



Handong Global University Hosts INCHE Asia Oceania Conference

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How should Christian teacher-scholars form their identities while building Christian academic communities? From June 20-22 more than 120 participants gathered at Handong Global University in Pohang, Korea to consider this theme. Over these three days, INCHE members and guests from twelve nations including India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Australia, and Korea explored this theme.



Dr. Richard Middleton, professor of biblical worldview and exegesis at Northeastern Seminary and Roberts Wesleyan University, gave two foundational addresses. The first explored the contextual and historical understanding of the world as God's temple and the role of humans within the temple of creation. The second address considered Biblical understandings of the relationship between earth and the promised new heaven. Dr. Middleton explained how Biblical translation has changed through the discovery of earlier Biblical manuscripts. Such manuscripts, along with an understanding of the world as God's temple, help us recognize the promised heaven as a refinement and renewal of the earth. The Biblical story of creation, an Old Testament focus through Israel, Christ's resurrection, and our promised future create a storyline that has profound implications for our role as Christian educators. We teach our graduates to find their place in God's great story as God's agents in reconnecting earth to God's promised future. As a native of Jamaica who immigrated to Canada, did his doctoral studies through the Vrije Universiteit in the Netherlands, and then immigrated to the USA for a faculty position, Dr. Middleton encouraged participants to consider the implications of such Biblical understanding for Christian higher education.



These plenary addresses were complemented by more than thirty concurrent session presentations on a wide variety of topics. Some focused on Christian visions and strategies for effective teaching and faculty development through mentoring. Others analyzed the strategies of Christians as Asian minority groups within multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies. Presenters tackled challenging topics such as Christian engagement of environmental, sustainability, and good governance (ESG) emphases arising in business and Christian engagement of artificial intelligence. What should we teach our students about such matters?

Handong Global University leaders also infused the conference with excellent worship, sumptuous food, and an evening excursion to explore historic roots of Korea in the Silla kingdom. After years of pandemic isolation, INCHE members were able to meet personally. They refreshed and expanded the web of relationships among Christian educators. INCHE is grateful to Handong Global University for hosting this outstanding occasion to serve Jesus as Lord by fostering the Christian professional development of university and college leaders.

INCHE NETWORK NEWS

INCHE Membership Expands on Several Continents

Since March 2023, INCHE has added eight new organizational members. Among them are universities and colleges, a professional association, and a university institute.

INCHE welcomes five colleges in India as new members. They include:



CSI College of Engineering, Ketti in Tamil Nadu, India. Founded in 1998, this institution is dedicated to equipping students with a strong foundation in engineering principles and management practices while also nurturing spiritual growth and character development. The goal is to foster graduates, including those who have been disadvantaged, who have both knowledge and skills that can positively impact the world for the glory of God. As their Church of South India (CSI) bishop, Timothy Ravinder, noted, "We strive to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to integrate students' faith and technical expertise in order to lead and service with integrity, excellence, and innovation in a rapidly changing world." The college offers programs in computer science as well as civil, electrical, mechanical, and manufacturing engineering.



Kittel Arts College, Darwad in Karnataka, India. Since 1968, this college has aimed to impart quality education for youth that provides wholistic development and a dedication to service. There is a focus on cultivating the basic qualities of character and a sense of moral and spiritual values while also creating awareness of the socio-economic needs of India as well as inclusion of those less privileged. Kittel Arts College offers both bachelors and masters degrees in arts, education, and economics. On behalf of the Church of South India, Karnataka Northern Diocese, their church bishop, Rev. Martin Borgai, recommended them since INCHE promotes Christian values in higher education which is at the core of their mission.



Kittel Science Degree College in Karnataka, India. Also founded in 1968, this college provides bachelor- of-science degrees in mathematics, botany, chemistry, computer science, electronics, and physics. Their leaders value a foundation based in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and a strong emphasis on seeking God in the process of a science-based education. Bishop Martin Borgai also endorsed their decision to seek INCHE membership as a source of Christian values in higher education.



Nazareth Margoschis College in Piliyanmanai, India. With degrees in arts, commerce, and sciences, this college seeks to provide affordable and quality higher education to rural youth so that they may become resourceful and responsible citizens who also focus on global sustainability. Their leaders work to provide for students from all walks of life, with a special emphasis on serving those who are Christian and economically disadvantaged. While equipping students with technical and managerial skills, the college also works to instill Christian values of faith, service, and stewardship. Founded in 1967, this college has over a thousand students. Their bishop, Timothy Ravinder, noted their desire to integrate students' faith and technical expertise.



