

Perspective

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INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

News from the graduate Institute for Christian Studies

Three new faculty appointments spark excitement

In recent dramatic action the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of three new people to the faculty. They replace three who have left: Calvin Seerveld, who retired from the aesthetics position; Brian Walsh, who left as director of Worldview Studies, and Ken Badley, who has resigned his position in the philosophy of education.

All these new appointees have studied at ICS, and two have lived overseas for many years. Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin lives with her husband Jonathan and two children in Oxford, England, Carroll Guen Hart lives with her husband Willem in Toronto, and Douglas Blomberg lives with his family in Mount Evelyn, Australia.

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, who becomes Senior Member in Aesthetics, has studied art history with Hans Rookmaaker at the Free University in Amsterdam, and philosophical aesthetics at the Municipal University of Amsterdam. Her wish to root her study of aesthetics in Christian philosophy led her to ICS in 1981 for study with Calvin Seerveld, where she focused on the aesthetics of Suzanne Langer.

Dengerink Chaplin plans to reactivate her Ph.D. program, which she put on hold some years ago. She will probably take the coming year to make substantial progress on that, which basically requires the writing of a dissertation. As a consequence she will probably not start her work at ICS until 1997 or 1998. She is an accomplished violinist. Her husband Jonathan holds a master's degree from ICS and the Ph.D. in political philosophy from the London School of Economics.

While her husband was a doctoral student, Dengerink Chaplin was resident director of a women's hostel in London. Her two children were born in London. A native of the Netherlands, she lived for a year in Florence, Italy, before her marriage. While in Toronto she prepared a course on "Arts in Christian Perspective" for group discussion, which ICS distributes, based on her teaching of this non-credit course at York University and the Ontario College of Art. She has written extensive monographs on aesthetics and numerous articles for periodicals. She is very active with Christian arts groups in England, with British Inter-Varsity and with The Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

Carroll Guen Hart already has a close connection to the Institute. She has taught in our Worldview program part-time in recent years, following her master's and doctoral study at ICS.

A lifelong question for her is, "What difference does being a Christian make in your vocation?" New life in Christ must be felt everywhere, not only in evangelism, she insists. We Christians must live distinctively and be able to talk about how we do it.

University study can be exhilarating and dangerous, she says—you can lose your soul. Faith shapes worldview, (Continued on page 3)



"Guen Hart showed in her interview a strong pastoral concern, arising from her Worldview teaching at ICS, for students challenged to change their own worldview."



"Blomberg will be a very great asset to ICS, he showed his outstanding leadership abilities during his year at the Calvin College Center for Christian Scholarship."



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Harry Fernhout

Short Catechism

Last year I developed a brief summary to explain the roots of the Institute's Reformed vision of education to students from Christian traditions. I have been encouraged to share this "short catechism" with readers of *Perspective*.

I begin with responses to the four "worldview questions" suggested by Walsh and Middleton in *The Transforming Vision*:

1. Where are we? We live in a cosmos fashioned by God, a spectacular creation which God declared "good." Our whole world belongs to God, who is exalted over all.

2. Who are we? We are humans made in God's image. This means that we are designed to live in covenant, in a bond of faith with God. This faith-bond is at the very root of life—it defines who we are. Our calling in this relationship is to represent God in his creation. Our mandate is to help implement God's rule over all creation, and so to bring him all praise and honour.

We humans cannot fulfil this calling without getting involved in learning about God's world. Learning, then, is an intrinsic part of our service; God calls us to reflect (image) something of his awe and majesty in our learning.

3. What is the problem? Our bond of faith was broken when humanity rebelled against God. Since this faith-

bond is the heart of the matter, the results of the breach were devastating. Our rebellion was total in scope; every part of life and every corner of creation was implicated.

4. What is the solution? God has taken the initiative to set things right. Out of pure grace God seeks to redeem humanity and creation from the destructiveness of the breach. The Bible reveals Jesus Christ as the centre-piece of God's redemptive initiative.

The redemptive story is on its way toward a new creation. Followers of Jesus who live between his ascension and return are called to pursue humanity's original mandate, but with a twist. We are still called to represent our Lord, raising signposts of his coming Kingdom. And we are also called to represent our Lord's compassion, bringing healing and comfort wherever we find brokenness and pain.

