# Clarion

THE CANADIAN REFORMED MAGAZINE

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## *Christchurch, New Zealand*

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**James Visscher**

# ICRC – Christchurch - 2009

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*We should be ready to step up to the plate*

On Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. on the South Island of New Zealand in the city of Christchurch a special prayer meeting will take place. Men and women from all over the world will gather together to pray for a blessing on the proceedings of the Seventh Assembly or meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (henceforth ICRC). On the next day, Friday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m. the conference will open. It is scheduled to last for five working days and to conclude on Thursday, October 22.

Now some of our readers may be wondering, "What sort of conference is this?" Thereafter others questions may surface as well: "What will be discussed there? Which churches will be present? What benefits does it produce? How often does it meet? What does it cost?"

## Background

Before attempting to answer these questions and others, a little history lesson may be in order. The actual beginnings of the ICRC can be traced back to the previous century. In 1980 an invitation went out from the Reformed Churches in The Netherlands (Lib) to Presbyterian and Reformed churches in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Korea, Scotland, and South Africa to come together in Groningen, The Netherlands from October 26 to November 4, 1982. The aim was to create a new international body which would bring together confessional Reformed churches from around the world.

Initially this invitation received lukewarm response from us. The Committee on Relations with Churches Abroad (CRCA) recommended to Synod Smithville 1980 that we only send observers and that the next synod make a decision about membership. Synod Smithville, however, decided on a more pro-active approach and delegated two ministers (namely the Revs. M. van Beveren and J. Visscher) to represent the interests of the Canadian Reformed Churches and to participate fully in the formation of this new international conference. As a result of this involvement, the Canadian Reformed Churches belong to the charter or founding members of the ICRC.

After the organizational assembly was held in Groningen, the inaugural meeting of the ICRC took place in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1985. Subsequent gatherings have been held in Langley (Canada) 1989, Zwolle (The Netherlands) 1993, Seoul (Korea) 1997, Philadelphia (the United States) 2001, and Pretoria (South Africa) 2005. Now it is on to Christchurch, New Zealand 2009 where the churches of the Conference will come together for the seventh time.

## Members

Who will be present? Many but not all of the names will sound familiar to the readers of this magazine. From North America, we have the Associated Reformed, the Canadian Reformed, the Free Reformed, the Orthodox Presbyterian, the Reformed Churches, the Reformed Presbyterian, and the United Reformed Churches. From Europe we have the Christian Reformed Churches of The Netherlands, the Evangelical Presbyterian Churches in England and Wales, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Reformed Churches of The Netherlands, the Reformed Churches of Spain, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. From Africa, we have the Confessing Reformed Church in Congo, the Free Church in Southern Africa, the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa, and the Reformed Churches of South Africa. From Asia, we have the Calvinist Reformed Churches in Indonesia, the Presbyterian Church in Korea, the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India, the Reformed Churches in Indonesia N.T.T. (GGRI), the

Reformed Churches of New Zealand, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North East India.

In addition to these member churches, eight other churches from around the world have requested to be received as members. Perhaps the names that are best known to us include our sister churches in South America, the Reformed Churches of Brazil and a neighbouring church in North America, namely the Heritage Reformed Congregations.

It should also be mentioned that a number of other churches are sending observers to the gathering. Many of these observers will be coming from churches that have connections to churches that are already members of the ICRC.

## *Missing*

When it comes to members, there are some names that we might expect to see on the list but who are absent. Two churches in particular come to mind. The first name missing is that of our sister churches in Australia, the Free Reformed Churches. Although they participated in the Constituent Assembly in 1982 and were present at the meetings of 1985 and 1989, they subsequently decided to withdraw due to the fact that their ICRC membership was causing a great deal of internal dissension. Needless to say, it is regrettable that they are not present and actively involved in the affairs of the Conference as they have much to contribute.

Another name not on the list is that of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Recently the Canadian Reformed Churches joined the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) and the largest member in that organization is the PCA. It too is in a position to make a major contribution to the Conference as it is known worldwide as a very active missionary church. Perhaps the other member churches of NAPARC can practice some gentle persuasion on the PCA.

## Agenda

What would a conference of any kind be without speeches? The ICRC is no different and has chosen as theme for the 2009 meeting: "The Vitality of the Reformed Faith." Rev. G.W. Knight III will speak on "Facing the Challenge of the Charismatic Movement." Prof. Dr. Nelson Kloosterman will speak on "Facing the Challenge of Individualism in Church Life." The Rev. Frank van Dalen will speak on "Facing the Challenge from Islam." Dr. Mohan


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Chacko will speak on "Facing the Challenge of the Asian Context." Each of these speeches will in turn be extensively discussed and hopefully supply much food for thought, as well as wise direction for the member churches.

In addition to speeches, the agenda includes numerous reports and workshops. A constitutional amendment will be debated and voted upon. Membership requests will be processed. In short, the talks will be many and the days will be long.

## The Canadian Reformed delegation

Synod Smithers 2007 instructed the CRCA to send a full delegation consisting of two voting delegates and two advisors to New Zealand. At the first meetings of the Conference our churches regularly sent a full delegation; however, at the last number of meetings the delegation was cut back. This was done partly for cost reasons and partly because we made use of the Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer, both of whom were from our churches. Thus the Rev. M. van Beveren in the past and currently the Rev. C. VanSpronsen (Secretary) have often been asked to assist the Canadian Reformed delegation. In addition, Mr. H.A. Berends (Treasurer) has been asked to do the same.

Upon reviewing this practice it was discovered that this approach did not work well. The two brothers mentioned above always have a great deal of work to do when the Conference is in session and thus cannot be at the beck and call of our delegates. Synod Smithers 2007 took due note of this and hence the mandate of the CRCA. The Committee in turn decided to send Br. H. Hoogstra and the Rev. Dr. J. Visscher as voting delegates and the Rev. R. Schouten and Dr. J. Vanderstoep as advisors.

## Work

But what have they been sent to do? Is it all about doing a little work and then about sleeping in, hobnobbing, and sightseeing? The reality is that it is all about meetings, meetings, and more meetings. In addition to the plenary and advisory committee meetings that have been organized by the Conference, there will also be a host of other meetings. The CRCA has instructed the designated brothers to meet with their counterparts from around the world: Brazil, Indonesia, Korea, The Netherlands, Scotland, South Africa, and the USA. No doubt other unexpected meetings will also take place. Indeed, here is one of the real advantages of the ICRC. It allows a delegation to make one trip and to have contact with many brothers from all over the world.

In summary then a gathering such as this is very useful for renewing old ties, making new contacts, hearing about each other's struggles, receiving calls for help, and making connections between churches. In addition, this international meeting also serves as an incentive to host more local and regional meetings of neighbouring members. Over the past years regional meetings of ICRC churches have been held in Asia, Africa, and Europe. It is to be hoped that the North American members will follow suit soon, perhaps in conjunction with NAPARC, building more bridges to one another and addressing issues of common concern.

## Beneficial?

Still, while all that has been mentioned thus far may be interesting, the question that some of you will be asking is this: "In what way does the ICRC benefit our churches? Is the time devoted to this Conference and the money spent on it truly profitable and worthwhile?" In other words, when it comes to organizations of this nature we are quick to ask the question, "What's in it for us?"

But is this the right question? A better question would be, "In what way is our membership beneficial to other churches?" As we look at the worldwide ecclesiastical scene in general and at the Reformed scene in particular, it does not take too long before one comes to the conclusion that, while we may be small, we have been richly blessed by the Lord.

Only, blessings never come without responsibilities. When we see how so many Reformed churches around the world exist and struggle in countries filled with poverty, sickness, and violence, we need to offer a helping hand. In addition, when we see them asking for instruction, seeking guidance, and needing encouragement, we should be ready to step up to the plate.

I would hope and pray that as churches we have enough Christian compassion in us and enough catholic vision as well to realize that our membership in the ICRC is not about "what can we gain?" but rather "what can we contribute?" The fact of the matter is that in our contributing, giving, and sharing with others there are not just blessings for them but blessings for us as well.

May the Lord our God see fit to bless the Seventh Assembly of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

**A. Pol**

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**MATTHEW 13:52**

# Reformation involves Transformation

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*
Romans 12:2a

Sometimes we need to look at our own culture through the eyes of others to learn to question what we do. When you are on a mission field, it's easy to tell converts to Christianity to break with heathen customs. But what about us in North America? What would a convert from a mission field think of how we sometimes uncritically adopt certain customs in our culture?

For many people nowadays, the end of October is memorable because of Halloween. Masks and costumes are prominent items in all sorts of stores. Many regard Halloween simply as a "fun time" for children. But what is the background of various masks and decorations featuring skulls, corpses, witches, and demons? Why at this time of year are so many people fascinated by the occult?

