



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

"...tell the next generation..." PSALM 78:4

MARCH 2016



CCRTC NEWS

SPRING 2016

www.covenantteacherscollege.com



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

At this time of year, the words of this year's theme text take on yet another meaning: renewal of life is visible all around us, and the light of the sun seems to be getting stronger and brighter by the day. Tulips and daffodils are peeking through the soil, robins and red-winged blackbirds are singing and winging their way into our area, and students are eagerly checking the job postings on the bulletin board and College website. Spring is in the air and we praise our faithful God who is always true to his Word!

Life is good at Covenant! We are now well beyond the half-way mark of the 2015/16 academic year.

Our faculty continues to work cooperatively and effectively together. Our students are looking forward to their final practicum placement, our sessional instructors, Mrs. Teresa Boisvert, Mrs. Stephanie Sikma, and Mr. Tim Wildeboer are well into their respective courses, and the 2016 AGM of the Board of Governors is behind us.

Looking back, we observe quite a number of blessings in addition to being able to teach and learn in freedom. One of our students and his wife, Tim and Tiffany Breukelman, could welcome the gift of new life in their little daughter, Leah Grace. Many of our students could spend an evening with our almost-next-door-neighbours, the residents of Ebenezer Villa. Faculty members could speak at membership meetings, PTA evenings, and staff professional development

events. Students and faculty listened to a presentation entitled "Teaching Math from a Christian Perspective" by Dr. John Byl, Professor Emeritus at Trinity Western University. Our librarian could spearhead a special project: "test-driving" on-line journal data bases. Our full-time faculty could review what makes up the very core of Reformed teacher education: What are the strengths of the programs we offer? Where do we need to expand? Which topics of relevance to today's world need to be addressed in the light of God's Word? We have had a plethora of opportunities to celebrate and strengthen Covenant College, its' community and its' program offerings.

During the next few months, the faculty and students will complete the course work slated for the remainder of the semester. We are looking forward to the involvement of several guest lecturers in a number of courses, including their participation in the curriculum theme

“ For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.”

– PSALM 36:9

week for the year 1 and 2 students in the Diploma of Teaching program. Looking ahead, we can anticipate the graduation of seven students, the Lord willing, on Friday, May 27, 2016. We hope that you'll join us for the important and festive event!

The faculty will continue its work on the final preparations for the implementation of the two-year *Diploma of Education* program in keeping with the current standards for teacher training in Ontario.

Preparations for summer courses in the *Certificate of Reformed Education* professional development program are well underway. This summer, Rev. D. Agema will offer a bible course for teachers in Ontario, while I will travel to Coaldale AB to facilitate topics connected to foundations of Reformed education. During the 2016/17 school year, an online course on *Foundations of Curriculum* will be offered.

Perhaps the most significant work presently underway concerns the matter of obtaining accreditation for the new 2-year *Diploma of Education* program. The Pathway Group (a government relations consulting firm) is retained to help us

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CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

IN MEMORIAM WILLIAM FREDERICK “BILL” HORSMAN

July 7, 1939 - February 23, 2016



In His time, but for us still quite unexpectedly, the LORD took to Himself our dear br. Bill Horsman. As a teacher to be remembered, busy with students until the very end, Mr. Horsman touched many lives.

Born in The Netherlands, Bill emigrated to Canada at a very young age. After completing his elementary and secondary schooling, he enrolled in the Hamilton Teachers College. After obtaining his teaching certificate, he enjoyed his first taste of real teaching when he accepted a position as teacher in a one-room school house in the Fergus area. In 1962, Bill became the first principal of John Calvin School in Burlington, and under the tutelage of the late Rev. VanDooren, he began to think more explicitly about what it means to be a teacher in a Reformed Christian school. Except for the few years when he taught at the Calvin Christian School in Hamilton, he spent many years at John Calvin Christian School in Burlington. As a teacher, he made many

students laugh and learn. As a mentor to beginning

teachers, he helped many survive their first years in the profession.

In addition to his teaching, he was involved in other aspects of Reformed education. He was the first Board secretary of the Guido de Brès Christian High School well before the school was opened, and also served for many years as the Secretary of the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies. Based on a few notes covered with doodles, the hallmark of his Minutes was brevity and succinctness!

