

# Perspective

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1, MARCH 1997

News from the graduate Institute for Christian Studies

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
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## CONVOCAATION:

### Graduation of nine students and inaugural address of Vaden House

*In a colourful annual convocation ceremony four students received the degree Master of Philosophical Foundations and five were awarded the degree Master of Worldview Studies. Dr. Vaden House gave his inaugural address, "Saving Science: Science as Liberation and the Liberation of Science," as Senior Member in the Philosophy of Science and Technology.*

**S**hane Cudney of Ft. Erie, Ontario, completed his M. Phil. F. degree under the supervision of James Olthuis in philosophical theology. Wisnu Hanggoro graduated in systematic philosophy under Hendrik Hart and has returned to his home country of Indonesia, where he has been a professor of philosophy. Matthew Klemp came from Illinois and received his degree in philosophy with Hendrik Hart. Stephen Lazarus, who grew up in Louisiana, studied political theory with Paul Marshall.

Those who received their degree in Worldview Studies are Carmine Ferrone, a youth worker in the Toronto area, Joe Mwangi Gacheru from Kenya, Brian Roodnick, an educator from Ottawa, Patrice Wheeler from Trinidad and Tobago, and Oaksuk Yang from Korea.

#### Liberating science from objectivity

The inaugural address by a new faculty member gives the Institute community a sense of the Christian perspective with which he or she views the chosen area of teaching and research. In his address Dr. Vaden House dealt with the way we think about science, saying he wants to generate a little unease about the widely accepted ability of science to save us.

The roots of our view of the nature of science lie in certain deep cultural needs. House's first point was that to understand the place of science in western culture we need to see it as connected to a new secular plan of redemption from sin, fear and want by means of scientific mastery over the conditions of life and death. His second point was that the idea of a saving science has misshaped both science and society.

He said that science is fundamentally traffic in power: social and technological

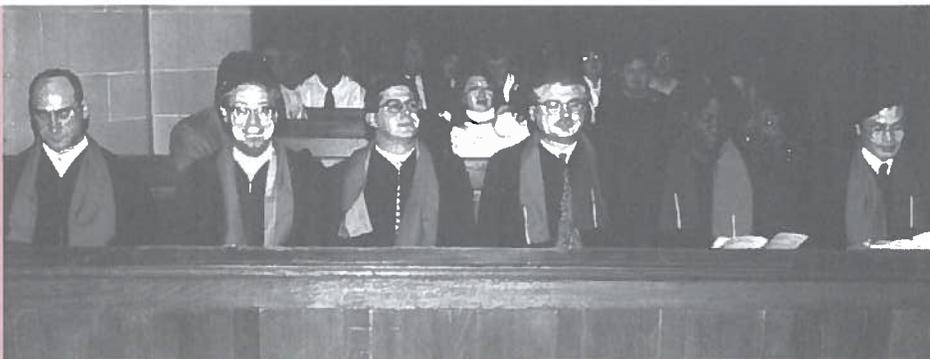
power. The complex mix of the two can be seen everywhere in science. Science is intended to give us control, to make us into new humans with unlimited capacity for dominion over the earth and ourselves.

Yet the heart of the matter is not power but lies in the hidden character of the values and power dynamics of contemporary science. The heart of the problem is the myth of scientific objectivity.

Objectivity requires that we filter out our humanity from our knowledge of the universe, said House. In the process we strip the universe of any trace of human meaning, value or purpose. What becomes "real" are properties that can be measured and controlled in a lab. To know the real we presumably need to remove ourselves from the picture.

Yet the world in which we live inevitably has a religious dimension, it includes a sense of meaning and morality. Objectivity is a myth because secularist views of science and human freedom are not secular or neutral at all. Objectivity carries a heavy social agenda with the values and morals of naturalistic humanism.

Science in the service of justice and peace will be careful of the dynamics of authority and sceptical of equating technological efficiency with saving truth, said House. He concluded by calling for a "saving science," a science which will make a contribution to justice and shalom.



Above, from left to right, Shane Cudney, Matthew Klemp, Stephen Lazarus, Carmine Ferrone, Patrice Wheeler, and Oaksuk Yang at the recent Convocation.

Right, Dr. Vaden House who presented his Inaugural Address at Convocation 1996.