There are connections between Halloween and an ancient pagan Celtic festival called "*Samhain*" (pronounced "sah-wen"). It took place at the end of the harvest season on October 31, when people believed that the barrier between the dead and living was lifted. The dead could come among the living and damage the crops or cause diseases. People tried to ward off evil spirits with fires or to appease them with sacrifices. There were also those who tried to capitalize on the presence of such spirits for their own purposes.

As Christianity took root in various countries, questions arose as to what to do about various heathen customs and festivals. Should such things be banned, or should efforts be made to replace them or Christianize them? In the eighth century, the church attempted to supplant the pagan festival of *Samhain* by the celebration of "All Saints' Day," also known as "All Hallow's Day" on November 1. It was meant to commemorate the deaths of martyrs. On the evening before this, there was the vigil of "Hallowmas of All Saint's Day." That is where the present name "Halloween" comes in.

Instead of the heathen festival being eliminated, what happened was that many elements continued to compete with the Christian elements that the church had tried to introduce as a replacement. Now the original character of Halloween is becoming more and more prominent again. Because many people have turned their backs on the Christian faith, there is a growing fascination with what is demonic and occult.

Undoubtedly, both the heathen festival and the association with "All Saint's Day" on November 1 were reasons why Protestants after the Reformation rejected the celebration of Halloween. In North America, the Pilgrim fathers and people after them maintained this rejection. It wasn't until after the famine of 1846 in Ireland that immigrants from that country brought this celebration with them to our continent.

The Lord explicitly warns his people to stay clear of the heathen practices of the Canaanites (Deut 18:9-12). These practices included sorcery, witchcraft, the casting of spells, and other occult phenomena. Nowadays there is a sharp increase in these practices, coming to a climax on Halloween.

The world continues to try to suck believers into its mold. But Romans 12:2 calls us to resist this and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. When our minds are renewed, we learn to distinguish between what is worth maintaining and what should be rejected. Scripture warns against the powerful influences of heathendom, reminding us that there is no fellowship between light and darkness (2 Cor 6:14). "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you" (2 Cor 6:17b).

Instead of conforming to the worldly pattern of celebrating Halloween, how much better it is to focus on the transforming power of the Word of God! At this time of year, let us especially remember God's great gift in granting a Reformation to the church, a return to his Word and the doctrine of salvation by grace. Once again, his people learned to put on the God-given spiritual armour and struggle against Satan and his army of evil spirits.

Let us continue to treasure God's Word and praise Him for the continuation of his work throughout the centuries from the Reformation onwards. Because of his grace, there are still Reformed churches in the world that confess the sovereignty of God and uphold the authority of his Word. We may rejoice in this together and pass on the spiritual riches given to us. "Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown" (Rev 3:11).

**Wes Bredenhof**

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# A Heart Aflame with Zeal

## (Part 2 of 2)

In May of 1567, two Reformed pastors languished in a prison cell in Valenciennes (present-day Belgium). One was Pérégrin de la Grange, the other Guido de Brès, the author of our Belgic Confession. Despite the awful conditions, de Brès was able to write a number of letters. Last time, I began sharing the letter to his mother. It continues:

### Letter of Guido de Brès to his mother (continued)

Besides, he comforts me without ceasing in my struggles; he is a prisoner here with me. I recognize Jesus Christ my master. I see Him, as it were, enshackled in my irons and chains. With the eyes of my spirit I see Him locked up in my dark and gloomy prison. He promised me in his trustworthy Word to be with me to the end of my life. He says that when the least of his disciples is taken prisoner that that is He, Himself, saying "I was a prisoner and you visited me." He says to Saul, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" when Saul was persecuting the poor believers. But Christ says that it is He that is attacked. He said through his prophet Zechariah, "Whoever harms you harms the apple of my eye." What is more precious and more carefully guarded than the eye? And behold my Lord who says that the trials and afflictions which happen to me are done to the apple of his eye. O what a Master, what a Saviour my God has allowed me to find! Do you find many masters who speak thus of their servants? I don't believe so.

He is here with me with a multitude of angels, comforting and strengthening me and causing the words of his mouth to fall as a sweet melody upon my ears. He is saying to me, "I will give to those who overcome to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of my God. I know your tribulation and your poverty, but you are rich. You are blaspheming, you who claim to be Jews and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan. Do not fear the things which you have to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison." Then He says to me, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." O what comfort! My heart leaps within me when these words sound in my ears. It is not a liar or a deceiver who speaks thus, but it is the Son of God, the mouth without deceit, the infallible truth.

Being thus comforted, strengthened, and prepared by the divine consolation, I struggle in my chains, believing myself to be a thousand times happier to have a part and communion in the sufferings and afflictions of Christ, knowing that I am not suffering for

having done wrong or having extorted anyone. I have procured the salvation of all men; as much as it was in me, I have announced peace to everyone. And I do not suffer for anything else except for having preached Jesus Christ crucified for the salvation of men. And as witness to that, I call on the consciences of those who hold me shackled here as a criminal. I resolve to suffer for Christ, for the truth, for justice. I do so in the light of what St. Peter says about how the Spirit of the glory of Christ rests on me. I am contented. I am filled up with blessings. I am in need of nothing, since the Lord has filled me with blessing.

What shall I say then? God has allowed me to see the kingdom of his Son flourish in the land of my birth. Now that He calls me to rest, I can indeed heartily say with the old man Simeon, holding Christ as a newborn in my arms, "Now, Creator, let your servant depart, according to your promise." I am content to leave this mortal life to enter the rest of my God.

Well then, my dear mother, when you see me thus well prepared and cheerful, be content, and rejoice with me at the honour which God gives you. God gave you a son who preached his Word, although you intended to ask for one who would preach human doctrines. And as the crosses and persecutions easily accompany the Word of God, I am sharing in them. Do not find this strange, for whoever wishes to live faithfully in Jesus Christ will suffer persecution, just as St. Paul witnesses to everyone in 1 Timothy 3. Then be content.

God has allowed you to see all of your children married and you have seen their offspring. You have lived to a good age, and according to the course of nature, you will not have long to live after me. I am going on before and you will follow after me after you have lived out your days. One should not dwell on the sufferings of this present life or spend too much time contemplating them. All that only brings tears to the eyes and shakes up people. But it should be remembered that all of this passes quickly and the joy which follows afterwards will be eternal and permanent. And the persecutors are only heaping up for themselves the wrath of God which shall ruin and overcome them at the end. Don't you see that one generation passes and another comes? Thus everything passes lightly as the wind and the smoke; it is nothing that has any durability. The one dies today and the other tomorrow. The one dies one way and the other another. There is no happiness in this unstable and fickle age, except for those who build on the firm foundation which is Jesus Christ.

Put before your eyes the example of that virtuous mother mentioned in chapter 7 of the second book of Maccabees. She saw seven of her sons martyred in one day. She saw them die a very cruel death, the tongue cut out, the arms and legs cut off, then being roasted in a kettle over the fire. She saw the pitiful sight before her eyes and she showed a truly courageous heart, comforting and strengthening her children so that they could endure death for the Law of God. And when the youngest showed signs of being stirred by the promises of the tyrant, she again encouraged him to suffer and to go the way of his brothers, telling him that he was giving his life and his body for the Law of God, and that he would be raised up in the resurrection.

That reminds me of reading in church history about the great persecutions. There was this time when the poor Christians were gathered outside of some city to hear the Word of God. There was a certain governor who had been sent to put to death these poor faithful ones. Now as this governor was on his way to execute his wicked commission, word came to the ears of a faithful and true Christian woman. She ran quickly with her baby in her arms to join the gathering. Now as she came to the soldiers of the tyrants, she pushed her way through. The governor saw her hurrying and asked her where she was going in such haste. She promptly responded that she was going to join the gathering of Christians. He said to her, "Haven't you understood the charge and the commission which was given to me to put all these people to death?" She responded, "Yes, I have and that is why I am hurrying, so that I may be so fortunate as to suffer with the others." Then he asked her, "And what will you do with this little child?" "I am taking him with me," she said, "that he may also share in the crown of martyrs with the others." The tyrant was broken-hearted at the words of this woman and returned to his master without executing his task. Behold, that was definitely a heart marvellously aflame with zeal for

## Church News

Called by the church of Denver, Colorado, USA, and Surrey, British Columbia:

**Rev. T.G. Van Raalte**

of Winnipeg (Redeemer), MB.

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New Minister for Abbotsford:

**Rev. Roelf C. (Karlo) Janssen**

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the love of God – it was a heart worthy to be held up as an example for all women.

