



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

As you read this Newsletter, the first semester of the 2013-2014 academic year is coming rapidly to a close. The first practice teaching placements will be a thing of the past, and final exams will signal the end of the first semester...



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and yet, it does not seem all that long ago that we met for the first time this year, eager to begin a brand-new year of teaching and learning. Still thinking about the 450th Anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism, we focused on the first petition *Hallowed be your name* wondering what it might mean in a real way for all of us as we go about our tasks at Covenant Teachers College. Together we examined LD 47, and did so against the backdrop of Psalm 8. We thought about the gift of Reformed education, and how we can celebrate the freedom we still have to operate our schools on the basis of God's Word. We also prayed for our most recent group of alumni: Hermien Aarnoudse, Carina DeJong, Heather Homan, Madelyn Poort, Christine Vanderveen, and Carol-Ann VanAndel who could each begin a teaching career on that very same day – and for Sarah Boot who is continuing her studies. In a similar but slightly different way we could welcome Mr. Keith Sikkema, who joined the faculty as a full-time lecturer. Indeed, we enjoyed a beautiful, comforting, and promising start to a new academic year.

The exciting beginning formed a true picture of what this year has proven to be: Filled with activity and positive energy on the part of students and teachers alike. Once again, we are blessed with an eminently qualified team of colleagues (Rev. Douwe Agema, Mme Teresa Boisvert, Dr. Wes Bredenhof, Mr. Allard Gunnink, Miss Judy Kingma, Mr. Paul Leistra, Mr. Keith Sikkema, Dr. Deanna Smid, and Dr. Christine van Halen) who together form a pedagogical circle around our sixteen full-time students – ably assisted by Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa, librarian, and Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede, administrator.

In addition to the regular classes and course work, the Fall Semester allowed for different forms of learning. Our participation in the organization of the Fourth International Conference of Reformed Education under the theme “Leading Learners to Discipleship” proved to be a most worthwhile experience for all involved. At a post-conference meeting of international guests hosted by the College, it became clear that such international conferences are important because “we



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need each other as educators in Reformed schools both on a personal and system level to further the cause of teaching our covenant children. We are bound by a confessional faith and together speak the truth in love. We can learn from each other’s strengths. International dialogue and conference attendance undergirds the reformed focus of our identity and provides opportunity to reflect on the uniqueness of each child and the creative and innovative curriculum delivery models used around the world – Brazil, South Africa, Europe, Australia, and North America.”

Our College community could benefit from the presence of a Brazilian educator, Br. Elias Barbosa da Silvo, who is the Principal of the Escola Cristã João Calvino in Maceió. Br. Elias gave a wonderful presentation to our students and faculty when he provided us with a glimpse into the school and gave us an excellent overview of the geographical and cultural context in which this faithful instruction takes place.

The full-time faculty had the opportunity to meet with two representatives of

the Gereformeerde Hogeschool in Zwolle, our sister institution of teacher education. It was good to deepen our contact and connections in this way. Internationalisation forms an important part of the Dutch educational system, and our Canadian context embraces a similar approach at the post-secondary educational level.

Indeed, the first semester of this academic year has passed by very quickly with blessings too many to count. Our God is good! At Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College we give thanks to Him for giving us a supportive network of school communities and individuals. We pray that in the light of God’s providence, we all may continue to live and work as pupils of Christ (*Belgic Confession Art 13*). *Soli Deo Gloria*.





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FRANK C. LUDWIG

RUNNING

ON ALL CYLINDERS

“ – as engines need horsepower in order to click along on all cylinders, so we need manpower in order to function at top form in all sectors.

Using analogies is always somewhat of a risky business, since very few fit the picture entirely. In this case then, I'll limit it only to the well-known fact that if an engine is not running on all its cylinders, it will not operate as effectively as it was meant to do, and sooner or later, more serious breakdowns will occur – perhaps even leaving passengers in the vehicle stranded.

Without being alarmist, CCRTC, as currently constituted, could be compared to such a vehicle. Some parts are functioning extraordinarily well, but at the same time a few of the “internal parts” are sputtering a little due to insufficient power. Let me stop being coy and very bluntly put the matter the way it is – as engines need horsepower in order to click along on all cylinders, so we need manpower in order to function at top form in all sectors.

The College is made up of a Board and a series of Committees which are together responsible for the smooth operation of the educational task being conducted here. The function of the Board is to set policy, the Committees work out the details of the policies, and the Faculty and Administration implement them... and all of that depends upon committed manpower to make it happen.

The front line of that structure is the most visible and best-known to the community, consisting as it does of the full and part-time faculty, as well as the administration. Each of those is fronted by names and faces that are familiar to us, and anyone with a little bit of knowledge of the College, namely Dr. C. van Halen-Faber and Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede. But there is a whole ‘cast of characters’ backing up those faces at the front, and that is where some of the challenges lie.