**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Harry Fernhout

**Shaping a living tradition III: Students**

**S**haping a living tradition is the theme of the Institute's promotional program in 1996-97. In previous columns I have approached this theme from two angles: the faculty and the support community. But the faculty's scholarship and the community's vision are incomplete in the absence of a third crucial component: students.

ICS was never designed to be a scholarly think-tank strictly for professors. Already in 1965 a document addressing the "Place and Task" of the Institute spoke of the importance of bringing home "to the hearts and minds of this student generation the claim which the revelation of God in Jesus Christ makes upon the whole scientific and scholarly enterprise." The founders of ICS were eager to contribute to the development of a new generation of scholars capable of exploring "the inner point of connection" between Christian commitment and diverse fields of learning.

Today the Institute's Mission Statement maintains this emphasis by declaring the Institute's desire to "honour and proclaim Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of life and the Renewer of thought and learning." This mission is carried out not only by engaging in biblically-directed scholarship but also by "equipping men and women for scholarly and other vocations through unique programs of graduate level education."

Over the past thirty years this aspect of the Institute's task has borne wonderful fruit. ICS maintains a list of alumni who

have gone on to teaching positions at colleges and universities around the world. This list, which contains well over 50 names, reveals that ICS students are working as professors at Christian colleges, seminaries and secular universities on five different continents. The names of North American colleges in the Reformed tradition appear frequently on that list.

The members of the Institute's first formal graduating class (1975) provide an excellent illustration of how God has blessed the Institute's work with students. Masuo Miyasaki, the first person to complete an ICS master's program, is serving as a pastor in his native Japan. Brad Breems (sociology) and Don Sinnema (theology) are both professors at Trinity Christian College in Chicago. John Hull teaches education at The King's University College in Edmonton. Lambert Zuidervaart is a valued member of the Philosophy Department at Calvin College. And Harry Fernhout is rumoured to have found a place of Kingdom service somewhere in Toronto.

Former ICS president Clifford Pitt never tired of stressing the impact ICS has through its graduates and other alumni. Pitt would ask his audience to do a mental calculation. If each ICS graduate enjoys a 30 year teaching career, and if each year that person has the opportunity to share a vision of Christian learning with 20 to 200 new students. Well, you do the math!

Another remarkable feature of the list of ICS alumni who hold academic positions is its international flavour. The fact that students from around the world - Korea, Japan, Indonesia, South Africa, Sierra Leone - have found their way over the years to this small graduate school in the heart of Toronto is truly amazing. The fact that this little graduate school offers unusual degrees with funny-sounding names has not kept international students away. They realize that, outside of theological schools, graduate programs which offer an opportunity to engage in integral Christian scholarship are extremely rare. And so they come, sometimes at the great personal cost of leaving spouse and family

behind for extended periods of time.

Sometimes the Institute's international contacts crisscross in surprising ways. In the early 1990s Samson Makhado, principal of Tshikevha Christian School in Venda, South Africa, completed a master's program at ICS. Samson's school was later chosen as a model school for the new inter-racial education system in South Africa. The teachers at the school have all studied an ICS-sponsored correspondence course on the foundations of Christian schooling. Now Samson is pursuing the possibility of enrolling his staff in courses offered by the National Institute for Christian Education (NICE) in Australia. The Principal Lecturer of NICE happens to be Doug Blomberg, who spent a year at ICS in the 1970s on his way to a doctorate in education from the University of Sydney, and is now teaching at ICS.

The Institute has a long-standing tradition of referring to students as "junior members" and to faculty as "senior members," to signal the fact that at the graduate level scholarship is an inter-generational project. This terminology is more than wishful thinking. In recent years ICS junior members have, for example, developed an enviable track record in having papers accepted for presentation at academic conferences. In 1995 alone they made 17 such presentations. And later this year Fordham University Press will publish a book called *Knowing Other-wise*. Of its 10 chapters on postmodernity, five have been written by junior members.

A living tradition enables its participants to draw on rich resources in order to creatively meet new challenges - those produced by changing times and those related to cultural differences. Over the years ICS students have found such resources in the reformational tradition which has shaped the learning programs of the Institute. If God continues to lend us grace, past, present and future students will continue to be equipped to carry on with the wonderful adventure of *shaping a living tradition*.

