, Chairman
Dr. Bernard Zylstra, Principal*

The Institute had a very productive year in 1978, and the 1978-79 academic year is a very fruitful one. We at the Institute have found a high measure of unity again, a deeper and more useful kind of unity than we have experienced before. We have a feeling of working together in a highly productive way, and there is a lot of exhilaration among all of us who are teaching here, partly because of the work that we faculty members (Senior Members) are getting done ourselves and partly because of the excellent graduate students (Junior Members) we have this year.

We also find considerable strength in our work from the fact that the members of the Association have shown their support again this year in such a marvelous way. We of the Faculty want to express our very deep appreciation for the support, and we want you to know that you affect our work at the Institute in a constructive way on a daily basis. Thank you from our hearts.

The current year

We have had the largest number of new Junior Members this year that we have had for quite a few years, a total of twenty. There are now 36 students who are actively studying at the Institute. Three of the new students have been accepted as candidates for the Master of Philosophy degree, with the others planning to spend one year of study at the Institute which may lead to a Certificate but not to a degree.

There is quite a bit of change from year to year in the nationalities of the new Junior Members. Of the twenty new students this year, thirteen come from the United States, five from Canada, and two come from outside of North America, both this year from South Africa. Last year there were four



Dr. C. Thomas McIntire

new students from the U.S., three from Canada, and six from countries outside of North America.

The new **Worldview course**, directed by Dr. Hart, is off to a good start with seven fulltime students. From a great variety of interests and backgrounds these students have come to develop their Christian perspective on life and specifically deepen their Christian understanding of the kind of work they wish to be doing in the future. The first part of the year's course is finished, the work at Biblical foundations, and each student has written a significant research paper. This is to be followed by work on philosophical foundations and finally on direct application of these foundational insights to the special kind of work the student has identified.

This is the second academic year in which nearly all the Senior Members and Junior Members are joined in **interdisciplinary study of neo-Marxism** and its theological counterpart; Liberation Theology. These studies have

become one of the most exciting aspects of the work of the Institute, and specific plans have been made for the publication of this research into a book to be written in the spring and summer. This way of doing research together has found so much appeal among those engaged in it that the Institute has decided that each year there is to be a different interdisciplinary study in which the faculty and advanced students are joined. It is our special hope that these neo-Marxism studies will be of help to Christians who must deal with Marxism as a daily force. It was especially exciting recently to have Samuel Escobar with us from Peru for a discussion of recent trends in neo-Marxism in Latin America.

From September to December, 1978, three students completed formal programs. Judy de Jong received the Master of Philosophy degree for her study in the field of psychology and for her thesis entitled "A Worldview Analysis." Her thesis overlaps psychology and philosophy, and in it she has tried to develop her own Christian perspective on how to understand the field of psychology. In December Harry Anastasiou completed the requirements for the M.Phil. degree in the field of philosophy. He wrote his thesis on the work of the philosopher Michael Polanyi. In September the Certificate in Christian Studies was awarded to Neil de Koning, who studied in the area of theology, and is now a student at Calvin Seminary.

In early November we celebrated the inauguration of Dr. George Vandervelde to the work of research and teaching of systematic theology at the Institute. The inauguration was a festive event held in the Gothic chapel of Knox College at the University of Toronto.

Various new publications have either just come out or are coming out very soon. Recently Wedge has published a book on the Christian Labour Association of Canada entitled *A Christian Union in Labour's Wasteland*. It contains essays by Senior Members Zylstra, Wolters, and Seerveld, and by two Institute fellows, Goudzwaard and Runner.

Bernard Zylstra has a chapter entitled "Philosophy, Revelation, and Modernity: Crossroads in the Thought of George Grant" in the book *George Grant in Process: Essays and Conversations* (Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 1978) and two of his academic articles have been published in 1978. One is entitled "Voegelin on Unbelief and Revolution," an essay relating the views of Eric Voegelin with Groen van Prinsterer. The other is a review article in *Christian Scholar's Review* entitled "A Neo-conservative critique of modernity: Daniel Bell's appraisal."

Very early in 1979 Oxford University Press published the book of essays by Herbert Butterfield on Christianity and

History, a book edited by Senior Member McIntire in which he has written a long essay analyzing how Butterfield's religion affects the way that he writes and understands history.

James Olthuis has returned to his teaching from a year of sabbatical research and writing. He has made significant progress in his writing on the topic of "Creation and Redemption," along with work with Dr. Arnold DeGraaff on "Models of Man in Theology and Psychology" and a sequel to his book on marriage and friendship which was published in 1975 under the title *I Pledge You My Troth*. He also wrote a number of articles for the *Tyndale House Family Encyclopedia* in areas relating to religion and ethics. Dr. Arnold DeGraaff is on a leave for sabbatical research this year for his writing on "Models of Man" and "Theories of Psychotherapy."

During August the Institute was host to a major academic event, an international conference on Christian perspective in the social sciences. Nearly 100 scholars from around the world attended this conference, and it was a major opportunity for scholars from distant places to meet each other and to discuss their work. We expect to publish the papers that were given in a forthcoming book.

During the past twelve months we have had two distinguished theologians give lecture series at the Institute. In March we had Professor Martin Marty of the University of Chicago speak on aspects of church history, and at the very beginning of 1979 we had Professor Gustav Wingren present his studies on creation and redemption. These two lecturers brought an exciting spirit to the Institute through their lectures and their personalities, and also through bringing to our classrooms graduate students and scholars from nearby Ontario universities. The Wingren lectures are to be published in book form.

During the current academic year seven of our Senior Members are participating in a series of evening lectures at the University of Toronto initiated as an evangelistic outreach of the Campus Worship Community. The series is entitled "Christianity and Learning," and the lectures are each intended to be a chapter in a book in which our faculty will give its understanding of academic learning in relation to the Christian faith.

The Coalition for Christian Outreach, located in Pittsburgh, has asked the Institute to provide regular teaching help in its training program for its staff, which numbers about 150 persons. Dr. Wolters will be teaching a two-week course for many of these people during the summer, with academic credit arranged through Fuller Theological Seminary. In recent years our staff members have been regular speakers at

the annual weekend student conference of the Coalition which draws between 2000 and 3000 students.

