

INTRODUCTION

The year 2008 started with the traditional conference at the beginning of January, consisting of a general membership meeting and an academic gathering. During the meeting two new board members were elected: Govert Buijs, a member of the faculty of philosophy at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, and Mathilde Blok, a business administrator who will be the new treasurer. We are very happy with these enthusiastic new members, who will introduce themselves later in this edition. This meeting was followed by a stimulating lecture by Dr. Jonathan Chaplin. In the afternoon several members of the Association held workshops on varying subjects, for example on Aristotle and on the relationship between Jewish thought and Reformational Philosophy. Other workshops were on more current themes: such as the on present-day, climate related pro-

blems, and an ethical reflection on enhancement. There was also a workshop on the new study book on philosophy of technology called *Denken, ontwerpen, maken*. Coming March a symposium will be held on the occasion of the publication of this book. The afternoon taught us that Reformational Philosophy can be a fruitful method of analysing the problems of modern times.

On behalf of the board,

*Albert-Kees Geljon,
member of the board for
international contacts.*



DEVELOPMENT IN REFORMATIONAL THOUGHT IN BRAZIL

SOME TIME AGO GUILHERME DE CARVALHO AND RODOLFO AMORIM, BOTH FROM BRAZIL, WERE PRESENT AT THE CENTRE FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE NETHERLANDS TO SEE HOW THEY CAN APPLY THE AVAILABLE KNOWLEDGE AND CONTACTS TO FACILITATE REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY IN BRAZIL. IN THE SECTION BELOW GUILHERME DE CARVALHO WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THEIR EFFORTS IN ATTAINING THIS GOAL.

“If I were to summarize our efforts, I would say that our challenge regarding reformational thought is the creation of a Christian intellectual community in Brazil. There is a growing evangelical community in Brazil and we do have some theological contacts, but Christian reflection in our country is pretty well restricted to the *pistical sphere*.

Ironically, my involvement with reformational thought started from my theological work. Some years ago, as a professor of divinity at a local College, the inevitability of philosophical underpinnings in the theological discourse became clear to me. Starting from Francis Schaeffer’s ideas, I discovered neo-

Calvinism and Herman Dooyeweerd, specifically, to be a mature and articulated way for Christian thinking.

My partner Rodolfo Amorim walked quite a different road, but when we met, in 2004, we were in the same boat. Rodolfo’s vision was to start a L’Abri community in Brazil, whereas mine was to start a more academic association for reformational studies. Finally our projects merged: presently we are both L’Abri workers in Brazil and members of the staff of AKET – *The Kuyper Association for Reformational Studies*.

Let me summarize what happened after our meeting:

in 2005 we helped some friends to start a small network of people and associations for social transformation with the help of the neo-Calvinist paradigm. In the beginning of 2006 a group of university professors and students founded AKET in Belo Horizonte, with me as president. In July of the same year, we organized the Second Congress of the Network, dealing with social and political theory, Christian mission and reformational thought. The outcome of the congress was the publication of a book (*Cosmovisão Cristã e Transformação: Razão, Espiritualidade e Ordem Social*. Viçosa: Editora Ultimato, 2006). The book won the "Areté" prize for best book on apologetics of 2007, from the *Brazilian Association of Christian Editors*.

Another outcome of this congress was our journey to Europe for nine months of study at English and Dutch L'Abris in 2007 – Rodolfo, my family and I – with the goal to start a *L'Abri Resource Center* in Brazil. At the same time we initiated with the same editor of the prized book a project for a series of reformational philosophy studies in Portuguese: three or four Dooyeweerd translations, an origi-



nal Brazilian introduction and a collection of contextualized studies. I had already started to write this basic introduction in 2006. Rodolfo translated *In the Twilight of Western Thought* into Portuguese in 2007, and we reached an agreement with the friends of The Herman Dooyeweerd Foundation for the publication of the books. Already in Brazil, we formed a technical commission for revising the translations, and started the translation of *Roots of Western Culture*, expecting the release of this work before the end of 2008.

Our plans now include the building of a reformational research library in Belo Horizonte (for what we already received some help from the Association for Reformational Philosophy and from Redeemer College), the releasing of an electronic journal for reformational and transdisciplinary studies and the creation of a series of resources (papers, video lectures, et cetera) for

supplying the Brazilian evangelical student community with reformational perspectives for academic disciplines. And we will accomplish that, God willing, with His grace."