Pope's College, Sawyerpuram in Tamil Nadu, India. The college was established by the Church of South India in its Thoothukudi-Nazareth Diocese to impart Christian value-based education in poor sections of their community. The goal is to transform them holistically, namely spiritually, mentally and physically, to become agents of change and purposeful citizenship. With an enrollment of more than 1200 students, this college is accredited in areas of arts, commerce, and sciences.

These five new colleges each sought to participate in the recent INCHE Asia Oceania conference in Korea. They were significant participants among the fourteen leaders from India who experienced this recent conference. INCHE coordinator, Dr. Daniel Ezhilarasu, continues to invite, welcome, and support the rapid growth of our network's membership in India.

INCHE NETWORK NEWS



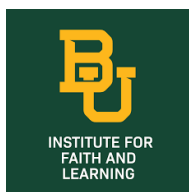
During this same period **Africa Renewal University** in Kampala, Uganda was also approved for INCHE membership. This university began in 2007 to develop a new generation of leaders who lives are transformed by rigorous study of scripture, impassioned love for God and faithful service to the nations as the body of Christ. The university offers bachelors degree programmes in business, child development, community development, disabilities studies, social work, theology, and several applied professional fields. They are known to promote quality evangelical theological education in Africa. Notably, this university also has ties to Christian Education National in Australia, another set of INCHE members focused on Christian teacher education.

Recently, the **American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)** became a new INCHE affiliate member. Since its beginnings



in 1941, ASA has grown into a scholarly and professional society that is an international community and fellowship of Christians engaged in the

interface of vital faith-science questions. They host an annual meeting in which such questions are probed that includes members from across Canada and the USA as well as welcomed international participants. The upcoming annual meeting is on July 28-31 in Toronto, Canada.



The most recent INCHE member is the **Baylor University Institute of Faith and Learning (IFL)**. Begun in 1997, IFL's purpose is to assist the university in achieving its mission of integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment related

to its Baptist and Christian heritage. Since its founding, the institute has developed the annual Baylor Symposium, a gathering of faith-based thought leaders from across and beyond higher education to consider topics of import for Christian educators. IFL also directs the annual retreat for newer Baylor University faculty and professional staff members, supports the Crane Scholars Program for gifted undergraduates who seek to connect faith and reason, and regularly offers the Bailey Family Lecture on Christian Ethics regarding a topic of moral consequence.

The past three months have been a period of substantial growth for the worldwide INCHE network. Together with existing members, these newer members strengthen the footprint of Christian higher education worldwide.

Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary at 30

30 years dedicated to Reformed higher education

Between 24 February and October 2023, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its re-establishment after the change of regime. The events of the jubilee year include confer-



ences, the publication of a jubilee volume, and various other programmes commemorating not only the past three decades, but also the preceding period of Reformed higher education as well as the spirit and mission leading up to the establishment of the university.

The opening date of these festive events honors the February 24 meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary which made the decision to establish Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The closing in October commemorates the time at which the formal proposal of the Hungarian National Assembly to codify the establishment of the University was adopted in 1993.

The opening event of the jubilee year, the joint commemoration ceremony of the Reformed Church in Hungary and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary was held in the banquet hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 24 February 2023. The congratulatory speeches addressed the contribution of the University's venerable founders and scholars, the achievements of the recent past and present, the place of the University in denominational education, the challenges of the future, and the tasks and goals of the current management in accordance with the university's mission and spirituality. The INCHE director will participate in October's closing events.

INCHE NETWORK NEWS

May 2023 Meeting of the INCHE Board of Directors

On May 30 the INCHE Board of Directors met via Zoom in its semi-annual meeting. On this occasion, three new board members were welcomed including Beth Beech (Asia Oceania representative), Dosoung Choi (Asia Oceania representative), and David Mesquiati (Latin American representative). Each of the new board members participated in a round of mutual introductions with other INCHE board members.

The board focused on the growth in INCHE membership, the distribution of membership across the five INCHE global regions, and approval of new institutional membership applications. Six new INCHE members were approved at this meeting.

Finances, as usual, are a significant focus of the May board meeting. As a network, INCHE must work with a global inflation rate for the past year that averages 7%. This requires adjustments in membership dues that will be requested in October 2023 by INCHE members. The board also approved the INCHE operating budget for 2023-2024 that begins in July 2023.

After two years of work on a strategic plan, the INCHE Board of Directors approved the proposed INCHE Strategic Plan that will guide the network through 2026. That plan includes a strong focus on the development of region-specific INCHE leadership to complement the efforts of the INCHE network office. Regional role descriptions and regional goals have been developed and they will be emphasized over the next three years. For network leadership, the Executive Director, subsequent to the board's evaluation, was reappointed for up to three additional years. She will also hire a long-term professional office staff assistant before September 2023.