Having obtained a Masters of Education degree at Brock University, and recognized by our community as a senior, master teacher, Bill was appointed as a full-time lecturer at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in Hamilton when it opened its doors in 1981. Together with his colleague, the late Mr. Tony VanderVen, he mapped out a blueprint for Reformed teacher training – always keeping his focus on the learner. Perhaps somewhat by default, he became the “expert” in areas of math and science, educational psychology, and teaching studies. Thanks to him, our library boasts quite a collection of “math story books” – written for children to convey math concepts in a narrative and enjoyable way. As an instructor at the College, colleague Horsman displayed warmth and deep interest in the person of the student –

“As a mentor to beginning teachers, he helped many survive their first years in the profession.”

also the person of the student-teacher. Many students have benefited from his low-key, down-to-earth, realistic lectures and stories. Many students will remember Mr. Horsman’s teaching and its impact on their teaching. Many students will remember him as a person who did not judge, but truly cared – as a teacher who made a difference in their lives.

As colleagues we will miss his drop-in visits, his one-liners, his warmth, his humour and dry wit, and his thoughtful words about teaching and learning (see: *Milestones as stepping stones*, 2006, pp.46-47).

In his own self-deprecating way, Bill would remind us that he was far from perfect. Yet, in so many ways he showed himself to be a faithful servant of our God. At Covenant, we will remember how Mr. Bill Horsman characterized what lies at the heart of Reformed Christian education and makes it so distinct: “It’s all about being faithful. Being faithful to our God. Our Creator. Our Saviour. And in the very end, it’s all about grace!”





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT KEN STEL

“A palpable air of excitement” was how one of the Governors, in the just completed Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors, described the flavor of our meetings. What was specifically being referenced was the growing reality of the pursuit of Accreditation for the CCRTC, the process of seeking the ability to confer the Bachelor of Education degree upon graduates. This is something that for many has been a dream for a long time. Finally, the puzzle pieces are beginning to fall into place. While this process is expected to take 2 to 3 years, we are confident of the blessing of our God as He guides this work of our hands.

It was a pleasure to meet together with Governors from across the country and the United States at our AGM. There is something marvelous when brothers and sisters are able to come together and meet with one another in such a way that our shared faith permeates the work we do together! It was also determined at this meeting that our chairman, Frank Ludwig, having completed his term, will no longer fill the Chairman's position. He will now fill the “Past Chair” position, providing guidance and institutional knowledge to those who fill the remaining positions on the executive. Over the past four years Frank has capably and professionally led the ongoing work of the College. He has been a strong part of the drive to prepare the College for the Accreditation

process, and so we thank him from the heart for his willingness to take up the task and for his leadership and guidance.

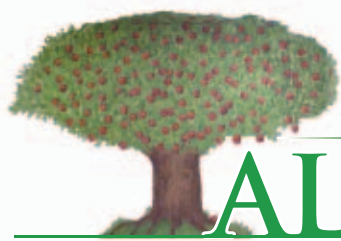
At this time, the current semester at the CCRTC is rapidly coming to an end. It is remarkable how fast time seems to move, and I'm sure the students are getting a taste for that as they hurry on toward finishing last assignments and classroom practicum. We wish all of you the LORD's blessing in this busy time! We are deeply thankful for the faculty as well. Their diligence is appreciated, not just in teaching future teachers, but also in instructing them how to teach, lead and guide in a Biblical manner. Recently I, and another committee member, were privileged to visit the college as it was in full swing, sitting in on and taking part in some of the classes with the students.

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

– PSALM 103

We were able to visit the classes of each one of our full-time faculty members. What a pleasure it was to see the level of interaction between faculty and students. There is clearly good rapport between both parties.

At the end of February the family of our brother Bill Horsman were tasked by God with bringing the body of a much loved father, grandfather, and brother-in-law to the grave. Mr. Horsman was a long-time instructor and faculty member of Covenant. He was a mentor, friend and colleague held in high regard by many. May his family and so many others whose lives he touched, under the guidance of God, be comforted with the certainty of the resurrection and life everlasting.