Guilherme V. R. de Carvalho,
AKET President



GENERAL MEMBERS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The general members conference of the Association for Reformational Philosophy was held on January 12th in Ede. At this well-attended meeting two new board members were elected: Govert Buijs and Mathilde Blok, who, as the successor of Joop Haak, will be responsible for the financial administration. The 'plan of activities' was also discussed and approved. This plan entails a detailed elaboration for the year 2008 of the policy program 2007-2011 *Verdiepen en verspreiden*. The following targets have been named especially as focal points for the coming year: establishing and maintaining special chairs at Universities; lecturing at HBO institution and organising activities like study groups, courses, classes and conferences.

The Foundation no longer has special chairs at Utrecht and Groningen, yet at the same time the possibilities are being examined to establish special chairs at the universities where there is no professor of Reformational Philosophy at the moment.

Local curatorial committees are being formed around the current chairs to facilitate the embedding of the chairs within the universities. Members are professors, assistant professors and student all with a strong affinity for Reformational Philosophy. This year these special curatorial committees will be established at Technological University of Twente and the Agricultural University of Wageningen. The courses Rethink in Utrecht and Groningen will also be continued this year.

Reformational Philosophy does not only want to be present at the universities, but also at the Colleges. Therefore a study will be made for the possibility of establishing lectors at these institutions for higher education.

To further develop communication the website will be renewed. This will be financed by the Stichting Bijzondere Projecten (Foundation for special projects). Also the possibilities concerning the online publication of *Philosophia Reformata* will be evaluated.

PRESENTING: GOVERT BUIJS

AT THE GENERAL MEMBERS CONFERENCE HELD ON THE 12TH OF JANUARY, DR. GOVERT J. BUIJS WAS ELECTED AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY. HE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF.

“My name is Govert Buijs (born 1964) and I am an assistant professor social and political philosophy in the faculty of philosophy at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam.

I started out as a political scientist (well, not quite since my birth, but about eighteen years after), and continued with philosophy, during which I also took in some theology along the way. I received my Ph.D. at the end of 1998 on a thesis on the religious character of totalitarian political ideologies (focussing mainly on the Austrian-American philosopher Eric Voegelin).

I chose for philosophy on account of Reformational Philosophy. I chose it, on the one hand because of the enriching systematic insights, but, on the other hand (and perhaps even more importantly), because of a certain basic attitude which permeates this philosophy: being open, creative and critical of culture while being a Christian.

For some years now I have been the coordinator for the International Master Christian Studies of Science and Society at the Vrije Universiteit. A very special



master where people from the Netherlands as well as from all over the world spend one year to do research into themes that hold a direct relationship between their own specialties and the Christian Faith. At the moment our students are from the Netherlands, Russia, the United States, Canada, Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Japan, India, China, Philippines and various European countries – a very special experience. Reformational Philosophy has a special place within this Master.”

PRESENTING: MATHILDE BLOK

TOGETHER WITH DR. GOVERT J. BUIJS, DRS. MATHILDE BLOK WAS ALSO ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY. AS THE SUCCESSOR OF DRS. JOOP HAAK, SHE WILL BECOME THE NEW TREASURER OF THE ASSOCIATION. SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PRESENT HERSELF HERE.



“I am Mathilde Blok, 28 years old and I live in Driebergen. I graduated as a business administrator from the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in 2002. I received a Masters degree in Philosophy at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam in 2005. I have been em-

ployed as a researcher-advisor at a consultancy office for organisations and finances since 2003. I have participated in various different projects: ranging from audits and implementation consultancies for ministries of national government, and for provincial and municipal governments to do research for local healthcare institutions.

Even during my education my interest in Reformational Philosophy had grown. Some parts of it I studied more deeply during the study for my masters in Philosophy. My interest in Reformational Philosophy kept coming back in the years after my graduation. When I was asked to become the new treasurer of the Association for Reformational Philosophy it was a beautiful opportunity for me to combine my financial background with the tradition I hold dearly. I look forward to beginning this task!”

