



Sweetman Joins Faculty

Gayla Postma

Dr. Robert Sweetman, ICS alumnus and outstanding scholar, recently accepted the appointment to teach History of Philosophy at the Institute. He will begin carrying out his various duties starting next September.

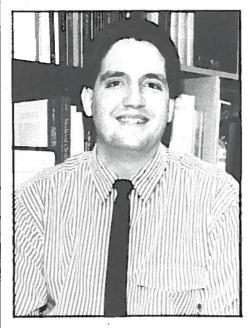
For Sweetman, returning to Toronto is one more stop on an earthly journey that has taken him around the world. Born to missionary parents in Japan he moved to the Netherlands, then to Champagne, Illinois, before landing in Grand Rapids, Michigan, all before he was nine years old.

"My introduction to Reformational thought came at the behest of my father who encouraged me to take a course with H. Evan Runner," says Sweetman. "I dutifully obeyed, though I cheated somewhat by taking a one month long offering in Neo-Kuyperianism, rather than the regular two semester sequence. Still, I was treated to a refreshing blast of exuberant instruction in the intellectual legacy of H. Dooyeweerd and Th.D. Vollenhoven."

By the time Sweetman graduated from Calvin in 1977, he had decided to become a medievalist. After a year at the Johns Hopkins University and a year at ICS studying under Thomas McIntyre, he settled into concurrent graduate programs at the University of Toronto and the Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies. Sweetman says that it was during his studies at the Pontifical Institute that he became convinced that "medieval philosophy is better seen as an essentially Christian project than as a mortally flawed entwinement of Christian and pagan commitments."

It was that commitment that sent him back to Dooyeweerd, M.C. Smit and J.A. Aertsen. "Reformational thought turned out to be a far greater thing than I had imagined it could be," says Sweetman. "It provides an intellectual home large enough for even an admirer of medieval thought like me." Sweetman completed his Licenciate in Medieval Studies in 1984 and received his doctorate from the Pontifical Institute in 1989. He is fluent in four languages and can read an additional seven. The spirituality and pastoral care of women in medieval times has become a focus of interest in his research.

While Sweetman was studying in Toronto, the ICS staff and community benefitted much from the work of his wife, Roseanne Lopers-Sweetman. Roseanne spent four years at ICS working with Bob Vandervennen, organizing the Niagara conferences, editing *Perspective*, and handling librarian duties. She left ICS when Sweetman's thesis research required a move to the Netherlands.



Dr. Robert Sweetman

Sweetman comes to ICS from Calvin College where he has spent the past three years as assistant professor in the History department.



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In this issue:

Reinder Klein reflects on a recent recruiting trip to Western Canada (p. 4) while John Meiboom's *Development Notes* keep us up-to-date on Paul Marshall's travels and other interesting items (p. 6). Don't miss *President's Pen* with President Fernhout's challenge to swim into the waves (p. 2).

Check pages 6 and 7 for news on several conferences being sponsored by ICS in the summer months. Even if you can't attend any of the conferences, browse the book list on the back page for your summer reading list.



From the President's Pen by Harry Fernhout

Swimming Into Waves

When my family makes a summer visit to a park on one of the Great Lakes, I always hope for a sunny and windy afternoon. There are few experiences more exhilarating than jumping in large, cresting waves on a sandy beach. It's great fun to try to swim through the waves in an effort to defy the tremendous force of the water. Of course, you need to be careful; a powerful undertow can quickly carry you away from the safety of the shallows.



This image of swimming against the waves came into my mind as I reflected on a conference on "Secularization and Pluralism" which I attended last week. The conference, sponsored by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, brought together about 85 leaders of churches and other organizations. The opening address was presented by Os Guinness, a well-known American evangelical cultural analyst and author.

In his address Guinness linked the process of secularization to the emergence of modern science, technology and industry in Western society. Our culture has become secularized, he asserted, as more and more dimensions of life have been detached from traditional religious assumptions and beliefs. Secularization means that such beliefs and assumptions are increasingly regarded as having little or no consequence for the conduct of important human affairs. The process of secularization often paves the way for a spirit of secularism, which not only regards religious convictions and outlooks as irrelevant, but is actually hostile to them.

The world of education has been one of the crucial fronts in the process of secularization (and the development of secularism). In fact, as Guinness asserted, in a secular society, institutions of (higher) education take on functions and powers similar to those previously exercised by the church. Education is the passport which people must have before they can occupy various influential positions in our society. Institutions of higher learning function as "cultural gatekeepers," shaping people's mind-set and preparing them to give leadership in a secular age.

