

# PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

Volume 33, Issue 3, September 1999

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News from the  
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## NEW BOOK

# Hart shows Canadian philosophers that "life is religion"

by Bob VanderVennen

**W**hen the Institute was still a dream in the 1960s, a key vision was that research by its professors would embody a strong Christian perspective and would challenge what was taken to be the non-Christian philosophical perspective of mainstream secular academic work.

A new book from the Institute fits that dream precisely. It is called *Walking the Tightrope of Faith: Philosophical Conversations about Reason and Religion*. The editors are Hendrik Hart, Ronald A. Kuipers and Kai Nielsen.

In the 1980s the Institute's Hendrik Hart challenged Kai Nielsen, high-profile professor of the philosophy of religion at the University of Calgary, in a series of papers given at annual meetings of the Canadian Philosophical Association. Hart argued that Nielsen was wrong in rejecting God, faith and religion as irrelevant to the Western rationalistic philosophical tradition. He further argued that Nielsen's philosophy itself had religious aspects. This critique stung Nielsen, who is outspoken in claiming to be an atheist and a Marxist.

Nielsen disagreed with Hart in his book *God, Scepticism and Modernity*. Later his exchanges with Hart were published by ICS in the book *Search for Community in a Withering Tradition: Conversations between a Marxian Atheist and a Calvinian Christian*. Hart says that he found Nielsen to have a deep respect for people which results in his openness and patience in discussions with thinkers of other persuasions.

In this new book other Canadian philosophers join the discussion, giving their own views. The last chapter is written by Hart, who sums up where the discussions are going and tries to open the door for a positive assessment of religion by educated people today.

ICS doctoral student Ronald Kuipers did

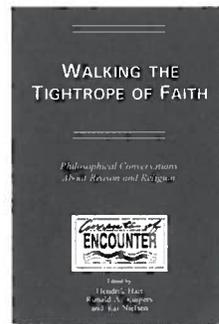
much of the work of producing the book and wrote a marvellous first chapter giving an overview of the argument. Kuipers says that this book is "about the human struggle to find meaning and peaceful, healing paths for living." The key arguments in the book are about the formative role that should be played by rational and by religious commitments in human life orientation.

Nielsen states in the book that "the doctrines constitutive of Christianity, Judaism and Islam are at best false." Kuipers writes that "The conversations that take place in this book mainly revolve around criticism and defense of Nielsen's arguments against religion." Kuipers states that philosophers must accept pluralistic approaches, not worldview exclusivism. He concludes that "Philosophy of religion can help promote peace amidst cultural diversity."

Hart says that a problem has been "in seeing both faith and reason as rival forms of explanation and understanding." He says that Christians fall into Nielsen's trap by trying to develop a rational foundation for faith. He says that religion is first of all living, not first of all rationalizing. He argues against aspects of Enlightenment rationalism in Nielsen's writings.

Hart concludes that "Life commitments and perspectives affect theory-making, so we cannot... simply say that theory is neutral or universally objective." Sounds like a philosopher's way of restating the reformational credo that, "Life is religion."

Hart's aim in all this is to open doors for a positive assessment of religion by educated people today, whether they say they have faith or not. He wants the Christian religion to become a more accepted and serious topic for public and academic discussion.



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# Clifford C. Pitt



*On July 11, 1999, Dr. Clifford C. Pitt, the second president of the Institute for Christian Studies, passed on to the hope that was his in Christ. In my first "President's Pen" column, published in December, 1989, when Dr. Pitt retired from ICS and I became president, I wrote a tribute to Dr. Pitt. As we mark his final passage, it seems most appropriate to reprint the substance of those reflections. It isn't easy to put into words what Clifford Pitt meant to the Institute for Christian Studies. But here are a few words that capture key elements of his contribution.*



Clifford C. Pitt, 1915-1999

**V**ision: In Acts 2:17 the apostle Paul quotes the prophet Joel: "Your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." When I hear this passage I see images of Clifford Pitt. He made this passage live for ICS; in his seventies he dreamed dreams for us, and he helped us look beyond the struggles of today to envision our God-given future.