Three Institute faculty members, Hart, Zylstra and Griffioen, were speakers at the Second International Conference of Christian Institutions, meeting in Grand Rapids in August. The Institute had a significant formative presence at this conference, which is trying to draw together the work of Christian higher education having Reformed roots throughout the world.

The pursuit of accreditation for the Institute, which is part of a step by step gaining of academic recognition in the university world, is continuing in steady undramatic ways. Dr. McIntire has had a series of informal conversations with persons at the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto which have drawn the Institute closer to those institutions. We have also had correspondence with the Association of Theological Schools and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, both of which have resulted in informal visits of staff directors of these associations to our Institute. One of our new students has arranged for his studies at the Institute to be accepted toward his degree at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Massachusetts. Overall we are finding a growing respect for the work of the Institute among university professors, although this has not yet resulted in any kind of formal accreditation.

Evaluation and change

We are constantly trying to evaluate the work we are doing at the Institute so that we can respond to suggestions and criticism and try to do our work in the best possible way. Evaluation and change is always done in the light of the basic mandate of the Institute, which is to do research and teaching directed at the root issues of our civilization so that we can give direction to biblical reformation in our world. During the current academic year the Institute has appointed a committee to examine the degree programs and the way they operate, to evaluate the status of our Certificate in Christian Studies, to consider the advisability of continuing our present curricular division into separate disciplines, to consider the needs of visiting scholars with special interests, and to suggest ways of increasingly entering into formal and informal academic relations with established academic institutions.

Every three years each Senior Member undergoes a thorough evaluation of his service. This consists of open discussions by the students and colleagues of each faculty member, both in the absence and in the presence of the person, written evaluations transmitted to the Board of Curators, and a thorough interview with the Board of Curators based on the staff

discussions. These are more thorough and more sensitively done than staff evaluations at any other institution we know of. We are finding them very helpful as means toward the improvement of teaching and research.

In reviewing the work of the **Board of Curators** in recent years, it has been felt that the Curators need a stronger representation of Canadian scholars who are active in the same academic field as the Institute, and who are deeply committed to the objectives and religious direction of the Institute. The result has been the appointment of three new people to this academic board: Dr. Lawrence Lynch, philosopher at St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto; Dr. Richard Longenecker, theologian at Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto; and Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, psychologist at York University, Toronto. Retiring from the Board of Curators after faithfully serving a five-year term is Dr. Arie Leegwater, chemist at Calvin College, Michigan.

An administrative change in the Institute has been the creation of the position of **Principal**, which is the title given to the head of an academic institution other than the university in many Canadian institutions. The Principal will have a four-year term to give greater continuity to the administrative work of the Institute, and to give a more clearly identifiable spokesman for the Institute to our supporters and to other institutions. The first appointee to this position is Dr. Bernard Zylstra, who is Senior Member in Political Theory at the Institute.

During 1978 we have had two **three-party discussions** with Calvin College and the Free University of Amsterdam, in an effort toward greater cooperation in Christian scholarship among these three institutions. We envision closer cooperation with Calvin College at the master's degree level and with the Free University at the doctoral level. These consultations have been stimulated by the two international conferences mentioned above, one in Toronto and one in Grand Rapids, and we believe that they may be very helpful for the work of the Institute.

One of the results of the increasing productivity of the Institute is that we have identified the need to have an **academic editor** work among us to help the Senior Members prepare books and papers for publication. At the present time our budget is too tight for us to recruit the kind of person we think we need, but we will do the best we can with short-term help here and there.

We feel that we are actively directing some of the changes which are taking place at the Institute, but that there are other kinds of changes over which we have only **limited control**. We are sorry that we will need to see some cutback in our faculty due to shortage of money

at the present time. When Dr. Sander Griffioen returns to The Netherlands to resume his work there after three years of teaching and research with us, we will not be able to recruit a replacement for him at the present time, though we are expecting Dr. Bob Goudzwaard of the Free University of Amsterdam to spend the year 1979-80 with us on a salaried leave of absence from the Free University. Dr. Arnold DeGraaff, our Senior Member in Psychological Theory, has informed us that starting in the summer of 1979 he would like to reduce his commitment to the Institute to half-time service in order to build a counselling practice, and the Board of Trustees has decided that we do not have the financial resources at the present time to maintain our teaching and research in this vital area at the same level that it has been. This means that for a time the Institute will have very little research and teaching in the fields which Marx and Freud have made so important for the modern world.

The Institute is always a dynamic place where exciting things happen as we explore God's creation and receive insights we are eager to share through our publications, public lectures, conferences, and the like. We delight in the task of giving leadership to advanced students who will soon take their place as Christian leaders. Our joy and unity in Christ comes to heartfelt expression in the communal worship services held regularly at the Institute. We wish to share this enthusiasm with you in the fruits of our work. Please continue to pray for us.

Full time staff of the Institute for Christian Studies

Arnold DeGraaff, *Th.D., psychology*
Sander Griffioen, *Ph.D., economics*
Hendrik Hart, *Ph.D., philosophy*
C. Thomas McIntire, *Ph.D., history*
James Olthuis, *Ph.D., theology*
Calvin Seerveld, *Ph.D., aesthetics*
Albert Wolters, *Ph.D., philosophy*
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Report on AACCS Services

