

Perspective

Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship
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ICS summer seminar attracts Christian scholars worldwide

by Bernard Zylstra



Professor Elaine Botha

It was an unusual conference, the ICS-sponsored academic seminar on "The Relevance of Christian Studies in Economics, Sociology and Political Science," held August 3-11.

As a rule our summer seminars are organized by a member of the ICS staff. This time the directors were Elaine Botha from the Christian University at Potchefstroom in South Africa, and I myself, with Sander Griffioen taking care of a phenomenal amount of leg work, assisted by Lynda Kosowan Hines. In the past the ICS has had one or two professors lead a seminar of this kind for a week or two. This time we invited fifteen lecturers and twelve respondents, each speaking on a theme within his or her specialty.

We had expected a total of about fifty to sixty participants. Instead we ended up with nearly a hundred. The majority were professors and lecturers from at least twenty-five different academic institutions. A slightly smaller group came from fifteen different action organizations.

There were at least twenty graduate students from numerous universities. Ten countries were represented. Many of these people were able to come because they also attended the second International Conference of Christian Higher Educational Institutions hosted by Calvin College in Grand Rapids a week later.

This unexpectedly large number of participants meant that the built-in differences of the seminar were even greater than we had planned. Yes, we wanted diversity. It was our intent to use the ICS as a platform where the meaning of Christian scholarship would be debated--by philosophers and special scientists, by representatives of different disciplines, by theorists and practitioners, by reformed scholars and evangelical scholars,



*Dr. Maarten Vrieze, Trinity
Christian College, Illinois*

by professors and students, by "Dooyeweerdians" and "non-Dooyeweerdians," by Canadians, Americans, Britons, Dutchmen, South Africans and Australians.

After we had gotten off the ground, I thought that we might lose one another, that the dialogue would end in controversy. Instead, it became evident towards the mid-point of the conference that we were beginning to find each other, maintaining our individual integrity, but also gaining an appreciation for the insights into the meaning of Christian scholarship which our newly-gained friends had to offer. Why? I'd like to answer that by quoting extensively from an assessment of the conference by Johan van de Vyver, professor of legal philosophy at Potchefstroom and the respondent to Richard Mouw (Calvin College). Van de Vyver writes:

I have in the past had occasion to attend and to participate in many similar conferences, both in South Africa and abroad, and I can state without hesitation or reserve that I regard the Toronto Conference as the most outstanding event of its kind. This is not only so on account of the quality of the formal presentations at the conference, but was in my opinion particularly evidenced by the spirit which prevailed amongst the delegates. Though there were differences of opinion relating to even delicate matters of principle, such differences of opinion were voiced in a scholarly fashion and without any signs of personal hostility. This also applied to the debate relating to racism in South Africa; and for that I--as a South African who has often been subjected to rather unpleasant emotional outbursts directed against the policies of our country--am particularly thankful.

And so I asked myself what it was that made the Toronto Conference different. I believe that the significance of the conference stemmed from a spirit of Christian brotherhood displayed by all the delegates. In spite of our differences--great though they may be--we all had something special in common, namely a profound dedication to the cause of Christian scholarship within the context of a Biblical confession. The endeavours of the Institute to foster that cause inspired all the participants in the conference to transcend their differences. And so we discovered new allies in Jesus Christ, made new friends, and really had a great time.

The spirit of Christian brotherhood was also displayed by those residents of Toronto who invited us to their homes, entertained us, and went out of their way to make our stay such an unforgettable experience.

Van de Vyver's assessment is thoroughly positive. This does not, of course, mean that there were no negative aspects. For some the conference



*Dr. Bob Goudzwaard, Free
University of Amsterdam*



(l-r) Profs. Tiemstra and Penning (Calvin College), Prof. Johan van de Vyver

and by many others who share this goal. This conference should not be a once-and-for-all event. It should be a link in a long chain!

Bernard Zylstra is principal of the Institute for Christian Studies, and was one of the directors of the social science seminar.

Thousand attend 20th annual Ontario conference

by five families from Chatham, Ontario

On the morning of Friday, August 4, the campus of Niagara Christian College was a scene of tranquility--large buildings and freshly cut lawns underneath generation-old trees, beside the fast flowing Niagara River. Standing there, one would never imagine that four hours later these grounds would be a bustling community of one thousand people.