**Zest for life:** Clifford had enthusiasm for life. "Isn't this great?" he would ask on a fall day when the sun was out and the trees were wearing their coats of many colours.

This enthusiasm was infectious. It made Clifford an inspiration to those around him. This quality was extremely valuable to ICS. When he came in 1985 the Institute has just come through a period of struggle and division. Our vision of service in Christian higher education was flagging. Dr. Pitt's enthusiasm for the Institute's task helped put these problems in perspective. How could we *not* be enthusiastic in the company of this man who bubbled with excitement? Dr. Pitt rekindled the flame of vision in many ICS "old-timers."

**Wisdom:** The Scriptures often associate age and wisdom. Dr. Pitt's distinguished gray hair testified to a store of wisdom steeped in the Bible and enriched by a vast array of experience. Once he was gripped by the mission of ICS, Dr. Pitt was able to draw on a storehouse of experience in higher education. This enabled him to give truly wise leadership to ICS.

**Piety:** Clifford Pitt wore his piety on his sleeve. A simplicity of faith shone through his dignity and sophistication. Clifford walked close to his Lord. And that, too, was an inspiration to all at ICS.

When ICS said farewell to Clifford Pitt in 1989, it was frequently noted that this president, who joined ICS in his retirement years, came to us as a timely gift from God. Now, as we reflect on his passage from this life, we again praise the Giver of all good things for the opportunity to share in the gifts and talents of his servant Clifford Pitt.

## Biography

Clifford was born in London, England, in 1915 to Tom and Louise Pitt, who both worked in Tom's parents' tailoring shop. The family immigrated to Canada in 1920 and established a tailoring business on Woodbine Avenue, north of the Danforth. He and his brother Leonard worked in the tailor shop, setting up window

displays and delivering clothing.

Clifford went to East York Collegiate, where he met his sweetheart, Dorothy Mitchell, with whom he shared 62 delightful years of marriage. After Grade 13 he attended teachers' college, and he began teaching special-needs children at McGregor School the following year. He subsequently taught at Plains Road and also in the two-room multigrade schoolhouse on Dawes Road.

While taking his B.A. from Queen's University by correspondence and summer school, he became director of psychological services for East York township. He was then called to teach at the Ontario College of Education, and he concurrently worked on his Ph.D. from Columbia University in New York City. While raising his family, he gave creative leadership for many years to the Amicus Young Men's Bible Class – former members still talk about the formative influence those classes had on their lives.

He then became assistant coordinator for graduate studies at the newly formed Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He was recruited as President of the Ontario College of Art with the difficult task of making a creative organization financially viable. Subsequently he was Director of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for five years, bringing to bear his interest in the pragmatic applications of research in education.

Upon retirement, he was unanimously invited back to the presidency of the Ontario College of Art to help. A year later he retired again, only soon to be invited to take on the presidency of the Institute for Christian Studies, where he stayed for four and a half years. One of the wonderful things he appreciated about that institution was the prayerful attitude in faculty and business meetings.

Through all these years, his long nights of university correspondence and Ph.D. studies, his boundless energy, his artistic interests and capabilities, similar to those of his sister Eugenia, his wide curiosity, his respect for others, his deep love of his wife and his children, his multiple talents, his designing of houses, his continuing integration of faith and life, his profound appreciation of all the beauties of creation and of people made in the image of God – he would always have time to listen and be creative with his wife and children.

As a husband and father he was a wise, dearly loved and precious man. What a gift he has been to us! We really do believe that he was a man for others as was the Master he followed.

*We thank the Pitt family for permission to reproduce this biography which was prepared for Dr. Pitt's memorial service.*

# Arts Festival boosts Christian artists

by Bob VanderVenmen

**D**uring two weeks in June the ICS co-sponsored an amazing Arts Festival called "Through a Glass Brightly: Arts and the Gospel." The other sponsors were Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto and Imago, an organization "committed to exercise a biblically based influence upon the development of the arts."

Participants came from all over Canada, and from all the art forms to discuss and share ideas on the arts and the gospel. Some were artists and others were students and pastors with interests in the arts. John Franklin was the organizer and administrator of the conference.

