

# Perspective

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3, OCTOBER 1995

News from the graduate Institute for Christian Studies

## An arts conference to remember

*A conference called "The Arts, Community, and Cultural Democracy" was held August 16-19, 1995 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The fourth in a series of international conferences sponsored by the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, Calvin College, and the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, this event marked the addition of Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, as a sponsor.*

by Willem Hart

Participants from four continents and six countries met at Grand Rapids to "promote a conversation among Christian intellectuals concerning contemporary cultural issues and their implications for how we conduct ourselves as artists and scholars."

The event was unusual in that, for the first time, it brought together philosophers and other theorists with practitioners of art. A feature of the event was an exhibition of art works called "Words & Images." An international group of artists was invited to submit works for a juried show curated by Calvin's Henry Luttikhuisen and Lisa De Boer of the University of Michigan. Over thirty works were selected in a stunning exhibition at the Calvin College Center Art Gallery. In the introduction to the handsome, full-colour catalogue, which accompanied the exhibition, conference chair Lambert Zuidervaart alluded to the difficulty Christian artists have traditionally experienced, "I hope the artists, especially those who have felt silenced by Reformed institutions, find that their works receive the attentiveness they deserve."

The conference featured four plenary sessions, numerous workshops, a delightful concert by Pierce Pettis, and a conference-closing hymnsing designed and led by

Redeemer College's Bert Polman.

Was there unanimity at Calvin College in August? No! There was limited agreement, tempered disagreement, and a multi-hued tapestry of artistic and theoretic expression. ICS graduate Lambert Zuidervaart, who heads the Calvin Department of Philosophy, opened the conference with a presentation on *Postmodern Arts and the Birth of a Democratic Culture*. While many thought that Zuidervaart's hope for the birth of a democratic culture was too utopian, one could not help but admire his optimism rooted in the thought that all things are made new in Christ. Practically, Zuidervaart is involved in an inner-city project that makes real his wish for equal participation and fulfillment in the theory and practice of art-making.

Cal Seerveld's presentation on *The Necessity of Christian Public Artistry* underlined once again his fervent desire that art be available to, and a necessary and important ingredient in, the daily life of all God's creatures. For Seerveld, who long ago fleshed out Abraham Kuyper's phrase "art is not the fringe of the garment", the arts are essential to our existence. One might argue with his hierarchical view that there are different levels of art. As an aesthete he continues to characterize the art that is found in museums as

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Cal & Inèz Seerveld enjoy a moment of delight at the conference banquet held in honour of Cal's "graduation" to retirement.*



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Harry Fernhout

**CALVIN SEERVELD: A PLEDGE OF JUBILEE**

**In the end, it was almost a surprise**

**A**bout two years ago Lambert Zuidervaart and Henry Luttkhuizen, who both studied Philosophical Aesthetics at ICS and who both now teach at Calvin College, came up with a plan to develop a book to honour the scholarly career of Cal Seerveld. Essays were solicited from Cal's former and current students as well as academic associates. There was an air of conspiracy around the plan—the goal was to have the book ready in time for Cal's retirement and to surprise him with a presentation at a conference on "The Arts, Community and Cultural Democracy" in August of this year.

Lambert and Henry found a willing co-conspirator in Jon Pott, a student of Cal's during the birth years of Trinity Christian College in Chicago, now the Managing Editor of Eerdmans Publishing Company. ICS also joined the plot; the minutes of the Executive Committee's decision to support the project financially were made suitably obscure, to make sure Cal would not catch on.

The book was ready on schedule. At the official presentation Cal was obviously deeply touched by this testimonial gift. But was it a total surprise? Well, not quite. Earlier this year Cal had occasion

to read the resumé of an academic colleague at a sister institution. In a section of "Publications Forthcoming" this eager scholar (who shall remain nameless to avoid embarrassment!) had listed a contribution to the 'secret' book. That's how Cal got a clue that something was up. But the timing of the presentation (at a banquet where Cal and Inès were guests of honour) and the scope of the project (a 350 page hard-cover, illustrated volume) still caught him off guard.