At 2:00 p.m. tenters, campers and hitchhikers started to arrive from every direction. By 9:00 p.m. some 800 people had arrived to attend the opening session of the 20th annual AACS Ontario conference. These numbers swelled to one thousand by the next morning. Old friends saw each other again for the first time since last year's conference. Many new faces were introduced from one end of the campgrounds to the other. Over one hundred people were attending an AACS conference for their first time, while one family was there for the twentieth consecutive time.

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The conference was opened by Morris Greidanus, the chairman, who kept us laughing for three days, and Alice Greidanus (Morris' partner) who began to mould conferees into one mass choir. We learned new songs and shouted out the old favourites, accompanied by Syd Hielema on the piano, Henry Westendorp, Bill Kaptein and Joe Wiersma on the guitars, and Ed De Jong on the drums. By the end of the conference, Alice's voice was gone and conferees were beginning to whisper because of sore throats.

Saturday morning Dr. George Vandervelde,

Senior Member in theology at ICS, set the tone for the conference with his eloquent lecture on "The Pregnant Present and the Pull of the Future: The Contours of Hope." He outlined why hope among present day Christians seems to be waning. Christians, either discouraged by a future crowded with problems of hunger, overpopulation and threats of war; or lulled to sleep by prosperity; or grown weary of waiting for Christ's seemingly delayed return; or perhaps intensely involved with urgent kingdom work here and now, seem to have lost the joyful longing and hope of the early Christians for Christ's return.

For Christians, according to Vandervelde, there is no present without a future, just as there is no future without a present. He emphasized that the Kingdom of Christ is very real and very much present in the world, but that at the same time it is also hidden, opposed and contradicted. The Kingdom is constantly straining to be uncovered, outward in the present, but also onward into the future until the final victory and full revelation of the Kingdom in all its glory, with Christ as Lord. The church then is--like the pregnant woman who works and prepares for her coming child, busy at work, yet expectant--living toward the day of Christ's coming.

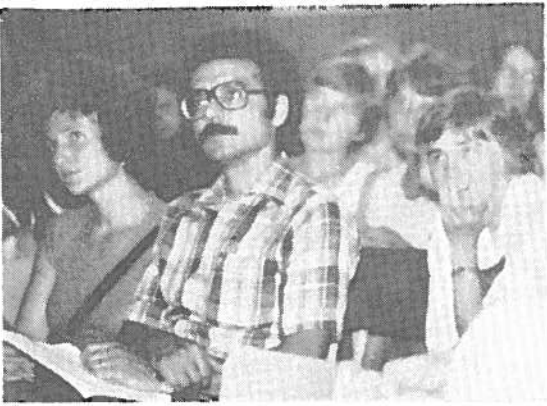
While adult conferees discussed and struggled together with the theme of living in the Kingdom, the children and young people were involved in many different activities, games and trips, superbly organized by the St. Catharines, Sarnia and Chatham AACCS chapters.

On Saturday, and again on Monday afternoon, our searching continued with the aid of workshop leaders who addressed themselves to various aspects of Christian living.

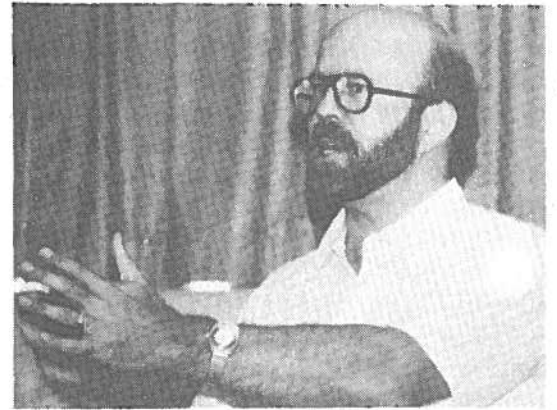
Dr. Spykman, Professor of Theology at Calvin College, spoke on "The Church's Marching Orders." Spykman raised some questions the church must face if it is to prepare God's people for the present and the future. He emphasized the need of the church to teach future generations the reality that God is restoring all things, and to open up for them the vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

Dr. Steen, director of Christian Educational Services in Pennsylvania, spoke on "Cultures and Counter-Cultures," concentrating on the book of Revelation. His tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to the cause of Christ and His Kingdom, in spite of his continual struggle with serious illness, was an inspiration and encouragement to all conferees. Steen urged us not to look back to a "golden age" but to look forward to the task God has given us until He returns. He spoke of the task of the state to do justice and warned of popular movements that revolt against the state, against taxation and against industrialization. He challenged us to use and mould modern society in such a way that it prepares for Christ's return.