The diverse Festival included two art exhibits, one at ICS which displayed photographs by Vancouver artist Carolyn Mount, with ICS graduate student Chris Cuthill as curator. The artist "exposed" the city of Toronto through what she saw and the ways she saw it. The other exhibit, at Wycliffe college, showed the works of eight artists. It was fascinating to see the diversity of art forms exhibited, says Karyn Percival, one of the artists whose work was shown.

A feature of the Festival was the annual ICS Art Talks! lecture in the Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts and Culture. The lecture by Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, new Senior Member in Aesthetics, examined the many ways in which art talks. In the illustrated lecture titled "Art Talks: Do We Listen?" she pointed out what the different art forms have in common, and how we can "hear" what they say.

Various "windows" of three hours each highlighted different art forms. The Visual Arts Window was a tour led by Prof. Dan Donovan of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, of his personal modern art collection acquired over 30 years. It was a special treat, says Percival, to be with a man devoted to supporting contemporary artists whose work visually expresses their faith. He fondly caresses each work, she says, "as he tells wonderful tales of acquisition in relation to the artist's body of work."

The Film Window was led by ICS graduate Fran Wong, who projected clips of films that show courtly (or romantic) love, reaching back 1,000 years and still a theme in films today. "Faith" may not always be explicitly religious faith, she explained as she aimed to help those present gain a deeper understanding of film's impact on us.

Other "Windows" dealt with arts and liturgy, with creative writing and with theatre.

## Summer Session aesthetics course

**T**ying all the arts events together was a two-week summer school event led by ICS's Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin under the title "The Faithful Imagination: Art in Worship, Mission and Society."

She taught the first week of the course to 20 people, focusing on three artistic traditions, the Sacramentalist, the Trinitarian and the Reformed. She aimed to help students work toward a viable Christian model in their artistry which may be constructively applied to ministry today.

During the second week three visiting lecturers participated. Janine Langan of St. Michael's College showed slides that presented aspects of early Christian art, especially symbolic art from the catacombs and from icons as a way of showing God's continuing presence.

David Jeffrey from Ottawa used slides to show the difference between "emotional icons" and "intellectual icons" in Medieval and Renaissance times, which led to an animated discussion.

Gregory Wolfe, American editor of *Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion*, drew considerable interest in the remaining three days of the week. Among his fresh ideas, said Percival, were that "sentimentality in art is more dangerous than nihilism, and playfulness and faith opens us to new visions and surprises. The cult of originality is the romantic mindset, and our own personal experience is a celebration that God enjoys."

The grand finale of the Festival was a gala arts performance at the Glenn Gould Studio in downtown Toronto. The program included a Corelli Church Sonata performed by two violinists and a pianist, John

Terpstra's reading of his poetry to the piano accompaniment of Bart Nameth, performance by the acclaimed Motus O contemporary dance group, a jazz ensemble and a grand improvisation by some of the performers mentioned.

"The Festival brought together a few of North America's most artistically astute minds to address a most receptive audience in stimulating dialogue," was how visual artist Bruno Capolongo summed it up. The Festival was an extravaganza that more than met the hopes of its planners. Credit is due to John Franklin for his planning and improvisation, and to Connie Kuipers of ICS.

**“...sentimentality in art is more dangerous than nihilism and playfulness and faith opens us to new visions and surprises. The cult of originality is the romantic mindset, and our own personal experience is a celebration that God enjoys.”**

Gregory Wolfe

## A Gift that gives great income

Maybe you are concerned that low interest rates will limit your retirement income and prevent you from making the donations you'd like. Consider a charitable gift annuity. It will give you good income, tax savings and gives a gift to ICS. Most of the income is tax-free.

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# Prayer

offered by  
**Wietse Posthumus**  
at the ICS Ontario  
Summer Conference

**L**ORD, GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB, God of our mothers and grandmothers: You are the God of the Institute for Christian Studies and all who labour and support its house of endeavours; of its leaders, leaning hard into the scriptures, searching and finding love and compassion; of the mind and heart of Henk Hart, caring and committed, courageously colouring outside the lines. You are our God and we are your people – a new creation.