Guinness decried the fact that Western Christians (and evangelical Christians in particular) appear ill-equipped to meet the challenge posed by the process of secularization. He singled out the area of higher education, noting that the total number of students enrolled at evangelically-minded colleges and universities in North America is the equivalent of the student population of perhaps one or two secular universities. This situation places Christians at a real disadvantage. Without the intellectual resources to think biblically about a variety of academic and other issues, Christians are in the position of reacting to the initiatives of others, instead of being at the cutting edge of culture. Guinness issued a strong call for a stronger Christian presence in higher education to foster the development of a more clearly articulated "Christian mind," that is, an intellectual tradition which builds firmly on the "first things" of the Gospel.

Swimming into the waves. That's how I heard the educational challenge articulated by Os Guinness. In our culture, to be engaged in Christian higher education is to swim against the current, no doubt about it. But this can be an invigorating and exhilarating experience, one in which it's possible to make some headway, by God's grace. And as Guinness stressed, this engagement can play a pivotal role in equipping Christians to be culture shapers rather people who merely react.

GRP



Fernhout, leading the swim.

But what about the undertow? At the "Secularization" conference, Brian Stiller, Executive Director of the Evangelical Fellowship, gave me a copy of an article entitled "The Decline and Fall of the Christian College" (published in the April issue of First Things). The article begins with a long list of prestigious colleges and universities in the United States which were founded by churches, for Christian educational purposes. The process of secularization has radically changed the identity of many of those institutions. In the words of Charles Donovan, "The presence in so many parts of the country of secularized, non-religious, at times even antireligious institutions whose foundations were inspired by religious zeal and apostolic motives seems almost like empirical proof of the contention of positivists that faith and intelligence are incompatible."

In other words, in a culture which has, over the years, come to identify good scholarship with secular scholarship, it's very difficult to nourish a distinctive Christian identity. In fact, the record of the past century suggests the pessimistic conclusion that it is virtually impossible to swim against the waves without getting pulled under by the very forces which make the swim such a challenging and exhilarating experience.

In this situation it is crucial for Christian academic institutions to stay in touch with a supportive Christian community. But often such communities do not provide supportive environments. Os Guinness speaks eloquently of the antiintellectualism which has characterized much of conservative and evangelical Christianity in North America. The absence of a "Christian mind" is more the result of failing Christians than it is the fault of powerful secularists. By definition, Christian higher education involves the interaction with and testing of ideas at the frontiers of knowledge, and "new ideas" are often regarded with suspicion. The above-mentioned article documents the fact that North American churches often stifled rather than encouraged scholarly exploration. Then scholars become alienated, and venture further away from what should be the safe and solid ground of a supportive environment. The undertow of secularization then doubles in strength.

Does this mean that swimming into the waves in higher education is so difficult that we should get out of the water? I think not. It's certainly good to be aware of the risks which accompany this challenge. But the risks should not stifle our vision and our sense of exhilaration in the task. Our vision is that the beach, the lake, and even the waves belong to our Lord and King. In light of this truth, the Christian community needs to encourage its scholars, young and old, to venture into the water in Christ's Name. Secularization may pose its dangers, but to retreat is to give the field over to the secularist view. The key to an exhilarating swim is a comprehensive educational vision, shared in mutual trust by both scholars and the wider Christian community. The community needs to give 'permission' to its scholars to test the waters and swim boldly. Perhaps the community needs to be ready to pull the occasional venturer back in with a life rope. And the scholar-swimmers need solid contact with the community of faith which helps link them to God.

Christian higher education in a secular age is an exhilarating and risky challenge. Are we ready for it? As my kids would say, "Last one in is a...!"

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The Annual General Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4, 1991, at 2 pm at our renovated premises on the second floor of 229 College Street.

We invite all of you who live near enough to Toronto to attend this meeting.

Zuidervaart Pinch-Hits At ICS

Gayla Postma

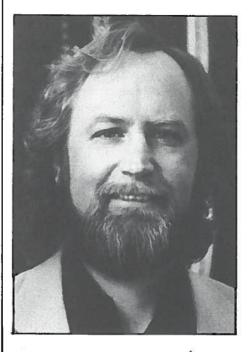
A familiar face has reappeared at 229 College Street, a welcome sight even if it is only for the second half of this school year. Dr. Lambert Zuidervaart is on loan from Calvin College for a brief time, teaching Systematic Aesthetics and interdisciplinary studies while Cal Seerveld is on a leave of absence.