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## Blomberg welcomed to teach education

**D**r. Doug Blomberg and his wife Heather were welcomed to ICS in January for their four-month stay for Doug's teaching and research in the philosophy of education. Blomberg is principal and lecturer with the National Institute for Christian Education (NICE), Australia. Like ICS it is a graduate



school, providing in-service education for teachers, largely in a distance education mode. Blomberg is teaching two courses which are being taken fulltime by ICS students and part-time by Toronto-area teachers.

"Introduction to the Philosophy of Education" engages texts that are foundational to 20th century theorizing, in counterpoint with articles from a Christian perspective. The other course is "Wisdom and Schooling," which explores the biblical concept of wisdom in relation to teaching and learning.

Blomberg's research while at ICS will focus on that subject, which he intends to develop into a book. He sees the wisdom perspective as an alternative to the theory/practice paradigm. "Teaching requires the practice of wisdom," says Blomberg, "and recognition of the wisdom of practice.

Wisdom is being responsive to the order of creation moment by moment." The week before he left for Canada, Blomberg saw the publication of a book he edited called *Humans Being*, a collection of essays, poetry and art work in tribute to the career of Stuart Fowler in Christian scholarship.

Heather Blomberg is Head Teacher-Librarian at Mt. Evelyn Christian School in Melbourne. She is currently taking a series of workshops at the Storytellers School of Toronto and helping out in the ICS library. On his return trip to Australia at the end of the semester Blomberg plans to spend a week in Venda, South Africa, at the Tshikevha Christian School at the invitation of Samson Makhado, principal of the school and former ICS student. Makhado plans for teachers there to enrol in the NICE course.

## Jim Leach: Doctoral student with aesthetic flair

**J**ames Leach was first attracted to the Institute by the gentle wisdom of Calvin Seerveld, whom Jim had seen at a Detroit-area arts conference in 1983. "He answered even the most antagonistic questions in a way that defused the tension and let an answer be heard. I realized that that was a skill I

*"The course has been a fantastic learning experience for me! Last year, for instance, we had participants from five different countries on four different continents."*

he moved to Toronto. In 1992 he was commissioned to write a one-act play for the opening night of the ICS Anniversary Conference. His play "Safe Passage" addressed the conference theme of the integrity of creation and an ethos of compassion by examining a monologue of Abraham as he sets out on the journey



where he expects he will need to sacrifice Isaac.

Jim's academic work includes his master's degree thesis on the German playwrights Bertolt Brecht and Heiner Müller, and in particular their *Lehrstücke* or didactic learning-

needed to learn," said Jim. He and his wife Janice began making plans then so they could move to Toronto with their son William. An important part of Jim's plans involved finishing his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan. Though he first aimed to become a research chemist, later he began to focus on the humanities, and in 1988 he received a degree cum laude with a double major in philosophy and English literature.

In the Fall of 1989 Jim enrolled in ICS's Master of Philosophical Foundations program in Philosophical Aesthetics, under Seerveld's tutelage. His wife Janice enrolled in the Master of Education program in the same year, studying with Harry Fernhout. In 1990 their daughter Laura Elizabeth was born.

Jim's interest in the literary arts isn't just scholarly. He has also had some success as a creative writer. Trinity House Theatre in Livonia, Michigan, which had sponsored the earlier conference with Seerveld, also runs a small theatre devoted to performing new works by local playwrights. Trinity House later performed some of Jim's works and has given staged readings of others. Both Jim and Janice have had their poetry read during Trinity House's "Common Room" cabaret nights. Janice, who has been married to Jim for 15 years, is an accomplished poet who has worked at ICS for many years. Jim also recently had a poem published in the journal *Christianity and Literature*.

Jim continued his creative writing when

pieces. He helped Seerveld prepare a revised edition of *A Christian Critique of Art and Literature*, for which he also wrote an interpretive introduction. Jim contributed a chapter to the book *Pledges of Jubilee*, published to celebrate Seerveld's career as a Christian aesthetician. Jim presented a paper in 1995 at the "Cultural Democracy" conference at Calvin College, and he has spoken at a "Christians in the Theatre Arts" conference as well.