This morning we are happy campers – although we sit somewhat soiled in your presence. We are confident that you will hear us, as you heard our fathers and mothers before us and our children hereafter and hereafter. We are truly honoured and humbled. We see and hear, taste and feel your greatness in your word and all around us. We have sung and danced your praises. Accept our worship, we pray.

and talent, For Adrienne Chaplin's *Art and Soul*.

Art, drama, dance, theatre, film, to say nothing of opera. Lord, what a world you created!

We sullied – you redeemed, and now we may participate in its reconciliation. Help us be worthy co-workers in your new creation, to overcome prejudice, to break down barriers and artificial structures, to bring peace and speak of salvation.

This weekend we have connected with family and friends reminiscing of times and travels that were good and made even better through the magic of memory – memory, such a marvellous redeemed part of your creation.

We are blessed. It's good to be alive, to be here, to belong together to you.

We ask that you walk among us now and rejoice with us, if you will. Of course, you're invited, we are here in your name and we want to please and revere you. Now I know it may seem forward, but please do come in – into our hearts – in here – we know you've been in a barn before.

Please ignore the untidiness of our thoughts, the unruly temper of emotions, the messiness of our relationships; we haven't had time to clean up all the rooms of our lives. Forgive us please.

You know everyone here, don't you? Please don't mind the cliques, groupings and separations. I know we shouldn't cluster and congregate according to sex, station, style or status (we are sorry!) but we know you meet all of us with even handed compassion and forgiveness, uniformly (if undeservedly), infinitely bestowed, yet undiminished to be given again and again, Sanctifying the life of each individual.

Still some of us here have special needs and we ask that you tarry with them a while longer. They are not captains of industry, politicians, no sons of the rich. They have no special fame or fortune to commend them, only . . . they are your children.

Some hurt – physically – please take time to touch their painful places. Some have mental anguish or emotional upset. If you would just look upon them in particular, Lord. Some of us are lonely, although surrounded, please stake a claim on those lives and fill the void. We pray especially for all our children, we know you see them, here and wherever.

Some are simply alone – pause with them and blanket them with your nearness. We are mindful of single persons, a partner whose spouse is not or just not joined with them in worship. Some here may feel unaccepted or made to feel less worthy, or – well, different, by reason of sex or sexual orientation, by reason of age or learning, by reason of race or colour. But I see you have found them, Lord. Thank you for visiting with them – for they belong to us, to you, all of us a new creation, the ordinary made holy.

Oh, yes Lord – you are right – much to our communal shame and sorrow, there are some here who are or were abused. I understand you asking – because we continue, often, to pretend they don't exist. We hide the horror and cover the scars. We thank you for asking about them and



Above: An attentive audience takes in "Pop Culture: Resource for Values?" a panel discussion at the Ontario Summer Conference '99 with David Van Belle, Ray Louter, Doug Romanov and Bill Romanowski.

Opposite, above: Alberta Family Conference '99 group discussion.

ALBERTA PHOTOS BY  
GARY HAARMSMA

We see your majesty and power in the single brilliant red hibiscus, outstanding against a background of leafy green. Breathtaking in its intricacy and startling in its beauty – wonderfully wrought without the intervention of human hands. We experience reconciliation in the work and ways of others as when we stroll, delightedly dallying in *The Garden* by Monet on our way to stand, soul stirred and silent by Vincent's *Sunflowers*. We thank you for redemption and reconciliation through your son – our Messiah – and for Handel's momentous musical tribute. For your word – rock solidly forgiving, and for the *Stone Lectures* and *The Stone Angel*. For the high drama of the Gospel and for the magic of theatre.

We thank you for food, garden-grown greens and reds, beans, peppers and tomatoes, the juice and taste exquisite; *Babette's Feast* and for Holy Communion. For all who dance with David and beyond. For Solomon's *Song of Songs* and Seerveld's *The Greatest Song*. For this conference and all who participated giving and getting time

especially for embracing them. Lord, please mingle among the many motley here, forgiving and winnowing as you go. Remove the chaff from our lives so that each may leave here graced and healed by a touch – a word, a look, or simply in passing, having felt the hem of your garment.