CCRTC

ALUMNINEWS

how it was and how it is

Carina Bijlsma

CLASS OF 2011



Our Principal's family was also confronted with the final enemy when the LORD called to himself brother Herman Faber. We continue to also remember his mother, wife, children and siblings for whom there yet remains an earthly task. May they receive the comfort and strength needed to continue faithfully in their task and calling.

What a blessing it is, in the midst of the trials and struggles of this life, to know that, "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." (Ps. 103) It is under this same Father who guides and upholds all things that we pray and work toward the operation of Covenant, teaching of students, learning and pursuing accreditation. We do well to remember the words of Psalm 112, where we read that those who fear the LORD are "not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD." Regardless of whether the results meet our desires, there is a God in Heaven who guides all things to their ultimate conclusion in Christ, His Son. Soli Deo Gloria!

Many years ago, there were two wooden desks in a play room at my parents' home. One brown-eyed girl would be sitting in the desk with a homemade math page and another blue-eyed girl would be standing in front of her telling her what to do. "Here is your math page. Do all the questions and I'll mark them." A few years later, on occupation day in grade 1, there she was again all dressed up as a teacher.

I am not sure if that is what brought me through the doors of the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College but I am thankful that the Lord has guided my steps to this place. My Reformed teacher training started in September, 2008. Every morning we began our day with devotions, and from there we proceeded to each class with the understanding that we were being trained to teach God's covenant children. Whether it was Teaching Studies, Principles of Reformed Education, English, Math or Children's

Literature, every class highlighted our task to tell the next generation of God's wondrous works. This Christ centered training has had a profound impact on my approach to teaching, as well as on the students placed in my care.

After graduating in May 2011, I married my childhood sweetheart, Auke Bijlsma, and started my first year of teaching. There I was, September 2011, a terrified blue-eyed girl, standing in front of 21 grade 6 students at the Maranatha Christian School in Fergus, Ontario. To this day, I am so thankful that I went to the Covenant College, for there I learned not only the how of teaching, but more importantly the why. I learned the importance of reformed education for both students and teachers, as all areas of life are under God's care. As a teacher called to lead and guide the students, I know that although we are each tainted by sin, we are also redeemed in Christ. What a joy it is to have this knowledge in the classroom.

Ed Balch

CLASS OF 2004

We will not hide them from their children... We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD. (Psalm 78)

What does it mean to be engaged in the learning process? Have we ever made it to the end of our education? In their text *Learning in Adulthood*, Merriam, Cafferella, and Baumgartner summarize that learning occurs "throughout our lives, from the beginning to the very eve

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SHARING PRACTICUM THOUGHTS

(Note: All pictures on this page are used with permission.)

“ Teaching is a grand adventure.

In class we are amateur cartographers, devising multiple routes over diverse terrains. However, practicum teaches us that drawing a map and setting a course is drastically different from taking the journey. We need to walk the land to recognize the right road.”

– DH DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 3

The in-school practice teaching experience forms an important component of student learning: 24 weeks over the course of the three-year Diploma of Teaching program, and 12 weeks in the current 1-year Diploma of Education program.

In close cooperation with school principals, and with some input from the students, Mr. Allard Gunnink (Practicum Coordinator) arranges the placements of our students in Reformed schools across Canada. Associate teachers, teacher-candidates, school administration, and College supervisors follow the policies and procedures outlined in the Practicum Guidelines. Practice teaching placements also serve to strengthen the bond that exists between the College and its member school communities, and vice versa.

We express our deep appreciation to all who open their school doors to our students! We invite you to read what our students have to say as they share their thoughts on practice teaching, and what it means for them as they travel the road to become a teacher.

Practice teaching is like a little window into various classrooms helping me to learn what it means to be a Reformed teacher of covenant children.

– CF DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 1

Practice teaching is so helpful when one is in school to become a teacher. It gives you a sense of what teaching is all about, and helps you to better understand what you’re learning in class.

– HV DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 1

Practice teaching is our one opportunity to put all the theory we learn at the college, into practice. I love the moments on practicum where something clicks and I think “Oh, that’s why we learned that!”

– HB DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 3

Practice teaching allows for the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills we have learned in a real-life environment. It also gives us the opportunity to practice the God given talents that we have been blessed with in a classroom setting.