Dr. Robert E. VanderVennen, Executive Director

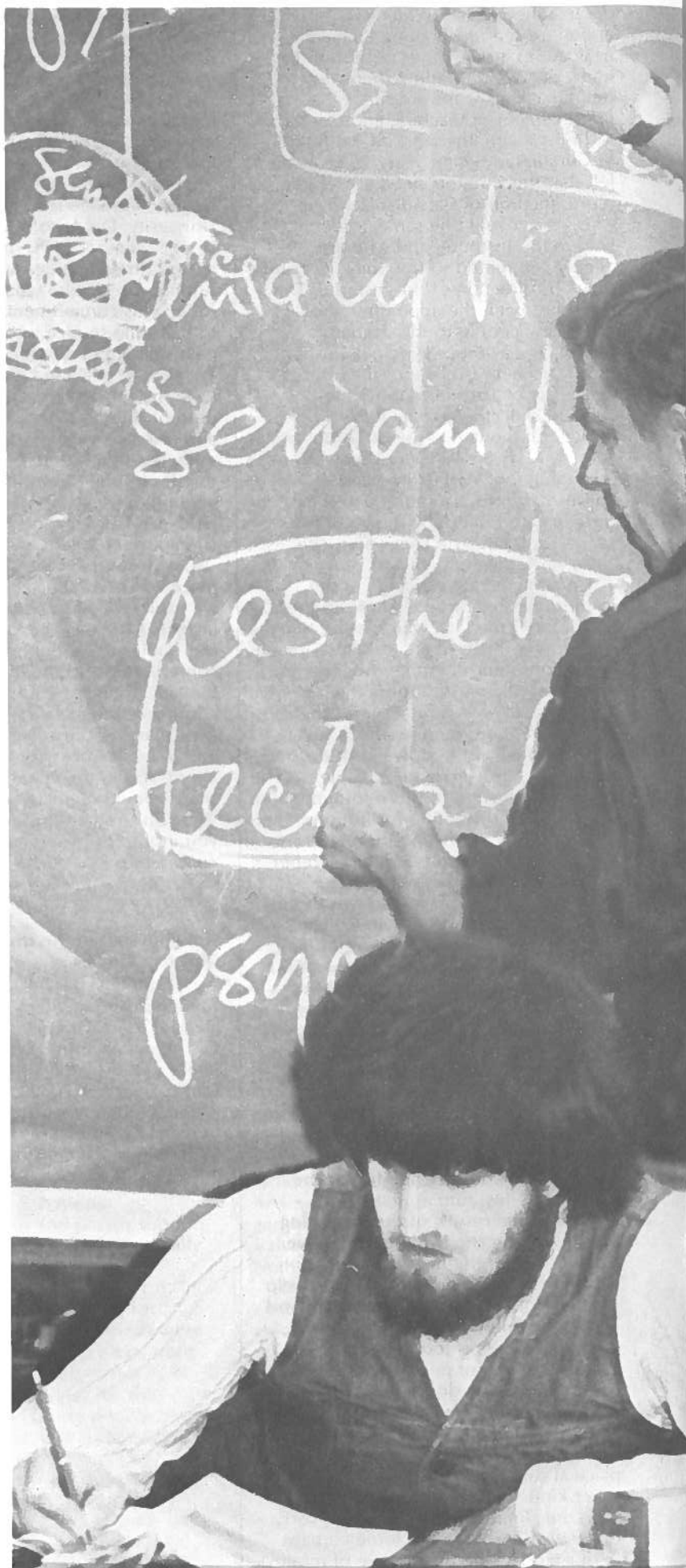


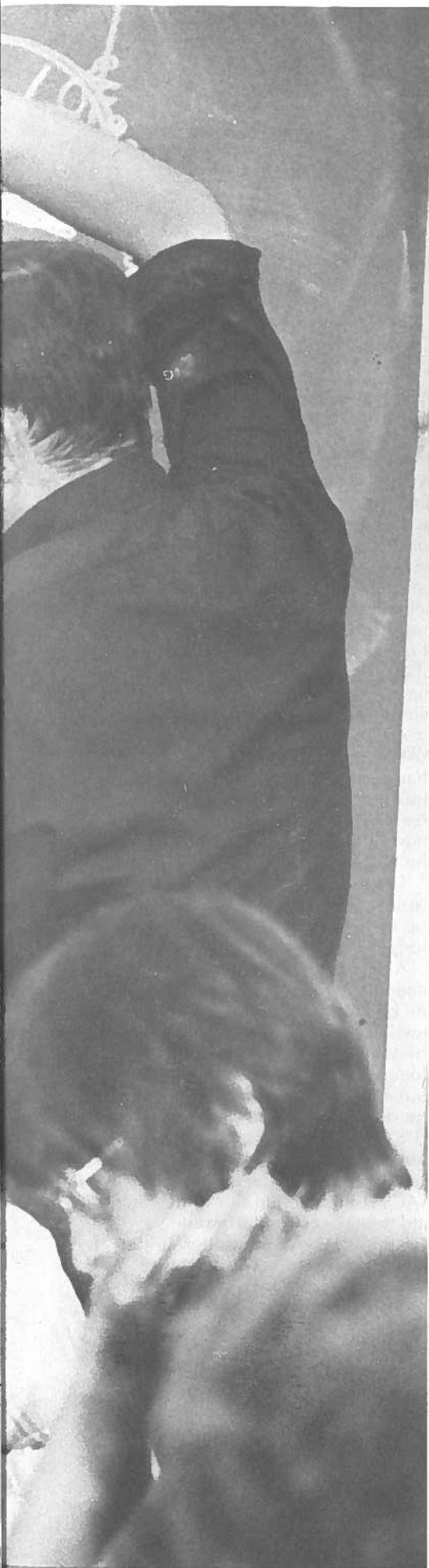
Dr. Robert VanderVennen

The major activity of the AACCS is the Institute for Christian Studies. This was envisioned from the earliest days, now almost 25 years ago. The focus of our work to advance Christian scholarship was to be the *reformation of scholarship*, which is the kind of work that can't be done on the run, but only by solid, sustained scholarly work.

Yet the reformation of scholarship was set up to serve the Christian public, as part of a broader program of pressing the redeeming claims of Christ in all areas of life. Like the two sides of a coin, the patient quiet work of research and its transmission to a wide public make up the two sides of the work for which the AACCS exists.

We should notice for a moment that one of those increasingly important areas of public life is that of scholarly academic work itself. More and more people are engaged in university work and in professional work that stays close to the university. Our scholarship must serve university people just as much as it serves the storekeeper. We must not forget that.