Dr. Skillen, Associate Professor of Political Science at Dordt College, spoke on politics. Our hope in politics, he suggested, lies in our striving to obtain justice for all citizens. Our politicians must hear this from us. What can we as individuals do to reach such a lofty goal? Skillen emphasized the need to make politics a priority item first of all by becoming informed through reading and studying. Secondly, we can support the organized political efforts of organizations such as the Committee for Justice and Liberty (Canada) and the Association for Public Justice (U.S.A.). Finally we can let others know about our views and why we hold them by joining neighbourhood associations, and writing letters to newspaper editors and to our elected officials. All these grand schemes



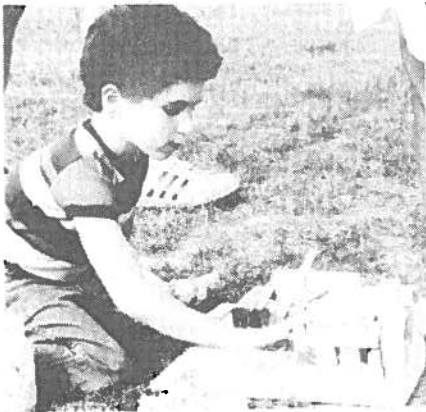
An attentive audience



Skillen reaches into the political sphere



The ongoing struggle



Building a firm foundation



Steen, Spykman, Seerveld: discussing the finer points



Lecturer Vandervelde being lectured



Marcia and Kerry Hollingsworth: the overseers

are not impossible if we remember for whom we strive.

On Saturday afternoon the conferees were in for a surprise and a treat. Through the hard work of a number of Toronto women, a fellowship festival took place. There were games for every age group and all participated. Toddlers played in small swimming pools, preschoolers made puppets, six to eight year olds worked cleverly with skill saws, and both children and adults competed in contests and races of every kind. The fellowship festival climaxed with a communal supper served to the one thousand conferees. Hot dogs, chili burgers, salad plates and watermelons were devoured in unbelievable quantities. Cake and cookies offset whatever the health food salad plates did. No one seemed to mind even the half hour wait in the line up. This mammoth project taken on by a few contributed much to the spirit of fellowship which so clearly stood out at this twentieth AACS conference.

Following the festival we were treated to a concert by James Ward and Michael Blanchard. These two young talented musicians sang and played in a new way the praise and glory of God and told the story of newness brought about by the redeeming work of the Saviour. Their style of music challenged the old notions of the generation gap. The efforts of these two talented musicians to be christianly busy in this part of the arts was universally applauded by both young and old.

Conferees, like flowers, never sleep--they just fade away. From eleven o'clock in the evening till two o'clock the next morning conferees sang and kept people awake for miles around. Twelve year olds wished their parents goodnight and sang for another hour. First-time conferees wondered if they would survive the weekend while six-month old children, camped next to the auditorium, slept like babies. At two a.m. some four hundred people were still singing.

In spite of the late nights the conferees awoke early to attend the Sunday morning worship service. We were joined by people from area churches and by participants attending a seminar at the Institute. Rev. Morris Greidanus preached on the topic "Living Hope" from the book of Revelation.

In the afternoon Dr. Seerveld, Senior Member in Aesthetics at the Institute, spoke to a crowded auditorium on "A Cloud of Witnesses and a New Generation." In good reformed tradition he began by listing his three points. Those who were privileged to hear Dr. Seerveld will know that his beautiful command of the English language is anything but traditional.

In flowing eloquence Seerveld outlined why the AACS began. He read from Psalm 78 and Malachi 3. Psalm 78 is a folk song of Asaph which recounts the great saving acts of God as He liberated His people. That same kind of trembling wonderment, said Seerveld, was in the air about twenty years ago when board chairman Rev. F. Guillaume spoke of the absolute necessity of bringing together reformed scholars and students in a yearly conference in order to deepen and strengthen their awareness of the necessity for reformed scientific studies. Underlying this need was the vision for an institute where reformed courses would be taught from day to day.

Seerveld explained that the Institute today tries to pass on the insights of the still reforming reformation to younger generations so that young and old can struggle anew with what God's will is for human life, and so that our children can live more obediently as the Lord prepares to come. Seerveld closed by giving thanks not to men but to our covenant God for the celebration of the 20th AACS conference which brought us all together.