– JK DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 2

Practice teaching is like a huge culminating activity dispersed throughout our time at Covenant. It stretches us to draw from everything we have learned and make it our own, as we discover what kind of teachers we hope to become.

– EdH DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 3

Practice teaching gives an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge we learn in class to an actual classroom setting. It is a very rewarding experience that quickly becomes the highlight of the year.

– KV DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 2

Practice teaching allows for the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills we have learned in a real-life environment. It also gives us the opportunity to practice the God given talents that we have been blessed with in a classroom setting.

– JK DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 2

Practice teaching is a session where we grow as future educators in our Christian schools. The classrooms we enter serve as a way for us to implement teaching strategies, reflect on our teaching thus far, and learn new ways to teach.

– LK DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 2

Practice teaching allows students to take theory and see how it applies to practice. After that, they can share their experiences with fellow classmates and learn from other student’s experiences.

–TB DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION





The practicums expose student teachers to life as a teacher, to a variety of students and learners, to many school and church communities, and to the skills teachers need. Receiving a Reformed teacher-mentor is extremely beneficial to ensure that, as student teachers, we grow stronger in our faith and abilities as we prepare ourselves for teaching in a Reformed Christian school.

– DW DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 2

My practicum experiences have been some of my best memories from my years at Covenant, for there is a lot of value in the many practice teaching opportunities we get at Covenant. Practice teaching a glimpse into what life might be like once I'm a teacher in my own classroom – some time in the future.

– KO DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 3

“ Practice teaching brings our in-class instruction to life.”

– RK DIPLOMA OF TEACHING 1



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of our days”. Indeed, such a task is given to us by the LORD Himself. In the book of Proverbs, He states, “Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance” (Pr. 1:5). We are, therefore, always on the path of learning and of increasing our knowledge. It is our goal to grow our understanding and, in doing so, we can understand all the more how magnificent the LORD really is. Although it has been twelve years since my classmates and I graduated from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College, the importance of continuously learning and exploring is a concept that still stands out clearly for me. I remember many classroom discussions with Mr. Horsman, Dr. van Halen, Dr. Witten and others where we grappled with how to be servants of the Most High in the important task of guiding His covenant children. This is what makes the Covenant Teachers College so unique. Here, would-be educators can describe the nature of this task and learn how to apply these newly formed skills in a manner that gives glory to the King of kings. For me, Covenant has been a real blessing in understanding the link between teaching and learning. Many of the concepts taught there have directly impacted my current practice. Every graduate who finishes his or her work at the Covenant echoes the same phrase of appreciation for the guidance and encouragement of the faculty; their hard work has been blessed by the LORD.

After graduating, I took up the post of the Gr. 5 teacher at the Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School. Here too, the concept of a life-long enterprise

of exploring and learning, as promoted by the College, helped me to navigate my way through countless projects and activities; some of which worked, while others (like an infamous papier-mâché ear) did not! After six years in Attercliffe, I spent two years as principal in Owen Sound, while teaching grades three through six, before accepting a position as the Gr. 7 teacher in Carman, Manitoba. Being out west for four years has truly been a blessing, and even though Covenant is far away, the work that has been and is being done there continues to be a blessing in the schools in Manitoba as well.



So, have we ever “made it”? Have we ever reached the pinnacle of our knowledge so that there is no more to learn? Clearly not! In fact, we need to be continuously engaged in life-long learning practices. The work that is done at the College to train teachers in understanding the link between faithful learning and faithful teaching – and to understand it as a continual practice – has been a blessing in my own teaching career. It is my prayer that the LORD continues to provide for the College, through such things as accreditation, qualified instructors and financial support from its members, so that schools across the country may continue their quest of telling the next generation about the praiseworthy deeds God has done.

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move forward in the next few months and beyond. As a first formal step, initial contact will be made with Ontario Ministry officials at Queen’s Park in Toronto, and flowing out of that will be an intensive effort to illustrate that Covenant Teachers College trains its students for teaching in Reformed Christian schools: Covenant... *the definitive source for Reformed teacher training*. We need to demonstrate that, together with our member schools, we share a unique educational identity shaped by the infallible Word of God, as confessed in the Three Forms of Unity. Needless to say, we covet your participation, support, and prayers, knowing that in God is the fountain of life: In His light we see light.

