

# ASPECTS

OF REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

VOLUME 1 (2007), NO. 1

## INTRODUCTION

With great pleasure we of the Foundation for Reformational Philosophy issue our first international newsletter, *Aspects*, which, will appear from now on three or four times a year. The reason for taking the initiative to bring out this bulletin is twofold. The first reason is that we perceived a need among our international members for information regarding the foundation and its activities. The second reason is that we want to express our gratitude for the support which we receive internationally and to promote something of a communal experience with regard to intellectual capital of Reformational philosophy, which apparently is not confined by any geographical boundaries. In response to this support and collective support for this philosophy we wanted to do something in return for those among you who, because of the spatial aspect, are not capable of being physically present at our gatherings or to be informed

on matters which are spread only in the Netherlands. By publishing this English newsletter we hope to inform you on our activities and developments around reformational philosophy which are internationally relevant. Our purpose is to get rid of spatial barriers as much as possible. We hope you will regard *Aspects* as a worthwhile addition to our publications and that this digital document – which is sent to 450 people all over the world – may become a symbol of the fruitfulness of reformational philosophy.

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



## INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

In the past months a number of board members and staff members of the Foundation having completed many fruitful years of work for the foundation have departed and been replaced by new ambitious persons. These person like to introduce themselves to you.

### AB BERGER

*The new chairman of the board.  
Foundation of Reformational Philosophy*

“I am fifty-four years of age and I am married; my wife and I have three children. During my study I was introduced to reformational philosophy. It really influenced my thinking from the very start and it has never left me since. It is my task as chairman of the board to direct the new long term strategic plan 2007 – 2011. Together with the board I want to invest in the years to come in the international aspect of our movement. How we think to accomplish that we shall specify in later newsletters.



### ABOUT AB BERGER

Ab Berger studied business economics at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. Upon completing his study he became organization advisor and as such has dealt with all kinds of problems around organizations and coaching. He also drafted plans for strategy and teambuilding within organizations, fulfilled interim management positions and guided all process-like developments. He has applied his ample experience to work within the national government, local governments as well as within non-profit organizations.

## WILFRED VOLLBEHR

*The new secretary of the board.  
Foundation and Association for Reformational philosophy*



Wilfred Vollbehr M.A., born in 1961, started in January as secretary of the board. From 1995 to 2000 he was the director of the Centre for Reformational Philosophy, closing this period with the international symposium of 2000.

“I have always been intrigued by the verse from Scripture which states that every thought must be taken into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor.

10: 5). According to this verse there appears to be a battle of thoughts going on, some thoughts arrayed like soldiers over against others. Some thoughts, organized into a whole system of philosophy, is capable of imposing itself greatly upon your life. So it is important to offer some resistance and ‘rethink’ thoughts in the light of the gospel and so to put ‘salt’ into our society.”

### ABOUT WILFRED VOLLBEHR

Wilfred studied psychology at the University of Utrecht and is now teaching psychology to students Social Work at the Christian College of Ede. He is also secretary of the board of the Christian Association for Psychiatrists and Psychologists in the Netherlands. He lives in Ede. He and his wife Corine have four children of the ages of 14 to 20 years. He likes to spend his spare time on motorcycling and playing classical guitar (but, of course, not at the same time).

## IDA SLUMP-SCHOONHOVEN

*New member of the board with special focus on contact with students.  
Foundation and Association of Reformational philosophy*



“Presently I am studying General Cultural Studies at the Open University of the Netherlands. My specific interest is in the arts and philosophical aesthetics, in which the conceptual framework of reformational philosophy is very helpful in the reflection on all kinds of questions relating to these areas. As coordinator of the *Rookmaker Art and Culture circle* of the ICS, the forum for faith, science and society I can share my interest

with other people. In the context of my undergraduate study, I wrote an extensive paper in which I compared the architecture of Palaces in Florence.”

### ABOUT IDA SLUMP

For many years Ida spent most of her time caring for her family with four sons and one daughter. The children vary at present from 28, 26, 24 and two of 22 years of age. Besides that she had the opportunity to work for various evangelical projects: leading children clubs, organizing and giving Bible studies, as well as being member of a nationwide board of evangelism. At present she is an external confidential advisor of a large high school. In her spare time she likes to go to museums and attend concerts. She especially likes opera.

## HILLIE VAN DE STREEK

*The new Director.  
Centre for Reformational Philosophy*



“I was previously employed in the area of political history and in the business of publishing. As a historian I did research on Neo-Calvinism and Neo-Thomism. My research was stimulated by the philosophy of Herman Dooyeweerd and Roy Clouser. Their philosophies has remained a source of inspiration ever since. It is my ambition as director of the Centre to put into practice the new long-term strategic plan 2007 – 2011 in renewing existing projects and initiating new ones. In these initiatives I am striving after a global perspective. Ours is after all an international movement.