That evening Rev. Greidanus again led us in a worship service of response and thanksgiving. Individuals contributed with music, poetry or just thanking God for His never-ending faithfulness. At 10:30 the chairman announced that there would be no more singing due to the late hour of the night before and to give the leaders and musicians some much needed rest. Sighs of disappointment and plans to picket his sleeping quarters greeted this announcement.

Monday morning Vandervelde gave his final lecture entitled "The Content of Our Hope." He spoke of the need to see with the eyes of faith, so that we can see blessings and the way the Lord has used the work of His people. He went on to remind us that God's final judgement will light up the work that we do in faith, and that we must continue to see that only through Christ does our work take on any meaning. We were reminded that only God ushers in the Kingdom. It is not up to us. But we must respond with the talents that He has given us, working faithfully until the very end, knowing that our work here is never lost.

Monday afternoon we once more joined together for the final closing. Prolonged applause showed everyone's appreciation for the hard work of the conference organizers--especially Kerry and Marcia Hollingsworth (conference coordinators), Alice Greidanus (our never-tiring songleader), and Morris Greidanus (our capable chairman, never at a loss for the right word at the right time). Finally we thanked God for the opportunity to struggle together, to worship together, and to praise Him together as a small segment of the body of Christ. It was good to have discussed together that God ushers in His Kingdom at His time, and to be reminded that He gives us talents to use so that we may work in anticipation of the final day when all things shall be new.

TAPES AVAILABLE FROM 1978 NIAGARA CONFERENCE

Dr. George Vandervelde: *The Pregnant Present and the Pull of the Future*

☐

I. The Contours of Hope

☐

II. The Content of Hope

☐

Dr. Calvin Seerveld: *A Cloud of Witnesses and a New Generation*

☐

Dr. Gordon Spykman: *The Church's Marching Orders: Between D Day and V Day*

☐

Dr. James Skillen: *The Hope and Hopelessness of Politics*

☐

Dr. Peter Steen: *Counter Cultures, Cultural Anarchism and the Presence of the Future Kingdom*

☐

Sunday morning worship service

☐

Hymn Sing

☐

ENTIRE SET OF 8 TAPES

Please send me the tapes I have checked. I enclose \$4 for each tape or \$30 for the entire set of 8 tapes. Send tapes to: Name _____

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Seerveld leads course for Christian probing in the arts

by Kathryn Posthumus



The course inspired many animated discussions

Twenty-eight men and women from Canada and the U.S. came to the Institute for two weeks in July to attend the seminar "Art, Literature and Music in God's World." They were students, housewives, teachers, a pastor, a retired man, artists, a photographer--people from all walks of life but with a common desire to learn better to appreciate art. Is there a Christian style of doing art? How can I teach art, music and literature in a Christian way? How can I appreciate an art product whose meaning escapes me? We had many questions. We also had Dr. Calvin Seerveld to lead us in finding some answers. He has struggled joyfully for many years to give a Christian account of art. In his own caring, humble and humorous way he gave us insight into our task as obedient appreciators, producers and teachers of art products.

Dr. Seerveld introduced us to the art of the 18th century painter Watteau. He gave Watteau's work its historical and art-traditional setting. We looked at many examples of the artist's work. Seerveld helped us look at and read the visible and the invisible text so that we could see what Watteau was saying.

What was visible was the size, the foreground, the background, the colour, the composition. But what about all those statues, the dogs, the swing, the maiden's distance from her suitor, the character often in shadows observing the proceedings? What did the 18th century artist assume we would understand by those symbols, many of which are no longer a part of our visual vocabulary? Seerveld defined the symbols and read the paintings with us.

Next we viewed the art of the 18th century painter and engraver Hogarth. As Seerveld led us in doing justice to this artist, we saw that Hogarth used a different "art language" than his contemporary, Watteau. We began to understand that the spirit filling an artist leads him to pick a certain "art language" and that these together--the artist's spirit and his aesthetic language--determine the style of the artist. We saw that 18th century rococo art was moving painting closer toward its proper task of "suggestion-rich deepening of your neighbour's awareness of reality in God's world." Watteau and Hogarth, however, did not see the world as God's, and with careful probing into their work a different spirit, a different view of the world and of man's task can be discovered.