The Board itself, especially the Executive Committee, and some of its other committees, are understaffed. Let me provide some details in order to clarify the matter:

Executive Committee – is lacking a Vice-chair, a position that has been vacant for two years already. The person occupying that spot should be training



to take over for the Chairman, after that person has served for two years. While the one is empty, the other cannot move on as intended. The current past-chairman should be moving on, after already having served longer than he should have.

Program and Personnel – can be thought of as the “education committee” of the College. Since many of the members of the executive committee serve here also, the challenges listed above impact here as well.

Finance and Fundraising – The Treasurer had fulfilled his obligatory term as of the last Annual General Meeting held on March 1, 2, 2013. He is still serving in that role, despite many other obligations, because no replacement can be found.

Public Relations Committee – is currently without a chair, as the last person to hold that position felt compelled to give it up due to numerous other commitments.

Property Committee – has the requisite number of members, but seldom can meet with all present, and is usually left with all the work that it ideally should only be planning and supervising.

Information Technology Committee – is running on all cylinders, to stick with our analogy.

Governance and Handbook

Committee – consists of a core of three very hard-working members, all of whom have been there for a long time, working at the important task of policy development according to a very specific format.

Ad Hoc Committees

Recognition and Accreditation Committee – fully staffed, but short term, working on creating a plan for the next AGM (2014) respecting the requirements to be met for possible accreditation of the College.

Faculty Search Committee – working on, as the name implies, recruiting faculty for the future. Membership is drawn from the Executive Committee, PPC and current faculty.

Hopefully the point has been clearly illustrated. Not only are we in need of additional manpower, but several of those presently serving are in their retirement years – so not only are we looking for more, but also younger, blood. By the time you read these lines, hopefully you will already have noticed an appeal in your local church bulletin addressing this same matter. Have you given it some thought? Might YOU be the person that is being addressed here? Or do you know, especially

Western readers, someone geographically within reach of Hamilton, who has the talent, the passion and the time to serve? Why not contact and talk to that individual.

To all my readers, please give this some serious thought, and if the finger then points at you, please take some action. The workers of the first hour are in many cases gone, and many of those remaining are growing old(er) and (more) tired. It is time for a new generation to step forward, to supply the power so that the engine can be ‘revved’ up and the vehicle move forward at a vigorous pace.

On behalf of the College community, I may say that we look forward to being reinvigorated. If you are the one to help, don’t hesitate to call or e-mail. Your contact will be treated confidentially.

**(905) 957-3111 or e-mail:
fcl@sympatico.ca**



“ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. EPHESIANS 6:1-18

REPRESENTATIVES

MaryAnn Vanderstoep.....**ABBOTSFORD**
 Rose Woudenberg.....**ANCASTER**
 Diane Feenstra.....**ATTERCLIFFE**
 Gertie VanLuik.....**BRAMPTON**
 Karen Vandeburgt..... **BURL/WTRDWN**
 Angela Blok.....**CARMAN**
 Rachel Vandersluis.....**CLOVERDALE**
 Amanda Poppe.....**COALDALE**
 Jennifer Vanderveen.....**CHATHAM**
 Annette Kelly.....**DUNNVILLE**
 Jackie DeBoer.....**ELORA**
 Wendy Koster.....**FERGUS NORTH**
 Betsy Kingma..... **FERGUS MARANATHA**
 Erica Nienhuis.....**FERGUS MARANATHA**
 Brenda Bartels.....**FLAMBOROUGH**
 Kim VanEerde.....**GRANDVALLEY**
 Robin Westrik.....**GUELPH**
 JoAnn Vanlperen.....**GRASSIE**
 Wilma Vanderwoude.....**GLANBROOK**
 Karen VanderLaan.....**HAMILTON**
**CORNERSTONE**
 Arlene Leffers.....**HOUSTON**
 Mrs.J.Pieterman.....**KERWOOD/LONDON**
 Joanna DeBoer.....**KERWOOD**
 Yvonne Jacobi.....**LANGLEY/W.H.**
 Adria Stulp.....**LINCOLN**
 Debbie Johnson.....**LYNDEN**
 Elizabeth Smith.....**OTTAWA**
 Joanneke Kottelenberg.....**ORANGEVILLE**
 Glenda Kapteyn.....**OWEN SOUND**
 Hetty VanderGaag.....**SMITHERS**
 Beth Stel.....**SMITHVILLE**
 Michelle Faber.....**SURREY**
 Amanda DeBoer.....**TORONTO**
 Mary Alkema.....**TINTERN**
 Charlene VandenAkker**WINNIPEG-GRACE**

This was the text that we listened to as our chairwoman opened our last WATCH meeting. We remembered that we must take our helmets and swords everywhere we go, and also pass on this vital truth to our children.