Great work, Lambert and Henry! Although the element of *total* surprise was gone, the expression on Cal's face at the presentation told me that your plan was not undone. And anyway, this little tale of intrigue and discovery will add an enjoyable tidbit to our memories of Cal's retirement.

The book of essays bears a lovely title: *Pledges of Jubilee*. This is, of course a reference to the "year of jubilee" which the Old Testament Israelites were called to observe every half century. In the year of jubilee debts were forgiven, land that had been transferred to other hands was returned to its original owner, and Israelites who had fallen into debt-slavery gained their freedom. Jubilee meant *redemption*: people and things which had come under the sway of someone else were set free and restored to their rightful place, in service to the God of the covenant. The year of jubilee pointed toward the great redemption to come, when everything in creation will be set right.

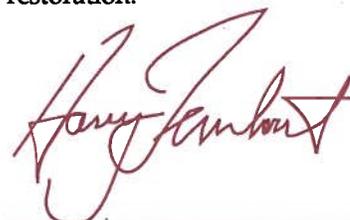
Whata wonderful symbol for the work of a Christian scholar! The Institute's *Mission Statement* speaks of our desire to honour and proclaim Jesus Christ as the *Redeemer* of thought and learning. We acknowledge that the world of higher learning, along with the rest of creation, has fallen under an authority other than that of its rightful owner. Christ's work of jubilee has, in principle, "bought back"

thought and learning in the name of the Creator God. At ICS our challenge is to base our work on that principle, to generate "pledges" here and now of the cosmic jubilee envisioned in the Gospel.

That challenge was certainly the central thread of Cal Seerveld's academic career. Lambert Zuidervaart's "Introduction" in the book says it beautifully:

With this book ... the editors and authors join hundreds of well-wishers around the world to say thank you to a tireless leader and faithful friend. May he enjoy the fruits of his labors, even as he continues to help us imagine the day when all of culture and society, yes, all of creation, will be made new, when, as in the apostle John's great vision, God's dwelling is with humanity and God tenderly wipes each tear from every eye. To that end we offer our own pledges of jubilee.

Cal dislikes "retirement" talk; he prefers to speak of his "graduation" from the ICS phase of his life's calling. Our hope and prayer is that Cal and Inès will indeed experience these graduation years as a time of jubilee; a time of restfulness which increasingly speaks of the coming restoration.



**Convocation to pay tribute to Seerveld**

This year the ICS fall convocation will not only celebrate the awarding of degrees but will also pay tribute to the career of Calvin Seerveld. A gala dinner will precede the convocation at which Cal and his wife Inès will be guests of honour. Cal himself will give the convocation address. He has chosen the topic "Philosophical Aesthetics at Home with the Lord: An Untimely Valedictory."

This event is scheduled for November 17. Be sure to contact ICS for tickets and further information.

**Retirement income?**

Have you or your parents/grandparents complained about low income due to exceptionally low interest rates? An excellent income for life is still possible with great tax savings and there can be a benefit for ICS as well!

**Sample rates**

AGE	RATE OF RETURN
65	8.2%
70	8.7%
75	9.5%

Note: On a \$10,000 annuity, a 70-year old woman will earn \$870 a year, of which only \$210 is taxable income. The rest is tax free.

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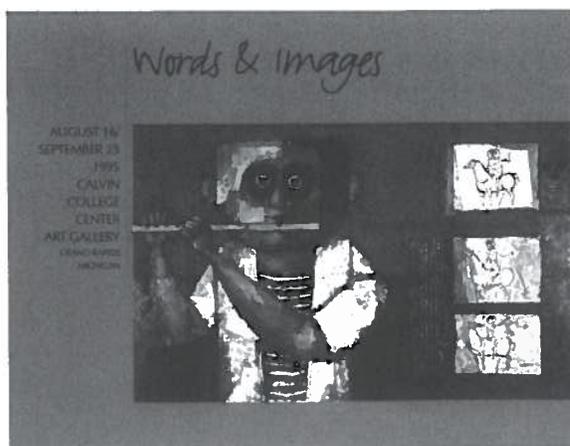
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## CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