Twice during our two week study together Dr. David Jeffrey, chairman of the Department of English Literature at the University of Ottawa, came with his own style in a pick-up truck from his farm, to lead us in an exploration of the novel. He began with the 18th century writer Henry Fielding and his novel *Tom Jones*. At the hands of Jeffrey, *Tom Jones* became a good-humoured, rational, intense dialogue between Christianity and the central issues of 18th century culture. Jeffrey showed clearly



Woiwode and Seerveld: artistic playfulness isn't always hard work

in this presentation, and later with Rudy Wiebe's *Blue Mountains of China*, the inescapable connection between the spirit which drives the artist and the style and structure of the product.

Bert Polman, with a sound all his own, gave two presentations on aesthetic listening to music. After a background on the ritual character of 19th century music, we listened to the music of Charles Ives (c. 1910), and responded to its musical meaning. Polman, who teaches music at the Ontario Bible College, helped us discover the different features of Ives' music and to grate-

fully enjoy its richness. We began to see its connection with the religiously-driven, transcendental world-view. Polman warned us that aesthetic listening is hard; we found that especially true with the music of Bob Dylan. Maybe we were tired from much good, hard work, or maybe we found it difficult to be compassionate with an artist who often shows little compassion.

We travelled to Stratford together on the first weekend of the course, to see Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, a la Robert Phillips.

Many joined us to spend a fine evening with Larry Woiwode. Woiwode, an American author, read from his prose and his new book of poetry, *Even Tide*, written before, during, and after his conversion to Christianity. In his quiet and unassuming way, Woiwode showed us the possibilities and the power of language. He caught us by surprise when he suddenly changed his tone and, now in a squeaky, high-pitched voice, then in a slow, growling one, did impersonations of poets like e.e. cummings, Dylan Thomas and Robert Frost, reading snatches of their poetry. After the coffee break, Woiwode gave some straightforward answers to our questions about how a writer works and where he gets his ideas.

Toward the end of our two weeks together we could begin to participate in reading the art of Dali, Kurelek and Krijger. Seerveld worked a lot with his idea that "a Christian method of art history and appreciation asks for a careful, compassionate probing and testing of the constructed art object to discern its deep-going spirit." He also showed us that each of us has a calling to work with imagination, surprise, stylefulness and humour in our speech, conversation, business procedures, etc.

There was much in these two weeks which deepened our understanding of our praising, loving and caring task in God's theatre.

Kathryn Posthumus is an AACS member from Toronto and participated in the summer seminar.

ENCOURAGING NEWS!

The AACS financial situation looks far more hopeful than it did a few months ago. Through the very faithful support of our members and friends we have been able to pay our bills for May through August and reduce our deficit accumulated since January 1, 1977 from \$106,000 to \$69,101. Special offerings taken by many Christian Reformed churches have given us a significant boost during the usually lean summer months. We are constantly amazed by the way the Lord provides for our needs.

ICS celebrates opening of another year

by John Valk



Judy de Jong, first woman graduate of ICS, with mentor Hart

September 11, 1978 marked the twelfth annual opening of the Institute for Christian Studies. Approximately 85 friends and members joined together, in an intimate setting, to open officially another year of classes and academic research.

The evening's events were opened by ICS Chairman Dr. C.T. McIntire, who, after beginning with Scripture reading and prayer, initiated the joyful singing of songs that expressed our thankfulness for the beginning of yet another year. This thankfulness was also expressed in a meditation given by Dr. Sander Griffioen, who spoke on "seeking first the Kingdom." Griffioen emphasized the importance of maintaining in Christian love the Kingdom vision, in the year's work that lies ahead.

This was followed by the customary introduction and welcoming of nineteen new junior members, as well as returning junior members, senior members, AACCS staff and a number of board members who were present. The evening was significantly marked with the presentation of the Master of Philosophy degree to the first graduating woman, Judy De Jong, and the Certificate in Christian Studies to Neil de Koning, both of whom were congratulated by their Senior mentors for their diligent work.

Dr. Bernard Zylstra gave brief mention of the duties he will undertake as the Institute's first Principal. Dr. James Olthuis, returning from a year's sabbatical leave, reported briefly on his work. The evening concluded with an informal reception where new acquaintances were established and old ones were renewed, and where we could reflect on the summer past, as well as expressing our eager anticipation for the work of a new year which will again involve us in the important work of the Kingdom.

John Valk is a Junior Member at ICS, working towards his M.Phil. degree in theology.