The board noted initiatives in each of the INCHE global regions. Multiple conferences, webinars, and seminars are being planned. INCHE is also beginning to plan for its 50th anniversary year. Commemoration will begin with a North American conference in October 2024 and conclude after other initiatives through the summer of 2025. Committees will be formed in the next few months to establish 50th anniversary themes and develop specific plans.

The INCHE Board of Directors will meet in formal session again in December 2023.

INCHE Europe Leaders Craft Communal Time

From May 24-26, INCHE Europe leaders had some exceptional days of collaboration and joint meeting.

Several of them joined a two-day seminar hosted by Driestar University in Gouda on May 24-25 to consider the nature of Christian educational leadership. Dr. Rens Rottier, the recently retired president of Driestar Educatief, and his colleagues guided participants through participatory learning about the nature of Christian leadership in educational institutions and their particular missions as Christian educators. They also spent time together exploring the theological heritage that had shaped the Netherlands and Gouda as a context for Christian higher education. This time of learning and fellowship included new, ongoing, and recently retired presidents and rectors of INCHE institutions.

On May 26, INCHE Europe leaders made a transition to



Christelike Hogeschool Ede for a meeting of the INCHE Europe Presidents and their representatives. New rectors, George Harinck at the Theological University of Kampen/ Utrecht, Robert Zoutendijk of Driestar University, and Claire Ozanne of Liverpool Hope University were introduced to the work of INCHE Europe. Stan Rosenberg, Vice President for Research and Scholarship of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, also participated for the first time. Together these leaders focused on a desire to expand INCHE Europe membership, cultivate joint research, and create greater organizational capacity for INCHE Europe programming. They anticipate an ongoing INCHE Europe student programme, an active website presence, and visits to each other's campuses for further learning and cooperation. INCHE Europe also anticipates an active role in planning for the 50th global anniversary of the INCHE network. In the year ahead, INCHE Europe presidents anticipate an online meeting in October or November and a spring 2024 meeting at Partium Christian University in Romania.

AFRICA REGION

Daystar University Shapes a Partnership with Calvin University

During the third week of April, Dr. Laban Ayiro, president of Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya conferred with several Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries in Michigan, USA. These included discussions with INCHE members at Kuyper College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Calvin University and with the INCHE Executive Director

At Calvin University, Dr. Ayiro meet with Cynthia Slagter, the Director of Off-Campus Programs; David Smith, Director of the Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning; and Matt Lundberg, Director of the deVries Institute for Global Faculty Development. During these meetings, they explore the potential for cooperation in both student academic programs and faculty development initiatives. These sessions were complemented by meetings with both Provost Noah Toly and President Wiebe Boer.

A special highlight of the week was the inclusion of Dr. Ayiro with the Calvin Board of Trustees members in a visit to a regional prison in which Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary jointly provide a bachelors' degree program in ministry and leadership to select long-term prison inmates. Dr. Ayiro had expressed special interest in educational programming for prisoners; and the Michigan Department of Corrections gave special permission for him to join the Board in this planned visit.

By the next day, Dr. Ayiro and Dr. Boer had agreed that there should be a formal memorandum of cooperation between Daystar University and Calvin University. Surrounded by other Calvin University leaders, they arranged to sign this memorandum on Thursday of that week. These arrangements are the result of several faculty exchange visits and short-term student off-campus programs between the two universities over more than twenty years. The memorandum encourages a deeper partnership for the years ahead.



Evangelical Theological College Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

This spring the Evangelical Theological College (ETC) of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) celebrated its 40th anniversary. In 1983 the college began with two classrooms and one Diploma program in theology. Gradually, they expanded programs, faculty, and facilities. Currently, the college has a B.A. theology program with nine varied ministry majors and five M.A. programs that are unique among programs provided by other Ethiopian theological institutions. The college has expanded to include online courses. The first graduation ceremony in 1988 had one student. By now ETC has graduated close to 1800 students serving the Lord in different capacities in Ethiopia and beyond. ETC has grown from one campus in Addis Ababa to supporting a second campus in Hawassa, a southern Ethiopian city.

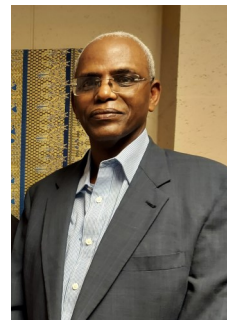
The 40th anniversary celebration included a March 2023 seminar



on "Worship and Music in the Church" lead by Dr. Ron Man. As he said, "There is no theology without doxology and there is no doxology without theology." Ministers who plan and develop worship as well as ETC students participated in an opportunity to explore the nature of Christian worship. The March occasion was followed by an April Praise and Worship Concert in which different choirs and soloists praised God for faithfulness in leading and blessing ETC as a servant of the Ethiopian Christian churches.

