
CONTACT

March 2001

Newsletter of the International Association
for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education
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Tenth Anniversary of SRPh celebrated with style

by Dr. Sander Griffioen, professor of philosophy, Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

It was my pleasure to attend the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the St. Petersburg School of

Religion and Philosophy (SRPh), held November 27 - December 2, 2000, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Founded in December 1990 under the auspices of the St. Petersburg Association of Scientists and Scholars, the SRPH developed from the outset under the leadership of Dr. Natalia Pecherskaya, an individual member of IAPCHE. The School grants degrees in philosophy, religious studies, and art studies. At the moment some 50 students are working for a degree. Most of the professors teach on a part-time basis; many of them also hold a position at one of the universities.

The anniversary program consisted of two parts: a pre-conference cultural program (Nov. 27-29), and the conference (Nov. 30-Dec. 2). The first part offered an excellent opportunity for foreign guests to get acquainted with the School, the Association of Scientists, and, last but not least, the city of St. Petersburg. I should add that it also offered a welcome opportunity to become acquainted with the main body of foreign guests, which included a large group of Americans connected with the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research (Collegeville, Minnesota), led by Patrick Henry. A bonus for us (my son, Hendrik, and I) was the presence of Rockne and Joan McCarthy of Dordt College, who were officially representing IAPCHE, as well as, during the conference, Wendy and Adrian Helleman from Moscow.

Fortunately, the program also left room for private excursions. On one of our walks along the Nevsky Prospect, on a very visible spot in the largest book store of the city, we found a pile of copies of the Proceedings of the IAPCHE-sponsored conference of Spring 1999 on education in Russia; price, 90 rubles--about 4 dollars!

The theme of the conference was "Science and Faith: The Problem of the Human Being in Science and Theology." It opened in the imposing building of the Academy of Sciences, Czar Peter's personal creation. In the room dominated by his statue some 150 to 200 people gathered. What struck me was the difference between some sessions with official speakers, among whom was a leader of the Orthodox Church, and those with scientists. Whereas the former tended to approach faith as complementary (e.g. by using a scheme of eternal and temporal), the latter emphasized the need for integration. It would be worthwhile to pursue this difference further at a new conference. Very relevant in this respect was Alexei Chernyakov's plea for more emphasis on the mediating role of philosophy. I would like to add that since then, on January 11, 2001, Dr. Chernyakov obtained a Ph.D. degree (his second) at the Free University. The first day closed with a power point presentation by Anne Foerst (MIT/Harvard Div. School) on real and artificial intelligence, which was powerful in its own way.

The rest of the conference took place in the Shuvalovsky Palace (!). It is true that the workshops of the second day lacked a clear focus. However, their real significance was that these afforded a rare chance for the Russians to discuss the relation between "Science and Theology." The style of the discussions, full of passion and unexpected interruptions, had a distinctively Dostoyevskian flavor. The interest in the topics was such that the workshop of which I was one of the leaders ended with more people than it started--altogether some 100 people having been present.

On the evening of December 1, the tenth anniversary of SRPh was celebrated in a session which combined style and gaiety. It was a great chance to meet students, conferees and Russian guests. Talking to members of the Association of Scientists made me aware of the symbolic significance of the relation of St. Petersburg to Amsterdam. Already the similarity of the layout of both cities is striking, as both follow semicircles of canals issuing on a central river. Even more important is a

shared sense of freedom. The picture would be incomplete if I did not conclude by noting a deep affinity between SRPh and the Free University. As was pointed out to me repeatedly, the SRPh above all wants to be free in the sense in which the adjective "free" in Free University is meant: free from tutelage, free to serve God in the fields of scholarship.

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EDITORIAL

by J. B. Hulst, Executive Secretary

The importance of a name

It happened again. I was making a presentation on behalf of the Association to a conference workshop. The first question in the discussion period was: "When are you going to change the name?" It often happens @in personal conversations, promotional meetings, regional and international conferences. People will ask: "Can't you change or simplify the name of the Association?"

We've made attempts to do just that @ change, simplify the name. There have been long discussions in board meetings, and intense debates in planning sessions. At one point we placed a notice in CONTACT asking, almost pleading for suggestions, with very little response. Each time the matter was discussed by the board, it was decided to continue with the name @ a long name, with an unusual acronym, IAPCHE. (Recently someone called, asking: "What is this 1 [one] Apache all about?")

There was a time when I was one of those calling for change. I felt that a new, simple name would make the work of the executive secretary easier and perhaps more effective. But I've changed my mind and now argue for keeping the name, for a number of reasons.