AACS DELAWARE CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 27-28, 1978

Theme: Christian Ethics and the American Empire

Speaker: Dr. Bernard Zylstra, Senior Member in Political Theory at the ICS

Location: Tower Hill School, Wilmington, Delaware

Registrar: Mrs. Mary C.T. Rittenhouse
1106 N. Broom Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

1978-79 ICS Junior Members

<u>New Junior Members</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Program at ICS</u>	<u>Home</u>
<u>A. Full Time</u>			
Thomas Burnham	Political Theory	M.Phil.	New Jersey
John Brouwer	"Worldview"	Certificate	B.C.
Barb Eves	"Worldview"	Certificate	Pennsylvania
Sue Harper	"Worldview"	Certificate	Michigan
John Harris	Theology	M.Phil.	Saskatchewan
Terry Hutchins	"Worldview"	Certificate	Quebec
Rick Kleer	Economics	Non-program	Ontario
David Koyzis	Political Theory	Certificate	Illinois
Gudrun Kuschke	Aesthetics	Special Study	South Africa
Wendy Morrison	Aesthetics	Certificate	California
Bob Rogers	Philosophy	M.Phil.	Pennsylvania
Jeff Sikkema	"Worldview"	Certificate	Michigan
Rebekah Smick	Aesthetics	Non-program	Massachusetts
Marjorie Snyder	"Worldview"	Certificate	California
Magdalena Steyn	"Worldview"	Certificate	South Africa
Phil Travis	"Worldview"	Certificate	Michigan
Bruce Weinstein	Economics	Non-program	Pennsylvania

B. Part Time

Bob Sweetman	History	Non-program	Michigan
John Zvara	Theology	Non-program	Massachusetts

Returning Junior Members

Peter Doan	Political Theory	M.Phil.	Ohio
Peter Enneson	Aesthetics	M.Phil.	Ontario
Kanji Fuki	Theology	M.Phil.	Japan
Makhudu Mamabolo	Economics	M.Phil.	South Africa
Richard Middleton	Theology	M.Phil.	Jamaica
Tod Moquist	History	M.Phil.	California
Herbert Myers	Theology	M.Phil.	Jamaica
Mark Okkema	Aesthetics	M.Phil.	Ontario
Michael Reilly	Theology	M.Phil.	Pennsylvania
Peter Stubbs	Economics	M.Phil.	England
John Valk	Theology	M.Phil.	Ontario
Ken Van Wyk	Psychology	M.Phil.	Ontario
Brian Walsh	Theology	M.Phil.	Ontario
Lambert Zuidervaat	Aesthetics	Ph.D.	California

Olthuis reflects on his sabbatical work

by Evelyn Kuntz Hielema

Dr. James Olthuis is back on the fourth floor of 229 College Street, after a year of sabbatical leave. We welcome him back, and from his light step and his smiles we can tell that he's happy to be back.

Although disappointed that he was not able to complete all the projects he had laid out for himself for the year, Olthuis says that he had a very enjoyable and varied sabbatical year. "It's a unique privilege, something to be treasured, to have a year's time to study, think and work," he said.

Olthuis worked on a great variety of articles and manuscripts during the year. He has been concentrating his energies on a book on the topic of "Creation," and was able to write close to 150 pages of it during his sabbatical. In connection with that book, he did some special research on the nature of surrender, especially as it relates to faith. He also worked on the subject of the "covenant of works" as it is found in the Reformed tradition, especially in Calvin and Bavinck, in whose writings he immersed himself for a few weeks. In teaching his seminars this year, Olthuis will be using much of the material that he developed for the book, and he hopes to be able to bring it to the next stage of organization.

Another project Olthuis worked on was a series of essays for the *Tyndale Family Encyclopedia*, to be published next year. He wrote fairly extensive articles on the topics *friendship, loyalty, religion, chastity, affluence* and *language--ethical and religious*. The encyclopedia is intended to be the English equivalent of the Dutch *Christelijke Encyclopedie*.

In addition, Olthuis wrote the opening chapter for a book entitled *Models of Man in Theology and Psychology* which he and Dr. Arnold De Graaff have been working on together, as well as an essay entitled "The Nature of Religion," to be used in the anthropology syllabus which he and De Graaff have compiled, and which will be available from the AACPS in the near future. He was able as well to complete parts of the book he is writing on "intimacy."