It reminds me again of another mother and her son at the time when Romain was martyred. When he was asked to adore some images, he said loudly and clearly in a public place that he adored only one God through Jesus Christ his Son and that this doctrine was so certain and true, that if they would ask a young child of seven years who was not preoccupied with any particular affection, he would say this same thing. So they took a small child of about seven years age and Romain asked him saying, "Come here, my son. Should we worship many gods, or should we worship God through Jesus Christ?" The child answered him, "Among us small children, we know that there is only one God." Then the tyrant sent for the mother, and whipped the little child in the presence of his mother. The child asked for a drink from his mother. She responded to him, "Alas, my child, I have nothing from which to give you a drink. But go my son, drink from the cup of martyrs with the little children which Herod put to death." Then the child was beheaded.

Such examples are worthy to be held before your eyes and all faithful mothers so that they will not resemble the mother of the sons of Zebedee. She presented her two sons to Christ, but it was so that they might be great before the world. "I would, Lord," she said, "that my two sons should be seated, the one at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." Now she meant an earthly kingdom. But Jesus Christ said, referring to the cross, "Can you drink of the cup which I must drink?" In so saying, He was showing that to enter into his kingdom, the cross and sufferings serve as steps, just as Christ suffered and then entered into glory. Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of heaven.

And now, my good mother, I beg you to show yourself as a virtuous woman in your afflictions and bear patiently and joyfully this trial that God has sent you, knowing that it is the good will of God against which no one can resist, even if He would. Live the rest of your days in the fear of God, remembering me, and how I served my God till death.

I commend to you always my poor wife and my little children so long as you live in this world. They are losing their father in their tender youth. I pray the Lord my God with all my heart that He will be their compassionate and merciful Father, and that He will give them his Holy Spirit in their childhood, and cause them to walk in his fear all the days of their life. I ask Him without ceasing to give me this blessing and that He would also bless my poor widow and show his favour to her always. I am glad that she has gone with the children to Sedan – this is to me a little solace and peace of mind. And when she is far away from you and my brothers, I beg you all not to forget her, but take care of her along with the little ones.

I pray the Lord my God that He will fill you with all his graces and heavenly blessings, confirm you in all good things, until He receives you in his blessed kingdom with all his true children. I commend you to God and to the Word of his grace, which is powerful to strengthen you and gives an inheritance among all the saints. Farewell, my mother, farewell, my good mother. May the Lord comfort you in your tribulation.

May 19, 1567. By your son, who loves you dearly, Guy de Brès, prisoner and enshackled for Jesus Christ the Son of God.

## Concluding thoughts

A lot could be said about what de Brès writes in this last part of the letter. Let me just mention a couple of points. In Article 6 of the Belgic Confession, de Brès affirmed that the "church may read and take instruction from" the apocryphal books. In this letter he mentions what may be learned from 2 Maccabees 7. Interestingly, de Brès mentions the apocryphal books quite a number of times in his other writings.

His use of 2 Maccabees is historical and that ties into the second point, which is his deep awareness of church history. To comfort his mother, he was able to appeal not only to the Scriptures, but also to what God had done in times past with other martyrs. The events that he mentions seem to be rather obscure – at least, I have not been able to track them down. But that probably says more about our impoverishment when it comes to church history than it does about de Brès. He knew the church fathers and the early history of the church in a way that puts many twenty-first century pastors to shame.

Some day we will have an opportunity to meet de Brès in person. I for one am looking forward to it. Here was a man who grew up Roman Catholic but eventually was gripped by God and his grace in Jesus Christ. He was so gripped that he was willing and able to give up his life on a scaffold on May 31, 1567. What a testimony to God's mercy and power! No praise for man here, only for God. That's who de Brès would want us to glorify.

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Note:

The text of the letter is found in *Procedures tenues a l'endroit de ceux la religion du pais bas* (Geneva: Jean Crespin, 1568), 367-388. There is an English translation available *(Procedures Held With Regard To Those of the Religion of the Netherlands)*, but it is of poor quality. I have worked with that translation, correcting and improving from the original where necessary.

**Eric D. Bristley**

# Reading Calvin

*Eric D. Bristley is associate pastor of the Covenant Reformed Church, Grass Valley, CA*

The Calvin 500 has brought a new harvest of books by and about Calvin. Though the Calvin lover relishes this feast, others may feel lost. After you blow out the five hundred candles, where should you begin? What are some of Calvin's key writings and what are the best books to read about him? Here is a brief guide for getting started.

Calvin was an extremely prolific writer. His Latin writings fill fifty-nine large volumes in the collection *Corpus Reformatorum*. Many of these have been translated into English and some have gone through numerous editions. But the *Institutes* and his commentaries are only a portion of Calvin's work. He penned hundreds of sermons, letters, and treatises.

To keep from being overwhelmed, one might begin by reading Calvin in small doses. *365 Days with Calvin,* edited by Joel R. Beeke (2008), provides selected readings from his sermons and commentaries. *Calvin's Wisdom: An Anthology Arranged Alphabetically* (1992), provides us with select quotations. Devotional books tap into the marrow of Calvin's spirituality such as *Heart Aflame: Daily Readings from Calvin on the Psalms* (1999), or *Thine Is My Heart* (2006). An older volume by Dillenberger, *John Calvin: Selections from His Writings* (1971) provides a nice anthology.

## The *Institutes*

If you have not done so already, read Calvin's *magnum opus* – a theological feast – which, if you take it all in, is guaranteed to make you a Calvinist. This renowned work is one of the classics of the Christian church and the best statement of Reformed theology. It consists of four divisions: I. The knowledge of God the Creator, II. The knowledge of God the Redeemer in Christ, III. The mode of obtaining the grace of Christ, and IV. The external means or helps by which God allures us into fellowship with Christ, and keeps us in it.

Four Latin editions were published during Calvin's lifetime with the definitive edition issued in 1559. In English we are privileged to have not one, but four translations. First translated by Thomas Norton (1561), then by John Allen (1813) and again by Henry Beveridge (1845-46). A critical modern edition was given to us by Ford L. Battles (1960). Battles' is the scholarly edition while the Beveridge, the most common, can be obtained inexpensively in one-volume (2008, Hendrickson). The first edition (1536) is also available in a Battles translation (1995), and we even have a English rendering of the 1541 French edition (2009).

Numerous attempts have been made to abridge this work with varying success, but it is best to read it intact. For those needing a reading companion, *A Theological Guide to Calvin's Institutes* edited by David Hall and Peter Lillback (2008) or Battles' *Analysis of the Institutes* (1980) may fit the bill. But there is one little gem that will help the newbie. A reprint of an old work by R.C. Reed, *The Gospel as Taught by Calvin* (2009), gets to the heart of Calvin's theology. You might also peruse Robert Reymond's *John Calvin: His Life and Influence* (2004), J.H. Merele d'Aubigne, *Let Christ be Magnified: Calvin's Teaching for Today* (2007), or John Piper's *John Calvin and His Passion for the Majesty of God* (2008).

A plethora of recent Reformed authors unpack Calvin's message in *John Calvin: A Heart for Devotion, Doctrine, and Doxology* (2008). Joel Beeke's book *Living for God's Glory: an Introduction to Calvinism* (2008), provides a comprehensive survey of how the Reformer's thought can influence every area of our lives.

## Biographies and letters

To investigate the man himself, pick one of these biographical studies. Beza's sketch was first and begins volume one of Calvin's *Tracts and Treatises*. The best short bio is Thea Van Halsema's *This Was John Calvin* (1959), which is also excellent for younger readers. Specially designed for children is

the sixty-three page offering by Simonetta Carr (2008). For the ladies, we commend the novel *Idelette* (1963), wife of John, written by Edna Gerstner, wife of John. Three small works merit attention: Jean Cadier's *The Man God Mastered* (1960), E. Stickelberger's *John Calvin* (1931), and T.H.L. Parker's *Portrait of Calvin* (1954). A new study by Robert Godrey, *John Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor* (2009), gives insight into Calvin's life and teaching. A different tack is taken by M. van den Berk, who writes portraits of those near to Calvin in *Friends of Calvin* (2009).

A new release already receiving resounding acclaim is *John Calvin: A Pilgrim's Life* (2009), written by church history professor Herman Selderhuis. Paul Helm calls it a "blast of fresh air" among Calvin biographies.

Earlier works that reflect varying degrees of appreciation and liberal bias are T.H.L. Parker's standard work, *John Calvin: A Biography* (1975) and William J. Bouwsma's *John Calvin: A Sixteenth-Century Portrait* (1988). Among the older works in the German Reformed tradition is a translation of Paul Henry's two volumes, *Life and Times of Calvin* (1849). If you read French, Emile Doumergue's monumental seven-volume *John Calvin, The Man and His Times* (1899-1927) will probably never be surpassed.