About a week later, Dr. Jason DeRouchie, Research Professor Old Testament and Biblical Theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, lectured on spiritual warfare to advance God's Kingdom.

The celebration continued in May 2023 with a 40th anniversary gathering for ETC alumni and current students. In a time of great fellowship, ETC graduates gave testimonies about the impact of ETC on their lives and ministries. On this occasion, Dr. Frew Tamrat, the principal of ETC, presented a summary of ETC's 40-year journey and its future plans.



The final commemorative celebration was held along with the June 10 commencement ceremony. All of these celebratory events were opportunities to praise and thank God for forty years of faithfulness in the development of Evangelical Theological College.

ASIA-OCEANIA REGION

INCHE in India Holds Leadership Development Programme

As INCHE membership among India's Christian colleges increases, INCHE coordinator Daniel Ezhilarasu organized a leadership development program for Christian



colleges in India that was hosted by Lady Doak College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The goal of this May 17-19 event was to enhance the Christian professional development of senior faculty and administrative leaders. In consultation with several leaders from Lady Doak College, contributors included ordained pastors, chaplains, trainers, and principals as resource people reflecting on topics such as:

- A Biblical Understanding of Leadership Qualities
- Human Values Development
- Visions for Institutional Strategic Planning
- Interpersonal Communications
- Styles of Leadership as well as Strengths and Challenges of Team Leaders

More than thirty senior leaders gathered for this professional development opportunity. They included representatives from the following INCHE member colleges as well as those whose INCHE membership applications were in process at that time:



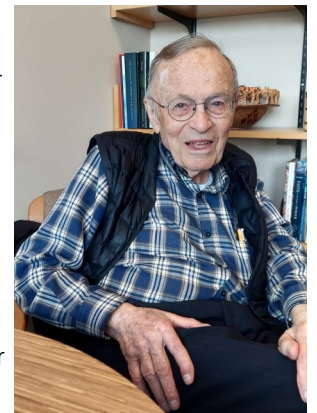
- American College , Madurai
- C.S.I. College of Arts and Sciences, Madurai
- C.S.I. Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore
- C.S.I. College of Engineering, Ketti
- C.S.I. College of Commerce, Dharwad
- C.S.I. Ewart Women's Christian College

- Lady Doak College
- Madras Christian College
- Nazareth College of Arts and Sciences, Avadi
- Margoschis College, Thoothukudi
- Pope's College, Sawyerpuram
- Voorhees College, Vellore

Participants departed from Lady Doak College with a sense of satisfaction about their learning and with encouragement for their leadership in Christian higher education.

Wesley Wentworth Tribute: Christian Networking for Korea

Recently Wesley Wentworth visited the INCHE network office. After more than 55 years of Christian service in Korea, at the age of 87 he is now in transition to a retirement home in Pennsylvania. In the process, Wesley was hosted by Nick Lantinga, INCHE (IAPCHE) network director from 2002-2011.



After his Christian conversation as a young adult engineering student, Wesley studied at a Bible college. Subsequently, he went to Korea in 1965 as a sanitary engineer for a US firm. After supervising the construction of a Christian hospital in Kwangju, Korea, he was hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to lead water and wastewater systems on US military bases in Korea.

While sanitary engineering was Wesley's employment focus, he also developed Christian higher education in Korea. With publishers, he arranged the translation of several English language books on Christian perspectives to be translated into Korean.; and he promoted them among Korean Christian universities. Wesley developed knowledge and friendships with Korean Christian educators. He participated in the 2016 INCHE (then IAPCHE) conference that was hosted at Baekseok University. For the recent INCHE Asia Oceania conference, Wesley contributed names and emails of Christian educators to be invited. INCHE is grateful for Wesley's service to Korean Christian educators.

Contact • June 2023

EUROPE REGION

INCHE Student Programme 2023 SDG from a Christian Perspective



Between 17-21 April 2023, INCHE Europe and Partium Christian University jointly organized an Oradea-based programme for students. The participants came from Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Ukraine and the host country, Romania.

The programme theme was "SDG from a Christian Perspective". The intention was to involve students in the creation of a more sustainable world, doing this all through Christian lenses. The students and tutors dealt with issues of inequality, hyper-individualism, and overconsumption. The goal was also to kindle the light of gratitude in young people for the beautiful Earth our God gave us, while cultivating focused attention – not only tolerance – towards each other.

The students of INCHE Europe member universities had applied for the programme; and when accepted, they were required to submit a short introductory video. The organizers prepared a colourful and interactive Blended Intensive Program: from Monday evening to Friday noon, the students were taking part in Bible studies, plenary sessions, workshops, an excursion and different group works, all of which contributed to their development in Christian values, that will also contribute to a better world.