A characteristic feature of this Reformed vision is an emphasis on faith as the guiding principle of all our efforts to shape a way of life (culture). This vision stresses the privilege, the joy, and the wide scope of serving Christ in the here and now. Because Christ is Lord of all, and because "in Christ are hidden all the treasures of knowledge" (Col. 2), this vision includes a strong affirmation of academic work as an important vocation. It celebrates the redemptive possibilities of engaging in scholarship which reveals the religious roots of learning.

ICS has received its Reformed heritage as a gift, passed on through generations of Christian scholars including Kuyper, Dooyeweerd and Runner. This heritage provides a vital resource for those who carry forward the scholarly task of gaining reliable and redemptive insight into reality.

But ICS is not called simply to repeat ideas of the past. A distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition is its call to continue the reformation. Responding to this call requires not only an effort to reform secular culture, but also an effort to reform our own Christian heritage and its intellectual fruits. In this effort we seek to be guided by Scripture even as we explore the intricacies of God's world and as we interact with others (including non-Christians) who are busy interpreting the same vastly complex creation.

Ongoing reformation means that Christian scholarship is, by definition, not static. If the next generation of Christian scholars simply repeats the insights of the past they will have failed to fulfil important dimensions of their calling to bring all things together under the rule of Christ (Eph. 1).

Learning at ICS is embraced in a desire to let the bond of faith be the central driving force of life. When that commitment is focused on Jesus, we have the opportunity to see the whole creation in the glorious light of our Lord. This is the core of what a Reformed vision for higher education is all about.

Seminar for modern language teachers

ICS graduate student David Smith has organized a one-day seminar for Thursday, July 11, at which teachers of modern language can discuss what it means to be a Christian teacher of languages.

Smith has taught modern languages in both Christian and public high schools in England. He is a curriculum team leader for modern languages in the Christian Schools Trust (UK) and editor of "Language in God's World."

Those who take part will discuss the biblical worldview as it relates to language teaching, worldviews embedded in language teaching materials, and practical ideas. Smith believes that the Christian faith and

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NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

and worldview shapes academic study. To examine or to upset someone's worldview is to play with fire, she says. We are all diverse, different, she adds, and with her sympathetic imagination she has a sixth sense for individual needs.

Guen Hart says that "A Christian worldview, sensitive to creatures and to situations, can hold contentious issues very gently and help them to unfold in a life-enhancing way."

She had a Baptist upbringing in Utah and has the B.S. degree in Biblical Studies from Western Bible Institute, Denver, and the B.A. degree in English literature from the University of Utah. In Toronto she is active in the Anglican church and in social justice organizations.

Guen Hart's references say she has the "rare ability to relate complex theoretical issues to basic questions of life," and that she "writes and thinks with great clarity and lucidity." She has a solid record in academic and popular writing and speaking.

Douglas Blomberg has been appointed on a short-term basis, for the second half of the 1996-97 academic year (during the first semester Harry Fernhout will teach an education course). He will be designated as an Adjunct Faculty member. Blomberg has been a leader in Christian schooling in Australia for the past two decades,

modern language teaching do not belong to separate compartments of life, as is often assumed. He will present reflection on some of the theories and ideologies which have shaped modern language teaching, combined with opportunities to share practical teaching ideas. The cost is \$35. Phone the ICS to register.

currently serving as Principal Lecturer for the National Institute for Christian Education, a training institute for Christian school teachers. His special field is school curriculum. During 1991-92 he was a Visiting Scholar for the Center for Christian Scholarship at Calvin College in Michigan. He was a student at ICS during the year 1975-76.

Blomberg is a theology graduate of Moore College. His B.A. (Hons.) is from the University of Sydney, for which he wrote a thesis on "An initial formulation of a Reformed Christian philosophy of education." His Ph.D. degree in education included his dissertation on "The development of curriculum with relation to the Philosophy of the Cosmological Idea," which is the term that identifies the approach of Herman Dooyeweerd and his colleagues. He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Education degree at the University of Melbourne.