For the past three years Jim has taught a course in "Everyday" Aesthetic Obedience" in the Worldview Studies program of the Institute. This course, which he designed, examines various aspects of popular culture from a reformational perspective. "The course has been a fantastic learning experience for me!" he says. "Last year, for instance, we had participants from five different countries on four different continents."

During the past summer Jim taught a course entitled "Performing God's praise: Drama, theatre and music in Christian perspective" as part of the ICS-Wycliffe Summer School.

Last August Jim and his family moved back to eastern Michigan where Jim and Janice have become co-directors of Trinity House Theatre.

## Seerveld works at reorienting art history with research grant

For the past four years Calvin Seerveld, Senior Member Emeritus, has had financial support for his research on art history from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). At the recent meeting of the ICS Senate he reported on the work he has done under the terms of the grant.

The theme of Seerveld's research was "Reorientation in Art History." His focus was on the writings in German of Kurt Badt (1890-1973). He received major help in this from Prof. Lorenz Dittman in Saarbrücken, Germany, who edited Badt's writings published after his death. Badt built his ideas on Heidegger's theory of art. Seerveld says he has found Badt's work "compelling."

The stated objective of the four-year research project was to "articulate a philosophically-sure methodology for reorienting the writing of art history."

The research had three primary aims: (1) "to examine the Heidegger context of Badt's art theory and hermeneutic that treat art works as conduits of truth vital for civilized life"; (2) to situate Badt's existential work in the "postmodern" arena of current concerns; (3) to formulate Seerveld's own philosophically-responsible art historical method with horizons and categories that may bring a steadying new orientation to writing art history. Seerveld wanted to try to find a way to see art history in such a way that its narrative is neither ideologically partisan nor prone to superficial knowledge, but is useful to the many different standpoints in art history.

Seerveld says he carefully analyzed Badt's extensive published life work. He found that it is hard to get a hearing for any research that builds on the work of Heidegger, who at one time was

a member of the Nazi party. Ironically Badt was also a German, but a Jew who fled Hitler's Germany.

In this research program Seerveld also studied the works of Vermeer and Cézanne in particular. He also gave special attention to aboriginal art, both in consultations in Winnipeg with Darlene Wight, curator of Inuit art, and in South Africa. He has been trying to bring together discussion about European Renaissance sculpture and South African and Canadian Inuit carving.

This research, says Seerveld, has deepened his "cartographic" art historical method. He says he always tries to know art works in their historical setting so thoroughly that his categories seem to come out of the actual art rather than be imposed on them from the outside.

His travels for the program took him overseas to Spain, Greece and England, as well as to Germany and South Africa. He also had consultations in California, Michigan and Iowa, as well as in Ontario.

Seerveld conducted an extensive program of 19 public lectures and workshops for diverse audiences. He wrote 12 scholarly articles, 15 academic conference papers, gave six media interviews which included television, radio and print. He received three awards and honours, namely an honorary doctor's degree, a "Distinguished Alumni Award" from Calvin College, and a book in the form of a *Festschrift* from colleagues and former students.

Two books are promised from this research. One is a book of lectures commissioned by Paternoster Press in England titled *Bearing Fresh Olive Leaves: Studies in Art Theory and Art*. An illustrated monograph to be translated into Greek is titled *The Halo of Human Imagination*. Seerveld is also working on academic articles dealing with the prerequisites and horizons of writing art history.

## ICS completes successful w 3-year SSHRC grant

Paul Marshall recently reported to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) on the very fruitful way the ICS used SSHRC's three-year Research Grant between 1992 and 1995. The grant project, titled "A Framework for Applied Ethics within the Context of Plurality," involved all senior members and 26 graduate students.

In our culture "ethics" has to do with the moral (and other) principles which guide our cultural life. "Applied ethics" explores the implications of these principles for specific problems or areas of concern (e.g., bio-medical ethics, environmental ethics). But ethics and applied ethics are rooted in people's deepest motivations – their commitments and worldviews.

The problem is that different traditions and communities have distinct commitments, and therefore distinct approaches to ethical concerns. The ICS project aimed to investigate this pluralistic context, and to explore principles and approaches by which worldview differences can be taken into account, instead of imposing a lowest common denominator on all parties.

Two specific objectives of the research were, first, to examine the "moral ontologies" current in the academic fields of expertise of the Institute's Senior Members, and second, to use this to state specific principles for the individual disciplines and the conflicts taking place within them.