The programme began on Monday with registration and a welcome dinner on the banks of the river. Tuesday was the official opening of the program, where Dr. Maior, (vice-rector Partium Christian University) and Lydia Bor (INCHE Europe coordinator) welcomed everybody and pastor Abigél Szomor opened the event by raising the question of what would have happened if we had remained in Eden. But the essential question was what could happen if we believed that the most important matter is a return to

God. Only in Jesus can we gain the life God originally intended for us. Only in Jesus can we learn to love the created world as God loves it. So the real question is: do we want to learn from Jesus, do we want to live with Him? In that regard, the focus was on Genesis 2 as well as the Year of Jubilee (Isaiah 61).

The topic of the first plenary session was "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sustainable Development But Were Afraid to Ask." It was presented by Jelle Terpstra, (lecturer at Christelijke hogeschool Ede). The workshop in the afternoon "My footprint and I" was lead by Levente Székedi, (assistant professor at Partium Christian University). Students completed an ecological footprint self-assessment questionnaire, Groups worked together to consider the main barriers preventing behavioral change.

On Wednesday, participants visited the Oradea City Museum, the water management system and Savaieu, Romania. Thursday again began with a devotion. It continued with a workshop led by Jelle Terpstra entitled "Sustainable Development: a System-change", in which students looked into how sustainable development recognizes that everything is interconnected.

The afternoon workshop was provided by Peter van Olst, (lecturer at Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education). He discussed how to be a "good ancestor" while introducing the idea of "future-mindedness". The day ended with the preparation of student assignments. Students made a sketch of the best possible future. On the last day of the program, after the closing ceremony, students had the opportunity to present the ideas they prepared the previous evening.

The Blended Intensive Program engaged 31 students. They arrived from five countries, from seven INCHE Europe members for this successful event.

The INCHE Europe Student Programme (IESP) aspires to connect young professionals in Europe through student leadership training that equips them to make an Christian impact in society.



LATIN - AMERICA REGION

The VIII Latin American Consultation

On November 3, 2023, the eighth consultation of INCHE Latin America will be held, in virtual mode. The theme to be explored is "Public Incidence of Protestantism in a global key: a Latin American view from higher education".

The Objectives of the event are to:

[1]. Establish a North-South dialogue within Christian higher education regarding the projections of Protestantism in the public sphere and its social, local, and international consequences.

[2]. Analyze the projection of Protestant churches in the public sphere and its consequences, especially in the fields of politics, the economy, human rights, and citizen security.

[3]. Value the role of international faith-based and ecclesial networks, as well as Christian Higher Education [CHE], for lay engagement and leadership in the public arena.

The main guest speakers are Dr. Rudolf Von Sinner, from Brazil, representing the South, and Dr. David Koyzis, from Canada, representing the North.

Rudolf Von Sinner is Professor of Systematic Theology, Ecumenism, and Inter-religious Dialogue at the Escola Superior de Teologia (Lutheran School of Theology) at Sao Leopoldo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He is one of the world's leading public theologians.



David Koyzis has been a member of Global Scholars Canada since 2019. He is an academic political scientist with a PhD in Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame. He has taught political science at Redeemer University for thirty years, mentoring hundreds of young people who have gone on to contribute to public life in Canada and elsewhere. In recent years he has broadened his academic ministry through contacts in Brazil, Pakistan, Ukraine, Indonesia, Germany, Finland, and elsewhere.



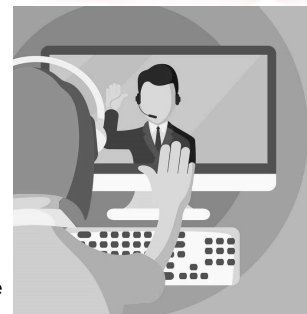
Among the panels and specialized topics that will be covered are the following.:

Panel 1: Protestant presence in the public sphere: National and international

- USA: Protestant presence in the political sphere and international projections

- Presence in the political sphere of Protestants in Latin America

- Case study in Latin America: Brazil,



Panel 2: Church, missions, laity, and public considerations

-USA: Churches with Missionary Agencies in Latin America

-A. Lat.: Denominational churches in Latin America, with headquarters in the USA:

-A. Lat: independent churches, Pentecostalism, mega-churches, in Latin America

Panel 3: ESG and key areas of teaching [Economics, Politics, Development]

- USA: Economics and politics in Protestant universities,

- USA: 'Latin American issues in Protestant universities',

-Lat. Am. [i] 'Brazil, 'Economics in Protestant Universities'

-Lat. Am.[ii] Critics to BAM-Lausanne vs. solidarity proposals.