First, the work we are doing has come to be identified with our name. IAPCHE has existed for 25 years, and the present name has been used to identify us for 14 of those years. To change now, I believe, would create an identity crisis, just at a time when we are trying to increase and enhance our identity around the world.

Second, our name clearly describes who we are and what we do. Initially, we were known as the International Conference of Institutions for Christian Higher Education (ICICHE). You can imagine the fun some people had with that acronym! But that is what we were, i.e., an organization that sponsored conferences every three years.

In 1981 the name was changed to the International Council for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (ICPCHE). And that's what we were. Because of institutional conflict over a number of issues involving orthodoxy and orthopraxis, it was decided to establish an independent council of nine persons to form an international association of Christian scholars.

By 1987 it became clear that the institutions were once again able to work together, even though all the differences had not been removed, and the new constitution of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE) was approved. To this day, that is what we are, i.e., an association of Christian scholars, supported primarily by institutions, seeking to promote Christian higher education throughout the world.

The point? We should continue to be known as IAPCHE, because that is who we are and what we do.

Third, while it is true that our name is long and the acronym is strange, we are not the only association for Christian higher education that has such a "problem." For four years we have been in consultation with the Associations of Christian Colleges and Universities - International Ecumenical Forum (ACCU-IEF). Recently we were informed that the Associations had changed their name to the International Forum of Associations of Christian Higher Education (IFACHE). The acronym sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Finally, I have found that, instead of being a hindrance, our name has been a help in promoting the purposes of the Association. When I mention to someone that I am the executive secretary of IAPCHE, I'm almost always asked, "What is IAPCHE?" This gives me an opportunity to explain, one word at a time --

- International - we have members in five regions throughout the world.
- Association - we are a community of scholars, educators, and institutions seeking to establish an international network.
- Promotion - we are not directly engaged in higher education, but we seek to promote the work of Christian higher education on an individual and institutional level.
- Christian - we recognize academic work "as an expression of life commitment to God the Creator, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit."
- Higher - in contrast to elementary and secondary education, we seek to promote higher, tertiary education.
- Education - we are not an ecclesiastical organization, but an academic association, seeking to promote education centered in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

One last point: It's true, as the title of this editorial indicates, that our name is important. But it is just as important, perhaps even more so, that we focus on being and doing what our name says. May God bless us as we seek to do and be what our name states by together promoting the cause of Christian higher education throughout the world.

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Introducing the New Board

The new IAPCHE board members were chosen in an election held October and November, 2000. Nominations were solicited from each region during Conference 2000 (Sioux Center, Iowa, August 12-16, 2000) and approved by the interim board. Ballots were sent via e-mail and postal mail to each region's individual members, who were asked to vote for two of four nominees. "Voter turn-out" was quite good for most regions.

The new board is now in the process of voting on the 5/10 year plan and on a revised constitution and by-laws. Dr. George N. Monsma has been elected Chair, and Mrs. Nelly Garcia, Vice-chair. So far board business has been conducted via e-mail. Our board members play a vital role in the work of IAPCHE. Please keep in touch with them and pray for them! [Click here for contact information for board members.](#)

New board members:

Africa



Emmanuel Ayee has served as the managing director of the AMSETH Consultancy in Ghana from February 2000 to the present. He holds a Ph.D. degree in communications from Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education* in South Africa. He served as secretary of the planning committee of IAPCHE's Africa Regional Conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe in April 1990. Since 1987 he has been secretary of the Christian Literature Committee for Africa.



Mary Muchiri has been senior lecturer in the language and literature department of the Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya since 1995. She indicates that, while her discipline is linguistics, her special interests "include the role of women in church and society, and the sources of knowledge (epistemology) from an African point of view . . ." She participated in the IAPCHE- sponsored conference in Nairobi in January 1997 and also attended IAPCHE's International Conference 2000.

Asia/Oceania

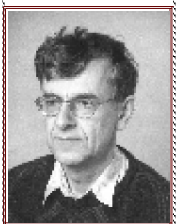


Bong Ho Son is currently professor of philosophy and ethics at the Seoul National University, South Korea. He received the Ph.D. degree in philosophy from the Free University of Amsterdam*, the Netherlands. Since 1992 he has been chairman of the board of the Korean Association for Christian Studies. He has previously served as a member of IAPCHE's board and has presented papers at a number of IAPCHE's international conferences, including Conference 2000.



Andreas A. Yewangoe is teaching theology at the theological faculty of Artha Wacana Christian University* in Kupang, Indonesia. From 1990-1998 he was rector of the university. He holds a Th.D degree from the Free University of Amsterdam*, with a dissertation titled, "The Theological Crisis in Asia." He has been vice chairperson of the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Indonesia since 1995.