Our scholarly research may never become an end in itself. In some way all our work aims to give biblically reforming vitality to human life. Sometimes we get too ambitious, wanting to reform all of life by ourselves. Yet we must do our part, we must be among those who reach the hearts of people in all walks of life with the powerful gospel for all of life. Would it surprise you if I say that the greatest satisfaction we who work in the office receive comes from having people tell us that AACS has been a blessing in their lives? We treasure that more than academic gains.

In support of the work of the Institute, the AACS carries out three kinds of activities.

Administrative service is one of the ways we support the Institute. Someone needs to take care of the physical premises, pay the salaries, type the letters and academic articles, open the mail, do the bookkeeping and so on. Sylvia Jones, Harry Vander Velde, Belinda Vaartjes and Evelyn Kuntz Hielema do most of this work.

Financial support is another service we provide for the Institute. You see that the budget is around \$500,000 and that about three-fourths of this needs to be raised through free-will dues and donations. As we ask people for money, it is necessary to inform them about the work being done, and why the work is needed. So we write *Perspective* newsletter, write articles for church papers, place advertisements, and so on. The people who are very busy in this work are Marcia Hollingsworth, Dorothe Ellens and Nick Loenen.

Educational outreach is the third service by which AACS supports the Institute. The work of the Institute needs to get out to as wide a public as possible. Research and (post)graduate teaching is not itself on a public-popular level, so it needs transmission

lines to carry it in understandable form to the countryside. I will give an overview of that work through ten specific activities.

1. Conferences are organized for the general public, often held on holiday weekends, and often with Institute faculty members as main speakers. This year George Vandervelde spoke at the huge Niagara Conference in Ontario, Bernard Zylstra spoke at the conference held in Delaware and Hendrik Hart spoke at the conference in northern B.C. AACS family conferences were held also in Alberta and in Eastern Ontario, though with less involvement of AACS and Institute staff.

2. Short courses for the public are offered both in the summer and winter. This year's summer course was taught by Calvin Seerveld on gaining Christian insight into art works; it was taught for two weeks during the day at the Institute. Evening courses were taught in early 1978 in Toronto by Al Wolters on "Christian Worldview," with the course repeated late in the year in Barrie, Ontario. In early 1979 we are expecting Calvin Seerveld to offer a course in Toronto on Thursday nights on "Art in God's World." This season our Edmonton Chapter is sponsoring an evening course taught by Peter Schouls on "Philosophy of Ecology," and he expects to repeat the course under AACS auspices in Vancouver.

3. Public lectures, which we formerly organized in a series called Discovery, are given throughout North America by Institute faculty members. Hendrik Hart has lectured all across Canada this year, and in October Bernard Zylstra spent ten days in B.C. and Alberta. Numerous lectures were sponsored by AACS in Ontario.

4. Our staff members write articles which appear in church papers, as well as academic articles for the scholarly journals.

5. We are instrumental in bringing courses in Christian Perspective in Learning to a number of university campuses, both in Ontario and in other places. In the Toronto area these are being taught by Institute students. We have prepared a teachers manual for one course which permits the course to be taught by others elsewhere. This is part of our Campus Outreach Program.

6. We are publishing a new quarterly academic paper containing short academic articles and news about research toward the reformation of scholarship. This is edited by Al Wolters, with Kerry Hollingsworth assisting as managing editor.

7. In January, 1978, we started a way in which people can take out a subscription to academic papers produced from the Institute or in association with our work. Subscribers can receive ten papers for \$15, and then renew for another ten selections, of which they receive monthly notice. At

present we have about 250 individual subscribers and 20 library subscribers. Approximately 2100 papers have been purchased through this program during 1978.

8. We are printing and distributing a 200-page paperback collection of articles spelling out a biblical view of the nature of man, which will be helpful to teachers, students and professional workers in counselling, social work, teaching, the pastoral ministry, and all other fields dealing with people. This follows a similar book we printed last year on "Views of Man and Psychology".

9. We conduct extensive correspondence with students, teachers and people from all walks of life, people who write us about our work and about questions concerning the Christian reformation of scholarship in the fields of their interest. Some of this leads to people coming for full time study at the Institute, some leads to the private study of books and papers, or listening to tapes that we send of Institute-related lectures. We encourage people to look to the Institute and AACS as a resource centre for distinctive Christian insights into learning and study.

10. We support the work of the Curriculum Development Centre as they prepare materials for Christian teachers from a reformational Christian perspective. They have recently published Bible studies in the book of Joshua entitled *Reclaiming the Land*, and will soon publish social studies in different cultural ways of life, showing students how to look for the religious meaning in the ways people in different societies live. We believe these materials will offer a major breakthrough in the Christian teaching of social studies.

These are the major ways the AACS helps the Institute communicate its work to the public.

Where is AACS Going?

In the past several years we have been in a growth phase. The Institute started eleven years ago, and we have tried to add one new Senior Member to the faculty each year (there are now nine plus the approximate equivalent of one salary in the form of financial aid to needy Junior Members). As the research productivity of the Institute has grown, we have been building up the AACS Educational Services which help to transmit the insights gained from research to a wide public, both academic people and the general public. It is interesting to see that our "educational services" started 20 years ago with the "Unionville Conferences" in which we used the academic insights of other people gained at other places, but now we are developing and spreading the insights our own people gain through research at our Institute.

Our own research activity has caused us to increase our educational outreach programs, as outlined above, to help move our work outside the walls of the Institute.

But now we must hold the line in growth, and even cut back temporarily. The elevator has stopped. We hope this is temporary, until support comes through which will more than equal inflation in our costs. There are many urgent cries for help from people trying to survive in the struggle of spirits that goes on in the secular arenas of scholarship. We simply must come back with strength in Economic Theory rooted in the biblical teachings on justice and stewardship. We are not able to give the help people keep asking for in Christian philosophy of science. We need to give stronger support to people asking us for help in psychology and counselling. And so on.

Major effort is going into building a sounder financial base. The outstanding work of Marcia Hollingsworth in promotion and fund raising is known to many people, and we are working on structured ways of strengthening her hand. We are deeply thankful for the representation of AACS and the Institute in Western Canada by Nick Loenen, who started that a year ago. We have been trying, without success thus far, to recruit a similar representative to serve in Ontario.