The research suggested how different ontologies (fundamental ways of looking at the world) need not be a barrier to cooperation. It suggested how the possibilities of cooperation need to be built into our ontology (our basic way of understanding the world), that is, that ontology itself needs to have an ethical dimension.

The objectives of the project were well achieved, said Marshall in his report. The tangible results of the program are very impressive.

Some of the more visible ways the success of this research can be seen are these. Catherine Crawford's work on family breakdown has been used by a variety of agencies working with street kids. Lisa Smith's work on female genital mutilation has been used by agencies working with immigrant women. Ken Badley used his work as a springboard to write a major textbook dealing with different religions for Newfoundland high school students. Paul Marshall developed



ork on

an international audience for his work on pluralism, human rights and religion, lecturing and meeting with government officials in eight different countries. A book of essays by faculty and students, edited by James Olthuis, will be published with the tentative title *Toward an Ethics of Community: Negotiations of Difference in a Pluralistic Society*. The vast majority of the grant money was used for research assistantships for 26 ICS graduate students, seven at the doctoral level and 19 at the master's degree level. Almost half of these students wrote theses, scholarly or popular articles or gave scholarly conference papers based on their research.

Cross-fertilization was a major benefit of the research. Participants were able to see common issues arising across the boundaries of different academic areas, which stimulated research within their own area. This interdisciplinary research, rarely done at the scholarly university level, enabled participants to develop a wide variety of interdisciplinary materials. Experience showed that it can be very hard to communicate across academic boundaries, but the fact that all ICS researchers share a common religious view proved to be a great advantage.

The output from this three-year research program is most impressive. In addition to Marshall's international program stated above, faculty members gave papers at eleven academic conferences, and students gave numerous academic papers. Members wrote thirty scholarly articles, including chapters in three books which came directly from the research. There were seven media presentations, 29 public lectures and general conference presentations and workshops, 12 popular articles plus Marshall's 15 articles for News Network International which were carried to 30 countries.

Students wrote six master's degree theses and one doctoral dissertation on topics related to their grant research. The Institute has now submitted another request for a SSHRC grant in the hope that another fruitful interdisciplinary research program may result.

## ICS student co-authors books to bring religion into public school teaching

**T**he relative absence of moral and religious direction in public school education has troubled Britons as well as North Americans. ICS's British graduate student David Smith has been part of a groundbreaking project of Christian teachers in England who are doing something about it.

The Association of Christian Teachers has recently published four spiral-bound books which combine teachers' notes and photocopiable student sheets which promote moral and spiritual development across the curriculum. The common tendency is to restrict moral and religious education to "Religious Education" courses. These books bring these perspectives into all courses, with other books of this kind to follow the initial offerings in English, Math, French and German.

Smith is co-author of the French and German books. An article in the *Times Educational Supplement* says that "The

French units cover such topics as the symbolism of bread, the L'Arche community for the mentally handicapped and Martin of Tours. The German pack deals with youth resistance against Hitler, the various meanings of a kiss and considers the life of a Ukrainian". Each book concludes with an exploration of the nature of belief and truth - and includes materials to develop an appreciation in the beauty of nature."

The books include materials for overhead projection, photocopying and language cassette tapes. Teachers interested in more information can contact Smith at ICS. Recently Smith and Calvin College professor Barbara Carvill have been informed that the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship has agreed to fund the cost of a book they are writing titled *Embracing the Stranger: A Christian Exploration of Foreign Language Education*.



## Trust & Suspicion?

*Hermeneutics in a Broken World*

MAY 21-23, 1997

A conference hosted by the Institute for Christian Studies

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

*James Olthuis, Walter Brueggemann, Phyllis Trible, and Sylvia Keesmaat*

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- Anyone concerned about how the Bible speaks to the brokenness in our culture.

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Connie Kuipers, Conference Coordinator, at (416) 979-2331, ext. 225



## FACULTY



**Hendrik Hart** participated in a January course at Calvin College taught by John Hare on creation order. Hare had been quite critical of Hart's presentation on that subject at the 25th anniversary conference of ICS in

1992, but found Hart's joining him in January to be very fruitful. As a result they have applied for approval to co-teach a January course at ICS next year. The plan is for Hare to explore contributions to thinking about order from the side of the natural law tradition, while Hart intends to work at the input of reformational thought.