Europe



Peter Blokhuis is lecturer in philosophy and head of the department of nursing at the Christelijke Hogeschool Ede*. He received his Ph.D. degree from the Free University of Amsterdam*, where he defended his thesis, "Knowledge and Abstraction." He is chairman of the Christian Academic Network (CAN), an organization of 16 small Christian organizations seeking to build a network for promoting the cause of Christian scholarship in the Netherlands--in the fashion that IAPCHE does world-wide.



István Szabó is the pastor of the Budahegyvidek Reformed Church in Budapest and teaches systematic theology at the reorganized Reformed Theological Seminary in Papa, West Hungary. In 1994 he completed his doctoral studies at Karoli Gaspar Reformed University* in Budapest. His dissertation focused on "The Theological Statement of Church Leadership of the Hungarian Reformed Church between 1949 and 1990." He attended and participated in IAPCHE's Conference 2000.

Latin America



Nelly García Murillo de Mendoza served as dean of the faculty of humanities, and is now coordinator of the department of communication and language of the School of General Studies, University of Costa Rica. She is a graduate of the University of Costa Rica in "Filología Española." She participated in IAPCHE's Conference 2000 and has been very much involved as a leader in the regional work of AIPECS (IAPCHE) in Latin America.



Patricio Proaño is the rector of the Christian University of Latin America, Quito, Ecuador, a fast-growing institution of Christian higher education. He engaged in doctoral studies at Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary, and received his doctor's degree in education from the American University in Mexico City, Mexico. A participant in IAPCHE's Conference 2000, he has a wide range of interests, including the fields of electrical engineering and psychology.

North America



Harry Fernhout is the president of the Institute for Christian Studies*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Toronto. He is presently the chair of the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE), an organization that includes most of the North American institutional members of IAPCHE and "seeks to foster greater cooperation and coordination among its members." He presented one of the major papers at IAPCHE Conference 2000.



George N. Monsma, Jr. is professor of economics at Calvin College*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA, and a member of its Faculty Senate. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University. He is on the board of directors of Evangelicals for Social Action, has taught at the Russian American Christian University* in Moscow, and has supervised four international student academic programs in Nairobi, Kenya, 1994-2000. He attended and provided leadership for IAPCHE's Conference 2000.

* an institutional member of IAPCHE

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CONFERENCES

Latin America Region planning third IAPCHE conference

by Dr. Sidney Rooy, individual member, Costa Rica

The Latin American branch of IAPCHE has decided to work toward its third continental meeting to be held in July of 2002 in Barranquilla, Colombia. The Corporación Universitaria Reformada, a Presbyterian university, has invited the Latin American association to meet on its premises. The suggested theme for the meeting is: "The challenges of knowing for Christian educators in a globalized world." This theme is being sent to IAPCHE members as well as to participants of the first two conferences for their suggestions and approval. Diverse subjects related to the theme will be considered, such as: epistemology and faith, politics and ethics, cosmovisión bíblica, etc.

In preparation for this event, several steps were recently defined. First, national and regional conferences are planned and being stimulated for this year and the beginning of next year in order to consolidate the movement in different parts of our area. Second, a bi-monthly bulletin will be published and sent to about 200 interested persons by e-mail in order to stimulate communication of our activities and plans. Third, interchange and sharing between the faculties and teachers of specific disciplines will be encouraged. Fourth, the publishing of our second book in Spanish, featuring the presentations at our last conference held September 2000 in Quito, Ecuador, will soon be completed, and we will help with its distribution to Christian professors in Latin America.

The committee responsible for the planning of the third conference is made up of four persons with two advisors: Gonzalo Dernéy, Lilia Góngora, Victor Rey and Sidney Rooy. The advisors are the two elected members of the international committee of IAPCHE from our region: Nelly García de Mendoza and Patricio Proaño. Gonzalo serves as the Latin American coordinator with the aid of the infrastructure of his university.

Calvin College to host conference on Christian scholarship

"Christian Scholarship . . . for What?" is the topic of an international, interdisciplinary conference to be held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 27-29, 2001. The purposes of the conference are:

- 1) to reflect on the intrinsic value of Christian thinking;
- 2) to attend to the need for shaping intellectual agendas in the twenty-first century; and
- 3) to encouraged faith-based reflections on issues in and beyond the Academy.

Keynote speakers include Kwame Bediako (Natal, South Africa), John Hare (Calvin College), Ann Hostetler (Goshen College), Richard Mouw (Fuller Seminary), John Polkinghorne (Cambridge University), Mark Schwehn (Valparaiso University), Kang Phee Seng (Hong Kong Baptist University), and James Turner (University of Notre Dame).