We have been especially blessed in 1978 with the strong support of churches who responded to our appeals for help. We take this to mean that churches are more fully recognizing that we are serving their members in special ways, and that church support for our witness in higher education is appropriate.

One way of looking at our financial insecurities is to recognize that two-thirds of our annual budget of over half a million dollars must come from free-will donations made each year. The burden of raising almost \$400,000 each year through donations is very great indeed, and is a severe hamper on our work. We need to find ways of getting a larger amount and percentage of our money in the form of stable income outside of annual donations.

Yet the donation and prayer support of our members and friends, especially in the past year, has been overwhelming. Much of the year it seemed as if we were heading for financial disaster. But our appeals were answered in most amazing ways, from the widow's mite to the generosity of the well-to-do. Thank you for this beautiful support. For the people serving in academic and administrative work (whose salaries were cut back in the emergency and who shared in the financial support in that way) have found the provision for our needs to be a deeply moving religious experience. Please continue your prayers and gifts.

Financial Report

With great joy and thanksgiving we are able to report that we have finished 1978 without the financial deficit for the year which we had so greatly feared! We are awed by the mercies of our God and the response of supporters for the marvellous way that provision was made for our needs. At the same time, you will see that the most severe limitations on spending were needed also to achieve the 1978 budget balance. This meant even cutting all staff salaries in the middle of the year. So the sacrifice of our staff must be seen in the same light as the great generosity of those who donated money for the work.

At the 1977 Annual Meeting of the AACS our Treasurer told the members that we were trusting the Lord for donation income of \$120,000 greater than the previous year. That is how much money was needed to balance the budget.

The following comments will serve to explain some of the figures shown in the table headed "AACS Comparative Budgets."

Although the general donations made in 1978 did not equal the amount the budget showed that we would need, they are substantially higher than the total of \$230,000 received in general donations in 1977. The amount of donations we need in 1979 is larger than the donation income we received in 1978. Included in this category are donations received from the Women's Action for the AACS, grants from the AACS Foundation in the United States, and money received from the Calvinistic World Association in the Netherlands.

The very large increase in church contributions in 1978 reflects the special appeal we made to churches in May for help in our financial crisis. The response was beautiful and a very great encouragement to us. We believe it shows that churches are increasingly grateful for the services that we are giving to students and to young people from their congregations who are studying at colleges and universities.

The income from Educational Services fees represents the money we receive from the books, papers, and

AACS Comparative Budgets

Income	Budget 1979	Budget 1978	Preliminary Actual 1978	Actual 1977
General Donations	\$295,000	\$353,800	\$266,072	\$230,509
Church Contributions	18,000	15,000	34,792	11,256
Membership Dues	45,000	40,000	38,279	33,066
ICS Tuition	27,000	25,000	22,728	18,191
Educational Services Fees	23,000	21,000	32,327	7,928
Rental Income	125,000	110,000	96,904	131,012
Miscellaneous Income	5,000	1,000	13,577	5,470
Total Income	\$538,000	\$565,800	\$504,679	\$437,432
Expenditures				
Institute for Christian Studies	\$198,730	\$214,200	\$192,597	\$192,267
Educational Services	53,200	48,000	44,722	32,090
Student Financial Aid	24,000	30,000	26,296	21,876
Curriculum Development Centre	19,500	24,500	20,400	29,500
Administration and Development	142,970	150,200	103,330	102,278
Building	99,600	93,900	99,979	92,249
Contingency	—	5,000	—	—
Total Operating Expenditures	\$538,000	\$565,800	\$487,324	\$470,260
Surplus (Deficit)	0	0	\$ 17,355	\$(32,828)

tapes which we sell, and also income received from conferences and public lectures which the AACS sponsors.

The expenditures for the Institute for Christian Studies are lower than budgeted in 1978 because we cut the salaries of staff members in the middle of the year. The budgeted expenditures for 1979 for the Institute are lower than those budgeted in 1978 because in the middle of the year Sander Griffioen will be leaving the faculty and Arnold De Graaff will be serving us only on a half-time basis.

We have reorganized our budgeting procedures for the area of Educational Services, including in that category some of the salaries of our staff members who work part of the time in Educational Services. This more accurately reflects the proportion of our total effort that is put into this kind of service than our previous practice of showing only the direct costs of materials, travel, and the like.

Our budget for Student Financial Aid is lower for 1979 because we are getting fewer candidates for degrees who are applying for aid, and also because this is an area where we have felt compelled to do some stringent cutting.

The decrease of \$5,000 budgeted for Curriculum Development Centre is an annual decrease which reflects our phasing out of AACS support for this work, as it gains its own complete

independence.

In certain ways we are proud of the fact that we are presenting a budget for 1979 which calls for lower expenditures than for 1978. We have done that in response to criticism from some of our supporting members that our budget was increasing too fast, and also as a result of our realistic assessment of financial support that is available to us. We are doing this at the price of inadequate salaries for all of our staff members, from the academic faculty to the administrators and supporting office staff members. We are also taking the painful step of temporarily cutting down the number of faculty members at the Institute. In addition, there are certain important services which we have not been able to make budget provision for, such as editing of academic materials which need to be written and published. We have struggled together to discover our responsibilities to fulfilling a vigorous prophetic educational ministry and at the same time to be faithfully realistic in using the resources of God's people. The budget for 1979 is the result of those struggles.

We pray that God will bless these decisions and our plans for 1979, and that he will open the hearts of his people to be generous in support of this battle for the hearts and minds of people in our secular age.

Closing Remarks from the Board of Trustees

by Marinus Koole, Vice President



Marinus Koole, Vice President

You should realize that the work of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors is not always an easy one. At recent Board meetings, too, we have struggled together as Board of Trustees over the work of the Institute in its various functions. But it all seems to come together. Sometimes the people of our staff come more than halfway in meeting our financial needs by taking cuts in salary and thereby themselves make financial contributions which make the rest of us very humble. For this we are very thankful to our staff.