We can get up close and personal with our reformer if we take the time to study his letters, such as the small paperback, *The Letters of John Calvin* (1980, Banner of Truth). Advisor of princes and nobles, counselor of pastors and theologians, comforter of distressed believers, Calvin demonstrates his skill as a pastor of pastors, his insight into people, and his zeal for the kingdom of Christ. About 4,000 letters were collected in the Brunswick edition. About 600 of these were published in English (1855-57). Banner of Truth has released a nicely bound set, which includes these, in *Tracts and Letters of John Calvin* (2009).

## Sermons and commentaries

No one will fully value Calvin if they have not read his expositions of Scripture. Calvin was eminently a preacher of the Word of God. Two studies by T.H.L. Parker on *Calvin's Old and New Testament Commentaries* (1986) make this abundantly clear. His work on *Calvin's Preaching* (1992) is complemented by a recent study from the pen of Steven J. Lawson, *The Expository Genius of John Calvin* (2007). Herman Selderhuis has given us another study, *Calvin's Theology of the Psalms* (2007), which explores the heart of his God-centeredness.

Many of Calvin's sermons have been reprinted in facsimile form or in updated English. Banner of Truth is to be commended for providing us with his sermons on *Ephesians* (1973), *Second Samuel* (1992), *Galatians* (1996), *Songs of the Nativity (2008,* Luke 1-2), *Acts of the Apostles* (2008), facsimiles of *Timothy and Titus* (1983), *Deuteronomy* (1987), and *Job* (1993). A different set of sermons on *Job* (1952) includes a succinct essay on Calvin's preaching by Harold Dekker. Other collections include *Sermons on the Deity of Christ* (1950), *Isaiah 53* (1956), *The Ten Commandments* (1980), *Micah* (2003), and the *Beatitudes* (2006). We are indebted to the band of Calvin translators for all they've made available to English readers.

Calvin is reckoned "among the best interpreters of Scripture since the Apostles left the earth" (Bishop Hall) and considered the greatest exegete of the Reformation. His commentaries cover the larger part of the Old Testament and the whole of the New Testament (except Revelation). Older English translations of Calvin's commentaries kept in print by Baker, were first produced by the Calvin Translation Society (Edinburgh, 1843-1855). In the 1960s Eerdmans linked up with Scottish publisher Oliver and Boyd to release a new version of the *New Testament Commentaries*, edited by David and Thomas Torrance, devotees of Karl Barth. Under the editorship of Douglas Kelly and others, similar work on *Calvin's Old Testament Commentaries* was begun in the 1990s. An updated version of selected commentaries on various Old and New Testament books is the part of the Crossway Classic Commentaries, edited by Alister McGrath and J.I. Packer.

## Theological and polemical treatises

If you are now ready to dig deeper into Calvin and mine the gems of his profound theology, you will want to obtain the seven-volume set mentioned above, *Tracts and Letters of John Calvin* (2009, Banner of Truth). This set is a perfect addition to your library of Calvin's commentaries. In its pages you will find *Reply to Letter by Cardinal Sadoleto* (1539); *Against Pighius* (1543, on free will); *An Inventory of Relics* (1543, a satire); *The Necessity of Reforming the Church* (1544); *Acts of the Council of Trent with the Antidote* (1547); *Treatise on Scandals* (1552, on Protestant divisions); *Defense of the Faith Concerning the Sacraments in Answer to Joachim Westphal* (1555, against radical Lutheranism).

Calvin's catechetical writings may be his own best introduction to his thought. His *Instruction in Faith* (1537) was translated by Paul T. Fuhrmann (1949), while *Calvin's first Catechism* is treated by I. John Hesselink (1997). Another small outline of the Christian faith, written by Calvin when he was twenty-nine, is called *Truth For All Times* (1998). A reliable translation of *The Eternal Predestination of God* and *A Defence of the Secret Providence of God* by Henry Cole appeared under the clever title, *Calvin's Calvinism* (1856, 1987). A lesser known work entitled *The Bondage and Liberation of the Will: A Defense of the Orthodox Doctrine of Human Choice against Pighius* was written by Calvin in 1543 (1996). *Concerning Scandals* received a facelift in the 1978 edition by John W. Fraser and Benjamin Farley translated *Treatises Against The Anabaptists And Against The Libertines* (1982).

If you have followed us to this point, you will have some idea where to start in taking your first taste of Calvin or, if you are a seasoned Calvin reader, what new offerings to enjoy in this memorial year.

**George van Popta**

*Rev. G.Ph. van Popta is minister of the Canadian Reformed Church at Ottawa, Ontario*
gvanpopta@gmail.com

# Canticles

This canticle, a versification of Revelation 11:15-18, was set to the tune of Psalm 2 of the *Genevan Psalter*. The themes are so similar, the tune readily suggested itself.

## The Kingdom

Revelation 11:15-18

Genevan 2 Strasbourg, 1539/Lyons, 1548

1. The kingdom of the world has now become
the kingdom of our Lord and His Anointed.
Our God will reign forever without end.
The cath'lic church fell to the ground and wor-shipped.
She said, "We give You thanks, Lord God Almighty,
the One who was and evermore shall be.
For You have taken all of Your great power
and have begun to reign eternally.

2. "The nations were enraged against You, Lord.
Your wrath then burned against them very fiercely.
The time has come for judging all the dead
and for rewarding all who served you tru-ly.
You will acknowledge all Your faithful prophets –
Your saints, both small and great who fear Your name.
Those who destroy the earth will face destruction,
but you will save us and exalt Your fame."

© 2009, George Ph. van Popta

Otto Bouwman

# Reformed Bible College: Lectures on Idolatry throughout Scripture

On May 12, an opening lecture was delivered by Rev. Ken Kok to about twenty-five people in the Abbotsford Canadian Reformed Church building. Under the direction of the Reformed Bible College in the Fraser Valley, Rev. Kok embarked on a series of lectures, in which he unpacked the theme of idolatry through Scripture. He began by explaining that man is, by nature, a worshipping creature. As G.K. Chesterton observed, "When we cease to worship God, we don't worship nothing; we worship anything." Idolatry is the most comprehensive explanation of unbelief, because either we worship the God who has revealed Himself in his Word, or we worship a god of our own making. A better knowledge of Yahweh as He has revealed Himself leads to a clearer understanding of whom and how we worship. During this introductory first lecture, our speaker introduced the general topic to us. One issue he dealt with, for example, relates a curious paradox about idolatry: are idols real, or are they imaginary? Of course, he assured us, idols are both real and purely fictional.

During the second session two days later in the Willoughby Heights Canadian Reformed Church, Rev. Kok provided a historical overview of idolatry. Beginning with the beginning was important to our speaker, so he first provided an excursus on the Bible and the Ancient Near East. The first chapters of Scripture provide not only a clear account of world history, but also reveal so many patterns of structure and thought that have much to do with worshipping the Creator rather than worshipping the created. In the beginning, God formed and filled this earth. Then He assigned man, as his image-bearer, to continue that forming and filling task. Before long, man had rebelled against being that image-bearer, and this resulted in death, destruction, and, by the beginning of the second book of the Bible, slavery and servitude of God's chosen people.

The third lecture, on May 19, continued with the theme of idolatry, beginning with the Exodus, and carrying on with Israel's journey through the wilderness and beyond. The speaker made it abundantly clear that the golden calf of Exodus 32 was by no means an isolated event as far as idolatry is concerned; it was simply another clear example. Idolatry again became repeatedly evident later in Israel's history, not just with Jeroboam's golden calves, but the prophets made continued references to the similarities between the idolatry/adultery of the entire nation.

God's punishment against idolatry, through the exiles, became clear during our fourth session together. How can God's people keep themselves from idolatry? Rev. Kok presented worship as the biblical answer. He quickly resurveyed the Old Testament, this time demonstrating how God had instituted worship, especially in the tabernacle and temple, as the way to ensure that God's children keep themselves from idols. He then went on to the gospels and demonstrated how Jesus is the true tabernacle/temple. Jesus is the God-given answer to idolatry, as we find in Hebrews1:3: "And he is the radiance of his glory and the exact representation of his nature, and upholds all things by the word of his power. When he had made purification of sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

The Apostle Paul's interactions with the theme of idolatry were the focus of the fifth lecture. Dealing with material from both the letter

of Acts and then also from the Pauline epistles, Rev. Kok demonstrated that idolatry was again a central theme that Paul had to deal with. For example, when Paul describes unregenerate man in Romans 1, the bottom line is that man "exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever." Ultimately, all sin is idolatry, because all sin involves worshiping and serving the created rather than the Creator.