Panel 4: ESG and Human Rights: Persistent Problem Facets

- USA: Racism and immigration in a Protestant context,

-USA: Citizen security: arms race inside and outside the country

- Latin Am: Economic power and press vs. alternative media

All of these sessions will be led by distinguished speakers from various parts of Latin America and the USA. Detailed information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Contributed by Fernando Bullon, INCHE Latin America Coordinator

NORTH-AMERICA REGION

Wheaton College is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Amy Peeler to the Kenneth T. Wessner Chair of Biblical Studies

Established in 1998, the chair position recognizes a “distinguished teacher and scholar who is making substantive contributions to his or her subdiscipline within the general field of Biblical Studies.” The chair’s aim is to support the work of a mature and spiritually vibrant scholar who contributes to the advancement of biblical studies through teaching, mentoring, writing, and academic leadership—with significant contributions to the Wheaton College Graduate School.



Dr. Peeler has taught at Wheaton since 2012 and currently serves as an associate professor of New Testament. She earned her bachelor’s in biblical languages from Oklahoma Baptist University and an M.Div. and Ph.D. in New Testament from Princeton Theological Seminary. She also completed a postdoctorate with the John Wesley Honors College at Indiana Wesleyan University. During her spring 2018 sabbatical, Dr. Peeler was a senior research fellow with the Logos Institute at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Dr. Peeler leads undergraduate students through Wheaton’s Christ at the Core curriculum with her teaching of the First Year Seminar, the Advanced Integrative Seminar, and New Testament Literature and Interpretation. She also offers advanced courses in New Testament and mentors doctoral students in the Graduate School.

“Her outstanding teaching and publication activities continue to magnify God and edify the church,” said Wheaton College Provost Karen An-hwei Lee, affirming Dr. Peeler’s achievements as a professor. “It is a joy to see Dr. Peeler engage our students and the broader community of biblical scholars.”

In addition to her teaching, Dr. Peeler is a leading evangelical New Testament scholar, with expertise in the Epistle to the Hebrews, Mary the mother of Jesus, and the theological interpretation of Scripture. Her numerous publications range from journal articles and book chapters to commentaries and monographs. Recent publications

include *Hebrews: An Introduction and Study Guide* (Bloomsbury, 2020) and *Women and the Gender of God* (Eerdmans, 2022). She is the associate editor for *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Her forthcoming works include commentaries on the book of Hebrews and the Gospel of Mark, as well as a second volume to *Women and the Gender of God* focused on the Pauline epistles.

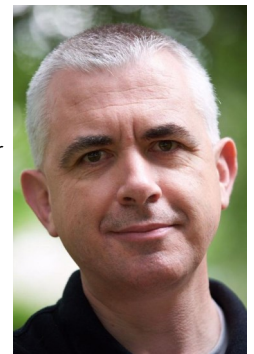
“Dr. Peeler’s vocation as a scholar, teacher, and mentor is squarely within the academy and the church. She lives out this vocation with remarkable integrity,” said Dr. David Lauber, Dean of the School of Biblical and Theological Studies. “She is an established scholar whose research trajectory is ever-rising. This chair will fortify her expansive scholarly efforts as she advances academic discussions and edifies the church.”

Dr. Peeler said. “...I pray that the work I will do as a scholar and teacher with this support contributes to deepening knowledge of the goodness of God.”

Retrieved from: <https://www.wheaton.edu/news/recent-news/2023/june/wheaton-college-appoints-wessner-chair/>

Christian Teaching and Learning in STEM Fields: October 12 Opportunity

Mark your calendars now for an October 12, 2023 online event that INCHE will cohost with the Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning and the de Vries Institute for Global Faculty Development. Beginning at 3:00 p.m. EDT (7:00 p.m. UTC), David Smith, Kuyers Institute Director, along with five faculty panelists will discuss their research regarding the relationship of Christian faith and STEM field teaching. They will consider how Christian faith can inform not just the content of teaching, but also pedagogical choices. This online gathering will build on a recent co-authored journal article in the *International Journal of Christianity and Education* that summarizes research, experimentation, and reflection by faculty leaders in several STEM fields. The writers are October 12 panelists. They will reflect on faith-infused teaching in the fields of biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, and nursing. Further details rare forthcoming in the months ahead.