The sabbatical gave Olthuis an opportunity to explore his interest in counselling work. He took an evening course on "bioenergetic counselling" and did some counselling on the side. He conducted several marriage enrichment weekends. He spent three days at a conference hosted by the Institute for Advanced Christian Studies at Wheaton College, on the relationship of sociology to Christianity. At the very beginning of his sabbatical, Olthuis spent three weeks at Regent College in British Columbia teaching a course on "Marriage, Family and Friendship."

Two days a week he and De Graaff studied together, sometimes working cooperatively on a single book or project, sometimes working on individual projects, but exchanging ideas and discoveries. As a result of this experiment, they have decided to continue working together in one study room this coming year, when De Graaff is on sabbatical.

"The sabbatical impressed upon me a number of things," said Olthuis. "I was impressed very much with the fact that developing new ideas takes

much more time and leisure than you can imagine. I was also impressed with my own hesitancy to put something down in black and white, when I'm dealing with important matters. There's a certain psychic barrier."

"Finally, I was impressed," Olthuis said, "by the fact that I love teaching. I missed the students very much--more than I thought I would--and I'm looking forward to teaching now again."

Part of the reason for Olthuis' disappointment in the amount of work he was able to complete was that he had counted on being able to study 10-14 hours a day, as he did when he studied at the Free University. "I've discovered that I can no longer do that," he said. "I found that I would not have been able to pay enough attention to the other dimensions of my life--personal, family and social. I was able to give more attention to those aspects of my life this year, and it was a real growth experience for me."

Olthuis concluded that he is determined to continue working on, and to complete, the work that he began this year.

Evelyn Kuntz Hielema is secretary of the AACS.

Hart speaks on "Community" at northern B.C. conference

by Hank Hoornenborg

Vacationing in the Bulkley Valley of British Columbia, Dr. Hendrik Hart of the ICS gave three lectures at the three-day annual AACS Family Conference held near Telkwa, B.C.

The conference, this year held for the sixth time, has become an event much looked forward to by parents and young people all the way from Prince George to Terrace. It attracts the "common people"; there are few scholars among them. Dr. Hart's lectures, on the topic "Communion in Community," were eagerly listened to, and touched upon issues close to the hearts of Reformed Christians. Dr. Hart tried to present the norms of community from a biblical perspective. Particularly the practical application of this topic, as it relates to denominations and congregations, gave rise to intense discussion at various evening campfires.

In this increasingly individualistic and often lonely world, the Christian community is a unique phenomenon often not understood by the very persons who are part of it. Dr. Hart explicitly showed that Word and Spirit lead the way to a better understanding and also to a more joyful experiencing of this community. Although attendance seemed down somewhat from other years, conferees agreed that this year's conference was very stimulating and successful.

AACS's Western Representative Nick Loenen spent the week in the Valley to win back former friends of the AACS and make new ones. Dr. Hart's lectures no doubt helped him in this endeavour.

Mr. Hank Hoornenborg is an AACS member from Smithers, B.C.

Sylvia Jones: ICS Administrative Assistant



Sylvia Jones

The new 1978/79 academic year brings many unfamiliar faces to the Institute. This year we not only meet new junior members, but the Institute staff warmly welcomes Sylvia Jones as Administrative Assistant, replacing Lynda Kosowan Hines, who has entered the master's program in social administration and research at the University of Toronto.

Sylvia, originally from Sarnia, Ontario, is a graduate of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute where she studied fashion design and has worked as a designer/patternmaker as well as a receptionist/typist for the last four years.

Her responsibilities at the Institute cover a wide range of activities: coordination of information and research, scheduling meetings, lectures and conferences as well as the more mechanical aspects of organizing and maintaining the smooth flow of an office. In her three weeks of working at ICS, Sylvia has already shown the ability to keep cool and handle efficiently her difficult job.

Institute needs 218 helping hands

A special drive to raise \$60,000 in new donations this year for the Institute for Christian Studies was launched in August. We are primarily seeking the help of new donors to ease the burden from our members and friends who are already giving as much as they can. We have been contacting people on an individual basis, asking them to be one of

15 people to give	\$1000	=	\$15,000
45 people to give	500	=	22,500
50 people to give	200	=	10,000
100 people to give	100	=	10,000
50 people to give	50	=	2,500
260			\$60,000

* RESPONSE SO FAR: 42 people have given/pledged a total of \$11,000

* SO WE STILL NEED: 218 people to give \$49,000

We invite readers of Perspective to participate in this drive through prayer and donation support, and by suggesting names of friends who might lend a supporting hand.

