

Ronald A. Kuipers with Hendrik Hart, “Why did I make a \$100,000 end-of-life donation to ICS?” ICS E-Newsletter, October 2020.

Kuipers: If you take a brief walk through the University of Toronto St. George campus, you will notice many buildings named after wealthy Toronto philanthropists. With Matthew 6 in mind, I often ponder the role that such personal recognition plays in these philanthropic efforts. Without knowing these people personally, I like to think that their motivation for giving does not rely on receiving such recognition, but rather that they want their giving to become a kind of public witness to the worthiness of the causes they support. In a similar way, we Christians, through our giving, may also bear witness to the worthiness of those causes we believe make a powerful contribution to our Maker’s redemptive work, and inspire others “to join us.” For such witness to be possible, however, the private act of charity needs to come into public light.

In this spirit, I would like to introduce a major gift that ICS recently received from Hendrik Hart, ICS Senior Member Emeritus and also ICS’s first faculty member. ...Henk has decided to make a gift of \$100,000 while he is still with us and to share with others his motivation for making such a gift, and tell us why he thinks ICS is a cause worth supporting. We at ICS are enormously grateful to Henk for this generous gift, and beyond that, we thank him for his lifetime of service to ICS, and praise God for the gift of that life.

In agreeing to a public announcement of his donation, Henk invites you to read in his own words what motivated him to make this donation.

Hart:

My earliest connection to what eventually became ICS goes back more than 60 years.... I am now a Senior Member Emeritus at the institution.... and ... still follow the spiritual direction...that has animated ICS from its beginning and still inspires it today. My end-of-life donation says thank you for this.

ICS has always been small and likely always will be. A free standing academic institution is not cut out to grow into the size of a university. But though small, a place like ICS can be significant. Canadian universities recognize this in their admiration for ICS. When colleagues from these universities read ICS theses as outside examiners, they usually express their amazement that a small underfunded and understaffed school can deliver results at such a high level. My end-of-life donation says thank you for this.

ICS is unusual not only in the quality of its work but also, and perhaps even more, in the character of that work. A graduate school with a focus on the spirituality of the academic enterprise does not easily fit into the prevailing secular mood of our age. That's another reason for ICS's small size. But it's also a reason for how well it is respected and for why its graduates are teaching all over the world. ICS not only strives to maintain its academic excellence, but also its spiritual integrity. My end-of-life donation says thank you for this.

Jan H. Boer, A postscript:

Hart tells us of the respect, admiration and amazement Canadian universities express for that little pigmy called Institute for Christian Studies for the high quality of the publications and theses ICS faculty and graduates produce. As a missionary-scholar in Nigeria, I have received similar reactions from Nigerians and others. I refer you to Section 2 of the BOERIANA page of this website. Nigerians have asked me about the reason for what they describe as my unusually successful missionary ministry. The reason is the same as the one described by Hart in the above paragraphs. My wife and I have been motivated by the same wholistic ministry that has inspired the ICS faculty and students: a wholistic Gospel that underlies all of its endeavours and that forcefully rejects the dualism or separation between religion and culture. This wholistic approach has such wide and powerful ramifications for both scholarship and mission and, indeed, life itself, that time and again it evokes the admiration and amazement referred to above and leads to logical conclusions that its opponents can only reject on basis of their unproven worldview, beliefs or plain prejudices, but not on basis of logic or reason. Hence, my wife and I have decided on an even larger gift to the ICS out of

gratitude for the powerful Biblical Reformational perspective that we have inherited, though we never attended the ICS.