Treasurer's Report NATHAN HELDER

With thankfulness to the LORD, Covenant continues to be blessed financially. We are meeting our budgeted revenue and most of the expenses are in line with budget. However, over the past few months, we have seen a slight dip in overall donation revenues.

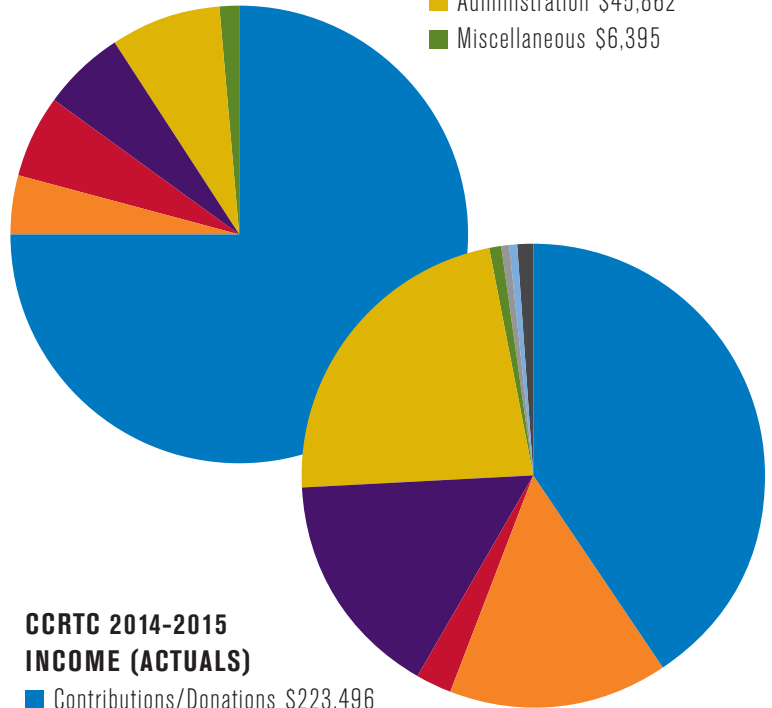
By this time you will have received your donation receipts. Thank you for your continued support. You may be wondering: "what happens to the money that I donate, or where does the college's revenue come from?" The breakdown is as shown to the right.

While the task of training new Reformed teachers continues, the matter of seeking accreditation is foremost on the minds of the many individuals directly involved with Covenant. This year much effort will be focused on obtaining Ministerial Consent from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, for the Diploma of Education program. At the recent AGM in March, the budget for 2017 /18 was approved as well as a separate budget for accreditation. The Finance Committee, along with all of the Committees at Covenant, will be hard at work as we seek to find the financial means to make this a reality.

Once again we sincerely thank you and we hope that we may count on your continued support throughout the spring and summer of 2016.

CCRTC 2014-2015 EXPENSES (ACTUALS)

- Payroll Expenses \$430,076
- Library Department \$23,487
- Programs \$33,363
- Building \$32,376
- Administration \$45,862
- Miscellaneous \$6,395



CCRTC 2014-2015 INCOME (ACTUALS)

- Contributions/Donations \$223,496
- Direct Deposit Donations \$82,930
- Bequests-Operating Portion \$14,000
- Membered School Society Revenue \$86,547
- Student Tuition/Application \$123,760
- Staff/Prog./Facility \$4,675
- Misc/Un Named Revenue \$2,963
- Certificate of Reformed Education \$3,000
- Net Revenue from Books \$6,008

Please detach and use the postage paid envelope enclosed or mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3

Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque Enclosed)
- Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV PC _____

CHURCH _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL (optional) _____

Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I want to be a regular donor to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and allow automatic donations from my bank account as indicated below. I agree with the conditions in the application and can terminate this agreement at any time.

- \$40/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 - 15th of the month 30th of the month
- \$480/Annually** - Withdrawn on _____ each year
- \$_____/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 - 15th of the month 30th of the month

SIGNATURE

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.