

## BOOKS

The information below is taken from publisher's promotional material and should not be considered a review.

**Building a Worldwide Network: IAPCHE 1975-2002** by John B. Hulst, Sioux Center, Ia., Dordt College Press (2009) 64 pages.

See <http://www.iapche.org/conferenceproceedings.htm> to order. IAPCHE Executive Secretary Emeritus John Hulst has been directly and indirectly involved in the Association since its beginning in 1975. This volume traces the Association's history and vision of integral Christian higher education until Hulst's retirement as executive secretary in 2002.

**By Good and Necessary Consequence: A Preliminary Genealogy of Biblicist Foundationalism** by Carlos Bovell, Eugene, Ore.: Wipf and Stock (2009) 188 pages, ISBN: 978-1606084571.

Institute for Christian Studies alumnus Carlos Bovell presents a critical examination of the reasoning behind the "good and necessary consequence" clause in the Westminster Confession of Faith and makes observations regarding its suitability for contemporary Reformed and evangelical adherents. In a nutshell, Bovell argues that it is not wise to structure the Christian faith in this biblicist foundationalist way and that it is high time alternate approaches be sought.

**Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview and Cultural Formation** by James K. A. Smith, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic (2009) 238 pages, ISBN: 978-0801035777.

Malls, stadiums, and universities are actually liturgical structures that influence and shape our thoughts and affections. Humans, as Augustine noted, are "desiring agents," full of longings and passions; in brief, we are what we love. Institute for Christian Studies alumnus James K. A. Smith focuses on the themes of liturgy and desire in *Desiring the Kingdom*, the first book in what will be a three-volume set on the theology of culture. He redirects our yearnings to focus on the greatest good: God. Ultimately, Smith seeks to revision education through the process and practice of worship. Students of philosophy, theology, worldview and culture will welcome this book, as will those involved in ministry and other interested readers.

**The Feminine Personification of Wisdom: A Study of Homer's Penelope, Cappadocian Macrina, Boethius' Philosophia and Dante's Beatrice** by Wendy Elgersma Helleman, Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press (2009) 348 pages, ISBN: 978-0773446663.

This study examines the attribution of abstract values to women by analyzing four characters spanning literary genres and more than 2000 years. Penelope, Macrina, Philosophia, and Beatrice are connected by their contribution to the theme of wisdom through their use of reason against passion. Feminine personification of reason and wisdom makes its own contribution as antidote to traditional understanding of "feminine" as "emotional" or "irrational." This book examines allegorical personification of Sophia, or wisdom, in ancient and medieval philosophy and literature, examining four feminine figures who personify wisdom.

**The Gift of Creation: Images from Scripture and Earth** edited by Norman Wirzba, photography by Thomas Barnes, Oran, Mo.: Acclaim Press (2009) 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1935001225.

A beautiful book featuring vivid images of the Earth and the varied forms of life that call it home. Coupled with the images are biblically-based essays, written by notable academics and scholars from around the globe, exploring what scripture really says about caring for God's creation, as well as a scientific assessment of the state of the Earth. These essays give a current state of the environment and a poignant and much-needed treatise on humanity's role in caring for God's creation. One of the chapters is by Institute for Christian Studies adjunct faculty member Sylvia Keesmaat.

**Jesus the Christ: A Survey of the Christological Quest** by Emmanuel Asante, Kumasi, Ghana: Wilas Press Ltd (2009) 224 pages, ISBN: 9988-7815-4-7.

In a careful and scholarly manner, the author makes complex Christological concepts easily accessible to the average Christian reader. The philosophical and Christological ideas of hypostatic union of Christ, *communication idiomatum* and others are carefully explained and presented to facilitate an under-

standing that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, truly human, truly divine, a dogma which the Christian religion continues to hold and proclaim to the world as truth. The various Christological heresies are discussed in their cultural, philosophical and theological contexts, demonstrating that "a people's appropriation of Christ and his work are, to a large extent, informed and defined by their social, political, economic and cultural situations." Includes bibliographical references and index. Books will be marketed by the Methodist Book Depot, Accra ([methodistbookdepot.com](http://methodistbookdepot.com)). For bulk purchase contact the author at [asanteemma@hotmail.com](mailto:asanteemma@hotmail.com).

**The Justice Project** edited by Brian McLaren, Elisa Padilla, and Ashley Bunting Seeber, Grand Rapids: Baker Books (2009) 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0801013287.

Whether it's extreme poverty, human rights, racism or the Middle East, news outlets bombard us with stories about the need for justice in the world. But how are Christians to respond to these stories and the conditions to which they refer? Here's help. Editors McLaren, Padilla, and Seeber have gathered over 30 brief chapters by some of the most penetrating thinkers in the justice conversation, including René Padilla, Peggy Campolo, Will and Lisa Samson, Sylvia Keesmaat (of the Institute for Christian Studies), Bart Campolo, Lynne Hybels, Tony Jones and Richard Twiss. Divided into sections, "God of Justice," "Book of Justice," "Justice in the USA," "Just World" and "Just Church," *The Justice Project* is a great resource for anyone who wants a wide view of how Christian faith is being enacted around the world.

**The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Politics** edited by Corwin Smidt, Lyman Kellstedt, and James Guth, New York: Oxford University Press (2009) 600 pages, ISBN: 978-0195326529.

Religion is, and has always been, a powerful force in American politics. Over the past three decades, the study of religion and politics has mushroomed, going from a field of study largely ignored by the scholarly community to being a major focus of research. This volume enlists noted scholars in the field to write essays that examine a particular subject area and that (a) assess the "state of the art" within that area; (b) review important findings, insights and theoretical advances; (c) outline the current debates that engage scholarly attention; and (d) raise some important but currently understudied questions. Thus, each chapter reviews previous work, discusses the findings of that research and speculates about the bases of divergent findings related to that topic, with each essay containing an excellent bibliography.

**A University for the People: a History of the Institute for Christian Studies** by Robert E. Vander Vennen, with a foreword by Richard Mouw, Iowa: Dordt College Press (2008) 292 pages, ISBN: 978-0932914750.

A history of the first fifty years of the Institute for Christian Studies, a graduate school in Toronto, Canada, founded by Dutch immigrants in the 1950s to inspire their relocated Christian culture and their new country. Their plans and actions were creative and controversial, leading to research and teaching of unique power and Christian depth. Winner of the Leadership/Theoretical book award for non-fiction by the Canadian Word Guild for 2009.

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### CI06 Book Available

The English publication of the proceedings of the **IAPCHE Congreso Internacional 2006 (CI06)** is now available. Books have been sent to conference delegates.

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