**Paul Marshall** spoke in January on religious freedom to the Ontario Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. He was interviewed by Radio Free Asia in Washington, D. C., on "Religious Persecution." He wrote articles on

"Media Morality and the Values of Violence" and on "Left' and 'Right' Obscure Political Discussion" for the newspaper *Christian Week*. In February Marshall went to Pittsburgh to speak on "Finding our Way Through the Political Maze" at the Jubilee Conference for university students sponsored by the Coalition for Christian Outreach. He spoke on "Faith and the University" for the Coalition staff and on "Religious Persecution" at Trinity Episcopal Seminary, located in the Pittsburgh area.

Marshall's new book *Their Blood Cries Out*, due to be published in March, has been the subject of a news story which was carried on a wire service and has been reprinted in a number of leading newspapers in North America.

**Sylvia Keesmaat** has published her article "Paul and his Story: Exodus and Tradition in Galatians" in *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 18:133-68 (1996).

**George Vandervelde** gave a paper titled "Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth: The Relation between Voluntarism and the Church" for the Twelfth Believers' Church Conference at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario. An abbreviated



version of this paper is to appear in the next issue of *Ecumenical Trends*, together with responses by Baptist theologians. In December Vandervelde attended the Conference on World

Mission and Evangelism in Salvador, Brazil. He spoke for the Christian Community in Guelph on February 14 on "Lovers' Quarrels: Valentine Reflections on the One Church . . . Broken." His article "Costly Community" is being published in the next issue of *Ecumenical Review*.

Vandervelde wrote "Ambivalent Ecumenism," a requested article responding to the preparatory document for the Special Synod for America, a conference of Catholic bishops to be held in Rome some time before the year 2000. The article is to be published in *Ecumenism*, a journal based in Montreal.



**Calvin Seerveld** returned to Trinity Christian College in Chicago, where he taught from 1959 to 1972, to be its 1997 Staley Lecturer. He gave a public lecture, participated in various classes and in the Trinity Invitational on

Art for high school students in the area. He also presented a lecture-discussion with the faculty on "A Scripturally-directed philosophy: Key to integration of college disciplines."

## ALUMNI

**Henry Venema** (M. Phil. F. 1986) has just received the Ph. D. degree from McGill University in Montreal. His dissertation is titled "Paul Ricoeur's Interpretation of Selfhood and its Significance for the Philosophy of Religion." For his work Venema was recommended to the Dean's Honour List. He teaches philosophy at St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

## Family conferences tackle technology

**T**his year the ICS summer family conferences will deal with that dynamic feature of today's world: a Christian attitude toward technology, and especially computers.

Two conferences on the August 1-4 holiday weekend, one in Alberta and one in Ontario, will feature leading Christian experts in this area. In Deer Valley Meadows, Alberta, Dr. Egbert Schuurman, widely published author on this subject and now a professor at Delft University, is keynote speaker. At Ridley College in St. Catharines, the Institute's Dr. Vaden House will lead the program.

Both conferences include a variety of activities: music, worship, discussion, sports, and special activities for children and teens. Plan now to attend for a time of fun, fellowship and challenge with friends and family. In Alberta call Andrew Geisterfer at (403) 441-4378, and in Ontario call Connie Kuipers at ICS, (416) 979-2331.

## WORLDVIEW: ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

- Are you an engineer, doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect, teacher, policy maker, or just a citizen...
- Are you interested in exploring issues in the context of professional work situations and our wider calling as Christians...

...are you interested in an opportunity to talk about the complexities of living out our Christian calling?



**Carroll Guen Hart**, Senior Member in Worldview Studies, would like to hear from you! If you would like to seek clarity on a variety of questions for discussion please phone Carroll at:

416-979-2331, ext. 235.



## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Bob VanderVennen

### Three new ICS books enrich insight

**P**aul Marshall's latest book is drawing widespread international attention even before its publication in March. Titled *Their Blood Cries Out: The Growing Worldwide Persecution of Christians*, the book points out that more than 200 million Christians around the world suffer imprisonment, abuse and even death because of their faith. Yet for the most part we never hear their stories.