Blomberg has written and spoken widely for teachers, for the general public and for academic colleagues. He is co-editor of the book from the Calvin Center, *A vision with a task: Christian schooling for responsive discipleship*. This is a groundbreaking book which gives the state of the art in scholarship on the nature of education from a Reformed Christian perspective.

President Harry Fernhout is excited about these new people and the fresh blood they bring to the Institute. He says that Dengerink Chaplin is an exciting person who will bring and extend the best of the Reformed intellectual tradition in the arts, which has made a massive contribution, continuing in a creative way the work of Calvin Seerveld.

Guen Hart showed in her interview a strong pastoral concern for students challenged to change their own worldview, says Fernhout. Your worldview is very close to your heart, and a major shift changes in sensitive ways who you are. Often a person will be living in two different worldviews at the same time, creating deep personal anxieties.

Blomberg will be a very great asset to ICS, says Fernhout. He showed his outstanding leadership abilities during his year at the Calvin College Center for Christian Scholarship. Fernhout rates him very highly among educators working in the reformational tradition in education.

STUDENTS

Stephen Lazarus has just passed his defense of thesis with flying colours and received the M. Phil. F. degree from the Institute. His mentor was Paul Marshall and his examiners included Jean Bethke Elshtain and Calvin Seerveld. The title of the thesis is "Recovering Transcendence: The Political and Philosophical Thought of Vaclav Havel." Lazarus writes: "This thesis examines the relationship between Havel's political thought, embedded in his critique of modernity, and his concept of the transcendent, which he terms the order of Being. The centrepiece of Havel's thought is his insistence that the modern world must recover an awareness of transcendence." The Institute will be making this thesis available to those who wish to have it.

Mike Hogeterp has received ICS's M. Phil. F. degree, under Paul Marshall's supervision, with his thesis called "Liberal progressivism and public policy: A fundamental analysis of Unemployment Insurance in Canada." His outside examiner was Dr. Stanley Carlson-Thies. Mike is now looking for a job in the public policy area, but he and his wife are celebrating the birth of their new baby daughter on May 23.

Janet Wesselius passed her comprehensive exams for the Ph.D. degree in October and then left for London, England, for the rest of the academic year where her husband Peter Sinnema was on a post-doctoral fellowship for the study of Victorian literature. While there she made a trip to the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam to lecture for the Philosophy Department on gender identities, and to meet with her dissertation supervisors who are working with her ICS committee. In January she taught an interim course at Calvin College on Philosophy and Feminism. In May Janet gave an academic paper at the meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association.

Shane Cudney recently presented an academic paper for the American Academy of Religion.

Matt Bonzo spoke at the Third International Conference on Persons held in Oxford, England.

SENIOR MEMBERS



Robert Sweetman is author of a review article titled "Heavenly Dust: How medieval minds imagined the resurrection of the body" in the May/June issue of *Books and Culture*. Sweetman gave a paper in French

at the 64th Francophone Congress for the Advancement of Science held at McGill University in Montreal on the religious writings of Thomas de Cantimpré. He has been recently cross-appointed to the School of Graduate Studies of the University of Toronto via the university's Department of Religious Studies.



The U of T Press has just published a new book by **Paul Marshall** *A Kind of Life Imposed on Man: Vocation and Social Order from Tyndale to Locke*. The publisher says that this book is the first systematic study of the

development of the idea of vocation in England from 1500 to 1700, and vocation formed the core of much of the economic and social theory of Protestantism during that time.

Emeritus Senior Member **Calvin Seerveld** has been honored by the Alumni Association of Calvin College as one of two "Alumni of the Year." Seerveld continues an active schedule of writing and speaking.



Sylvia Keesmaat spoke at a senior seminar at Redeemer College on "Gender Issues and Biblical Studies." She also spoke at a Faculty Colloquium at Redeemer on "Paul and his Story: Interpreting

the Tradition." In March she was featured on the CBC radio program "Tapestry," speaking on Bible translation. Her article "Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land" was published in a recent issue of *The Catalyst*.

Badley leaves education position at ICS

Ken Badley decided this year to resign from his position as Senior Member in Education at ICS. He has served for four years, during which time he has received very favourable evaluations from his students, especially for his role in stimulating class discussions and picking up on student needs and interests.