For more information, see the website of Calvin Seminars in Christian Scholarship, www.calvin.edu/fss/125conf.htm.

This conference is part of the celebration that commemorates the 125th anniversary of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary.

**You are invited to the fourth With Heart and Mind
conference**

A biennial, national conversation about the work of Christians in public and Christian
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May 10-12, 2001
The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta

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How do we understand and use technology in ways that reflect Christian faith?

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Please direct conference enquiries to:
With Heart and Mind Conference, c/o Dr. J. Wood
The King's University College
9125 - 50th Street
Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3 Canada
or e-mail: kbadley@connect.ab.ca

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Introducing a new Institutional Member: St. Andrew's Biblical Theological College

from St. Andrew's BTC brochure and a newsletter by Dr. Alexei Bodrov, Rector

St. Andrew's Biblical Theological College (BTC) of higher education, located in Moscow, Russia, was established on the basis of Fr. Alexander Men's Open Orthodox University. It continues the tradition of open religious education. BTC, an educational charity, is a blend of confessional and secular teaching institutions. Its hallmark is an appeal to laity and openness to inter confessional dialogue and free discussions. The College runs a five-year course of education with approximately 70 students and 40 highly qualified specialists.

The first level of education represents general lecture material open to all groups of people, regardless of age, education, or denomination. There are no entrance examinations. The second level aims to prepare catechists for Sunday and secondary schools and colleges. The third level (3-5 years) provides advanced theological study with an emphasis on Biblical studies which is unique in Russian Orthodox teaching institutes. During the third to fifth years of study, students specialize in Biblical studies including Biblical languages, philosophy and theology, church history, Christian

culture, and liturgiology. Final year students obtain a diploma in higher education.

The library holds over 3,000 books and journals, many of which are of great value. BTC considers the preparation and publication of modern text books and other necessary literature as one of its most important tasks. The College edits two journals and has a regular radio program.

September 8, 2000 marked St. Andrew's tenth anniversary. This year has been one of many important events that have led St. Andrew's into a new phase of its development.

In May, by the initiative of Prof. David Hoekema (Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan), in co-operation with St. Andrew's and with the support of the Calvin College Centre for Christian Scholarship, an international conference was held in Moscow on "Rebirth of Religion and Birth of Democracy in Russia." The conference was very successful. Well-known specialists from several countries and representing various confessions participated. The papers read at the conference are now being prepared for publication in Russian and English.

In August, St. Andrew's moved into a new building located on Jerusalem Street. This is perhaps the most significant event of the year. We now, for the first time, have our own office space and classrooms, for which we extend our sincerest thanks to Kirche- in-Not, our friends in Seattle, and all those who made this project possible. Relocation took over a month, creating difficulties with the commencement of the new academic year and the celebration of our tenth anniversary. However, at the same time opportunities for further development have increased considerably.

In August and September our Rector, Dr. Alexei A. Bodrov, participated in a number of noteworthy and fruitful conferences: "Visiting Religious and Scientific Imaginations Afresh," Colledgeville, USA; "The Challenge of Christian Higher Education in the 21st Century," Dordt College, USA; the annual meeting of the Ecumenical Association of Academics and Laity Centres in Europe (EAALCE), Loccum, Germany; and "Confrontation or Co-operation? Ecumenism in Central and Eastern Europe," Renovabis, Germany.

It was wonderful to meet old friends and make new ones. At Dordt College, discussion was held as to the possibility of founding a Christian Pedagogical University in Moscow with the active participation of St. Andrew's College. We will be very pleased if this project eventuates.

On September 9 (ten years since Fr. Alexander Men's untimely death), St. Andrew's was accepted as a member of EAALCE (the only Russian member). We sincerely hope that this will hasten the foundation of a Christian Lay Academy in Russia, which could become one of the most important of St. Andrew's projects in the near future.

[Click here for contact information for St. Andrew's.](#)

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Introducing affiliate member WYSOCS

by Ruth Hanson, WYSOCS director

WYSOCS stands for West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies. West Yorkshire is a conurbation comprising Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds and other smaller cities, but some WYSOCS "punters," as we sometimes call them, come from further afield: York, Harrogate, Gateshead, Liverpool and

even London--a Yorkshire weekend is quite an attractive thing! and our speakers are worth the journey to those in-the-know! Not every day and in every city do you have the opportunity of hearing a Christian expert in the field lecture on, say, genetics, and run workshops in which Christians can debate the issues with one another and back with the speaker, and pray together on this particular matter. Attendance is never limited to those in Christian higher education, but is open to anyone interested in being informed in a context they can trust.