Documenting individual stories of suffering, this important book passionately and thoroughly tackles the topic of Christian martyrs today. Many international observers believe that religious persecution is emerging as the overwhelming foreign policy issue of the coming decade.

This book arises out of Marshall's long-term ICS research program on human rights. It is published by Word. You can buy it through ICS.

Stephen Martin's revised master's degree thesis at ICS

has now been published in our University Press of America series "Christian Studies Today." Its title is *Decomposing Modernity: Ernest Becker's Images of Humanity at the End of an Age*. Becker was a popular professor of philosophy in Berkeley, California, and in Vancouver, with his heyday being in the 1960s, the years of the counterculture.

Becker struggled all his life to understand what human beings really are, what meaning there can be to existence. He was a prophet of modernity and watched its decline. His early view of humanity was optimistic, but he gradually

changed from seeing humans as world shapers to seeing us as powerless in the face of the world. There was a religious dimension to his thinking, but he never accepted a Christian viewpoint. His thinking went from Enlightenment optimism to tragic pessimism.

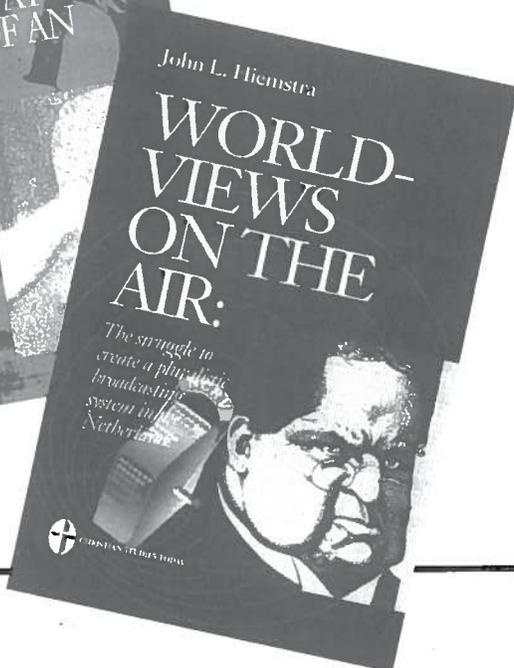
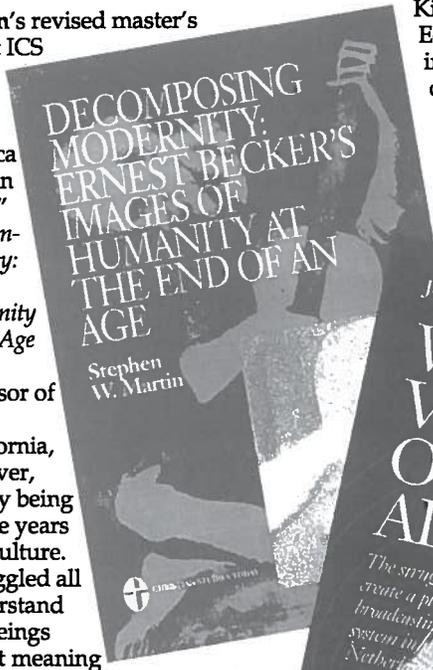
Martin contrasts Becker's view of life with a Christian view. This book is the first to deal in depth with Becker's underlying vision of life.

The revised doctoral dissertation of John Hiemstra will be of special interest to people intrigued by the unique Dutch pluralist policy on radio and television broadcasting and by the ways that worldviews affect public policy. Under the title *Worldviews on the Air: Founding a Pluralist Broadcasting System in the Netherlands* Hiemstra spells out the Christian reformational worldview of Abraham Kuyper and shows how it underlay the efforts of his followers to get a pluralist broadcasting system.

Hiemstra's telling of the story of how the broadcasting policy was formulated is fascinating. The policy that was adopted acknowledged that worldviews, and different religious faiths, have a legitimate effect on how people view the world and therefore on the content of broadcasting. Hiemstra concludes with a theoretical section on worldviews in action and he dialogues with writers whose views of pluralist democracy are different from his.

Hiemstra has a master's degree from ICS and teaches political science at The King's University College in Edmonton. This book is published in our series with University Press of America.

You can buy all of these books from ICS - see the order form on the back page of this issue.