Badley's research has balanced the Institute's foundational orientation with the needs of Christians teaching in public and Christian schools. He has given many academic and

popular talks, and has written extensively both for popular and academic audiences.

Two of Badley's most effective out-of-class professional activities are his

initiation of the first-ever national conference on Christian higher education in Canada held last year in Regina, and his writing of the textbook for Newfoundland high schools called *Worldviews: The Challenge of Choice*. The book draws heavily on his academic research, demanded a great deal of intellectual energy and has received very favourable responses.

Badley has taught such courses at ICS as philosophy of education, curriculum, history of educational ideas and integration of faith and learning. Integration has been a special strength and interest in Badley's research.

In expressing his appreciation for Badley's services to ICS President Harry Fernhout noted especially his functioning as a bridge-builder to students, teachers and other professionals in education, with gratitude for ICS having the blessings of Badley's contributions for four years.

Keesmaat reappointed in Biblical Studies

Sylvia Keesmaat was reappointed by the Board for two years as Senior Member in Biblical Studies and Hermeneutics following appraisal by the Academic Council the Senate upon completion of her first two years at ICS.

Her teaching received a very positive assessment from her students. They said that her enthusiasm and love for her field are obvious, and she balances well her roles as expert, guide and facilitator. She is "softly demanding" as she reflects a care and concern for junior members and their interests, while at the same time she maintains strong academic expectations.

Her colleagues say Keesmaat has done an excellent job of drawing on her doctoral research for publications and conference presentations. She has shown a strong interest and knack for administrative functions, and her ability and interest in serving the Institute's non-academic community is deeply appreciated.

In-house discussion of alternative futures for ICS

On May 31 the ICS trustees, senators, faculty, graduate students and staff gathered for an exciting morning's discussion of how ICS could be part of a developing Christian university in North America.

It is clear that the Institute has now reached a place of solid academic reputation, and that undergraduate Christian college education in Canada has reached a place where discussion of alternative forms of a Christian university has now become meaningful. In May the Strategic Planning Committee presented specific proposals for two alternative possibilities.

It was the original dream of the founders of the Institute that a Christian university, with education beyond high school all the way to a doctor's degree, ought to be established. Now, 35 years later, the basic pieces exist, though they are geographically scattered.

Our discussion, which cannot be made public at this time, showed areas of agreement and questions. Further work to be done before the fall meetings of the Trustees and Senate.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

Mike Den Haan

A communal vision

This is an exciting project! ICS gathers students from around the world to the corner of College and Spadina where, with the ICS faculty, they critique the foundations of our intellectual culture from a Christian perspective.

You support this vision for higher education in many ways. With your thoughts, prayers, words of encouragement and financial gifts, the mission of ICS continues to grow.

In short, this project is a communal one. ICS could not be this vibrant and solid Christian graduate school without committed supporters like yourself. Presently ICS is finishing up the '96 Phone-A-Thon campaign. This event is important for ICS not only because it is the last major fund drive of our fiscal year but also because it

allows for personal contact within our community.

To our more than 50 volunteer callers, and to those of you who gave (or plan to give) in response to this appeal: Thank you! I was excited to talk with many ICS supporters. Many gave financial support and voiced enthusiastic encouragement for the ICS mission.

But there is still a lot to do. ICS is finishing its fiscal year and would like to decrease a projected deficit. If we can raise over \$115,000 by the end of June, we will accomplish this. Perhaps some of you are still considering a gift. You could help by donating \$100 per family (spread over a period of 10 months this means only \$10 a month).

The Institute is still, to a certain extent, a hidden treasure. I talked to several people who have not given to ICS simply because they did not know a lot about it. If each of us were to convince just one other person of the value of this Christian graduate school, our community could grow by the thousands!

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future and working with all of you as, together, we promote this exciting communal vision for Christian higher education.

Hungarian language teacher consults at ICS

Mrs. Erszebet Abraham recently spent a day at the Institute, visiting from Budapest, Hungary. She teaches English there at the Péter Pázmány Catholic University.

Changes in Eastern Europe have brought a new freedom for Christian teaching. Many dedicated persons and groups are working to lay fresh foundations, often turning to the West for help, since the oppression of decades has left a lack of resources and experience.