"high art" and all other forms as being of a different order. The consequence of that seems to be that, e.g., an altar piece by Van Eyck is of a lesser order (liturgical art, applied art, commissioned art) than a Mondrian, a Monet, or a Modigliani. Yet his fervent advocacy of the evocative "applied" art of artists such as Britt Wikström, who turns gravestones into works of art, is both perceptive and moving. Seerveld's concept of a "demi-urgos", an artist who helps others less artistically astute to realize their symbolic vision, is an important and affirming notion for artists. In contrast to Zuidervaart's utopian but universal and participatory democracy, Seerveld sees the Christian artist as being separated from, and offering a visionary gift to, the rest of the world.

Nicholas Wolterstorff in his *The Artist in an unjust Society* presented the conference with a "work in progress." Only an accomplished scholar of his stature can afford to admit that his original concept took on a life of its own. While working on his presentation he came to the tentative view that the "aesthetic project" has come to an end. One might suggest that his all his work on this subject has been in that direction in that he has always rejected the 18th century notion of a difference between



high and applied art. Wolterstorff explored views held by Collingwood (art is emotional self-expression), Adorno (art is letting the material develop in its own way), and Hegel (art is the imagistic presentation of truth) in view of Max Weber's thought that art-making replace appeals to tradition by purposive rationality. Art should lead to more than "the aesthetic contemplation of a moment of delight." Wolterstorff also affirmed that for him art is no redeemer of society.

These three presentations, apparently in triple conflict, led to a lively "Town Hall" meeting between the three protagonists. One got the impression that all three agree more in principle than they disagree in semantics. Yet, major differences between them will

provide food for thought and further research for years to come. Cal Seerveld ended this session with a moving *a cappella* rendition of his "Song for the good times," a version of Genevan Psalm 89.

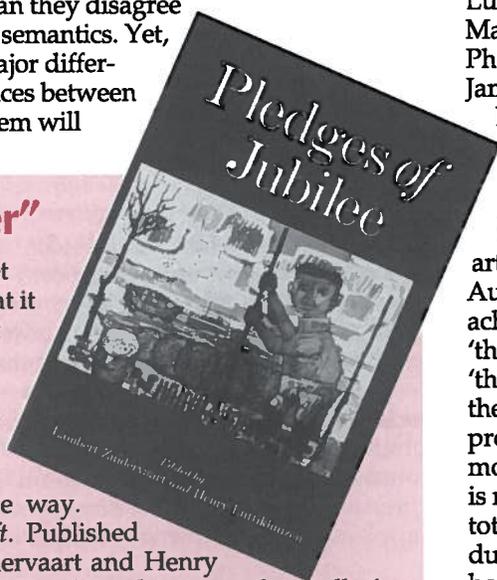
The fourth plenary session presented five artists talking about and interacting with the audience, about their art and art-making. Many thought it was the conference's finest hour. The artists talked about their perceived audiences and how they try to affect them. They also talked about how they achieve their vision and how they struggle for acceptance of that vision in an often hostile environment.

Finally, the workshop sessions presented the conferees with an astounding array of subjects. While some presentations were at best tangential, many gave good insights into the complexity of Christian artistic endeavor. The Free University's Theo De Boer's presentation on the necessity of interpretation (hermeneutics) was revelatory, as was ICS's James Olthuis presentation on the same subject from a different angle. Dordt College's John Van Rys was eloquent on *Comedy, the Grotesque, and the Christian Reader*. ICS students and staff were much in evidence at these sessions. They included M.A. graduate Henry Luttikhuisen and ICS librarian Marcille Frederick, as well as current Ph.D. students Jan Wesselius and James Leach. Also presenting was ICS Distinguished Associate Bob Goudzwaard (Free University) who spoke on *Culture and Economic Justice: the Global and the Local*.

Scholars were encouraging and artists were confirmed at Calvin in August. It is not an easy task to achieve synergy between 'doers' and 'thinkers'. The 'doers' often suspect the 'thinkers' are "out to lunch" when they theorize about art. This conference proved that both have more in common than is popularly assumed. That is not to suggest that suspicions were totally laid to rest. But at least for the duration of the conference, and one hopes for a good time to come, those who attended were delighted by the rapport established between the two camps. Calvin College deserves a well-earned note of thanks for a splendid conference. In three years Dordt College will host the next conference in the series, subject matter to be decided.