## DEVELOPMENT NOTES

John Mciboom

### Six-month finances call for work and prayer

**A**s of December 31, 1997, six months into the Institute's fiscal year, our total revenue is up 3.1%. Expenditures are running close to target for the year. From July 1 to December 31 we experienced a financial shortfall of \$247,000, higher than we expected and a very serious matter. However, over the past several years we have received the larger part of our income in the last half of the fiscal year, from January through June.

There is at least one piece of good news in our six month financial figures. Total individual gifts from Canadians increased by eight percent between July 1 and December 31 compared to the same period in 1995.

The Executive Committee of the board met in January to discuss these developments. On the basis of recommendations by the finance committee we decided to take the following actions to try to meet our budget targets for this year.

1. We are committed to reducing our discretionary spending by \$30,000. This is essentially a ten percent reduction on the expenses that are still somewhat flexible halfway through the year. Salaries, which represent 62% of total costs, will not be cut.

2. We will ask for an increase of about 9.5% in donations from now to June 30 from our established members and donors. This would raise about \$40,000 more than last year.

3. We will send a special request to the 700 Christian Reformed churches in the United States asking them to take up a special offering for us before June, hoping to raise between \$5,000 and \$10,000. We've not requested this for several years.

4. We will work hard to seek new donors who can make up the additional \$75,000 we need to meet our budget targets.

Hopeful signs for the future include newer staff members gaining experience in their jobs and getting to know the support community, and an improving economy in Ontario. With your prayers, and with concerted effort, the possibilities are there for good improvement in our finances.

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**READING TO DEEPEN YOUR CHRISTIAN INSIGHT**

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Perspective Newsletter (USPS 335-530) is published quarterly by the Institute for Christian Studies, 229 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4, telephone (416)979-2331



PRINTED IN CANADA  
ON RECYCLED PAPER

*Purpose: To bring news about the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) to its supporting constituency.*

*Editor: Robert E. VanderVennen  
 Editorial Committee: Harry Fernhout, Marcille Frederick, Connie Kuipers, John Meiboom  
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*President: Harry Fernhout, Ph.D.  
 Vice President of Development & Administration: John Meiboom  
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Rates: Four issues per year free with membership donation of \$100; \$15 donation per year for non-members.

Send all address changes to:  
 Circulation Manager  
 ICS, 229 College Street, Toronto  
 Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4

Authorized Second Class postage paid to the USA and Territories, mailed from Box 110, Lewiston, NY 14092. All other copies mailed under authorized Second Class Reg. No. 2091 from Toronto, Ontario

**Address correction requested**

ISSN 0847-0324

Institute for Christian Studies Institutional Repository

ARTICLE: 19973101

TITLE: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

AUTHOR: Institute for Christian Studies

ISSUE DATE: March 1997

TYPE: Journal

SERIES/JOURNAL: Perspective; v. 31, no. 1

KEYWORDS: Institute for Christian Studies, ICS,

NOTES: Convocation: Graduation of nine students and inaugural address of Vaden House [Saving Science: Science as Liberation and the Liberation of Science], From the President: Shaping a living tradition III: Students, Blomberg welcomed to teach education, Jim Leach: Doctoral student with aesthetic flair, Seerveld works at reorienting art history with research grant [SSHRC grant: Heidegger context of Kurt Bardt in the postmodern arena], ICS complete successful work on 3-year SSHRC grant [report by Paul Marshall on project titled 'A Framework for Applied Ethics within the Context of Plurality'], ICS student co-authors books to bring religion into public school teaching,

dc.contributor.author: VanderVennen, Robert E.

dc.contributor.author: Fernhout, Harry

dc.creator: Institute for Christian Studies

dc.date.issued: 1997-03-31

dc.date.accessioned: 2014-10-06

dc.format.mimetype: application/pdf

dc.identifier.citation: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies), v. 31, no. 1 (Mar 1997)

dc.identifier.issn: 0847-0324

dc.language.iso: en

dc.publisher: Institute for Christian Studies

dc.subject: Humanities  
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--History  
dc.subject: Science--Philosophy  
dc.subject: Science--Religious aspects--Christianity  
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Master of Worldview Studies  
dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Master of Philosophical Foundations  
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dc.subject: Moral education  
  
dc.title: Perspective vol. 31 no. 1 (Mar 1997)  
  
dc.title.alternative: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)  
  
dc.type: journal