Mrs. Abraham has been developing materials to teach English which draw examples from Bible texts. She was able in November to travel in the United States and Canada to get ideas and material from Christian teachers. Last year she met ICS graduate student David Smith in England, and she met him now at ICS along with Ken Badley and James Olthuis.

These discussions helped her broaden her vision of faith and learning integration, as she put it: "David influenced me to see everything in a text, not only the grammar I originally wanted to." She added, "I enjoyed my stay at your Institute very much. I learnt a lot. I had the impression you are a nice team, complementing each other very well."

A newsletter for Christian language teachers based in the UK and edited by David Smith has a number of readers in Poland, Hungary and Romania. David has been asked by the Association for Christian Schools International to teach an 18-hour "Integration Module" for language teachers in their Teacher Education Program in Poland, which he will probably do in 1997.

"It takes little discernment to see that by no means everything which Eastern Europe has drawn from the West in its search for reorientation has been a blessing," says Smith. "The opportunity and openness which exist therefore heighten the responsibility placed on Western Christians to respond with Christian humility and discernment as well as active love and support."

Papers given at end-of-year academic meetings

This year again ICS faculty and graduate students presented a number of papers resulting from their research at the annual meetings of the Learned Societies which take place at the end of the academic year.

Hendrik Hart wins the prize for quantity (and hopefully high quality) for giving three papers, one each for The Canadian Philosophical Association, The Society for Christian Philosophers, and The Society for Hermeneutics and Postmodern Thought. Sylvia Keesmaat spoke on "Subversive speech: Romans 8 as recital, lament or thanksgiving" for the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies.

Junior Member Jeff Dudiak gave a paper for the Canadian Society for Hermeneutics and Postmodern Thought on aspects of the new book by Richard Middleton and Brian Walsh, *Truth is stranger than it used to*



R. Middleton

be: *Biblical faith in a postmodern age*. Middleton and Walsh gave responses to this paper. Jeff also presented a paper for the Canadian Theological Society.

Janet

Wesselius gave papers for the Canadian Philosophical Association and for the Canadian Society for Women in Society. Shane Cudney addressed the Canadian Theological society, Richard Middleton spoke for the Society of Biblical Literature, and Ron Kuipers for the Canadian Society for Hermeneutics and Postmodern Thought.

ICS family conferences build community

ICS-sponsored family conferences scheduled for Alberta and Ontario during the holiday weekend of August 2-5 feature *Being at home in God's world with God's Spirit*.

For the Alberta conference "Caring for our Creational Home" the featured speaker is Brian Walsh. The point is that maybe we don't care for our creational home because we don't experience it as "home." In the face of our abuse of the earth, how does a biblical vision of homecoming engender an alternative imagination and way of life? Walsh's keynote addresses will focus on homelessness, homemaking and homecoming. Workshop titles are "Making your Church a Creation Awareness Centre," "Liturgical Walk Outdoors," "Celebrating Creation," "Personal and Political Actions to Care for Creation," and a practical workshop. The location is Deer Valley Meadows, near Lacombe, and Brian Lee (11516 - 130 St., Edmonton T5M 1A4) is registrar.

The Ontario conference has the theme "At Home with the Spirit: Foundations of Christian Family Life." ICS's James Olthuis and Rev. Marjorie Thompson are co-keynoters, and Rev. Don Postema will preach at the evening worship service, lead devotions and give a workshop.

Thompson and Postema are both American pastors, both have studied Christian spirituality at Yale University with Henri Nouwen, and both have been speakers at an untold number of conferences. Thompson's topic is "Supporting the Spiritual Vocation of Families" and Olthuis's is "Belonging, Respect and Sharing."

There is a new location for this conference: Ridley College, near St. Catharines. You can get information about the conference from the Toronto ICS office.

Both conferences include several workshops, programs for teens and children, sports, socializing, and deeply meaningful worship.

ICS is a good alternative graduate school for David Schouten

David Schouten graduated from Calvin College, majoring in philosophy and classical civilization, and came to ICS to study philosophy at the graduate school level. Nothing unusual about that. Or is there? Actually, very few people have come from Calvin to study philosophy at ICS.