Zuidervaart is no stranger at ICS. He received his M.Phil.F. here in 1975 and, in 1981, was the first recipient of the Ph.D. granted jointly by ICS and the Free University.

He spent four years teaching at The King's College in Edmonton and has been at Calvin College since 1985. When he returns to Calvin in the fall, it will be as chairman of the college's philosophy department.

Zuidervaart says it has been rewarding to be back at ICS, even if it's just for a short visit. "All my graduate education took place through the ICS. It has served me very well as a scholar and writer, and in my service in the Reformed community."

Zuidervaart's latest book, Adorno's Aesthetic Theory: The Redemption of Illusion, is currently being published by MIT Press. He was also one of the contributing authors for Dancing in the Dark: Youth, Popular Culture, and the Electronic Media, recently published by Eerdmans. While in Toronto, he plans to continue research for a new book about truth in art.



Touching Base Out West: highlights, lowlight, and

Reinder J. Klein

remarkably positive. One young man in particular among several students who spoke to me afterward, having identified himself as hailing from a Christian Reformed congregation on the Island, expressed his delight at so unexpectedly having come across someone who, in this milieu, spoke so glowingly about that special school in Toronto he had known

It was a cold welcome, I thought; uncommonly cold, especially for the time of year. Here it was, only one day short of March, yet no sooner had I stepped off the plane at Edmonton International when the temperature fell, nay PLUNGED, to below 20 below! That's Celsius, if you care about the finer points, and cold no matter how you slice it.

This was to be for me a student recruiting trip with a nice variety of touch-base, show-the-flag promotional and fundraising activities to boot. It turned out to be a journey in which I experienced both the sting of slings and arrows and the marvelous warmth of friendship and trust.

Highlights

Given the unspeakable temperatures in Alberta that first week of March, it seems only right to start with some of the more heartwarming events. Certainly the soup supper prepared by Tom Oosterhuis, chaplain at the U of A, and enjoyed by me and 20+ Christian students was great. It was also an excellent chance to say my piece about foundational, integral, reformational and Calvinian (my, oh my, where do we dig up those words!) scholarship, and brag a bit about the good work and great people at the Institute.

Then there was the successful hostess dinner at the Christian high school. What a turn-out for such a bitter night! Imagine, if you will, a night so cold that steam hoses spat ice cubes and dogs froze to fire plugs, and you will appreciate the bravery of a grandma Tinga who, aged 85 if a day, WALKED to the meeting on the arm of Henk VanAndel, president of The King's College.



Grandma Tinga at ICS dinner.



Some "poulet frit" for Neerlandia's John Piers, Lambert and Betty Tuininga.

By my count, and math is admittedly not my strong suit, well over a hundred people showed up, drawn no doubt by the promise of good food, warm fellowship, an elegant speech by the seemingly indestructible Nick Knoppers and a certain shared affection for the ICS.

The brief and unscheduled dash up to Neerlandia to meet some young adults (and work up a sweat playing wonderfully wild basement hockey with young Joel and Laura Tuininga) was super. Ah, those Neerlandia folk!

In BC the highlights started with my visit to UBC (University of). Here I got a chance to address roughly 40 members of the Ambassadors, a Christian group, among whom I discovered a startled Hannah VanderKamp. "What are YOU doing here?" she blurted out, as surprised to see me as I had been earlier when I ran into Steve Postman, another student I had known at Fraser Valley Christian High in what seemed another, earlier life.

From the Ambassadors I was escorted to a theatre in which a large crowd of IVCFers were gathered for a mid-week service of worship. Here, too, I was allowed to speak about the excellent, scripturally directed, interdisciplinary academic work for which ICS is so widely known. And here, too, the responses were about since his youth.

Later, trying to find my friend Jane Witte's car, I stopped dead in my tracks when loud shouts of "Mr. ICS! Mr. ICS!" made hundreds of passers-by look in the same direction. Three panting young men came running after me, looking for whatever ICS literature I still had with me. Having given everything away, I took their names and addresses and mailed them our material later.