## Calvin Seerveld: "Magister"

Part of the conference was the usual banquet which turned out to be less than usual in that it honoured Calvin Seerveld on his retirement from the Institute for Christian Studies. Among the after dinner speakers Barbara Carvill distinguished herself with a delightful cartoon of Cal at the blackboard where he broke many a piece of chalk educating a succession of students in his own intense way. Seerveld was also presented with a *festschrift*. Published by Eerdmans and edited by Lambert Zuidervaart and Henry Luttikhuisen *Pledges of Jubilee* features contributions by eighteen people, all of whom were either taught or influenced by Calvin Seerveld. Cal could hardly refrain from opening the book at the presentation. Once he returned to his seat he contained himself no longer and, having seen the contents page, his face lit up. His good friend and cultural protagonist Nicholas Wolterstorff sums up the feelings of many when he writes in the book "... you, Cal, have become one of the masters of the tradition. This book is testimony to a *magister*."



## SENIOR MEMBERS



**Calvin Seerveld** was featured speaker at a two-day conference in Leeds, England, on the topic "How to see and teach about worldviews in painterly art and sculpture." ICS

alumnus Mark Roques was one of the speakers. About 30-40 people attended the conference, organized by David and Ruth Hanson.

**Brian Walsh** led a week-long workshop in August on "Worldview Thinking" for Inter-Varsity's Campus-in-the-Woods.



**Paul Marshall** spent some time in June in his native England. While there he attended meetings of the World Evangelical Fellowship's Commission on Religious Freedom,

of which he is the academic adviser. He gave a paper at Exeter College, Oxford University, on "Are there any

universal human rights?" Then he attended workshops in London on religious freedom in Christian-Muslim relations at the International Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity.

In August Paul went to Indonesia, where he met with former ICS students on the faculty of Satya Wacana University, where faculty members are on strike. He led a retreat on Christianity and Culture with students in Jakarta, and spoke at the Jakarta Reformed Evangelical Church.

**Marcille Frederick** attended a workshop at the University of Toronto on "One-person librarianship," and gave a paper on the founding of the NBC Symphony Orchestra at the August conference on the arts at Calvin college.



**George Vandervelde** has been cross-appointed to the regular faculty of the Toronto School of Theology. This does not affect his status at ICS. The courses he

teaches are now cross-listed with the courses of Wycliffe College.

## ALUMNI

Doctoral student **Richard Middleton** has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Hebrew Scriptures at Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York.

**James Bailey**, ICS doctoral student and husband of our Director of Student Services Wanda Coffey-Bailey, has left his position as Dean of Students at Ontario Bible College in the wake of OBC's financial crisis. We pray that God will lead James to another good position in the Toronto area.

**Lisa Smith** recently married Andy Chisholm and lives in Belleville, Ontario, where Andy is assistant rector at an Anglican church. Lisa has just been appointed Coordinator of a new School of Lay Ministries for the Anglican diocese in eastern Ontario. Focused in Kingston, the school will be offering training programs for people to equip them to be more effective in congregational life. Lisa has a background in teacher education and credits her studies at ICS (with her master's degree nearly finished) for her opportunity in this exciting new position.

**Nik Ansell** visited Toronto recently from his home in England to take and pass his comprehensive exams for the doctor's degree.

**Jeff Dudiak** and **Julie Robinson** surprised us recently by getting married! We wish them every blessing.

**Ruth Kerkham's** article and photo entitled "A Necklace of Snow" were published in the July 14 issue of *Christian Courier*.

**Jamie Smith** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Villanova University, Pennsylvania, on the basis of his excellent master's degree work at ICS. Jamie is finishing his M. Phil. F. degree this fall in philosophical theology with Jim Olthuis.

## Summer school wins applause

**T**he 1995 ICS Summer School program, held jointly with Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto, enrolled about 70 students in five courses, and was again judged to be very successful.