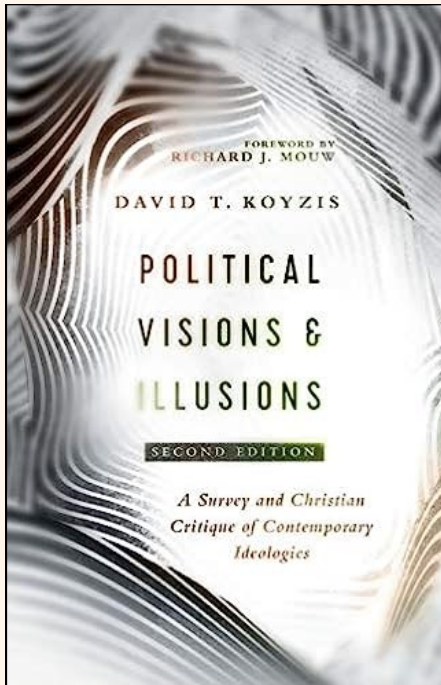


SPECIAL BOOK FEATURE

Political Visions and Illusions (Second Edition)

By: David T. Koyzis

IVP Academic, May, 2019; Portuguese edition 2021; Spanish edition 2022



What you believe about politics matters. The decades since the Cold War, with new alignments of post-9/11 global politics and the chaos of the late 2010s, are swirling with alternative visions of political life, ranging from ethnic nationalism to individualistic liberalism. Political ideologies are not merely a matter of governmental efficacy, but are intrinsically and inescapably religious: each carries certain assumptions about the nature of reality, individuals and society, as well as a particular vision for the common good. These fundamental beliefs transcend the political sphere, and the astute Christian observer can discern the ways—sometimes subtle, sometimes not—in which ideologies are rooted in idolatrous worldviews. In this freshly updated, comprehensive study, political scientist David Koyzis surveys the key political ideologies of our era, including liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, democracy, and socialism. Koyzis gives each philosophy careful analysis and fair critique, unpacking the worldview issues inherent to each and pointing out essential strengths and weaknesses, as well as revealing the "narrative structure" of each—the stories they tell to make sense of public life and the direction of history. Koyzis concludes by proposing alternative models that flow out of Christianity's historic engagement with the public square, retrieving approaches for both individuals and the global, institutional church that hold promise for the complex political realities of the twenty-first century. Writing with broad international perspective and keen analytical insight, Koyzis is a sane and sensible guide for Christians working in the public square, culture watchers, political pundits, and all students of modern political thought.

About the Author

David Koyzis is an experienced teacher/writer working through Global Scholars Canada. His work for this organization sees him delivering online lectures, recording remote courses, being interviewed for radio programmes and podcasts, and engaging in conversations with readers of his books around the world.

David holds a PhD in government and international studies from the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of the award-winning *Political Visions and Illusions* (2019), *We Answer to Another: Authority, Office, and the Image of God* (2014), and multiple scholarly and popular articles. At present he is working on another book with the working title of "Citizenship Without Illusions." He currently writes for First Things, Christian Courier, Kuyperian Commentary, and Catechesis Forum. He has maintained this blog since 2003. He taught undergraduate political science at Redeemer University College for thirty years. In 2017, he became an independent scholar and now is associated with Global Scholars Canada, another INCHE member.

David maintains a growing relationship with the Christian community in Brazil, which he visited in 2016 and where the second Brazilian edition of *Visões e Ilusões Políticas* (2021) was published by Edições Vida Nova in São Paulo. He has delivered many remote lectures to audiences in Brazil in recent years on subjects related to his two books.

Born near Chicago of Greek-Cypriot and American parents, David now lives with his family in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



Contact • June 2023

SPECIAL FEATURE

Shirley Roels: Liberalism, nationalism, and conservatism are some ideologies about the societies and nations in which we live and how we develop in the 21st century. As Dr. David Naugle observed, such ideologies primarily are a way in which human beings address the riddles of the universe and shape a symbolic world for which people are inclined to live or even die. What are some common themes that ideologies address, “religious” ones for which people will live or die?

David Koyzis: Every ideology is different, of course, but they have much in common as well. These commonalities are sufficient, I believe, to illustrate that they originate in an idolatrous worldview that elevates something in God's creation

to the status of a false god. That something is not intrinsically evil. Not at all. The something is a good that followers make too much of. Liberalism is one example. Liberals properly value individual liberty. The constitutions of most western nations have charters or bills of rights that guarantee such fundamental freedoms as speech, religion, the press, and so forth. Such recognition of the status of the individual is one of the genuine contributions of liberalism to our politics. But where liberalism errs is in making individual freedom the centre of our societies, giving it priority over other legitimate considerations, such as the status of such basic institutions as family, marriage, state, and gathered church community. Liberals attempt to reduce a multiplicity of communal forms to mere voluntary associations. Attempting to live out this reduction inevitably leads to various social dysfunctions which governments will have to step in to try to resolve.

All of this grows out of a centuries-long effort to save us from some perceived oppressive force that constrains our desires. Often the followers of an ideology seek liberation from a constraint that God has built into his creation.