As we struggle together as Boards and staffs with the finances, and especially with the budget for the coming year, you can just imagine as to how these discussions will go. It is like coming home from work with your paycheque and telling your wife, well, I'm sorry, but I worked 15 hours less this week so the paycheque is cut by 20-25%. And right away your wife says, well, look, I was just about going to buy a roast for Sunday, and the baby needs new shoes. So you have a discussion first so that you both can decide what the strategy is going to be. One wants to do more than finances allow. This is about like the discussion which we have had as a Board of Trustees. We are very enthusiastic about the work and sometimes our eagerness to be busy for the Lord exceeds the tempo at which

the Lord lets us walk.

Our treasurer, Jan de Koning, had some problems, too, with accepting the budget with the cutbacks in the work. But again, we together as a Board of Trustees learn to walk together and work together at the pace the Lord has shown us in the past.

At the close of our annual membership meeting I would like to say a few words to you about our Boards, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors, the Board of Curators — you know there are a lot of people working in this Association. First of all I want to thank the staff of the Association for the hard work they have done in the past year. You know the staff has worked under pressure because we were short of money. You know what it

is to work when you are under pressure. You don't have enough ability to move because there's no money. That's pretty difficult, and we want to thank the staff, and above all we want to thank you as members for your prayers and for your support. Now as we move into another year again I hope that together we may work so that when we come home we will work in our own constituency so that the support we have promised today will be accomplished by the Lord's blessing. We can do that if we trust in the providence of the Lord, and as we surrender to His calling. It's difficult if there is no money, but if the staff feel that they have the support and they have the prayers of the Association and its members, that makes it much easier.

I want to say a few words of appreciation for the past chairman of our Association, Rev. Alvin Venema. He is moving from Brantford, Ontario to Edmonton. We pray the Lord's blessing upon him in his new work, just as we also thank him for all the work he has done for our Association.

I also wish to thank all the members of the boards and staff of the Association and the Institute staff for all the hard work which God has blessed in the past year. Let us work together in the coming year so that each of us in our respective calling will be able to do what the Lord asks of us, and what we have stated that we intend to do at this meeting, and at the recent Board meetings.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship held Saturday, November 4, 1978 at 1 p.m. at the AACs Building, 229 College Street, Toronto.

1. The meeting is called to order by the Vice-president of the Association, Mr. Marinus Koole, in the absence of President James Joosse, whose commitments in Calgary prevented him from attending the meeting.
2. The Members sing an opening hymn, "Our Father Clothed in Majesty," to the piano accompaniment of Syd Hielema.
3. The Chairman reads Scripture from Isaiah 45 and leads in prayer. He gives a hearty welcome to the members in attendance.
4. A report on the work of the Association for the past year is given by Dr. Robert VanderVennen, Executive Director. He identifies three kinds of activities the Association carries out in support of the work of the Institute: administrative support, financial support, and educational outreach. He briefly presents ten programs of educational outreach which the Association operates, which serve as a link between the Institute and the public. He also makes some observations about the present level of development of the Association and the ways it is moving.
5. Dr. C. Thomas McIntire, Chairman of the Institute for Christian Studies, reports on the current work of the Institute. He notes with special thankfulness the improved enrolment in the Institute this year.
6. The audited financial statement for 1977 is presented by the Treasurer, Jan de Koning, who explains the significance of a number of the financial figures. A motion is duly made and carried to accept the financial statement as presented.
7. The Treasurer then presents and explains the proposed budget for 1979 in which the income and expenditures both equal \$538,000. After some discussion a motion is made, supported and carried to adopt the budget.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, a motion is made and carried to appoint Mississauga Accounting and Auditing Services as external auditor for 1978.
9. The Chairman expresses thanks to the members of the Boards, staffs, and the student body who have worked very faithfully in the past year. He also expresses his deep thanks to the members for their splendid support during the year.
10. The Members sing two closing songs, "Those Who Wait Upon the Lord," and "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"
11. After the closing prayer the meeting is adjourned for the inaugural celebration of Dr. George Vandervelde as Senior Member in Systematic Theology at the Institute for Christian Studies.

H. Praamsma, secretary

M. Koole, chairman

Members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors

Rev. James Joosse (President), pastor, Calgary, Alberta
Mr. Marinus Koole (Vice-President of Trustees and President of Board of Directors), businessman, St. Catharines, Ontario
Rev. Herman Praamsma (Secretary), pastor, Toronto, Ontario
Mr. Jan de Koning (Treasurer), university tutor, Toronto, Ontario
Ms. Karen De Waal, housewife, Sarnia, Ontario
Rev. Peter Nicolai, pastor, Toronto, Ontario
Dr. Edward Piers, university professor, Vancouver, British Columbia
Mr. Wytse Posthumus, lawyer, Toronto, Ontario
Dr. Paul Schrotenboer, ecumenist, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dr. James Skillen, college teacher, Sioux Center, Iowa
Dr. Henk Van Andel, university professor, Montreal, Quebec
Ms. Betty Westrik, labour researcher, Toronto, Ontario

Members of the Board of Curators

Dr. Peter Schouls (Chairman), university professor, Edmonton, Alberta
Dr. Paul Schrotenboer (Vice-chairman), ecumenist, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dr. Richard Longenecker, university professor, Toronto, Ontario
Dr. Lawrence Lynch, university professor, Toronto, Ontario
Mr. John Olthuis, research director, Toronto, Ontario
Dr. Kenneth Piers, college teacher, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, university professor, Toronto, Ontario

Harry Anastasiou receives M.Phil. degree



Harry Anastasiou with his examiners Wolters, Hart and Olthuis

On Monday, December 18, the Institute awarded its eleventh Master of Philosophy degree to Harry Anastasiou, a Junior Member from Cyprus who came to the ICS in September, 1975. According to Hendrik Hart, who was Harry's mentor, Harry's 220-page thesis is a work "of outstanding quality." The AACCS hopes to publish the thesis this month.

Harry did his work on the British philosopher-scientist Michael Polanyi, who came out of the unitarian Christian tradition and became famous for developing a philosophy of knowledge that is completely

alternative to the mainstream ideas on that topic. Harry explained, "I was fascinated by Polanyi's boldness in speaking of the function of human commitment in knowledge."