What's special about David is that he wants to do his advanced study in a way in which he will continue to be connected with his Christian community, which he wants to serve. There's a sense in which ICS has a special appeal to disaffected North American students, he says. Those who gladly accept the mainstream academic route will aim to attend prestigious North American universities for advanced degrees.

Calvin philosophers Lambert Zuidervaart and John Hare suggested he consider ICS. So he visited Toronto, talked with James Olthuis, and saw real possibilities for himself here.

David's academic interest is in the study of culture as a means of disclosure from God on who we are. He's



particularly keen on studying post-modern philosophy and its view of linguistics and psychoanalysis. So he's chosen Olthuis as his mentor, joining him in his dia-

logue with postmodern thinkers.

David wants to pursue the studies he began at Calvin on the thinking of Julia Kristeva, a Hungarian who moved to France. She points out that what influences our intellect also criticizes the autonomy of our intellect, or the ability of the intellect to understand.

The courses David has started out with are Biblical Foundations and Philosophical Foundations, a course with Olthuis on the Hermeneutics of Suffering, and a reading course on postmodern thinking. There's a good fit between his interests and what ICS is doing, says David. ICS has the openness for him to exercise his creativity, which he experiences as a

Student seeks career in political action

Bruce Voogd grew up in a Christian Reformed environment in Vancouver, attending the Christian schools and graduating from Fraser Valley Christian High School. He went to Edmonton for college study, attending community college, The King's University College and graduated in 1987 from The University of Alberta with a major in political science.

Bruce then worked for The King's as a student recruiter for three years. Then came a time when he wanted to spread his wings—he and a friend travelled in South America for five months. He returned to Edmonton and worked as a horticulturalist for two years. Then in March, 1993, Bruce married Joanne Tamming, who is now a youth worker in Toronto working with deeply troubled teens.

Bruce and Joanne moved to Toronto in 1993 so that Bruce could study at



ICS with Paul Marshall. They found the adjustment to Toronto to be hard, since the Christian Reformed community functions much differently in Toronto than in Edmonton. They

found it harder to experience a sense of community in Toronto.

Bruce is now ready to start work on his thesis. He's interested in community rights in the political system, for example, aboriginal rights and the rights of churches.

He doesn't foresee an academic career but one directly working in the political arena. Maybe working for an elected public official, or for a political party or an advocacy group like Citizens for Public Justice.

Hart leads vigorous community discussion

In an effort to give the supporting community the chance to interact with ICS faculty members on subjects they may have some questions about, the ICS presented Hendrik Hart in an evening seminar at the Institute on the subject of rationality and order.

There were differences of opinion on this subject when Hart spoke formally on it at the ICS anniversary conference in 1992. Under the title "Creation Order, Dooyeweerd and the Reformed Tradition" Hart argued that rationality and order have been created by God and do not exist independently of him, as the dominant western tradition in scholarship would have us believe. Western scholarship has moved away from God in past decades and has therefore declared that rationality and order are disconnected from God, that they are "autonomous." Herman Dooyeweerd has always argued against this independence of rationality and order from God, says Hart, though he can see some traces of this view also in Dooyeweerd's writing.

Further, Hart said that rational order is only one aspect of creation among others. He said, "The scholar's image of creation is not more true or essential or natural than the poet's, the story teller's, the potter's or sculptor's, the farmer's or the priest's." He concluded that understanding order as dependent on the Creator and as only one aspect of creation is "not an abandonment of order."

The seminar was chaired by president Harry Fernhout. The 30 people who attended engaged Hart in a vigorous and substantive discussion.



Dooyeweerd Conference draws philosophy scholars

An intensive four-day conference organized by Danie Strauss of the Dooyeweerd Centre in Ancaster, Ontario, brought together 28 scholars from many parts of the world during the first week of June to refine, critique and carry forward the philosophical ideas of Herman Dooyeweerd.

The Institute's Hendrik Hart and James Olthuis were among those who gave presentations. Also participating were Harry Fernhout, Calvin Seerveld and Robert Sweetman, along with people from Mexico, Japan, New

Zealand, the Netherlands and the United States from California to New Jersey.

The presentations and discussions moved around in the major areas in which Dooyeweerd's thinking has applications. Included were papers on modal order, analogy, transcendental method, legal theory, rationality, encapsis and individuality structures. The papers and discussions showed that Dooyeweerd's ideas continue to have vitality in the thinking of people who are leaders in work on the foundations of Christian scholarship.