WATCH is privileged to be able to serve the CCRTC in its work of training teachers to guide, teach and nurture our children as they grow to serve our Father in Heaven.

A number of new reps have joined our ranks for which we are so very thankful. All of our reps have been busy collecting funds as well as doing a touch of PR work as they pass on snippets of CCRTC news to their congregations via the bulletin. Perhaps in this small way we can keep the Teachers College in everyone's minds.

We thank God for the generosity of our brothers and sisters across the country. With the help of the WATCH reps, we were able to present the College with \$4,000.00 at the graduation in May. More kitchen items have been purchased. Audio-visual equipment is on the wish list as well, but research is ongoing for this item.

We have a very large thank you to deliver. Julie DeHaan has served on the WATCH board for ten years. She started as a member at large, and quickly became chairwoman. She has kept all our meetings organized, and motivated us all to keep up the work in a timely fashion. Thank you so much Julie for everything that you have done for WATCH and the CCRTC. You have been a tremendous blessing for us all. May God continue to bless you as you serve in other ways!

Thank you to everyone for your support of WATCH via prayers and donations.

In order to send a donation, please contact Alina Noot.

With Christian Greetings,

JANET VAN VLIET (CHAIR) 289.286.0695

ALINA NOOT (TREASURER) 905.574.0490

ELEANOR BOERINGA (CCRTC LIAISON) 905.304.3912

JOANN VAN IPEREN (SECRETARY) 905.309.1178

BETH STEL (MEMBER AT LARGE) 905.957.6353



from the finance committee ARCHIE BAX

Teaching children is an awesome responsibility, as is the training of those who teach children. The College addresses this by preparing those who aspire to teach as well as providing in-service training for those already in the profession.

To grow up and live as a Christian, following a biblical world view, is challenging to say the least. The secular world is almost overpowering in declaring its principles through the various channels. You may well recognize some of the messages: "I'm worth it". "Winning is everything". "He who has the most toys wins". "What's in it for me?" "I have a right to"... "I have the right or freedom of choice". The basic principle being that I am my own god and I decide what is right for me.

Contrast this with a biblical worldview which says: God is the almighty creator of the universe, including man, who He made in his image. Man rebelled against God. God made redemption possible by sending His Son to earth as a human being and He paid the penalty for man's sin in full. This redemption is freely given to His chosen ones out of grace. We are called to praise and worship Him with our whole being – thoughts, words, deeds, possessions. We are to show the fruits of the Spirit.

Given this difference it is clear that it is important to have the College so that this biblical worldview can be supported and taught effectively in our schools.

Now for some practical aspects: the College did not receive sufficient donations and tuition income to meet

the expenses in the 2012-2013 school year. The shortfall was about \$39,000. We thank the Lord that he had provided modest surpluses in the previous two years and we did have the funds in the bank to cover the shortfall. However, this year the College has additional funding requirements primarily due to

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the increase in faculty from 3 full-time to 3 ½ full-time members. This is the largest portion of the (approximate) 13% increase in the funding requirements or about \$70,000. So this year we need to raise \$109,000 more than last year to meet budget. We ask your help financially in this matter as well as your prayers that we may be granted the means to continue our work for the school community.

I also note that Board and committee members often are familiar faces from other kingdom activities. The other observation is that these people have often been involved for a long time. So I encourage everyone, particularly younger people, to consider getting

involved in the College, possibly at the committee level for starters. Volunteer work at the College provides definite skills development in areas such as team building and team member skills, communication, collaboration, leadership and management. Why not get involved?

Sometimes we hear comments like "Why do we need to support this because we don't benefit from it?" I am sure that if you look closely you will discover benefit from the College in either Pre-Service or In-service programs. But there is another perspective that needs to be considered. The measure of value has been warped in today's society. With all the emphasis on maximizing profits or quarterly dividends and meeting analyst's expectations we are conditioned to instant results, snap decisions and high monetary ROI. But what we are considering here is not about you, but about your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren. The cycle time between a decision and a result in matters of education and biblical world view is measured in decades or generations. So in our decisions we need to be aware of the long, as well as the short term consequences.

We pray for the Lord's continued guidance and encouragement to be applied to the faculty as well as the volunteers and supporters of the College, so that the work of developing the educational skills of teachers, further equipping them to effectively teach from a biblical worldview, may continue and be enhanced.

Thank you for your support.



Three public lectures by Dr. Deanna Smid and guests
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450th Anniversary of Shakespeare's birth

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