

Angela

Herewith an open letter to CC that I ask you to publish.

John H. Boer

During the first three or four decades of CC, the paper published about and promoted various Christian organizations. Most of them have done well and are now fully enveloped within Canadian culture while retaining their Reformed nature – I hope!

I believe it would be good for CC to publish an annual story about the current state of affairs, programme, progress, etc. of these various organizations. I think particularly of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS), Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) and Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), but there are more, especially in Ontario. Your constituency should not lose sight of or touch with what are to a large extent very successful products of the CC of yesteryear.

Yes, products of CC and of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). They would not have made it without the constant coverage in CC. You can be proud of these products and of their continuing national and international influence. You may be thought of as a mere ethnic publication by the government, but you have been much more: You have been culturally formative by supporting and promoting these organizations.

We may well ask whether the faith of those earlier years still exists that almost literally moved the mountains of the

secular courts over to make space for faith-based institutions in the public square.

It does exist in the sense that various Christian organizations such as the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Christian Lawyers Fellowship (correct name?) and others employ the logic of that earlier Reformed movement. However, it does not exist in the area of new cultural developments. It is defensive, not offensive. The former is absolutely necessary and I am grateful for it, but so is the latter. Many areas of culture are begging for a radical Christian touch, for new Christian formation that goes beyond mere defense. One that I particularly think of right now is that of the real estate industry, what with its promotion of prices that are far beyond the affordable. We need prophets that go beyond the divisive rhetoric of current environmental discussions or about urban development that is currently divided between “sprawlers” and “densifiers.” Or prophets to wade into the “car vs transit” struggle.

True, currently articles are being written on these controversial topics by knowledgeable Christians, but we need more than articles: We need organized action and frameworks within which knowledgeable Christians can discuss and pray about these important issue towards practical Spirit-informed action that will challenge the status quo at various fronts.

These reports should be both supportive and critical....