We pray also for our country and our world, your creation. We sense there is a proliferation of virulent viruses and violence – we live with ethnic cleansing and e-mail pollution; war and want are beaten back but never stilled and then explode again, disaster and devastation, daily depicted, steal into our lives even if only remotely until by fingertip control we change the channel, but – the reality remains.

Our world is suffering and it continues to vex and bewilder us Lord. But this much we know is true – you care – so much that you sent your Son to die for all and each.

## Popular summer conferences earn raves

by Bob VanderVennen

CS Summer weekend conferences in Alberta and Ontario during August long weekends were exciting as speakers and artists brought fresh insights and experiences with the arts. Featured speakers at both conferences, held one week apart, were the Institute's Calvin Seerveld and Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin. William Romanowski of Calvin College (Michigan) was a third keynote speaker in Ontario. Larger numbers of people attended each conference this year.

Seerveld was at his engaging best picturing himself as a workaholic wondering whether his followers of Christ could take a break from their life calling to engage in and enjoy art. Is it all right to lift up our noses from the wheel and just enjoy what God has given? In his distinctive way he brought us to see that the biblical reformation of human life can only be lived if we also "colour outside the lines."

Dengerink Chaplin masterfully dealt with the broad scope of art, looking especially at art that is "outside the lines," art that is modern and could not be thought of as being done by Rembrandt. Our boundary lines need to be fluid if we are to respect artistic creativity and the marvellous variety of expression.

Romanowski brought serious entertainment to the Ontario audience as he made clear that viewing movies and TV shows requires developed skills to see as a Christian what is being presented.

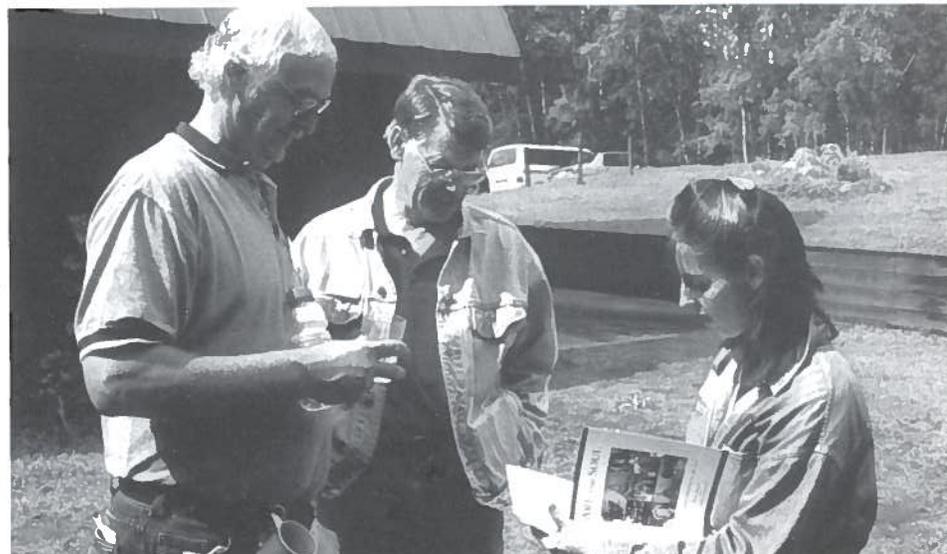
There were fun and creative programs for children and teens – Ontario children enjoyed a swimming pool and horseback rides. Sunday worship services were the richest and most moving that most who attended will experience for the whole year. In Ontario the evening service was the stunning enactment through modern dance of the biblical story of Ruth.

Workshops covering many of the arts, book sales, art shows and hearty singing were all part of the conferences.



(Above: Calvin Seerveld delivers his keynote address to the Ontario Conference '99.

Below: From l. to r. Co VanderLaan and Jim Visser with Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin at the Alberta Conference '99



We pray for wisdom, understanding and compassion for the unreserved acceptance of the infinite and innate value of each and every part of your new creation.

We pray for boundless imagination for imaging, through word, music, and dance, the restoration, the hope, the healing and the shalom bought and wrought for us by Christ's wrestling our sins to the death – winning for a fallen world, the crown of redemption and girding it with a belt of forgiveness.