I'd like to give a helping hand to this Special Institute Drive.

____ Enclosed is a donation of \$____

____ Suggestions: _____

AACS/ICS News

* Bernard Zylstra recently published an article entitled "Philosophy, Revelation and Modernity: Crossroads in the Thought of George Grant" in a book edited by Professor Larry Schmidt of Erindale College, University of Toronto. The book is entitled *George Grant in Process: Essays and Conversations* (Toronto: House of Anansi, 1978). The book is available from Wedge Publishing Foundation; the price is \$7.95.

* This summer Hendrik Hart combined an extensive speaking tour for AACS with a cross country family vacation. He wanted to use this trip to address Christian audiences in some areas we rarely visit. Giving the slide/lecture "South Africa: Behind the Headlines," he spoke in Cochrane, Ont.; Thunder Bay, Ont.; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Brandon, Manitoba; Regina, Saskatchewan and Prince George, B.C. Hart spent a week in Telkwa, B.C., where he spoke at the Bulkley/Skeena Family Conference on the theme "From Communion to Community." He then proceeded to Kamloops and Vancouver, B.C.; Manhattan, Montana; Rapid City, South Dakota; Dordt College, Iowa; and Trinity Christian College in Illinois. In the five week trip he drove a total of 8,500 miles. He and his family enjoyed the trip immensely, although his children later commented, "Dad, next year let's stay in one place."

* The AACS has just produced a teacher's manual for a course for university students entitled "Reflection on a Christian Worldview." Written by Tom Malcolm, the 25-page manual offers suggestions for teaching and leading discussion of 14 mimeographed papers plus chapters from six books. The course has been successfully tested by AACS at the University of Toronto for the past two years. We will send a copy of the manual without charge to anyone wishing to consider using it with university students or for other adult group discussion. We sell the 200 pages of duplicated papers for \$6.00.

* Calvin Seerveld was the speaker at the 23rd Honours Convocation at Calvin College in Michigan during early May. For his topic at this festive gathering of faculty and scholarship students he chose the theme "The Cross of Scholarly Cultural Power."

AACS Annual Membership Meeting ICS Inaugural Address November 4, 1978

1:00 p.m. AACS Annual Membership Meeting
 Location: AACS Building, 229 College St., Toronto

4:00 p.m. Inaugural Address of Dr. George Vandervelde,
 Senior Member in Systematic Theology
 "THEOLOGY: FROM QUEEN OF SCIENCES TO HANDMAIDEN OF FAITH"
 Location: Chapel of Knox College, University of Toronto
 59 St. George Street, Toronto

5:30 p.m. Reception at the AACS Building

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From the edge of the Pacific

News items from Nick Loenen, our Western Representative in Vancouver, B.C.....

Dr. Edward Piers, chemist at the University of British Columbia, and AACCS Trustee, will offer a Christian Perspectives course for science students. This course will be offered through the Inter-Varsity organization at the University of B.C.

This past July, nine participants, mostly students, benefitted from lectures and discussions of the AACCS-sponsored Christian Perspectives course taught by ICS junior member Brian Walsh. The course was held in the Vancouver Christian School. One student's assessment is as follows: "I think we were strengthened in our Christianity and benefitted greatly as we were made more aware of how crucially total Christianity is, claiming our allegiance as well as our institutions and nature around us."

Wally VandeKleut, a philosophy graduate from Dordt College, presently an education student at the University of B.C., edits the AACCS British Columbia Newsfolder and assists Christian students at U.B.C.

Sid Jongbloed, a philosophy graduate from Calvin College, has agreed to teach a Christian Perspectives course at Simon Fraser University in B.C.

The first AACCS picnic in the Lower Mainland was held July 15th. The turn-out was not exceptional, yet it was much enjoyed by all. The soccer game provided an outlet for Harry Van Belle's pent-up aggression, while the volleyball game showed Henk Hart's excessive legalism.

Bernard Zylstra, newly appointed principal of the Institute, is scheduled to participate in the CLAC sponsored mini-conventions to be held October 14th in New Westminster, B.C., and October 21 in Edmonton, Alberta.

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ICS summer seminar attracts Christian scholars worldwide, Seerveld leads course for Christian probing in the arts,
Olthuis reflects on his sabbatical

NOTES: Thousand attend 20th annual AACS Ontario conference, ICS seminar: The relevance of christian studies in economics sociology and political science

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