The last lecture, delivered on May 28, was used to tie many threads together. The last book of Scriptures, Revelation, demonstrates how the idols are defeated; they are thrown down and defeated. Yet God's people continually need instruction about the need to stay away from idols, because of our tendency to worship the creature rather than the Creator.

The lecture series, attended by twenty to thirty people each evening, gave evidence of a speaker who has a vast knowledge and understanding of Scriptures. The feedback given by participants was very positive; this lecture series had certainly led to an increased appreciation of the depth of Scriptures. As we learned more, we all realized how much more there was yet to learn.

**George and Nancy VanDelft**

# Farewell to Rev. Moesker

Six years ago the congregation in Vernon were eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new minister and family in February of 2003. Finally the day came and Rev. Moesker, his wife Christina, and their four children, Marsha, John, Julia, and James, moved to Vernon. We were so thankful to our Heavenly Father for once again providing us with a shepherd, pastor, and teacher.

Rev. Moesker was a gift to us as a congregation, as Sunday after Sunday we were comforted, encouraged, and admonished with the truth in the preaching of God's Word. During this time we went through many different experiences together as minister and congregation. By going through these times our personal relationships grew closer and, most importantly, our relationship grew closer to the Lord.

## Farewell sermon

On July 12, 2009 we heard Rev. Moesker's last sermon as God's faithful servant here in Vernon. His text was 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 with the theme: "Living for the future. We need to be self-controlled, armoured, and edifying." We were encouraged to look into the future; looking forward to the Lord's return is the real meaning of the past and the

Photo credits: Hetty DeWit

present. We need to be busy with God's Word and prepare for Christ's coming. In this last sermon Rev. Moesker encouraged the congregation to put on the armour of hope, faith, and love. We were encouraged to keep up our devotions and faithfully attend the worship services. We have no idea when Christ will return and we do not need to know. Instead, we need to always look ahead and live towards the goal of Christ's return; on that day we will see each other once again in the New Jerusalem.

When the sermon was over, we sang praise to God with "Come Lord Jesus Maranatha." As minister and as congregation we look forward eagerly to the Lord's return and we know that this is the real meaning of our past and present life.

## Farewell evening

In connection to Rev. Moesker and his family moving to Owen Sound, a potluck dinner and a farewell evening took place on July 18. We all had a wonderful time together with Rev. Moesker and his family.

The farewell evening was opened with prayer and then various members gave speeches. The seniors in our church appreciated and expressed their thanks for the times that Rev. Moesker and Christina gave to them when they needed visits and encouragement. In the letter from the council, we heard how Rev. Moesker was a very hard worker in all areas involving his task as our minister and pastor. It was noted that the catechism students thoroughly enjoyed going to catechism classes. Thanks were also expressed to Christina for being a very supportive wife of Rev. Moesker, as she went on many visits to members in the congregation with her husband. It was also noted that she took care of him when she felt he needed to have some relief from his duties and would ensure that he had the needed time to rest.

Both our retired minister, Rev. C. VanSpronsen, and Rev. J. Reaves from the United Reformed Church in Kelowna expressed their thanks to Rev. Moesker for being a faithful servant of God and for his valued friendship. Rev. Moesker was told that the congregation could easily have sat under his preaching here in Vernon well into his own retirement years. Rev. VanSpronsen assured everyone that Vernon was a wonderful place to retire, as it is such a beautiful area to live. Everyone was told that Rev. Moesker was the glove that fit the hand; this could only mean that Rev. Moesker was the right man for the task here in Vernon.

A letter was read from the church in Yarrow, in which they expressed their best wishes to the Moesker family as they move to their new home in Owen Sound. There were humorous stories and a song that involved everyone's participation. We also enjoyed a power point presentation, in which there were photos of different events that took place over the past six and a half years.

Marsha's Friendship Society also gave a speech expressing their thanks to Rev. Moesker for his work. A photo album was given to Rev. Moesker, Christina, and Marsha, full of pictures and stories about the life here in Vernon with Marsha and her caregivers. The caregivers also expressed their thanks to Rev. Moesker and shared the fact that Marsha was loved by all and will be dearly missed. Marsha, too, has been a blessing to the entire congregation.

The Moesker family was given gifts from the council and congregation in appreciation for all of the work done. It is the congregation's prayer that the Moeskers will soon feel at home in their new home in Owen Sound. And we do hope that they will often come to visit us here in Vernon.

## Press Release of Classis Contracta of Classis Central Ontario September 3, 2009

Br. W. Horsman, on behalf of the convening church Burlington-Waterdown, called the meeting to order. He read Psalm 111 and led in prayer. He requested the brothers to join him in singing Psalm 111:1 and 3.

The credentials were examined by the Burlington-Waterdown delegates. They reported that three churches were lawfully represented: Burlington Ebenezer, Burlington-Waterdown, and Flamborough. Rev. D. Vandeburgt was present as a guest.

Classis Contracta was constituted. Rev. Jan DeGelder was appointed as chairman and elder W. Horsman as clerk. The provisional agenda as prepared by the convening church was adopted.

The only item on the agenda was the approbation of the call to Rev. D. Vandeburgt by the church at Burlington-Waterdown. In accordance with Articles 5.B, 5.C, and 9 of the Church Order the following supporting documents were presented:

The letter of call to the Rev. D. Vandeburgt, including financial arrangements.

1. The letter of acceptance from the Rev. Vandeburgt.
2. A certificate of the honourable release of Rev. Vandeburgt from the church at Glanbrook.
3. An attestation of conduct and doctrine for Rev. Vandeburgt from the church at Glanbrook.
4. The letter of the honourable release of Rev. Vandeburgt from Classis Ontario West.
5. A declaration from the church at Burlington-Waterdown that appropriate announcements were made to the congregation regarding the acceptance of the call by Rev. Vandeburgt and that no objection was raised.

All documents were found to be in good order and Classis approved the call to Rev. Vandeburgt.

Classis appointed Burlington-Ebenezer to represent the churches of this classis at the installation service.

Censure according to Art. 34 C.O. was found to be unnecessary. The Acts and Press Release were pre-approved. The chairman spoke some words of congratulations to the delegates of the church at Burlington-Waterdown with the acceptance of the call and wished the church at Burlington-Waterdown and the Rev. Vandeburgt God's blessings. He then closed the meeting with prayer.

*For the Classis Contracta of Classis Central Ontario,*
*W. Horsman, clerk at that time*

## Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg on September 25, 2009

1. On behalf of the Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver, the convening church of the September 25, 2009 classis, Br. R. Bruintjes called the meeting to order. He asked the brothers to sing Psalm 87:1, 5, read Psalm 84, and led in prayer. He then welcomed all present.
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers of the convening church and reported to be in order.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
   a. Chairman: Rev. J. Poppe
   b. Vice Chairman: Dr. A.J. Pol
   c. Clerk: Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer.
5. Rev. Poppe thanked the Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver for the preparations involved in convening Classis. He mentioned that since the last classis the Denver congregation extended a call to candidate Ryan DeJonge, which was declined. He also wished the church at Denver the Lord's guidance and blessings in their continuing search for a pastor. Dr. A.J. Pol was also congratulated on receiving the degree of Doctor of Ministry since the last classis. The agenda was adopted after some adjustment.
6. There were no fraternal delegates.
7. The report from the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches was received and it was noted that due to an increase in membership in the church at Denver, less support is needed. The suggested amount for supporting the church at Denver ($28 per communicant member) was approved. The Church for Auditing the books of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches reported that the books were found to be in order. The amount recommended by the Committee for Students of Theology as per Art 20, C.O. ($25 per communicant member), was approved. The Church for Auditing the books of the Committee for Students of Theology reported that the books were found to be in order. The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries reported on their activities. A deputy represented the churches of classis at the OPC Presbytery meeting at Volga, South Dakota, September 23-24, 2008, and also attended the RCUS Northern Plains Classis, March 2-3, 2009, in Pierre, South

Dakota. Attention was focused on home mission activity undertaken in Watertown, South Dakota, since the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg could benefit from how the work in Watertown is being undertaken. A letter of greetings was sent to Classis Central US, since the deputies were unable to attend several classes due to prior commitments and the long distance. Classis decided that if a deputy is not available to attend, at their recommendation someone else could be mandated to represent the churches of Classis Manitoba at such an assembly.

Br. T. Beijes led in intercessory prayer for the churches with which we have fraternal relations.

The Church Visitors reported in closed session on their visit to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church at Denver on August 14, 2009. Br. R. Buist led in prayer for the church at Denver after this report.