We acknowledge that through all here, moved by your spirit to join in worship – through all who want to serve You, we now see, with eyes wide open – albeit through a glass darkly – a distinct reflection of your kingdom at work.

We pray that you bless us, especially all those, who through the arts strive and struggle to be true ambassadors for the love of Christ. For by their efforts the dark glass brightens.

We pray, come grapple with us Lord, that we may wrench a grant of blessing from your hands to hallow our sojourn, to honour our neighbour, to colour your world safe outside the lines and saved unlimited.

We claim it all in Christ's name alone. Hallelujah! Amen and Amen.

## New Program connects donors to the ICS Library

by Mike den Haan

**Y**vonne Haaksma, ICS Librarian, is pleased to announce the new "Honour with Books" program which is designed to attract needed resources for the library while honouring the achievements and/or memories of loved ones.

"Rising costs have strained our ability to fully support student and faculty research," explains Haaksma, "and we've had to cancel or limit important journal subscriptions and new books."

Recently, however, friends of ICS have made special donations to the Library and begun to turn the trend around. The new "Honour with Books" program is designed to continue this new trend by encouraging donations to the Library. This will give ICS students and faculty access to cutting edge research through new books and journals.

"Honour with Books" also gives donors the opportunity to honour the achievements (birthday, graduation, promotion, etc.) or memory of a friend or loved one. A special bookplate will be placed in each donated book, and we will mention the donation in this newsletter (Perspective) and the ICS Annual Report.

ICS Board Chair Ed Den Haan is excited about the new program: "Honour with Books" will link donors to the ICS library and give ICS students and faculty exciting new research tools. This connects donors to the ICS mission of exploring God's creation through research."

If you would like information about "Honour with Books," or would like to participate, please call Yvonne Haaksma, Librarian, toll-free at 1-888-326-5347 ext. 237 (locally: 416-979-2331).

## publication services

Bob VanderVennen

### New aesthetics professor, new book

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin's *Art and Soul: Signposts for Christians in the Arts*, co-written with author and photographer Hilary Brand, is a popular statement of a Christian worldview for the arts. With forewords by Calvin Seerveld and Graham Clay, the book is a work of art itself. Its writing is clear and simple, even if some of its ideas are profound. It has 50 black and white illustrations with explanatory comments, and quotations in the margins that illuminate the text.

The book is a "map for an understanding of the role of art and the calling of artists in the post-modern world," says Clay. Seerveld says, "Everything about this book rings true." He adds that "The authors have a no-nonsense way of helping Christians understand a God-given task for artistry." It is written for artists and everyone else, all who see what is around us in God's world.

As the Preface says, "This book attempts to digest and bring together central insights from Christian writers in the arts and from many other sources."

### Paul Marshall writes an exciting worldview book

*Heaven Is Not my Home: Living in the Now of God's Creation*, by Paul Marshall argues that God's redemption extends not only to the hereafter, but also to the here and now. Marshall wrote the book while on the faculty of ICS and he is a marvellous story teller. His stories of personal experiences worldwide are fresh and humorous. It is also a godly, devotional book, giving an overview of our spiritual orientation as we live as God's people in God's world. Alas, he says, the theme of the goodness and permanence of the world is usually neglected, and even denied, by Christians.

The book gives perspective on learning, work, rest, play, the natural world, politics, arts, evangelism, patience and the new creation. The book is a collaboration with the professional writer and editor Lela Gilbert.

### Seerveld republishes meditations

Calvin Seerveld's *Take Hold of God and Pull: Fresh Words from Scripture for our Lives Today* features Seerveld's literal and fresh biblical translations with 48 meditations. First published in the 1970s, the book is re-edited by a professional at Paternoster Press, resulting in a book without the distractions that mar the earlier version.

Each of the meditations leaves you with a blessing that comes direct to the heart. The Bible translations hit between the eyes, but leave you feeling enriched and excited.

Each of these three books has the great benefit of the hand of a professional writer or editor. The result is that each of them is a great piece of writing, a joy to read. These books are a new generation of attractive books for the general reading public, and each one of them also has extremely rich content.