## ABOUT HILLIE VAN DE STREEK

From 1994 to 2000 Hillie van der Streek taught Dutch History at the Netherlands Studies Programme of Dordt College (Sioux Center, IA, USA). Classes were held at the Free University of Amsterdam. During the same period she was faculty member at the University of Utrecht, where she coordinated research and publication projects on political history. From 2000 till recently Hillie worked as publisher for the former Dutch State publishing company, Sdu Uitgevers, publishing government documents. She is experienced in digital publishing and new media. She is happily married and she and her husband have two daughters, Joanne, 10 years old, and Karin, 7 years old. Her favourite sport activity is bicycling. In the early nineties of the previous century she took part in several Dutch and European cycling championships. She admires the drive and the ability to focus of Lance Armstrong, who she personally met in 1995. Politically she is involved as a volunteer in de national Christian democratic party CDA and the EPP, its equivalent at the level of the European Union.

## NEWS ABOUT THE CHAIRS IN UTRECHT AND GRONINGEN

It was until recently a matter of course that the request to continue a chair which the Foundation upholds at the various universities of the Netherlands would be honoured after the professor which held the chair became emeritus. His successor would simply continue the work teaching Reformational philosophy to students at these secular universities. However, lately some legislative changes with regard to these special chairs has forced the universities to reflect on the place which these chairs have in their whole curriculum. At the universities of Groningen and Utrecht this reflection has led to the sorry result that when Dr. Henk Geertsema became emeritus the universities let it be known that they no longer saw any need to honour our request for continuing the chair. In spite of the fact that there remains a strong interest among students for courses in reformational philo-

sophy. However, there is also good news. Our professors have together with the students from Groningen organized a course which they have given now for the second year and to quite a few students. So even though it is now no longer taught under the auspices of the university we can still say that reformational philosophy is being taught to students in this university city. Because of this success we are now also making preparations to offer this course to students in the city of Utrecht. Students in this city have clearly indicated to want to follow education in this philosophy. In spite of these encouraging developments it is still too bad that we are no longer allowed a place within the university curriculum. We shall therefore continue to look for ways in which we can offer students such courses. We shall keep you abreast.

## WANTED: DUTCH-ENGLISH TRANSLATORS

The Foundation for Reformational Philosophy is looking for people who are willing to work translating publications from Dutch into English or vice versa either for the Association or for related English partners. By offering your time and effort you will make possible that interesting publications in Dutch will become available to English readers and English publications for Dutch readers.

Information: If you are interested and you want to know more about the translators we are looking for please contact Hillie van de Streek, telephone +31 (0)35 5880205, e-mail: reform.philos@planet.nl.

# DISCUSSION OF THE LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN 2007 – 2011

On Saturday, April 21, 2007 the annual meeting of the Association of Reformational Philosophy took place. During this meeting the Long-term Strategic Plan was discussed. This plan, which will give direction for the coming four years to the activities of the Foundation of Reformational philosophy, is quite ambitious. Globally speaking, the foundation shall work the coming years on the following matters:

- To expand the number of chairs at the universities (at the moment we are in discussion with two concrete possibilities).
- Intensify the collaboration with Christian student associations (also at those universities where the chairs may be lost).
- Increase the visibility of the movement in the public debate in order to underscore the relevance of Reformational philosophy in all kinds of issues.
- Support teachers of philosophy in all kinds of professional training schools with material which they can use in their courses.
- An increased use of internet and the publication of an English newsletter.
- Publishing new and attractive material for Christians in the practise of their daily work and life.
- Organizing another international conference in 2010 or 2011.

In this plan special attention was paid to international contacts. One of the aims is to offer Christian philosophers outside of the Netherlands to get into contact with their Dutch colleagues to discuss, do research and, finally, to publish. Another aim is to give better access to information on what we are doing to everybody outside the Netherlands who are interested in our activities. We hope that this Newsletter will be regarded as a first step in the right direction.

## ARP-ERA-CONFERENCE

Since somewhere in the seventies of the previous century the Association for Reformational philosophy has had a partner organization in Germany, the Evangelical Research Academy of Berlin. This spring, on May 25-28, for the first time a cooperative conference took place in Doorn, the Netherlands. This conference offered a unique chance to our members to exchange views with our German fellow Christian scientists. The speakers at the conference consisted of important persons from the academic, the ecclesiastical and political circles of the Netherlands and Germany. Speakers from the Netherlands were Dr. Roel Kuiper, professor of Reformational philosophy, Leo Koffeman and Rene van der Linden. The theme of the conference this year was: "The position of the European Churches with regard to social-ethical questions." The language spoken at the conference was German. If you want to know more about this conference, see: <http://www.aspecten.org/start/EFATagung.html>.

Association for  
Reformational  
Philosophy

Aspects of Reformational Philosophy is the international information bulletin of the Foundation for Reformational Philosophy and the Association of 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.

#### The Board of the Association of Reformational Philosophy and the Foundation for Reformational Philosophy

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