The largest number of students took part in the courses on spirituality and on prayer. The other well-enrolled courses were taught by ICS professors Brian Walsh, Sylvia Keesmaat and Ken Badley. Many of the summer school students are enrolled in degree programs of the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto.

This year the two-week courses were staggered over three weeks. Chapel services featuring meditations on the book of Colossians were held

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon, with the last one being a communion service. Morning classes were held at Wycliffe and afternoon classes in the air-conditioned ICS classrooms.

A special feature of the summer school was an art show and a gala music and dance performance. The outstanding poster for the program prepared by Willem Hart drew special applause on the university campus.





## DEVELOPMENT NOTES

John Meiboom

**A**s people begin a new year of activities, ICS also begins a new season. New students and returning students and faculty are already together at ICS and have begun the school year.

The theme which will show up in much of our communications with you this year is "Making a Difference, Together." There are various ways in which this motif is appropriate. First of all, ICS is called to make a difference in the lives of students—students from different parts of Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Secondly, these students, together with professors and staff at ICS are called to make a difference within scholarship—seeking to integrate the gospel message of redemption within all their work. Thirdly, graduates are called to make a difference when they apply what they have learned at ICS in the context of their life's work—whether as a professor, lawyer, minister, doctor, social worker, psychologist, computer programmer or whatever.

But I want to stress one other aspect within this theme. The word "Together" is a very important part of this theme. We can only really accomplish anything if we are in Christ. One very significant way of being in Christ is by being part of the community of Christian believers. You are a part of the community that bears up the Institute for Christian Studies.

This has been demonstrated over 28 years by the many supporters of ICS in their prayers, financial support and through words of encouragement and other kinds of interaction. ICS supporters make a great difference—in the individual lives of students at ICS, in the lives of people who read and hear the gospel as presented in the academic work produced by faculty and students, and in the many more lives of people who benefit from alumni work as these ICS graduates go and make a difference in their settings. You continue to be (or can become) a significant part of the Institute.

### How can you help in 1995/6?

Let me suggest three important ways: *Pray, Give, and Share* the news that there is a Christian graduate school alternative!

One new way of supporting the Institute, if you live in Canada, is for you to sign up for the pre-authorized donation withdrawal program. This way of giving monthly or quarterly assures us of regular income, it helps to plan your giving to ICS, and it is convenient for you.

So "Make a Difference" today in one, two or all of the three ways above.

### 1995/6 Budget need

As a result of the budget that was passed by the board of trustees in May and approved by the membership in August, ICS needs to raise \$795,000 this year in voluntary gifts from individual, business and foundation supporters of ICS. This includes membership dues but not the extra amount which some have pledged for the Anniversary Campaign of three years ago for which we expect to receive about \$150,000 in this year. Your help will "Make a Difference."

Walsh in their exciting new book, subtitled *Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. Published by InterVarsity Press it's a sort of sequel to their enormously well-received book *The Transforming Vision*.

"Modernity is in decline," they say. They describe modernity at some length and describe its successor, postmodernism, which is now coming into popularity in academic work and serves as the leading edge in public attitudes. How do we respond to this as Christians? Middleton and Walsh

give a beautiful biblical response to this in the second half of the book. This new book is well worth careful reading.

*A Christian Critique of Art and Literature* by Calvin Seerveld is now back in print. Seerveld's doctoral student James Leach, wrote an Introduction to the book, which is now published by Dordt College Press. You can get a copy from ICS for \$14.95, plus a few extras like 7% tax and shipping costs.

*No Rest in the Land: A Study of the Book of Judges* by Don Sinnema was written during the days when he and Harry Fernhout wrote Bible study materials for the Curriculum Development Centre. This is the only part of their studies that was not published earlier.

*Vollenhoven: His Early Development*, is the doctoral dissertation of John H. Kok who is professor of philosophy at Dordt College. It's a daunting work of examining the pre-Reformational writings of Dirk Vollenhoven, co-founder with Herman Dooyeweerd of the Amsterdam school of reformational philosophy.

