

INTRODUCTION

With this edition we enter the last twenty years of the twentieth century. May the ensuing two decades be a period of growth and greater intensity for the international action in the field of Christian Higher Education under the hand of benediction of the Almighty.

May God also be with each of us individually and with each institution — without his blessing all is in vain.

COVER DESIGN

You will have noticed that the *Circular* has come out in a new guise since the November issue. The design is the work of Mr Herman Strauss of the Department of Fine Arts at the PU for CHE. Our grateful thanks are extended to him.

SYMBOLISM

If we had sufficient funds to print the design in full colour, it would be a pure white dove descending from a bright blue heaven with a green olive branch in its bill to the brown lettering at the bottom of the page.

From earliest times on the dove has been used as a herald. In the same way the *Circular* strives to be a herald, a messenger around the world. (The *Circular* is at the moment being mailed to addresses in 53 countries!)

There is also a deeper symbolic interpretation. This is not merely an ordinary *Circular*, but is a news bulletin dealing with *higher education*, and then specifically *Christian* higher education.

Christian Higher Education, according to this design, is education that believes in and is liberated through *Christ*, is inspired by the *Holy Ghost* and is in the service of the Kingdom of *God*.

I would like to explain briefly how this is derived from the design. Various Scriptural passages (i.a. Genesis 8:1-17 and Matthew 3:13-17) are important in this context.

At the creation of the world the Spirit of God was present — it moved upon the waters (Genesis 1:2).

After the Fall mankind became progressively more evil and God said (in Genesis 6:3) that He would withdraw his Spirit from the world. In the Old Testament it becomes evident that the Spirit of God is given only to a chosen few — and then only temporarily.

In the same way that the dove sent out by Noah for the first time can

find no resting place, the Holy Ghost also could not be present upon the earth in any permanent or bountiful manner. (The crow despatched first by Noah does not return – it is unclean, a bird of prey which is at home among the floating carcasses of the Flood!)

When Christ rises from the waters of the Jordan at his Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him like a dove to remain with Him. In the Second Adam the Holy Spirit finds Somebody who is without sin, Who rises above the wrath of God and in Whom the Spirit may reside – just as the dove despatched by Noah the second time could then already find an olive branch extending above the waters of judgment.

Christ had to suffer in Gethsemane, the olive press, at the foot of the Mount of Olives – He had to be pressed so that the oil for our anointing could become reality, a sign of the Spirit.

With his ascension Christ returned to Heaven – as the dove returned to the ark with the joyful message in its bill.

After ascension, however, came Pentecost: then his Spirit was poured out on all flesh, permanently and bountifully. Thus God's Kingdom became reality once again. Just as the dove, after being despatched for the third time did not return to the ark, He did not return. God's wrath does not rest upon the world any more. He unlocks the ark, releases Noah and enters with him into a covenant of peace. Noah enters as it were into a new and purified world where he can live and work for God.

Already at the end of his second flight from the ark the dove brought the message of peace. The olive branch was the sure sign that God's wrath is not everlasting, a new time will come, the springtime of the Kingdom. (The dove was one of the first birds to return to Palestine after the cold, wet winters. It was a herald of spring, of the fact that the time for joyful singing had come.)

Thus, to recapitulate briefly, the dove on the cover is the symbol of the *Holy Spirit*. The olive branch in its bill is the sign that God has extended mercy anew through *Christ*, that His spirit lives in us again, that we can be citizens of *God's* immortal Kingdom.

This is also valid in the field of Christian education – the direction in which the dove is flying. Christian education has to start with the premise of salvation in *Christ*, inspired by his *Spirit* and be in the service and to the honour of *God*.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The *Clearing House* published the following recently:
Teaching Science in Christian Perspective: Dr E.D. Fackerell (Australia)
Issues in the Philosophy of Education: The Rev. S. Fowler (Australia)
A Christian Philosophy of Culture: Dr D.L. Roper (New Zealand)
Technology in a Christian-philosophical Perspective: Prof. E. Schuurman (The Netherlands)

On the back pages of this *Circular* there is more information, as well as an order form. Please support us by buying these works for yourselves and for the libraries of your institutions. Won't you consider prescribing some of these texts for use by your students?

You could also check anew on the earlier publications – the prices are very reasonable.

ACTION CHE – INTERNATIONAL

The Potchefstroom University for CHE started this action in 1979 in order to be able to render certain services at an international level. More details may be found elsewhere in this issue.

ADDRESSES

The list of addresses of the Clearing House has been computerized. Should there be any mistake in your address, please let us know immediately.

You are still more than welcome to let us have the names and addresses of anybody who would like to receive the *Circular* regularly.

JUNE EDITION

As mentioned already in the November edition, our next issue will deal in its entirety with *A World Survey of Reformed Theological Education*.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The North American members of the Steering Committee meets this month at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, USA to finalise the programme for the Third International Conference for Christian Higher Education (August 1981, at Dordt College). May God bless their endeavours with

wisdom, insight and inspiration.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Do remember that all contributions (news items on conferences, publications, etc.) are very welcome. Do not leave the *Circular* out in the cold in 1980.

Until next time – SHALOM.

Bennie van der Walt
(DIRECTOR)