8. The Grace Canadian Reformed Church submitted a proposal for amending the Regulations for Classis Manitoba. This led to amendments to Article 4.B.7 of the Regulations to ensure that fraternal delegates are invited to the fall classis and otherwise to the spring classis if they are unable to attend the fall classis. The description of the role of the deputies for contact with neighbouring classes/presbyteries as formulated in several other articles of the Regulations was also fine-tuned.
9. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. The Redeemer Church of Winnipeg requested advice and it was given in closed session.
10. There was no speech by a fraternal delegate since there were none present at this classis.
11. Correspondence: None.
12. Appointments.
    a. The convening church for the next classis is the Grace Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg. The classis is scheduled to be held on December 4, 2009. Alternate date: March 26, 2010.
    b. The suggested officers for the next classis are:
        i. Chairman: Rev. R. den Hollander
        ii. Vice-chairman: Rev. J. Poppe
        iii. Clerk: Dr. A.J. Pol.
    c. Classis made various appointments. They include the following: Br. H. Veldman continues as classis treasurer. The following brothers were chosen as delegates to the upcoming Regional Synod, November 3, 2009: Rev. den Hollander and Dr. A.J. Pol as primary delegates, and Rev. J. Poppe as alternate. The elders R. Buist and B. Raap were chosen as primary delegates, B. van Beek as first alternate and T. Veenendaal as second alternate.
13. Personal question period was held.
14. No censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
15. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.

The chairman requested that the brothers sing Psalm 84:3, 4 and led in closing prayer.

*For Classis Manitoba*
*September 25, 2009*
*A.J. Pol*
*Vice-chairman at that time*

*Out of consideration for our older readers, many of whom do not have computers or Internet access,* Clarion *has decided to keep on printing Press Releases. We do ask the writers of these Press Releases, however, to give some thought as to how they write them. Please keep them brief and informative.*

# Clarion Advertisements

**Advertisements:**
Announcements of Weddings, Anniversaries (with Open House) should be submitted six weeks in advance.

## Births

*Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*
*Psalm 100:3*
With thankfulness to the Lord, we announce the birth of our precious son

**NOAH MALACHI SMITH**

Born April 25, 2009, weighing 8 lbs 3 oz.
He is joyfully welcomed by his family:
**Harold and Elizabeth Smith**
and his two siblings, *Joanna* and *Simon*
Proud Grandparents: Willem and Roelie Smith - Belwood, ON
Bill and Joanna Vanderpol - Surrey, BC
18602 - 60 Avenue, Surrey, BC V3S 7Z8

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*I sing for joy at the work of Your hands. Psalm 92:4*
With thankfulness to our heavenly Father, we joyfully welcome our first child, a daughter

**CHLOE RAEANNE**

Born July 17, 2009
**Tim and Janet Trommel (nee DeBoer)**
Cloverdale, BC

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*He remembers His covenant forever… Psalm 105: 8a*
On August 20, 2009 the Lord blessed our family with the birth of another covenant child, our daughter and sister

**WHITNEY LEANNE**

With gratitude to God for this wonderful blessing,
**Ron and Jeanette Werkman**
*Adam, Erin, Kelsey, Mallory* and *Dana*
18th grandchild for Gus and Freddie Veenendaal
17th grandchild for Jake and Irene Werkman
51 Brewster Bay, Winnipeg, MB R2C 2X2

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*The Lord has done great things for us. . . Psalm 126:3a*
Rejoicing once again in God's goodness and grace, we announce the arrival of our son

**LOGAN MATTHEW**

September 14, 2009
**Jason and Linda Tenhage**
Welcomed by big brothers *Owen, Zach* and *Noah*
A grandson for Bert and Jane Tenhage and
Albert and Nelly VanSydenborgh
7688 Regional Road 20, RR 1, Kimbo, ON L0R 2A0
jasontenhage@gmail.com

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord.*
*The fruit of the womb is a reward. Psalm 127:3*
With great thankfulness to our Lord, we are pleased to announce the birth of our son

**MATTHIAS PAUL FLACH**

Born on July 25, 2009
A brother for *Henrietta, Johanna, Elizabeth, Caroline, Thomas* and *Sean*
**Theo and Michelle Flach**
63rd grandchild for John Medemblik
20th grandchild for Arie and Clasina Flach
620 Orangeville Road, Fergus, ON N1M 2X8

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*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.*
*Psalm 139:14-15a*
With great joy and thankfulness to our Heavenly Father who has made all things well, we are excited to announce the birth of our firstborn, a daughter

**RACHEL BROOKE**

Born August 24, 2009
**William and Shawna Gortemaker**
6th grandchild for Curtis and Wendy Raap
12th grandchild for Bill and Grietje Gortemaker
191 Holly Drive, Oakbank, MB R0E 1J2

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*Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His.*
*Psalm 100:3*
With much joy and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father for the miracle of new life, we announce the birth of

**TRISTAN HAAYE BIJLSMA**

Born August 25, 2009
**Andy and Felicia Bijlsma**
*Seth*
28 Parkside Street, Drayton, ON N0G 1P0

---

*I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14*
With praise and thanks to the Lord we joyfully announce the birth of our daughter

**AMY JESSICA**

Born September 6, 2009
**Ben and Karen deJong**
a sister for *Shaun* and *Riana*
14th grandchild for Harry and Marian deBoer
5th grandchild for Anne and Jitske deJong
2 Landon Crescent, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 0E3

# BIRTHDAYS

## *Happy 90th Birthday*

**GEERTJE GELDERMAN – nee Buit**

1919 ~ November 16 ~ 2009

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*
*3 John:4*

The Lord has richly blessed her, she is a tremendous blessing to our family.
There has been sadness in her life, but also much joy.
First and foremost on her mind and in her prayers is the faith life of her family.
All her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have a
cross-stitch made especially by her.
She still enjoys good health and is very thankful to be a resident in
Manoah Manor, Langley, BC.
We love you Mom, Grandma, and Oma.
We pray that God will richly bless you as you continue on life's journey.

*Chilliwack, BC:* Henry and Hilda Gelderman (Sikma)
*Gerald* and *Carol Gelderman (Sherwin)*
Tessa
*Ken* and *Karen Gelderman (Schouten)*
Bradley, Kimberly, Steven
*Kathy* and *Kurt Louwerse*
Kayla, Vanessa, Miranda, Joanne, Rueben
*Karen* and *Ken Krabbendam*
Michelle, Megan, Julianna, Jordon
*Gord and Alisa Gelderman (Schouten)*
Benjamin, Melissa, Deanna, Carolin, Zachary
Nick and Sieta Lieuwen (Oostenbrug)
*Dan* and *Joanne Lieuwen (Buitenbos)*
Corey, Shane, Deanna, Joel, Jared, Kaylee
*Debbie* and *John Lof (Lieuwen)*
Jenae, Justine, Tyson, Krista
*Darrell* and *Alisa Lieuwen (Slomp)*
Jessie, Carson
*Darlene* and *Lawrence Hayward*
*David* and *Angela Lieuwen (deVries)*
Kegan, Cole

*Coaldale, AB:* Betty and Sid Oostenbrug
*Juliet* and *Henry Nieuwenhuis*
Jaclyn, Michelle, Kurtis, Kevin
*Wayne* and *Laura Oostenbrug (Huttema)*
Jordan, Amanda, Derek, Bradley, Vanessa
*Mark* and *Irene (Gritter)*
Mitchell, Jamie-Lynn, Melissa, Rachel, Nathan
Wilma and Dirk DeVries
*Loretta* and *Henry Baker*
Brienne, Alec, Saige, Avery
*Darren DeVries*
*Val* and *Doug Leffers*
Warren, Emerson, Cohen, Jaren
*Carolyn* and *Charles VanAssen*
Taneesha, Jaicelene, Uniece

*Langley, BC:* Diny and John deHaas
*Rose* and *Ron Wiegers*
Sheryl, Anthony, Evan, Brittany, Ryan
*Patricia* and *Dan MacKay*
Grant, James, Darren, Danika
*Richard* and *Gwenda deHaas (Penninga)*
Tyler, Justin, Ian, Connor

*Falkland, BC:* Chris and Jerry deJong

*Chilliwack, BC:* Trudy and Gord Huebert
*Theresa Huebert*
*Brandon* and *Chelsea Huebert (Kampen)*
*Jeremy Huebert*
*Chelsea Huebert*

*Langley, BC:* Liz and Al Hendricks
*Kevin Hendricks*
*Crystal* and *Devon Dykstra*
*April Hendricks*
*Bruce Hendricks†*
*Rachel Hendricks*
*Jenna Hendricks*

*Coaldale, AB:* Dave and Irene Gelderman (Hofsink)
*Ryan* and *Carolyn Gelderman (Van Leeuwen)*
William, Amber
*Robby Gelderman†*
*Tania and Brad Slingerland*
*Nicole Gelderman*

Loved ones who have been promoted to Glory
Husband: Willem Gelderman 1991
Daughter: Henny Lieuwen 1993
Grandson: Bruce Hendricks 1991
Grandson: Robby Gelderman 1998

*Mailing Address*
#202 - 20265 54A Avenue, Langley, BC V3A 3W6

## Birthdays

*Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek Him with all their hearts. Psalm 119:2*

With thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for giving us such a good example in our mother, and for keeping her safe all these years we celebrate the 80th birthday of

**ALI GELDERMAN (de Olde)**

on November 10

We pray that God will continue to bless her.