The Institute for Christian Studies is happy to be associated with these publications. Any one of them will make a cherished gift and is available through the Institute.

**Hendrik Hart**  
Professor of Systematic Philosophy, ICS



**Language, Truth, & Postmodern Culture: Heidegger, Rorty, & Derrida**  
A Collaborative Seminar in Toronto.  
June 12 - June 30, 2000

This seminar addresses central texts by Martin Heidegger, Richard Rorty, and Jacques Derrida to understand their challenges to traditional philosophy and their implications for religion, culture, and faith-oriented scholarship. Applicants must be college or university faculty or be enrolled in a graduate program. Graduate course credit is available.

**James Olthuis**  
Professor of Philosophical Theology, ICS



**For more information or to apply contact:**  
Donna Kruithof, Secretary  
Calvin College Department of Philosophy  
3201 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
e-mail: kruido@calvin.edu  
fax: 616-957-8505

**Lambert Zuidervaart**  
Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College



Deadline for applications is March 1, 2000.

**CALVIN ICS**

## faculty activities



**Jonathan Chaplin**, a member of the Distinguished Advisory Panel of the Civitas Program of the Center for Public Justice in Washington, D.C., taught the second week of the first Civitas Summer Institute for 15 doctoral students of political science, most of whom are evangelical Christians. He taught about the history and foundations of Christian political thought, and also contributed to a follow-up conference in Washington on Catholic and Reformed Social Pluralism.

The first week of the Civitas Summer Institute was taught by ICS graduate Craig Bartholomew on Biblical Foundations. ICS graduate Keith Pavlischek is Program Director of the Civitas Program, and ICS graduate Steven Lazarus is also a member of the staff. The Program aims to offer doctoral students an intensive grounding in Christian political thought and action, drawing especially on the Reformed tradition in which the CPJ and ICS are rooted.

**Carroll Guen Hart** attended a workshop by Mary Kooy on evaluation in teaching and then spoke on the topic "Teaching as a Christian calling" at a

luncheon hosted by ICS. She also recently worked with John Wood of The King's University College and David Clements of Trinity Western University, putting together a research grant application for funding from the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities to work on issues relating to Christian environmental professionals.

**Sylvia Keesmaat** organized and chaired an academic session on Jubilee for the annual meeting in June of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies at Bishops University. She gave a paper entitled "Slavery, Jubilee and Inheritance: An examination of the Colossian household code" at a hermeneutics conference held at Redeemer College (Ontario) in July. She also led workshops in California's Sierra Nevada mountains for Target Earth, a Christian environmental association.

Keesmaat's article "Scripture, Law and Fruit: Paul and the biblical story" was published by Dordt College (Iowa) in its quarterly journal *Pro Rege*.

**George Vandervelde** was honoured by the Christian Reformed Church by his election as First Clerk at the annual synod of the denomination in June.

**Robert Sweetman** gave a paper "Some Medieval Dominican Stories and the Reading Self" for the conference on hermeneutical issues



held at Redeemer College (Ontario) in July.

**Calvin Seerveld** gave five lectures in Katoomba, Australia, for art teachers in the Christian schools of Australia and New Zealand, and the keynote lecture on "God's gift of poetic imagination" at Robert Menzies College, Macquarrie University, in Sydney, Australia.

Seerveld was homilist for a convention of the American Guild of Organists, preaching in various Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches there and leading a workshop on "Pain is a Four-letter Word for the Church: Singing the hard psalms." He spoke at a convention of Christian Artists International sponsored by the European Union at Doorn, the Netherlands. The title of his talk was "Beyond Tolerance to Tough Love."

Seerveld's meditation "Caring Speech in God's World" was published by Trinity Christian College (Illinois), and "Reading and Hearing the Psalms: The gut of the Bible" was published by Dordt College (Iowa) in its quarterly *Pro Rege*.

## Staff changes include promotion for den Haan

After serving ICS for three years as Development Officer, **Mike den Haan** was recently promoted to Director of Development. John Meiboom, vice-president of administration and development, says that den Haan's promotion results from his good leadership and creativity, and from his successful starting of a number of new development initiatives. We congratulate den Haan and commend him to our members in this expanded role in fund development.