WYSOCS is run by volunteers. Folk pay to attend lectures and this covers speakers' expenses within Britain and modest fees as well as publicity. Lectures are given once or twice a term, maybe within a series of five evenings or a Saturday with two or three sessions. We are aware of many more topics and speakers available than we can take on board at present, but in partnership with the C(Cambridge)SOCS Elaine Storkey wants to set up, we may find the inspiration and means to develop much further. More on this another time!

We are grateful to those Contact readers who have already become "WYSOCS Speakers" and, if more of you are likely to be in or within reach of England, it is very likely we would want to invite you too! In this case, therefore, please get in touch with me as soon as you start making plans. [Click here for contact information for WYSOCS.](#)

The following information is excerpted from our brochure:

WYSOCS began life in 1986, instigated by David Lyon and a planning group of Christian friends at the suggestion of John Stott, founder of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC). WYSOCS' place and task lie within the preparation of God's people for obedience to the whole counsel of God, across the wide spectrum of their many callings.

The foundation of our understanding is that creation in all its parts, however defaced and distorted by human sin and its consequences, remains the chosen and treasured possession of God. By his death on the cross, Christ has guaranteed for his people a cleansed and renewed creation. His people, therefore, do not detach themselves from creation's order and history. Instead, they devote themselves with minds renewed by the Holy Spirit to the stewardship, reconciliation, reformation and healing of the creation itself in every sphere.

WYSOCS aims at challenging and helping Christians to equip their minds, so that they are able to respond to the social, political, economic and cultural challenges that we encounter. To reflect these challenges, our studies cover a wide range of topics. WYSOCS has presented some 50 events since 1986, incorporating over 150 talks and lectures. These have included:

- Facing up to AIDS - A look at the Christian response to HIV and AIDS, as it affects our communities and churches. What are our responsibilities?*
- With All Your Mind - A student day considering the dynamics of Western thought and creating a framework for Christian understanding.*
- Christian Lifestyle - A vision for a fruitful economy and some fresh attitudes to fashion and purchasing.*
- Life Issues Conference - Lectures and workshops on many subjects including genetic engineering, abortion and birth control, euthanasia, childcare and the care of the elderly.*
- Holistic Mission - A joint WYSOCS and Tear Fund / Salt & Light event looking at blending evangelism with social concern.*
- Mental Illness: Friendship, Caring & Support - A Biblical perspective on the dynamics of mental disorder and help in understanding the sufferer's needs.*
- Islamic Britain - The shape of Islam in Britain today and its challenges to Christians.*

- *Science and Religion in Historical Perspective - tracing the role of religious ideas in science and the powerful role of science today.*

We are now pursuing the idea of a Gap Year Project. In this, students leaving school or university and wanting a breather in which to decide their future studies or work would follow a variety of reformatinal courses for two terms, alongside voluntary community work, then in the summer apply their acquired insights on a placement in a needy city or country, and report back. The purpose would be to raise awareness about and equip for the onslaught of secular pressures at university and in work. They would receive pastoral support during and after the Gap Year. To many of us here, this project also seems an appropriate one towards setting up a Christian liberal arts college one day.

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INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER NEWS

Russian-American Christian University --Moscow, Russia & Wheaton, USA

RACU's profile rising

from a newsletter by Dr. John A. Bernbaum, President of RACU

This is the fifth year of Russian-American Christian University's (RACU's) undergraduate program and a year of major transitions for the university. Until now, RACU has had a very low profile in Moscow. Because we knew a Christian liberal arts university was a new and unusual educational institution in Russia, we thought it best to first build a quality program and to then let the graduates of the program serve as evidence of its value. But our days of keeping a low profile are over. The time has come to stand up and introduce ourselves @with both enthusiasm and dignity. Here are the reasons why:

- On May 19, 2001, RACU's first graduates will walk across the stage, receive their diplomas and enter the Russian job market.
- Our students are working in business and social work internships this year giving potential employers a chance to evaluate their performance.
- We hope to buy a new campus facility during the year and move out of leased space into our own building, a move that will make us one of the first private universities in Russia to have its own property.
- We are pursuing accreditation with the Russian Ministry of Education and documenting in detail the mission and goals of our institution for their review.
- We are aggressively building networks in Moscow with corporate leaders and government officials in order to introduce them to our program, open up additional internship sites and create employment opportunities for our graduates.

These achievements and milestones have triggered this new chapter in the life of RACU, and it is an exciting time, indeed! Please keep our students, faculty and staff in your prayers.