PRESENTING: LAMMERT KAMPHUIS

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW COURSES IN PHILOSOPHY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS AT THE REFORMATIONAL COLLEGE OF ZWOLLE WITHIN THE SO-CALLED SPICE-PROGRAM (STUDIES PROGRAM IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE). THESE FOREIGN STUDENT ARE PRIMARILY, BESIDES BRITISH AND ROMANIAN, AMERICAN AND CANADIAN STUDENTS FROM DORDT COLLEGE IN THE SIOUX CENTER IOWA (VS). EARLY 2008 THEY REQUIRED A NEW TEACHER FOR THE COURSE, THE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY BROUGHT THEM INTO CONTACT WITH LAMMERT KAMPHUIS, PHILOSOPHY STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT AND DIVINITY STUDENT AT THE THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY KAMPEN. SOME CLASSES LATER HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PRESENT HIMSELF HERE.

My name is Lammert Kamphuis. I am 25 years old and not married. I do have a girlfriend, Fleur, who has a degree in economics. I am still studying theology in Kampen and philosophy in Utrecht. I am busy writing my divinity thesis on David Bentley Hart. Concerning philosophy I have a difficult choice to make; I have to decide between the History of Philosophy and Philosophy of culture.

I started teaching philosophy at the Greijdanus College in Zwolle in September 2007. It gives me great pleasure to do so. I was asked to facilitate the philosophy course in the SPICE program in January of 2008. This is a great opportunity for me to be able to teach philosophy in English, and to introduce people from different continents with western philosophy in general, and Reformational Philosophy in particular.

Besides these heavy reflective matters there is plenty of others thing I do that can be done without this pondering. I've been playing indoor football for



years, and play some tennis now and again. I am also regularly a DJ at parties, playing old rock 'n roll tunes. At home listen to folk music and singer-songwriters. I also like to watch movies, and am currently cooperating in a very interesting Dutch website that is dedicated to Christian movie reviews: www.cvfilm.nl (Dutch).

DR. JONATHAN CHAPLIN KEY NOTE SPEAKER STUDY CONFERENCE VRW

The annual study conference was held in Ede this year on January 12th. The conference was preceded by the traditional general membership meeting. In order to facilitate the shift to the study conference dr. Jonathan Chaplin (fellow of the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge University and director of the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics in Cambridge) was invited to deliver a lecture. It was a fascinating lecture. Entitled: *'Beyond Multiculturalism – but to where? Public Justice and Cultural Diversity'* Chaplin ventured deeper into the constitutional Law often used by Dooyeweerd, but, according to Chaplin, never subject to a proper reflective enterprise. Chaplin's criticism focused on the point that Dooye-

weerd had never fully judged the inner meaning and coherence of this constitutional law. Chaplin also reflected deeper onto Dooyeweerdian constitutional law and the challenges it presents. After the lecture the members of the audience where able to debate with Chaplin on the matters at hand, this was led by professor dr. Sander Griffioen.

Considering the enthusiasm following the lecture we do not want to withhold this from you. For this reason the article he wrote for *Philosophia Reformata* (PR 2007, Volume 2) which acted as a basis for the lecture can be found online at: www.aspecten.org/start/Studieconferentie2008.html.

EXAUGURAL SPEECH DR. IR. EGBERT SCHUURMAN NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH

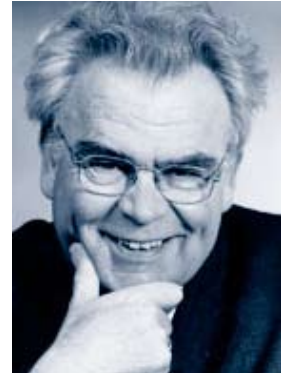
On Thursday, September 20, 2007, in honour of his superannuation dr. ir. E. Schuurman held an exaugural speech entitled *De uitdaging van de islamitische technologiekritiek* (*The challenges of Islamic criticism of technology*). This speech did not go by unnoticed. On of the reasons for the attention is because dr. Schuurman is a well-known author on the subject of Philosophy of Technology. Another reason is that the speech stirred up a lot of excitement. For instance, Schuurman called up for Christians and Muslims to cooperate more, and thus to stand stronger as religious people. This discussion grew due to the large media coverage.