Of the book Robert Sweetman writes, "One sees again the earnest persistence which led Vollenhoven in the end to open the Kuyperian tradition in scholarship to creative and courageous possibilities, ones which entailed a considerable reconnoitering of an appropriate relationship to the Christian tradition in general and the neo-Calvinist tradition in particular."

*Perspectives on Technology and Culture* is a new book by Egbert Schuurman, translated from Dutch by John H. Kok and published by Dordt College Press. In the book Schuurman makes clear the relation between technology and culture. His thesis is that the great impact of technology on our culture needs to be critically evaluated by Christians today.

*Foundational Epistemologies in Consumption Theory* is the doctoral dissertation of Alan Storkey. The central thesis of this study is that much of construction theory has been definitively shaped by a "foundational" drive to establish epistemological security. The aim of Storkey's critique is to open up the possibility of a reconstituted view.



## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Bob VanderVennen

## An avalanche of books

*Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be*, say Richard Middleton and Brian

## Walsh accepts chaplaincy position

**B**rian Walsh recently announced that he has accepted a fulltime position as campus chaplain for the Christian Reformed Church at the University of Toronto, effective at the start of 1996. He has been teaching at ICS since 1983, at first on a part-time basis and full-time since 1988 after receiving his doctorate in Religious Studies from McGill University in 1987.

Brian is currently Senior Member in Worldview Studies and director of the Worldview Studies program.

The reason for his choice of this new position is excitement about the chaplaincy ministry and his inside familiarity with the University of Toronto campus from his days as an undergraduate student, and his work on the university campus teaching worldview courses while an ICS student.

Brian received the M. Phil. degree from ICS in 1979. He started the Worldview Studies program at ICS, which has had 30 graduates with the master's degree to date. He initiated and directed the summer school program with Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto, and has written many published papers and books as an ICS faculty member.

President Harry Fernhout says he deeply regrets Brian's decision to leave ICS. "His teaching, writing and administrative contributions have been vital to ICS. The Worldview program has flourished under his leadership," said Fernhout in announcing the resignation. Fernhout hopes that ICS can have a continuing relation with Brian, including his continuing to do some teaching at ICS.

Rev. Dirk Evans, who chairs the chaplaincy committee for the CRC in Toronto, is delighted that Brian will become the new chaplain. He says Brian will bring great insight into Christian thinking not only about the world into which university students are moving, but also about Christian thinking inside the subjects studied at the university. He will be an invaluable counsellor to students in the faith-and-learning aspect of university study.

## Exciting light on an ancient subject

by Robert Sweetman

**D**uring June some 20 people huddled together at Knox College, around the corner from ICS, for a conference on "Antiquity and the Reformed Tradition" co-sponsored by ICS and the Dooyeweerd Centre for Christian Philosophy. This was the third conference in a series spearheaded by Wendy Helleman on "Christianity and the Classics."

At this conference the focus fell on the Reformation tradition associated with the philosophies of Herman Dooyeweerd and Dirk Vollenhoven. Their judgments upon and appropriation of the philosophies of antiquity were set in a three-fold context. First, they were set against the background of the great German church historian Adolph von Harnack's distinction between "the Hellenic" and "the Hebraic." Second, they were connected to neo-Calvinist forerunners: Guillaume Groen van Prinsterer, Abraham Kuyper and Jan Woltjer. Third, they were associated with the work of neo-Calvinist classicists like A. Sizoo and K.J. Popma.

The intimate setting provided an opportunity for intense examination

and discussion, which can't be reported exhaustively. I'll just give a few personal reflections. In the first place, it has bothered me for a long time to see how important a role the distinction between Hellenic and Hebraic has played in the Reformation tradition. But at this conference some of the original subtlety and nuance was restored to the distinction and I began to see anew why it should have proved so suggestive to Reformational thinkers.

Secondly, the deep attachment of earlier neo-Calvinists to non-Christian Greco-Roman modes of thought impressed me anew with the hornet's nest that Dooyeweerd and Vollenhoven disturbed in their time. Thirdly, I was helped to see that they were attempting something analogous (however distant the mirror) to what the pre-Socratics and Plato were attempting among the philosophers of their own day.