In today's society there is an increasing attempt to automate and program everything in our lives. Decisions about human beings are made by computers, computers which can synthesize material at the speed of light. As much as possible, Harry said, human decision (and error) is kept out of the picture, in favour of machines. "Polanyi's theory of *personal* knowledge comes into the picture as a cup of cold water. He can open up avenues for further exploration into our situation and into the possible alternatives."

Harry began working on an M.A. program at the University of Toronto while he was finishing his thesis for the Institute, and hopes to receive his M.A. this coming spring. Then he and his wife Dora plan to return to Cyprus, from where Harry will apply for the Ph.D. program at the Free University in Amsterdam.

During his three years at the Institute, Harry became involved in the AACCS campus outreach program. He has taught two Christian perspectives courses on university campuses in Toronto, and was instrumental in putting together the AACCS course manual "Reflection on a Christian Worldview." He also led a discussion group for two years in which Junior Members came together to discuss the practical implications of their Christian responsibility.

AACCS/ICS News

* In preparing the 1979 Budget it became clear to the staff at the AACCS/ICS that a new salary schedule was needed. The Institute staff has always had a schedule, but AACCS office staff salaries have been set rather arbitrarily. In addition, ICS salaries have not been paid as scheduled for a long time because of lack of money. A meeting of all staff members was called where the matter was discussed openly and cordially. Then a committee consisting of members from staffs and boards was formed, with the mandate to examine the whole issue thoroughly, taking into account the real needs of a family

living in Toronto. The committee agreed on a top level salary of \$21,600 for Senior Members, the Executive Director and the Director of Development. All other staff members, too, were placed in salary schedules. Our 1979 budget does not give us the money to pay those salaries in full, however, so every staff member will receive 85% of the amount their schedule asks for. As a result, actual salaries for AACS/ICS staff members will range from \$9,100 to \$18,400 for 1979. The Board of Directors officially approved the proposal on January 18, and there is a happy consensus among staff members with this decision.

- * All AACS receipts for 1978 tax deductible donations and membership dues were sent out by the first of January. If anyone has not received his/her receipt, please contact AACS giving details.
- * In December *Calvinist Contact* ran a lengthy interview with Sander Griffioen about a Christian approach to the economy and the business enterprise. Copies of this interview, entitled "The economy is our Christian business" are available, free of charge, from the AACS.
- * The current issue of *International Reformed Bulletin* (#73, 1978) contains a two-page summary of the address Sander Griffioen gave at the Easter 1978 conference of the International Association for Reformed Faith and Action held in Aix-en-Provence, France. The title of the article is "The Future of Labour."
- * On December 4, Bernard Zylstra and Sander Griffioen met with a group of 50 businessmen and other interested people in Brampton, Ontario, to lead a discussion on the problems of Christian businessmen and businesswomen. The discussion centered on whether more can be done to give guidance for running a business in a Christian manner, and what the problems are that Christians face in the business world. There was a strong commitment among many of those present to follow this meeting up with other discussions, and perhaps with a conference on the subject.
- * Al Wolters' article on "Pietism vs. Activism: Unmasking the Dilemma," which earlier appeared in *The Banner* was reprinted in the October 20, 1978 issue of *The Church Herald*, the official publication of the Reformed Church of America.
- * On December 8, 1979 Al Wolters gave a lecture at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, entitled "Coming to terms with the history of Logos-speculation." The lecture was held under the auspices of the Calvin College philosophy department, and led to a searching discussion on the biblical teaching on the Word of God as this relates to Jesus Christ and creation laws.
- * During the last months of 1978, Al Wolters gave a series of six evening lectures on "A Christian Worldview" in Barrie, Ontario. These dealt with (and led to animated discussions about) the outlines of a distinctively Calvinistic reformational life-perspective, and some of the implications of this for current cultural and societal issues.
- * On January 16 and 17, 1979, Al Wolters gave a lecture entitled "Christian Education: The Road to a Christian Worldview" in Montreal and Ottawa. In both cities the presentation was followed by an unusually penetrating discussion on the challenge of Christian education as it relates to the biblical notion of "world." In Montreal the talk was co-sponsored by the Emmanuel Christian High School.
- * "What is the relation between the Bible and science" is the title of an article by Robert VanderVennen reprinted in the current edition of the

manual for the course, "Christian Perspectives on Learning," taught at Calvin College.

* Robert VanderVennen was a panelist and seminar leader at the PURSUIT '78 conference of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, held in Toronto during the Christmas holidays. He spoke on Christian vocation as a teacher at the post-secondary level, and was coordinator of the section dealing with careers in teaching. Wendy Morrison, Junior Member at the Institute, staffed a literature table which promoted the services of the Institute to students and IVCF staff. About 400 students attended the conference, at which Samuel Escobar and John Stott were featured speakers.

* Advance notice: The five lectures that the eminent Swedish theologian Gustav Wingren prepared for the "Christianity and Learning" lectureship at the Institute in January are now compiled into a book which the Institute is selling for \$7.95. Entitled *Creation and Gospel*, the lectures are published with a 40-page introduction by Dr. Henry Vander Goot of Calvin College. You can send your order to AACS, 229 College Street, Toronto. A report on the lectures, jointly sponsored by the Institute, Calvin College, and St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto, will appear in the next issue of *Perspective*.

* James Olthuis presented a paper at the 30th Annual meeting of the Evangelical Society held December 27-29 in Deerfield, Illinois. Over 200 theologians and other students of the Bible, from all over the United States and Canada, attended this anniversary gathering. Olthuis' paper was entitled "The Doctrine of Creation."

* Bernard Zylstra attended the First South African International Conference on Human Rights, held in Capetown on January 22-26, 1979. He was a member of a panel responding to a lecture presented by Seymour Martin Lipset of Stanford University, California.

* The Center for Christian Studies, of which Kenneth W. Hermann is Program Director, is holding a conference on "Research and Learning in Christian Perspective" on February 24 at the University of Illinois, with Prof. Arthur Holmes of Wheaton College as speaker. Interested persons are invited to write to Hermann (2010 Greendale Dr., Champaign, Illinois 61820) about this conference and other programs of the Center.