**Vidya Williams** has become receptionist and **Lyn Storms** has taken over bookkeeping from Tia Spencer; she also becomes property manager for our building. **Daryl Kinsman** manages our computer network and web site on a part-time basis. **Carol Lammers**, being freed from reception duties, has become Development Associate and Volunteer Coordinator.

## from our alumni

**Ruth Kerkham** (M.Phil.F. 1999) has received a prestigious Fellowship in Contemporary (post-1970) Canadian art from the National Gallery of Canada. Her research will examine concepts of race, authenticity and origin in the light of Jean Baudrillard's work, as well as social responsibility. She will question how views on race influence the selection of art works in the National Gallery and other places. Kerkham came to study at ICS from South Africa.

**Henry Luttkhuizen** (M.Phil.F. 1989), art professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was curator of an important exhibit of 17th- and 18th-Century Dutch paintings at the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

**Nik Ansell** (M.Phil.F. 1990) gave two seminars at this summer's Greenbelt Festival in England on the biblical book of Revelation. The contents of the seminars came from a research project he completed while a graduate student at ICS. Ansell and Walter Wink served on a two-person panel at the Festival to discuss "Apocalypse now, the millennium bug, and the end of the world."

“  
**[Clifford Pitt's] curiosity, his multiple talents, his continuing integration of faith and life, his profound appreciation of all the beauties of creation... rekindled the flame of vision in many...**  
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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 Website: www.icscanada.edu



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, Connie Kuipers, John Meiboom, Mike den Haan  
Design & production: Willem Hart*

*President: Harry Fernhout, Ph.D.  
Vice President of Development & Administration: John Meiboom  
Board of Trustees Chair: Ed Den Haan*

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: 19993303

TITLE: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

AUTHOR: Institute for Christian Studies

ISSUE DATE: September 1999

TYPE: Journal

SERIES/JOURNAL: Perspective; v. 33, no. 3

KEYWORDS: Institute for Christian Studies, ICS,

NOTES: New Book: Hart shows Canadian philosophers that life is religion [Review of walking the tightrope of faith edited by Hendrik Hart & Ron Kuipers & Kai Nielsen], Clifford C. Pitt [1915-1999. Biography], Arts Festival boosts Christian artists [Through a glass brightly: Arts and the Gospel festival sponsored by The Institute for Christian Studies & Wycliffe & Imago including Art Talks lecture by Adrienne Dengerink Chaplain entitled "Art Talks: Do We Listen?"], Summer Session aesthetics course [summer school The Faithful Imagination: Art in Worship Mission and Society led by Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin], Prayer offered by Wietse Posthumus at the ICS Ontario Summer School Conference, New Program connects donors to the ICS Library, Staff changes include promotion for den Haan,

dc.contributor.author: VanderVennen, Robert E.

dc.contributor.author: Fernhout, Harry

dc.contributor.author: Posthumus, Wietse

dc.contributor.author: Den Haan, Mike

dc.creator: Institute for Christian Studies

dc.date.issued: 1999-09-30

dc.date.accessioned: 2015-03-09

dc.format.mimetype: application/pdf

dc.identifier.citation: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies), v. 33 , no. 9 (Sep 1999)

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: Hart, Hendrik

dc.subject: Kuipers, Ronald Alexander

dc.subject: Nielsen, Kai

dc.subject: Books--Reviews

dc.subject: Religion--Philosophy; Faith and reason

dc.subject: Pitt, Clifford C., 1915-1999

dc.subject: Art talks. Lecture series. 1999

dc.subject: Art--Conjoint Seminars and Conferences

dc.subject: Arts festivals

dc.subject: Christianity and the arts

dc.subject: Chaplin-Dengerink, Adrienne

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Summer schools (1999)

dc.subject: Summer schools

dc.subject: Aesthetics--Religious aspects--Christianity

dc.subject: Posthumus, Wietse

dc.subject: Prayers

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Seminars and Conferences

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Library

dc.title: Perspective vol. 33 no. 3 (Sep 1999)

dc.title.alternative: Perspective (Institute for Christian Studies)

dc.type: journal