Another recruiting highlight occurred at UVic. as the university in Victoria is commonly known. Actually, the event took place at the home of David Widdicombe, Anglican chaplain at UVic. In him I discovered a keen scholar - he's nearly completed an Oxford PhD - who is thoroughly familiar with reformational thought and much enthused by it. I had supper with his family, and for the occasion he had invited a few students. Imagine my surprise when two of them turned out to be great-grandchildren of one Professor Herman Dooyeweerd! I was impressed by the serenity and graciousness of Mardi and Chris Verbrugge, especially when I learned their father Martin had died not two weeks earlier. May the Lord continue to comfort them.

And then there was Regent College and the warm words of introduction and welcome spoken by Carey Hall's John Zimmerman just before I brought the greetings of ICS to the assembled Tuesday morning chapel throng. This was a privilege not often extended to visitors from other schools, but here was an obvious warmth for the Institute, and it felt good.

There is more, of course, but life is short and I suspect there are limits to what I can write that others will read. There was the fine meeting with five American pastors and their wives from Bellingham and Lynden, Washington, in the hillside home of much respected Jack Paauw; there were the good vibes in the Richmond CRC (and the coffee after with the Dykstras), the workshop with the New West YPS and the chapel speech to Dwight Moody's marvelous kids at Abby Christian, the old VCSS gang at Trinity Western, the hugs, the stories....



Young Verbrugges flanking Dr. David Widdicombe.

Lowlight

It doesn't happen often that everything runs smoothly and goes according to plan. It didn't this time. I had not expected it to.

Not only the weather was cold in Alberta. There was a perceptible absence of warmth in certain bosoms as well, in some souls.

I might have mentioned as a highlight my renewed friendship with Henk and Vicky VanAndel, a mutual fondness that goes back to our Montreal days. But it hurts when friends hurt, and my friends were hurting.

The King's College had recently made a difficult decision and as its president Henk was squarely in the middle of that situation. From a distance it is easy to be clever about a conundrum, but when you're the one in charge it's a different kettle of fish. Then the kettle of fish becomes a bucket of worms.

And so my friends were troubled because The King's was in the spotlight, because people were hurt and confused. What do you do in a lose/lose situation?

What do you do as ICS supporter hired to promote that organization when it, too, is vexed by a complex dilemma? How do you handle it, say, on the floor of Classis where you get an opportunity to bring greetings, give thanks for demonstrated support, and point out that the needs of tomorrow require new (financial) sacrifices today?

Following my remarks to Classis Alberta North in which I asked for prayers for wisdom, having acknowledged that the Institute was struggling with a controversy of its own, a close friend said to me that we would lose some collections. That hurt.

Perhaps that's how it goes, how we do things. We censor flawed politicians by withholding our vote, chastise each other by withholding our affection, and reprimand fragile institutions by withholding our moneys. I'm not at all convinced that those are helpful responses.

<u>No Light</u>

In a world of darkness we have been chosen, miracle of miracles, to be bearers of light. Not our own light, but that of Christ. It is the light of kindness and compassion, of patience, sacrifice, and self-effacement, fruits of the spirit.

In that dark world it is tragic that the light bearers themselves become so preoccupied with examining the quality of each other's torches that their own joy turns to anguish, their laughter to scorn, their love to the barren ice field of its opposite.



Joel and Laura Tuininga; basement hockey champs.

It may be worth considering if we, individually and corporately, have perhaps been smitten with errorophobia, a fear of mistakes, real or perceived, that makes us major in minors. Could it be that we elevate being right to a level the Lord himself would find discomfitting?

Our churches, organizations, schools, colleges, and the ICS reflect a light larger than any of our mundane and essentially limited preoccupations. For the sake of the dark world and in the name of our risen Master, let's make sure that whatever befalls, God's light continues to push back the darkness.



New West YPS. Jane Witte, in white, is in centre rear.

The People and The Book: Christian Origins and the New Testament

New Testament scholar N. Thomas Wright will visit ICS for a two-day seminar to be held July 5 and 6.

The seminar, co-sponsored by Wycliffe College, will include four lectures by Wright:

1) The Battles and The Tasks – A study of the question: What should be done with the New Testament?

2) 'Early Christianity' and 'New Testament Theology' What are we looking for in the New Testament, and what use is it when we find it?

 3) 'Christian Theology' and the New Testament –
A case for a wider approach to reading the New Testament.

4) The New Testament and the Question of God – The requirements of the task, and the ultimate implications.