*Freelton, ON:* Hank and Jacoba Gelderman
*Caledonia, ON:* *Valerie and Scott Stevenson*
Conall
*Waterdown, ON:* *Michelle and Nathan Helder*
Keziah
*Listowel, ON:* *Aileen and Les Brouwer*
James, Janelle, Hannah, Caleb
*Lynden, ON:* *Jan and Stephanie Gelderman*
Veronica
*Freelton, ON:* *Ben Gelderman*
*Charlottetown, PE:* Gertrude and Solke De Boer
*Richmond Hill, ON:* *Philip and Roze De Boer*
Nathan, Melanie, Matthew
*Hamilton, ON:* *Michael and Vanessa De Boer*
Jaxen
*Charlottetown, PE:* *Stanley De Boer*
*Newark, UK:* *Brian De Boer*
*Abbotsford, BC:* Albert and Sylvia Gelderman
*Neal and Alisa Gelderman*
Matthew, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Lydia
*Jonathan and Jennifer Gelderman*
William, Annaliese
*Lynden, WA* *Lindsay and Mark Reimers*
*Coaldale, AB:* *Robert Gelderman*
*Abbotsford, BC:* *Amber Gelderman*
*Mark Gelderman*
*Olivia Gelderman*
*Flamborough, ON:* Harry and Yolanda Gelderman
*Justin Gelderman*
*Brandon Gelderman*
*Melbourne, AU:* *Tyler Gelderman*
*Flamborough, ON:* *Nathan Gelderman*
*Sheldon Gelderman*
*Burlington, ON* Janetta and Bob Howson
*Three Hills, AB* *Carolyn and Jeff Gordon*

You are invited to join us at an Open House on
Tuesday, November 10th from 2 to 5 pm at
Evergreen Terrace, Unit 412, Grimsby
*275 Main Street E, Unit 412, Grimsby, ON L3M 5N8*

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## Weddings

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

With thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, we
Peter and Margaret Aikema and Henry and Limmy Hulleman,
joyfully announce the marriage of our children

**SUZANNE MARGARET AIKEMA**

**and**

**HENDRIK JAN HULLEMAN**

The ceremony will take place, the Lord willing,
on November 14, 2009 at 11 AM in the Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church in Burlington, Ontario.
Rev. G. Nederveen officiating.
*Future Address:*
#511-3020 Glencrest Road, Burlington, Ontario L7N 2H2

## Wedding Anniversaries

### *50th Wedding Anniversary*

1959 ~ November 18 ~ 2009

*I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalm 146:2*

With thankfulness to our Heavenly Father we are to announce the 50th Wedding Anniversary
of our dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

**RALPH and HENNIE BOSSCHER (nee terBurg)**

Their thankful children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren:

*Burlington, ON:* John and Edith Bosscher
*Stephen* and *Trish, Michael,*
*Joshua* and *Andrew*
*Burlington, ON:* Alice and Robert Smouter
*Ancaster, ON:* *Rachel* and *Herman VanVeen*
Carter, Hannah and Gideon
*Cambridge, ON:* *David VanderVeen*
*Burlington, ON:* Grace and Norman Plantinga
*Christopher* and *Taryn, Timothy,*
*Natalie, Kathryn* and *Samuel*
Jane and Henry Vos
*Benjamin, Leanna* and *Emily*
*Owen Sound, ON:* Henry and Carolin Bosscher
*Nathan, Joel and David*
*Burlington, ON:* Henriette and Darren Crewe
*Kaitlyn, Sarah* and *Jacob*
Gerda and John Hordyk
*Leah, Alexis and Olivia*
Rolean and Marc Williston
*Kenzie, Jessica* and *Maxwell*

To celebrate this special occasion an Open House will be held, D.V., Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 2-4 P.M.
at Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church
607 Dynes Road, Burlington, ON

295 Pine Cove Road, Burlington, ON L7N 1W1

# Teaching Positions

**WANTED – TEACHER(S)!**
**Covenant Canadian Reformed School** operating a K-12 private school in Neerlandia, AB, is in need of

**ELEMENTARY/PRIMARY TEACHERS**

and has a potential for a Teacher-Vice Principal.
We offer a competitive salary and benefits package to the qualified applicant, based on qualifications and experience. Salary is dependant on education and experience and ranges from $43613 - $71680 per year.
A qualified applicant will be: a dedicated professional, eager to serve the needs of covenant children, a team player, a member of the Canadian Reformed Church (or sister church in the United States, Australia, South Africa, or the Netherlands), and ideally have an Education degree acceptable for Certification by Alberta Education. English proficiency is required.

**TEACHERS AIDE(S)**

Covenant Canadian Reformed School is committed to meeting the needs of all students and is in need of a Teachers Aide for the remainder of the 2008-09 year and for the 2009-10 year, with possible extensions.
Salary is dependant on educational level achieved and experience, ranges from $12.50/hr - $19.50/hr, is based on 32-40 hrs/wk, and is reviewed annually. A benefits package, with medical, dental, and pension plan, will be available to Aides beginning in September 2009.
A qualified applicant will be: a dedicated professional, eager to serve the needs of covenant children, a team player, a member of the Canadian Reformed Church (or sister church in the United States, Australia, South Africa, or the Netherlands), and ideally have 1-3 years of post secondary experience – preferably in Education. Proficiency in English is required.

For further information, please contact:
**Mr. H. Van Delden**
Phone: 1-780-674-4774 or 1-780-674-3704 or hvd@xplornet.com
Submit applications to
**Covenant Canadian Reformed School**
Attention: G. Mast
Box 67, Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0

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Due to the forthcoming retirement of our current principal, the Board of **Credo Christian Elementary School** is seeking a new

**PRINCIPAL**

effective September 2010.
Credo Christian Elementary School is situated in Langley, BC and has a student population of 162 students enrolled in grades K-7, with 10 full-time and 4 part-time teachers, 3 teacher assistants and a learning assistance program.

For further information about this position or to receive an application form, please contact:

**Mike Stam** (Board Chairman)
Phone: 604-514-9805
Email: msstam@shaw.ca
**Troy VanBostelen** (Search Committee Chairman)
Phone: 604-607-7264, email: troy.vanbostelen@kiewit.com

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The board of **Tyndale Christian School** of Calgary, Alberta, Canada invites applications for the positions of

**KINDERGARTEN / GRADE 1 TEACHER**
**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER**

Tyndale Christian School currently offers grades 1-10, with an enrolment of 56 students, 4 full-time staff, and 1 teacher's aide.

Alberta enjoys substantial funding from the provincial government, allowing us to maintain a low student/teacher ratio. Having recently expanded our facilities and initiated a high school program, we are seeking energetic individuals to help us expand our program offerings. We are specifically looking for a high school teacher (any disciplines, but science/math preferred) as well as a teacher for a combined K/1 class, both for the 2010/11 season and beyond.

If you would like further information about these opportunities, school operations, or Calgary living; please contact either of the following:

**Dr. David Schriemer,** Board Chair
Home: (403) 293-4770, dschriem@ucalgary.ca
**Mr. Ed Hoogerdyk,** Principal
Home: (403) 285-4680, ehoogerdyk@efirehose.net

Applications can be sent to:
Eric Veenendaal, Secretary of the Board
6124 18 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 1P1
eric.veenendaal@gmail.com

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## *Guelph School Initiative*

Guelph, Ontario and the surrounding region has been experiencing tremendous growth within our Reformed communities over the last number of years. This growth has led to a very crowded situation in the current Maranatha Christian School in Fergus, Ontario. The Lord has blessed us greatly in that we have already acquired a school facility, and as such we are happy to announce that, the Lord willing, we will be opening our doors on a new Guelph Christian Elementary School in September of 2010!

With a new venture such as this, new teaching opportunities are created! The school has a projected enrollment of over 90 students in the first year of operation, running grades K-8. As a result, we will be looking to fill openings for:

**PRINCIPAL**
**K-8 TEACHERS – COMBINED GRADES**

For more information on our new school initiative, please go to www.guelphschoolinitiative.com.