**Institute for Christian Studies --Toronto, Ontario, Canada
ICS announces summer seminar**

The Institute for Christian Studies, in collaboration with the Free University of Amsterdam, is proud to present a summer seminar, "Quest for Meaning-Quest for God? The Risk of Religion in a Postmodern World," which is offered in Toronto, Canada, June 25 - July 7, 2001. This seminar addresses central texts by Wessel Stoker, *Is the Quest for Meaning the Quest for God?: The Religious Ascription of Meaning in Relation to the Secular Ascription of Meaning*, and Clark Pinnock, ed., *The Openness of God*, in order to understand the role of religion as the supplier of meaning, providing answers to existential questions that human existence as such raises. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program, be college or university faculty, and/or pastors. Graduate course credit is available. Deadline for applications is May 15, 2001. For more information or to apply, contact:

Yana Filipenko, ICS
229 College Street
Toronto, ON M5T 1R4
Phone: 416-979-2331
e-mail: yfilipenko@icscanada.edu
web: www.icscanada.edu

**Calvin College --Grand Rapids, Michigan
Faculty to explore Reformed faith and business**

"The Practice of Business--Reformed Christian Perspectives" will be the topic of a nine-day faculty seminar at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 29-June 8, 2001. The seminar is designed for faculty members who teach business courses in Reformed, Christian colleges. Participants will explore the connections between the Biblical and theological resources of our Reformed faith and the fundamental purposes of business in contemporary society.

Seminar leaders are Dr. John Visser, professor of business and chair of the business department at Dordt College, and Dr. Shirley J. Roels, professor of business and dean of academic administration at Calvin College. For more information, contact: Dr. Roels at Calvin College, 3201 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4388; e-mail: Roel@Calvin.edu.

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MEMBER NEWS

**West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies --Leeds, England
WYSOCS to host International Symposium on Philosophy of Education**
From Affiliate Member WYSOCS

The West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies (WYSOCS) is hosting an International Symposium on Philosophy of Education from May 29 to June 7, 2001, in Leeds, England. The Symposium is

being organized by Dr. John Van Dyk, professor of education and director of the Center for Educational Services at Dordt College.

The aim of the Symposium is to explore some new, relevant, and coherent approaches to a Christian philosophy of education. Specifically, the Symposium will work on narrowing the gap between foundational reflection and classroom practice. The agenda will include a review and discussion of the key questions to be addressed and concluding conversations designed to map out future directions. An interim break, June 1-3, will provide opportunities to interact with small groups of teachers, parents, and others concerned about education.

For more information about opportunities to participate during the interim break, contact:

Ruth Hanson, director of WYSOCS Outwood House Outwood Lane Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4HR, England Phone: 0113-258-9300. E-mail: WYSOCS@aol.com	or John Van Dyk, director of CES Dordt College 498 Fourth Ave. NE Sioux Center, IA 51250. Phone: 712-722-6354. E-mail: Jvandyk@dordt.edu
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Berberians teaching in Guatemala

Excerpts from Sam and Martha Berberian's September 2000 newsletter (individual member)

Guatemala is a small Central American country with a population of 10 million, of which 60% are Mayans, and 23 Indian dialects are spoken. The country is famous for its beautiful volcanoes, and several are in clear view from the capital city. One, the Pacay, is active, blowing smoke and spewing lava from its crater.

When Frederick Crowe and some English colonists came to Guatemala to distribute Bibles 150 years ago, he was forced to leave because the religious leaders of that day forbade the reading of the Scriptures. Today, after years of missionary labor, with Christian radio stations, Christian television, and a high percentage of evangelical population, what work is left to do?

Guatemala is considered one of the poorest nations of the continent, with perhaps 70% living in dire poverty, with simple thatched or tin roofs over their heads, and a dirt or cement floor. Education levels are very low, with up to half of the pastors and leaders having hardly an elementary level education. Preparing and training leaders has been a priority of our ministry since we came to Guatemala in 1977, and today Sam is the dean of theology of the Panamerican University, as well as the director of the Frederick Crowe Institute, teaching 23 classes a month. Since many students are of low income, sponsorships permit them to study. Martha also is involved in teaching at the FCI, as well as teaching courses in the churches, training Sunday School teachers, and teaching the basics of music to worship team members.

Apart from teaching, Sam has an average of 15 meetings a month where he speaks in churches of many denominations, as well as men's breakfast meetings, pastors' retreats and youth conferences. Each year Sam has an average of six trips outside Guatemala, and six trips to the interior. For a number of years Sam and Martha have team-taught at couples' meetings, sharing on topics related to the family. Often these activities are evangelistic-oriented, with several couples coming forward to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. It gives us much joy to see lives changed by the power of Jesus

Christ.

Producing course material has been an important part of our ministry too, with Martha writing several hours each day, producing eight titles since 1978. *Como Predicar* (How to Preach) is the best seller with 12,000 copies distributed.