* Hendrik Hart addressed an annual AACS chapter meeting in St. Catharines, Ontario on November 17, 1978, on the topic they requested, "Can the AACS survive?" When he was given the topic, he commented that thankfully the answer to that question does not lie in our hands.

* On December 2, Hendrik Hart spoke at the annual AACS Chapter meeting in Chatham, Ontario. He gave his slide/lecture entitled "South Africa: Behind the Headlines."

* Brian Walsh (ICS Junior Member in theology) has been busy throughout the fall and winter speaking to various Christian groups. November 3-5 he presented lectures to the staff of the Coalition for Christian Outreach (based in Pittsburgh) at its staff retreat at Bethany College in West Virginia. In these lectures Brian summarized the AACS Christian perspectives course as it has been published in "Reflection on a Christian Worldview." This manual is now being used by Coalition staff members on a number of campuses.

Later in November, Brian spoke to the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

group at Scarborough College (a suburban college of the University of Toronto) on "The Kingdom of God," and to the I-V group on the downtown campus of the University of Toronto on "Growth of the Body of Christ." On these campuses, the AACS also offers three Christian perspectives courses, taught by Brian, John Valk and Terry Tollefson. During January, Brian spoke twice to the Erindale College I-V group (another suburban college of the U of T) on the biblical meaning of "worldliness," and its significance for Christian life in our modern culture.



Letters to AACS/ICS

Enclosed is a check as a token of our love and appreciation for this area of God's Kingdom. We are grateful to our Covenant God for His faithfulness in our lives and the lives of our covenant children during 1978...We are confident the Lord will continue to meet the needs of the Institute through 1979. His caring arm has never been shortened--after all, His Kingdom is for ever!

Pittsburgh

We receive Perspective Newsletter at my home and I always find it very helpful to me, in the articles you include and the books which are recommended. I have a friend in The Netherlands with whom I write. He is studying at a university in Northern Holland and is struggling to find out how we as Christians must view the world, and how we must live and study in it. I don't think he has much meaningful contact with other Christians there, especially in dealing with questions of Christian perspective in his studying. I would be very grateful if you would send him a newsletter.

B.C.

Please find enclosed a donation in response to your appeal for a financial contribution to the AACS. My gift must remain anonymous as some people could get upset if they would hear of my support. It is possible to forgive, however human nature does not forget inflicted injuries of the past. Only our Lord can both forgive and forget as He has no need to learn from experience. True remorse must be brought before His throne of grace. May the AACS staff grow in His wisdom to benefit the entire Christian community. Yours in the service of the same Lord.

anonymous

We received the Perspective, and noticed that the Lord's blessings have been with you in the year 1978. And we hope and pray that the Lord may continue His blessings in the years to come. When we build in the Lord, He will never let us down.

B.C.

With your academic papers you've hit on a very good way of letting members participate in the work of the Institute. Keep it up.

Ghana

I have known about the Institute since before its birth, while most of the senior professors were still struggling with undergrads at Trinity Christian College. However I have never been able to really benefit from a prolonged study in academics under one of them. But I have watched the progress and gleaned what I could from the various newsletters and readings. I am presently in a graduate program in public administration at the University of Washington and very much in need of life-giving scholarship. I was very happy to see that you have begun to get the various works out to the general Christian community. Please send me...

Washington

...Our concern is that there are not enough people to do all the work at the Institute, which causes work-overload and stress. A person can only do so much and has to think about his/her own health as well....The answer is, slow down before you are forced to do so. In the mean time members who have certain gifts, should use these if possible to lighten the load of others, especially those who can give lectures. We have been putting some information about the Institute in the Church bulletins....just to keep the people informed on a regular basis as to what is happening...

Alberta

Response: ...Thank you so much for your words of encouragement and good suggestions. You're right, we have to draw on the gifts of members outside our staff to relieve our workload somewhat. And it gives us such a lift when AACCS friends pitch in, in their local area. What happened in Calgary this year was an outstanding example....

My wife and I have in recent years benefited greatly from the work of AACCS/ICS/Wedge Publishing Foundation, for the deepening of our insight into the richness of our life in God's world and the demands that are laid upon His people in the whole of life. Indeed my own involvement in the fledgling Australian Christian school movement is due in part to stimulation to grasp the vision of God's Kingdom that was received through your publications....

Australia

I hope you will forgive this intrusion into your busy schedule. But I need help. At the university where I graduated in 1976 a number of Christian students are concerned with the relation between the Christian faith and their academic study....Christian students find themselves intellectually suffocated by the prevailing naturalistic and reductionistic mental climate...

Michigan

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Rotstein lectures at the Institute

by Peter Doan



Contemplating the economic branch of science

On December 15, 1978 the ICS was privileged to welcome as guest lecturer Dr. Abraham Rotstein, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Toronto. Dr. Rotstein is well-known in the world of Canadian scholarship. He studied under Karl Polanyi and Harold Innis. He continued the work of Dr. Innis with his own work on the Canadian fur trade. He has served as a leading figure on the Committee for an Independent Canada. Rotstein was also editor of the journal *Canadian Forum*.

The first connection between Rotstein and the Reformed community came via his kind response to a review of one of his works by Harry Antonides. Since then he has made himself available to economics students at ICS. He also was present for the van der Hoeven lectures at ICS last year and for the Social Sciences seminar in August of 1978.

His lecture in December was based on an article he has written entitled "The World Turned Upside Down." The lecture centered on a critique of the apocalyptic ideals present in today's "liberation" movements. These movements tend to reject the absolutist claims of religion but they still make absolutist claims about themselves. They reject the concept of religious authority but use the very same forms, language, and expectations of the rejected authority. He concluded his lecture with a very personal appraisal of the world situation. Many of the audience disagreed with some of the points of the lecture but could not help but be sympathetic to the concerns and personal convictions Rotstein shared with us.

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NOTES: 1978 AACCS Annual Report, Goudzwaard will spend 1979-80 academic year at ICS

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