For any individuals interested in more information or in applying for either a Principal or teaching position please contact:

**Brad Vanderwoude** (Board Vice-Chairman)
Phone: 519-502-4221, bradvdw@sympatico.ca
**Kevin Oostdyk** (Education Committee Chairman)
Phone: 519-763-7182
E-mail: kevin.oostdyk@nielsen.com

*Mailing Address:* 108 Forest Street, Guelph, ON N1G 1H9

The board of the **Owen Sound Canadian Reformed School** invites qualified applicants for the positions of

**PRINCIPAL/TEACHER**
**TEACHER**

for the 2010/2011 school year.
Our school has a student population of approximately 50 students in grades 1-8. Class sizes are small.
The school is located minutes from the bustling and historic city of Owen Sound. The city is nestled on the escarpment and the southern shores of Georgian Bay. It boasts many attractions: beautiful parks, trails and waterfalls, museums, art galleries, quaint shops and great restaurants.
Diverse outdoor activities are at your fingertips throughout the seasons: swimming, boating, hiking, camping, skiing, snowshoeing. . . the possibilities are endless!
If you would like further information about the positions available and/or the area, please contact:
**Mr. Henry Bosscher (Board Chair)**
phone: 519-371-6241
email: hbosscher@hotmail.com or
**Mrs. Melissa Kruisselbrink (Education Committee Chair)**
phone: 519-371-9263
email: tkruiss@hotmail.com

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**Bethel Books**, 274 McNaughton Ave. E., Chatham, ON N7L 2G8
For books about ***Genesis*** please see *Clarion* Sept. 11, 2009, page 474
For ***Schilder Preserver of the faith*** see *Clarion* Sept. 11, 2009, page 474
For ***My Rock and Salvation*** (daily devotional) by Rev. C. Vandervelde, please see *Clarion* May 22, 2009, page 271.

## *Ministry to the Muslims*

The congregation of Zion U.R.C. of Sheffield, Ontario, believes that the Lord has opened up an exciting opportunity for the advancement of His Kingdom spreading the gospel to the Muslim community in the Toronto metropolitan area.
The consistory of Zion invites applications for the position of a

**FULL TIME MISSIONARY**

to take on this challenge.

**Qualifications for the Applicant:**

- Must be an ordained Pastor, or eligible for the ministry in a Reformed church that upholds the Three Forms of Unity and/or Westminster Standards.
- Must be familiar with the Islamic faith and practices and enthusiastic to learn more.
- Must be self motivated and have a passion to bring the Gospel to Muslims.

Please submit your resume along with a statement of faith to:
**Zion URC – Sheffield**
Attention: Calling Committee
E-mail: callingcommittee@zurch.ca

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*For further information contact:*
***Rosanne van der Woerd***
109-3260 New Street, Burlington, ON L7N 3L4
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Email: rvanderwoerd@sympatico.ca

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**Friday, November 6, at 8:00 p.m. – Combined Hosanna Choir and Mattaniah Choir**
Grace Community Church
3500 New Holland, Hudsonville, Michigan – 905-628-1211

**Friday, November 13, at 8:00 p.m. – Mattaniah Choir**
Emmanuel Reformed Church
401 Rossland Road West, Whitby – 905-668-5551

**Friday, November 27 at 8:00 p.m. – Mattaniah Choir**
St. Thomas Anglican Church
99 Ontario Street, St. Catharines – 905-892-6391

**Friday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. – Combined Hosanna Choir and Mattaniah Choir**
Ebenezer Free Reformed Church
253 Weirs Lane, Dundas – 905-628-1211

**Monday, December 7, at 7:45 p.m. – Hosanna Choir**
Rehoboth United Reformed Church
77 Glancaster Road, Ancaster – 905-648-3170

**Friday, December 11 at 8:00 p.m. – Mattaniah Choir**
Knox Presbyterian Church
59 Riddell Street, Woodstock – 519-424-9037

**Saturday, December 12 at 8:00 p.m. – Hosanna Choir**
Mountainview Christian Reformed Church
290 Main Street East, Grimsby – 905-628-1211

**Saturday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. – Combined Hosanna Choir and Mattaniah Choir**
Hamilton Place
1 Summers Lane, Hamilton – 905-678-1211

*Check out our websites for information on concerts and our CD collections.*
hosanna-choir.org and mattaniah.org

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**Job Requirements:**

- Enthusiastic, self-motivated, innovative, and responsible individual with an interest in building and expanding program(s) to enrich the lives of individuals with special needs.
- Education and/or experience in the field of personal support work and/or developmental disabilities would be an asset.
- Interest and ability to provide personal support to individuals with special needs.
- Skills in administration, supervision of staff and/or community programs are an asset.
- Membership in a Canadian Reformed Church or United Reformed Church is required.
- Competitive salary and benefits and opportunity for further education.

Seeking applications for the full-time or part-time positions of:

## DIRECT SERVICE WORKER (Day Program)

Reporting to the Program Director the Direct Service Worker is responsible for providing personal support to individuals with disabilities in pursuing their vocational, recreational, and social goals.

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**Job Requirements:**

- Enthusiastic, caring, responsible, and independent individuals with an interest in facilitating a challenging and learning environment for individuals with special needs.
- Education and/or experience in the field of personal support work and/or developmental disabilities would be an asset.
- Interest and ability to provide personal support to individuals with special needs.
- Membership in a Canadian Reformed Church or United Reformed Church is required.
- Competitive salary and benefits and opportunity for further education.

Applications can be sent via mail at the address below or by e-mail to info@cornerstoneccs.ca.
Inquiries may be made in confidence to Tyson Kamminga at (204) 269-6986 or Jody Kuik at (204) 222-7310.

***Cornerstone Christian Care Society, Inc.***
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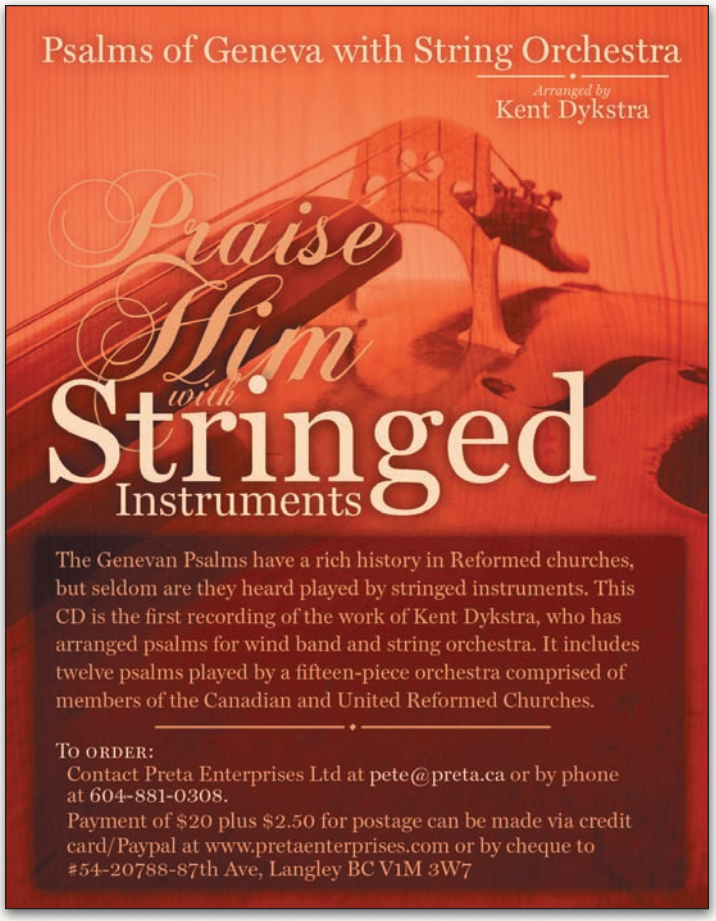
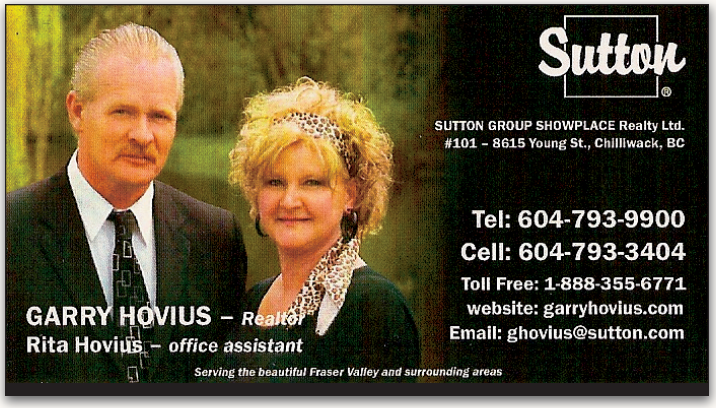
info@cornerstoneccs.ca



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