Celebrating forty years of service

from Dr. Dieumeme Noelliste (individual member), president of Jamaica Theological Seminary and the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology

Jamaica Theological Seminary (JTS) recently celebrated forty years of service to Jamaica, the Caribbean, and the wider world. The milestone was marked with a week of activities, February 4 - 10, 2001. The celebration included a thanksgiving service, the launching of a lecture series on ethics, an anniversary banquet, and an open house. Special speakers included Dr. Gerry Gallimore and two JTS graduates, Rev. Peter Spencer and Rev. Clinton Chisholm.

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BOOKS

Academic Freedom and Christian Scholarship

by Anthony J. Diekema; Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000; 232 pages; ISBN: 0-8028-4756-0.

The dawning of the third millennium finds many Christian colleges and universities in a search for identity. Coming to grips with the confused and often maligned topic of academic freedom is an essential part of this search.

In this volume, an unabashed defender of academic freedom offers well-founded advice to any academy that has seemingly lost its way. Drawing on forty years in higher education, including twenty years as president of Calvin College, Anthony Diekema reflects on the extensive scholarly literature on academic freedom against the backdrop of personal experience. He develops the larger philosophical framework necessary for thinking about academic freedom but also offers pointed advice gleaned from specific events and challenges to academic freedom that he has personally confronted. This balanced approach provides a seasoned perspective for those struggling with the subject of academic freedom in their own institutions.

In the course of the book Diekema develops a sound working definition of the concept of academic freedom, assesses the threats it faces, acknowledges the significance of worldview in its implementation, and explores the policy implications for its protection and promotion in Christian colleges.

You may order copies of the book from your favorite bookseller or from Eerdmans Publishing at 616-459-4591 or 800-253-7521; Fax: 616 459-6540; Email: sales@eerdmans.com.

 ***"As the Father Has Sent Me, I Am Sending You": J.E. Lesslie Newbigin's Missionary Ecclesiology***

by Michael W. Goheen; Uitgeverij Boekencentrum, Zoetermeer, 2000; 482 pages; ISBN 90-239-0976-3.

In the 19th century, missionary advocates argued that cross-cultural mission would bring a "reflex action" that would benefit the Western church. The mission impulse would rebound back on the sending church, which would reap benefits of this missionary activity. Today in the post-colonial period this dynamic is becoming increasingly evident. Western theology, liturgy, and ecclesial structures and practice were formed in a time when the church did not understand its missionary nature. Today we are beginning to understand that mission is not simply one activity of the church but belongs to the very core of its existence. This insight is beginning to revolutionize theology and ecclesial life. Lesslie Newbigin embodies this "reflex action." From forty years of missionary experience in India he brings the Biblical perspective of mission to bear on the Western church. This book examines Newbigin's missionary ecclesiology, elaborating the relation of the church to the mission of God, to its own nature and calling, and to its religio-cultural context. It is a call to rethink our ecclesiology and church practice in Western culture.

Mike Goheen is currently associate professor in the religion and theology department of Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, teaching mission, world Christianity, worldview studies, and Biblical theology. Goheen is also a member of IAPCHE.

To order this book, contact the Boekencentrum Publishing House, P.O. Box 29, 2700 AA Zoetermeer, the Netherlands; e-mail: info@boekencentrum.nl.

 ***Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind: Shaping a Biblical Worldview and a Christian Perspective on Scholarship***

by B. J. van der Walt; The Institute for Contemporary Christianity in Africa, Potchefstroom, 2001; ISBN: 6-86822-382-5.

In *Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind*, Prof. Bennie van der Walt, pursues his present interest: Christianity on the African continent, especially its impact on social, economic, political, and educational life. He discusses a variety of topics: historical developments as well as present trends in African Christianity, the cultural reasons for the dismal failure of development projects on the continent, the need for Christian education, and many more. The central message which runs through them all is the vital importance of a Biblical worldview and of Christian education inspired by this vision. Van der Walt holds out a vision of a real African renaissance - the rebirth of a new Christianity - and says the transformation of worldview and tertiary education in Africa could make it possible.

Van der Walt teaches at the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education in South Africa. Until 1999 he was director of the Institute for Reformational Studies. He served on the Executive Committee of IAPCHE for several years.

To order this book, send a request plus \$16.00 U.S. to Prof. B.J. van der Walt, Bezuidenhoutstraat 7, Potchefstroom 2531, South Africa.

 ***Religion, Pluralism, and Public Life: Abraham Kuyper's Legacy for the Twenty First Century***

edited by Luis E. Lugo; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000; 403 pages; ISBN: 0-8028-4716-1.