N. Thomas Wright

Wright is Chaplain and Professor of New Testament Studies at Worcester College, Oxford University. He is also the author of numerous articles and books including Climax of the Covenant and The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986.

> Registration for the seminar is \$60 (\$40 for students). Pre-registration deadline is Friday, June 28, 1991. For more information, please contact ICS at (416) 979-2331.

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Development Notes by John Meiboom

From an Anglican Friend:

Sometimes it is good to be reminded about the value of ICS by people who do not have a stake in the Institute and are not even from a Reformed background.

Recently I was shown a letter, sent to Dr. Fernhout, from an Anglican minister going into Ph.D. studies. I hope he doesn't mind me quoting him. In recent years, he has become very enthused about Reformed Christian scholarship and has found books by Wolterstorff, Plantinga, Alston, Seerveld (ICS) and Hart (ICS) "... to be crucial to the development of both my philosophy and my faith."

He finds many Christian scholars not at all familiar with this stream of thinking and states that this is "... unfortunate, for this means that Reformed philosophy and social criticism gets little or no exposure in either 'liberal' schools of theology or in secular universities. The result is that Christian students are trying to operate ... without access to some very significant Christian scholarly support." He goes on to say that "... a further consequence is that we lose the struggle for student and faculty minds to the neo-Marxists, the Rortians, etc."

This letter highlights two things for me. First, it emphasizes the great value of Reformed Christian scholarship of the kind done at the Institute for Christian Studies. Second, it shows that much effort is needed to make this scholarship more widely known and accessible, and hence more influential.

The letter's closing paragraph urges ICS to make the important books it has produced more widely available so that "many more people in the academic world, both Christian and non-Christian, ... could be influenced (by them)."

The great value of the research and the writing done by our scholars is well demonstrated by the testimony of people like this Anglican brother. Students at ICS recognize it. Many long-time supporters see it. I hope many more are discovering it. All this highlights one important fact that I want to direct to you: Your support can and does make a difference!

Paul's Journeys Continued:

When Paul Marshall shows communities via his slides the influence ICS has had world wide on individuals and even whole institutions, I hope you are excited with us about the way God is working through ICS.

In early January Paul showed his slides in Smithers, Vancouver and Edmonton. Due to a snow storm he was not able to meet, as scheduled, with interested people in Calgary. On March 22nd Paul gave his presentation to a group in Sarnia and on April 5th and 6th he was in Chatham and London respectively. Reports are that people have enjoyed this event and are recommitting support for ICS.

I wish more of you could see this presentation. Many people have said that it speaks volumes about the ways in which God has used this small institution in marvellous ways.

Phone-a-thon:

By now many of you will have received a call from a faculty or staff member or perhaps from a fellow supporter of the Institute. We are so very grateful for the many people who have shown their support for us by volunteering to make calls on our behalf, encouraging people like you to make a fiscal year end gift to ICS. It looks as if in April we will again be assisted by some 100 volunteers!

If you already made a pledge, we thank you most sincerely. If you did not, I hope you can still see your way clear to helping us make the fruits of Christian scholarship more widely available. This is possible only through your help.

Financial Note:

The income for ICS in 1991 would have been very low had it not been for a very generous gift we received in February. For the second time in this fiscal year, ICS has received a gift of over \$100,000. Gifts like this do not negate the need for your \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 gift. This particular donation is a one time gift of encouragement, making it possible for ICS to balance its budget in a year of recession. Would it not be sad if, in spite of these sort of generous gifts, ICS would fall short of its goal. Your Christian graduate school needs your help before June 30.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Matt Bonzo

Saturday, April 27, will be a day of special joy and celebration for all of us at the Institute for Christian Studies. That's the day Dorothe Rogers and Matt Bonzo will pledge their life-time commitment to each other in marriage. Dorothe has been a member of the Institute staff for fourteen years; as academic assistant she makes sure that the lives of faculty and students flow smoothly. Apparently her efficient style made quite an impression on Matt, who is a doctoral candidate at ICS, and for the past year has worked for us as student recruiter.

In Matt and Dorothe's love we have witnessed a special touch of God's grace. Two years ago we shared Dorothe's deep sorrow when her first husband, Bob, died of cancer. That experience adds a deep dimension to the joy we share in this new beginning.

Congratulations, Dorothe and Matt! May the blessings God has in store for you fill many years.

Harry Fernhout



Dorothe Rogers

ICS Family Conferences

Please set aside these dates and register early for the ICS Family Conferences now being planned for Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario.