It would be a shame if the fruits of such an intense examination of the Reformation tradition were to be restricted to the conference's fortunate but few participants. So the organizers are now gathering the conference papers into what they hope will be a publishable book.

## Two new correspondence courses to consider

**F**or the first time in ten years we have new correspondence courses, two of them. One is on Old Testament biblical studies and the other on Christian perspective on politics and public issues.

**God's Covenant Gift of Land** brings together the well-received Bible studies that Harry Fernhout and Don Sinnema produced some years ago for the Curriculum Development Centre. Reading materials for this course are the four books they produced which deal with the biblical books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. It's an eye-opening experience to think about this biblical revelation in its unity, for what it reveals about the rest of the Bible, and for what it means for us today. You can register for the course for \$150.00 and receive all these books

plus a study guide with thoughtful questions to focus your reading. The course includes a copy of Don Sinnema's study of the book of Judges, not published until now.

**Politics in a Christian Light** is a course developed from a study course prepared by Jonathan Chaplin (now a professor at Oxford University, England) when he was an ICS graduate student. It draws heavily on Paul Marshall's book *Thine Is the Kingdom* and on other similar materials. Chaplin's thought-provoking questions come with the course, as do all the reading materials you will need, which are included in the \$150.00 tuition fee.

## Family conferences show grassroots strength

**F**amily conferences sponsored by ICS in Alberta and in Ontario brought excitement and richness to the lives of those who attended. Both conferences were held during the August holiday weekend.

At the Alberta conference Rev. Donald Postema of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was featured speaker on "Spirituality and Prayer." His focus was "God as an adult friend" in quiet sessions where silence for meditation and choral responses using Taize songs alternated with Postema's suggestive comments.

In the workshops Janet Greidanus showed that mid-life spirituality is different from that of youth, Henry Schuurman opened up the place of angels in our lives, Philip Smith-Elvemark introduced two meditative techniques for Christians, and Native Mary Morin presented Native symbols and ceremonies.

The Ontario conference on gender differences was held at Hamilton District Christian High School with Briton Elaine Storkey as keynote speaker. She clearly won the hearts of the conferees in her two speeches and her workshop. Her presentations were to the point but not offensive.

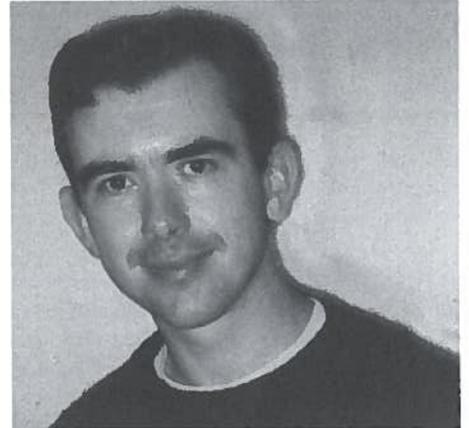
The topics of the nine workshops, each presented twice, were more closely centred on the conference theme than usual. Some of them were outstanding and led to much discus-

sion, and only the limitations of space keep us from summarizing them. Although dealing with a much-discussed topic, the conference did not rehash issues we're all tired of, but was fresh and suggestive. About 400 people registered for the conference.

Joey Buwalda made these apt comments about the Ontario conference in the newsletter of the Hebron CRC: "I was afraid of what the sometimes elite ICS academics would have to say on the subject. But for the most part I was pleasantly reassured. The folks at ICS take God's word very seriously.... The Sunday services are worth coming to even if you can't attend the whole conference.... Let me comment on a workshop I'm glad I chose: "Responding to Homosexuality" by Rev. Jim Lucas. Rev. Lucas shared the story of his life. After sharing his story and pain, he opened the floor for dialogue. This is heavy and uncomfortable stuff to comment on, but there was a compassionate and searching spirit among those present....

May I encourage your whole family to attend next year's conference. I think you would be surprised at how much you enjoy it! If you are concerned, as I am, about the 'progressive' nature of some ICS thinking, come and find out where they are coming from, listen, discern and provide YOUR input."