ALUMNI

Maj-Len Wallace has just completed two liturgical quilts for her church, Grace Presbyterian Church in downtown Toronto. Since her study with Calvin Seerveld at ICS was in the area of crafts and folk art, she feels that these quilts are a direct product of what she learned at ICS. One of them has a creation motif using the opening words of John 1, and the other richly depicts the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Keith C. Sewell recently had printed a paper titled "The Idea of a Free Christian University" which he presented at a conference in Australia at The Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity. He argues that what Australia really needs "is a world-formative Christianity, not a Christianity that conforms to the world, or a Christianity that would seek to escape from this world, which God loves so much." The paper is available for \$5.00 US from The Research Press, P.O. Box 133, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052.

Steven Bouma-Prediger published in the December issue of *Christian Scholar's Review* an article titled "Is Christianity Responsible for the Ecological Crisis?"

The 1995 book by J. Richard Middleton and Brian J. Walsh *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be*, was selected by *Christianity Today* as the

10th best Christian book of the year out of a list of more than 200 nominations. Middleton and Walsh have written a chapter titled "Facing the Postmodern Scalpel: Can the Christian Faith Withstand Deconstruction?" in the book *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*, edited by Stanley J. Grenz and published by Victor Books.

Joe Thomas recently received the Ph.D. degree from Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto. His dissertation was on the work of theologian Lesslie Newbigin. Joe has just been appointed Regional Mission Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific by the Anglican Church of Canada. The aim of the position is to build and nurture relations of partnership between the Anglican Church and partners in missions in that large region.

Nik Ansell recently gave a paper "Putting the Serpent in its Place: Towards an Anthropocentric View of Evil" at a Theological Forum in England, and took part in a panel discussion at the conference.

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Lisa Smith receives interdisciplinary degree

Lisa Smith's wide-ranging studies for her Master of Philosophical Foundations degree from ICS included concentration in the history of philosophy and biblical and feminist studies. Brian Walsh, her mentor, says her work was "creative and courageous."

Lisa's thesis has the arresting title, "Why Should I Bleed? A conversation with Louise Lander and Lara Owen about the meaning(s) of menstruation." Her examiners said the thesis "makes a real contribution to understanding the intersection of gender, cyclicity and the human condition." Her thesis examiners shown on the accompanying photo are Carroll Guen Hart, Lynda Lange and Robert Sweetman (chair), with



Brian Walsh in front. The thesis will be available for purchase from ICS.

Lisa had received the B.A. (Hons) from Queen's University and the B.Ed. degree before coming to ICS. She now works as coordinator of a new School of Lay Ministries for the Anglican Church, based in Kingston, Ontario. The school is designed to equip people to be more effective in congregational life.

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Stephen Lazarus has just passed the defense of his thesis with flying colours and received the M. Phil. F. degree from the Institute. He is shown here with mentor Paul Marshall (far right), and the examiners (from left to right) Calvin Seerveld, Robert Sweetman and Jean Bethke Elshtain (See story on page 3)

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NOTES: Three new faculty appointments spark excitement [Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin; Carroll Guen Hart; Douglas Blomberg], From the President: Short Catechism [roots of the Institute's Reformed vision of Education], Students [M. Phil. F. awarded to Stephen Lazarus; thesis: "Recovering transcendence: The political and philosophical thought of Vaclav Havel" & Mike Hogeterp; thesis: "Liberal progressivism and public policy: A fundamental analysis of unemployment insurance in Canada". Janet Wesselius Ph.D. progress], Badley leaves education position at ICS, Hungarian language teacher consults at ICS [Mrs. Elizabeth Abraham from Peter Pazmary Catholic University Budapest], ICS is a good alternative graduate school for David Schouten, student seeks career in political action [Bruce Voogd], Dooyeweerd Conference draws philosophy scholars [at Redeemer College, Ancaster], Lisa Smith receives interdisciplinary degree [M. Phil. F. thesis: "why should I bleed? A conversation with Louise Lander and Lara Owen about the meaning(s) of menstruation"],

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dc.subject: Schouten, David

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