Alberta:

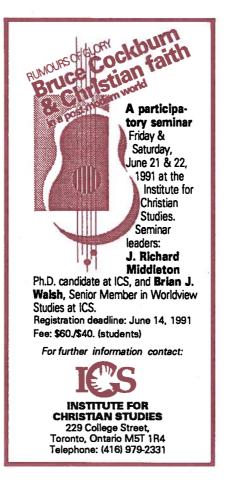
This is my Father's World: Serving Christ in Creation Dr. Uko Zylstra, August 2-5 Deer Valley Meadows Alix, AB

British Columbia:

Dancing in the Dark: Christians and Contemporary Culture Dr. John Worst, Aug.30-Sep.2 Columbia Bible Camp Cultus Lake, BC

Ontario:

Pluralism: Opportunity for Growth (or "Living with our Differences") Dr. Paul Marshall, August 2-5 Niagara Christian College near Fort Erie, ON



Christianity and the Classics II Conference

June 4-6, 1991, ICS will sponsor Christianity and the Classics II - Beginnings: In the Context of Hellenistic Judaism and Gnosticism.

The first Christianity and the Classics conference, held in 1984, looked at the interaction of Christianity with the classical tradition in a number of different periods of Western civilization. That conference produced a book entitled Christianity and the Classics: The Acceptance of a Heritage.

This conference will explore the very early period of interaction between Christianity and the classical Greco-Roman culture of its own time, investigating the development of attitudes such as those expressed in the given motifs.

Conference participants include Wendy Helleman (conference chair), Al Wolters, William Rowe and many others from universities in Canada, the United States and the Netherlands.

The cost of the conference is \$75 (\$40 for full-time students). Registration deadline is May 25. For more information, please contact ICS.



Faculty Update

Senior member James Olthuis attended the Brock Philosophical Society conference at Brock University. The conference on "The Nature of Love" was held, appropriately, from February 14-16. At the conference Olthuis presented his paper, "Mutuality and Empowerment in Self-Psychology."

A study group from the Jubilee Christian Reformed Church in St. Catherines has been studying Olthuis's book on staying in love through the five stages of marriage, *Keeping Our Troth*. On April 11, Olthuis met with the group to discuss their experiences and responses.

Olthuis joined Penelope Tyndale in early April in leading a discussion on body therapies at a meeting of a group of Christian psychotherapists in Toronto. This group meets bi-monthly at ICS.

Robert Vandervennen was the speaker at the February 9 Homecoming at Trinity Christian College, in Palos Heights, Illinois.

Senior member **Paul Marshall** travelled to Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, late in February where he spoke at Juniata College. On March 4-6, Marshall was the Thomas F. Staley Distinguished Lecturer at Dordt College in Iowa. In addition to two lectures on human rights, he spoke for a chapel service, took several classes and met with both faculty and students. Later in March Marshall spoke at the Toronto Chinese Community Church on "Christianity and Politics" and travelled to Sarnia where he presented the slide show of his sabbatical trip.

In April, Marshall chaired an Evangelical Fellowship of Canada conference on secularism and spoke on "Work and Rest" at the annual meeting of the Reformed Christian Business and Professional Organization. He also published ten articles in various publications. Non-profit org. U.S. Postage **PAID** Lewiston, N.Y. Permit No. 49

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NEW AND CURRENT BOOKS FROM ICS

New Books

Search for Community in a Withering Tradition, by Kai Nielsen and Hendrik Hart	\$22.95	
Norm and Context in the Social Sciences,	φ22.00	
by Sander Griffioen and Jan Verhoogt (eds.)	\$25.95	
Born to Shop, by Mike Starkey	\$17.95	
Christian Schooling: Education for Freedom, by Stuart Fowler, Harro Van Brummelen		
and John Van Dyk	\$14.95	
Current and Excellent		
Setting Our Sights by the Morning Star, by Hendrik Hart	\$13.95	-
Christianity and the Classics, by Wendy Helleman (ed.)	\$16.95	
The Holy Spirit, by George Vandervelde (ed.)	\$13.95	
On Being Human, by Calvin Seerveld	\$ 7.95	
Stained Glass, by Paul Marshall et al. (eds.)	\$17.50	
Social Science in Christian Perspective, by Paul Marshall and Robert VanderVennen (eds.)	\$23.95	
Curriculum Unmasked, by Mark Roques	\$12.50	
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