Abraham Kuyper's Christian vision of society, powerfully communicated in his Stone Lectures one hundred years ago, remains influential worldwide. In Kuyper's view the Christian faith as a comprehensive worldview has relevance in such disparate areas of life as the arts, science, and politics. His vision sparked a truly international movement.

In this book, twenty-two internationally respected scholars explore Kuyper's legacy, looking especially at his social and political contributions and how these can helpfully illumine important public issues today. Following the introduction to Kuyper, the contributors address such questions as how theology can inform public discourse in an age of increasing pluralism, how the state should relate to the institutions of civil society, and how the trans national nature of the Christian community should inform our understanding of the deepening process of globalization.

This volume is the product of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship at Calvin College in collaboration with Princeton Theological Seminary and the Center for Public Justice. The book's essays originated in a 1998 conference held at Princeton, co-sponsored by the Center for Public Justice, to celebrate the centennial of Kuyper's giving the Stone Lectures at Princeton.

You may order copies of the book from your favorite bookseller or from Eerdmans Publishing at 616-459-4591 or 800-253-7521; Fax: 616 459-6540; Email: sales@eerdmans.com.

Note: most book summaries come from the publishers' promotional material and should not be considered reviews.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARIHE appoints Van Harn part-time coordinator

On November 27, 2000, the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE)* met at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.

The first order of business was the appointment of Dr. Gordon Van Harn, former provost of Calvin College, as the part-time coordinator of ARIHE. It is felt that a coordinator is needed to follow up on decisions made at ARIHE meetings and to orchestrate the communal activities of the eight-member association. It is expected that Dr. Van Harn will serve very well in this new and important position. Van Harn can be contacted c/o Calvin College, 3201 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, phone 616-957-6669, fax 616-957-8551, email: vhar@calvin.edu.

Prior to the meeting the participants had received copies of two significant papers: "[Through the Needle's Eye: A North American Perspective](#)," delivered by Dr. Harry Fernhout at IAPCHE Conference 2000, and "[The Perils of Prosperity: Neo-Calvinism and the Future of Religious Colleges](#)," presented by Joel A. Carpenter at a conference on "The Future of Religious Colleges,"

held at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University October 6-7, 2000.** An interesting discussion took place, focusing on the identity and contribution of Reformed institutions in relationship to the larger higher educational community. Consideration was also given to the international scope of Christian higher education and how we can work more intentionally in support and encouragement of one another.

In addition to roundtable reports regarding developments at individual member institutions, reports were received concerning enrollment trends at Reformed colleges, ARIHE's involvement in the Administrator Education Program of Christian Schools International (CSI), and the implications of IAPCHE's 5/10 year plan for ARIHE.

The next ARIHE meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2001, at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL, USA.

*Member institutions are Calvin, Covenant, Dordt, Geneva, Institute for Christian Studies, Redeemer, the King's, and Trinity. Most ARIHE members are also institutional members of IAPCHE.

**Academic insert in this issue of Contact.

New journal to publish Conference proceedings

The Proceedings of the IAPCHE International Conference 2000 will be published as the premier issue of a new journal, *Christian Higher Education: A Journal of Applied Research and Practice*, edited by Dr. Barry Lumsden. IAPCHE Executive Secretary Dr. John B. Hulst is serving as guest editor of the Conference 2000 issue, to be distributed in January 2002. The proceedings will include revised versions of all conference papers and responses, including Dr. Bennie van der Walt's anniversary address, "IAPCHE, Our Past Heritage, Present Opportunity, and Future Challenge," Dr. Sidney Rooy's convocation address, "Education for Life: the Search for Wisdom in the Supermarket of Values," and the devotions by Dr. James A. De Jong. **A special advance order price of \$7.00 per copy is offered to all Contact readers. Please send a request and \$7.00 to the IAPCHE office to place your order.**

An Invitation to Retirees of Reformed Christian Colleges!

If the Lord has blessed you with health (appropriate to our age), and you are waiting for a challenge that will take you beyond your rocking chair or the golf course, then you, and your spouse if appropriate, are the people we seek to reach with this challenge.

Friends of Hilltop is an organization of volunteers, most of them with Nigeria experience, who have committed themselves, their time and their money to assisting a newly founded (1988) Reformed College with volunteer teachers, materials, and money for faculty and student scholarships.

You can help realize the dream of a strong Christian College in Nigeria. No matter what area of teaching, administration or other support staff ability, you can be of great service. A video of campus life and culture is available for your review. If you are interested in receiving more information, please contact one of us at the postal or e-mail address below. Join us in this Kingdom cause of assisting a struggling College located in an area of Nigeria where a Reformed mission witness has been present for fifty years.

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