Although professor Schuurman is retired, and has decided to focus on his senatorship for the political party of the ChristenUnie, he cannot completely let go of philosophy. He will therefore deliver his exaugural speech again, this time at the Islamic University of Rotterdam on 27th of March 2008. The foreign interest also seems to remain undiminished. The

lecture will also be available in English in the Journal of the Scientific Affiliation and work is in progress on the translations in French and German.

Are you interested in reading this speech? Please visit the website of the Association for Reformational Philosophy and download it using the link: <http://www.aspecten.org/start/Schuurman%20on%20Islam.pdf>.

The preface of *Technology and the Future*, which was published last February, can be downloaded using: www.aspecten.org/start/TechnologyAndTheFuture.pdf.



NEW PUBLICATION: 'ALLES WAT JE HART BEGEERT?'

A NEW BOOK HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE 'VERANTWOORDING' SERIES, THIS SERIES FOCUSES ON THE ISSUES OF STEWARDSHIP WITHIN REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY. THE BOOK IS EN-



TITLED 'ALLES WAT JE HART BEGEERT? CHRISTELIJKE ORIËNTATIE IN EEN OP BELEVING GERICHTE CULTUUR' ('EVERYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES? CHRISTIAN ORIENTATION INTO A CULTURE BASED ON SATISFACTION'). THIS PUBLICATION WAS REALIZED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ICE, THE INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL ETHICS.

Various authors collaborated in the creation of this book. Besides dr. Jan van der Stoep, director of the ICE, dr. Roel Kuiper and mr. drs. Timon Ramaker also collaborated. The main theme of the book is that we live in a time wherein humans are continuously searching for intensive experiences that touch their deepest soul: 'Until recently the spoken word had a central place, and beliefs had to be transformed into rational arguments, now however, the central place is for the experience, and acceptance of beliefs is dependent on how it touches our souls. Truth is what feels good.' This strong focus on the physical and the sensation is accompanied by strong discomfort, according to the authors. We long for perfect happiness, yet we continue to experience in spite of the brokenness of

existence. This search for sensation is also a quest for meaning, a meaning to fill the emptiness of our lives. With this book the authors want to contribute to this quest for meaning. Some questions that are elaborated upon: where is this quest going? Do we not end up with an increasingly ego-centred faith? How relevant are institutions like the church and the family in this time of personal sensation and experience?

Though it is only available in Dutch the publication *Alles wat je hart begeert? Christelijke oriëntatie in een op beleving gerichte cultuur* is available at the Association for Reformational Philosophy. You can order (€ 23,75 without shipping costs) by sending an e-mail to office.reform.philos@planet.nl or by mail: Centrum voor Reformatoische Wijsbegeerte, Postbus 3206, 3760 DE in Soest (The Netherlands).

ANNOTATED BIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE FOR DR. BOB GOUDZWAARD



Bob Goudzwaard (Delft, The Netherlands, March 4, 1934) is a Dutch economist and retired Professor of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, who has made several important contributions to the Christian social movement in the political parties ARP, the CDA and the EVP. He is the author of many books, one of which is *Capitalism and Progress* and *Hope in Troubled Times*. Recently Bruce C. Wearne compiled an annotated biography which is now online on the website of All of Life Redeemed. Articles and interviews are also available for download. Are you interested? Please visit www.allof-liferedeemed.co.uk/goudzwaard.htm (English).

VACANCY

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE WEBSITE SRW

The CRW is about to renew the entire website. This calls for the transference of data from the old website to the new website. Because the Association wants to remain the international centre of information regarding Reformational Philosophy, some texts will have to be translated into English. This work cannot be done entirely by the staff members of the CRW. Hence, we call for the assistance of volunteers, especially with the translation of Dutch 'content' into English, and the supply of new English content. Some affinity with computers is appreciated, and some editorial experience can also come in handy. The main attribute is, however, interest in Reformational Philosophy and an readiness to contribute to the renewed dissemination of our ideas!

Are you interested or would you like some more information, please contact Hillie van de Streek via e-mail: reform.philos@planet.nl or by phone: +31.35.5880205.

Association for Reformational Philosophy

Aspects of Reformational Philosophy is the international information bulletin of the Foundation for Reformational Philosophy and the Association for Reformational Philosophy. The Association pursues philosophy in the light of the Bible as the Word of God. The Foundation aims to spread the fruits of this pursuit. Both do their work in the conviction that all philosophy is religiously determined. Aspects will be sent on request.

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