## New graduate student researches language teaching



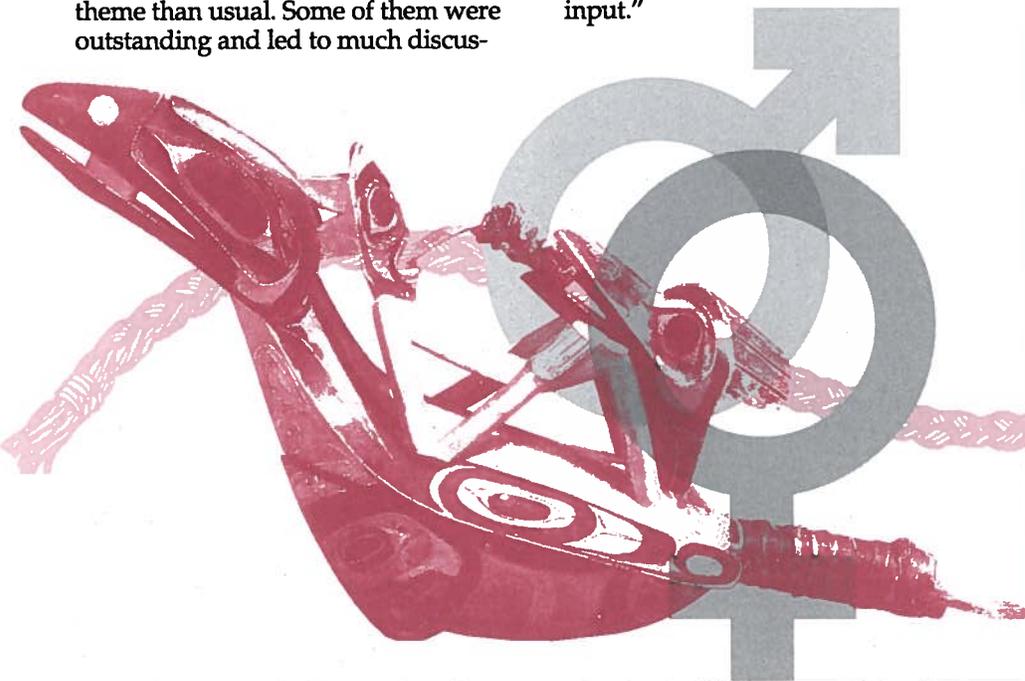
**D**avid Smith is a high school language teacher who has come to Toronto from Nottingham, England, to study at the Institute for two years. From teaching Russian, German and French to students ages 11 to 16 for the past seven years he has developed some basic questions about the Christian faith and language teaching that he's driven to understand more clearly.

Not much research has been done, he has found, about how a Christian worldview affects language and the ways you go about teaching language. A number of Britons have helped David develop sound Christian philosophical insight, including several with close ties to ICS, among whom are Richard Russell, Mark Roques and Ann Holt.

So David has set out to work on the ICS two-year master's degree with Jim Olthuis, focusing on anthropology. From these studies of the nature of the human person as created by God, David hopes to get clearer ideas on language and how to teach it. He's convinced that moral and spiritual development have a close relation to language teaching.

David has started a newsletter which reflects on these issues, and enjoys the contacts he had from England with Barbara Carvill at Calvin College and Thea Van Til Rusthoven at Redeemer College.

David took his undergraduate degree at Oxford University and had a year of further study at Nottingham University. With his wife Julia and their two children he's moved to a house in Scarborough.



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**OUR AVALANCHE OF NEW BOOKS**

<b>Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age</b> , by J. Richard Middleton and Brian J. Walsh	\$ 22.50	\$ _____
<b>Pledges of Jubilee</b> , edited by Lambert Zuidervaart and Henry Luttikhuizen	\$ 39.75	\$ _____
<b>A Christian Critique of Art and Literature</b> , by Calvin Seerveld, 2nd edition	\$ 14.95	\$ _____
<b>No Rest in the Land: A Study in the Book of Judges</b> , by Don Sinnema	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
<b>Vollenhoven: His Early Development</b> , by John H. Kok	\$ 22.00	\$ _____
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