But ideologies do not simply make too much of a created good. They also tell a story—a redemptive story with a this-worldly salvation standing at its end. For Marx, it was the classless society that a messianic proletariat would usher in at the end of a long history of class struggle. For the nationalist, the story culminates in the liberation of an oppressed nation from its foreign rulers. For the

liberal, the story ends in either the achievement of an array of personal liberties or continues with an endless expansion of the sphere of individual freedom and a constant contraction in the scope of external authority.

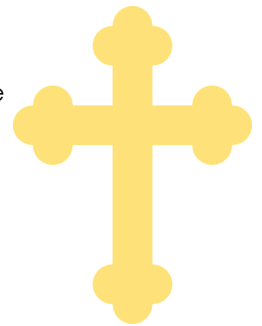
These stories mimic the biblical redemptive story, promising salvation at some point in the indefinite future. But, of course, this salvation as their followers conceive it never actually comes. They make promises they can't possibly fulfil.

SR: Liberalism and Socialism balance the rights of the individual and the collective will of society differently. In our times, are these two ideologies completely distinct from each other? If neither of these two ideologies is based in a Biblical perspective, should we discard them and work to develop a specifically Christian ideology instead?

DK: Liberalism and socialism are usually thought to be opposites. Liberalism makes a god of the individual, while socialism exalts a community—an economically-qualified community. Yet each shares more than its followers are willing to admit. Once again each makes too much of something in God's creation, telling a story ascribing redemptive significance to that something.

But a Christian ideology? No. Not a good idea. I understand of course that there are different definitions of ideology in general usage. Some think it to be a coherent system of political ideas or proposals for reform. But as I see it, ideologies fundamentally distort lived reality, persuading ordinary people to suppress what their experiences are telling them about the world. In so far as, for example, Marxists try to reduce human motivations to economic motives, they ignore the full complexity of the person. Those following Marxist teachings must suppress their experience of flesh-and-blood persons and what makes them tick.

Not a Christian ideology, no. But we should sharpen our perceptive faculties and accept reality for what it is: God's creation in all its fulness and complexity distorted by sin.



SPECIAL FEATURE

SR: Nationalism is a rising dynamic in our times. You probe the relationship between Christian faith and nationalism at some length. In many nations, why is nationalistic loyalty increasing as a value among Christians? What do we need to teach our students so that they position patriotic loyalty appropriately in their lives and practices?

DK: Nationalism is indeed in the ascendancy again. During the 19th century conflicting nationalisms built up until they exploded in 1914, determining the course of the following century. Near the end of the 20th century, Marxism-Leninism, which had held sway over a huge swathe of the Eurasian landmass, collapsed, leaving a spiritual vacuum in its wake. But the spirit, like nature, abhors a vacuum. Something must fill the space once occupied by a false deity. Many people in that part of the world turned to God in Christ as source of salvation. But not everyone. When one idol is exposed as false, people tend to replace it with another. Once they lost faith in the coming classless society, they turned to the nation as substitute.

Sad to say, Christians are not exempt from these trends. Once Christians have seen through the idol of individual autonomy, they, like their unbelieving neighbours, have often fallen prey to nationalism.

To be sure, there is something right about communal solidarity amongst people who share common characteristics and commitments. But we ought not make too much of this solidarity. Nation should never replace the larger body of Christ in our loyalties.



SR: One interesting chapter describes “democratism” as an ideology that arises from democracy but expands beyond its basic tenets. What is democratism? Why should Christians be wary of it?

DK: Admittedly, democratism is a word that our spell-checks do not recognize. But I would describe it as the belief that expanding the democratic principle, namely, the rule of the people, into all of life will bring about a

this-worldly redemption. One-time American presidential aspirant Alfred E. Smith once said that the cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy. But popular participation in the political process, an undoubted good, does not guarantee justice. Constitutional government and respect for the rule of law must take priority. Many of our forebears in both classical and Christian traditions recognized that a balanced constitution incorporating democratic elements is the best we can hope for, given the human propensity to claim more than we have a right to. Democratic mechanisms are important in maintaining a just political system, but they are by no means sufficient.



SR: Given the problematic nature of ideologies in the public square, namely our own communities and nations, one strategy is to recreate the Christian church as an enclave of faith (sermons, sacraments, and discipline) that is distinct and separate from public engagement. If that is not a sufficient role for our churches, instead should they lean on their educational institutions, namely faith-based universities and colleges, to engage political ideologies and practices?

DK: Well, I think we need to raise awareness of the nature of ideologies in a variety of settings, because they will not stay put within one or two spheres of life. Churches, educational institutions, workplaces, and so forth, are all affected by the distorting influences of ideological visions. And, no, I don't think the gathered church can exist as an “enclave of faith” without the support of the other communities of which we are part. Some recent observers have envisioned the church as an “alternative polis,” that is, a political community that very nearly rivals our state institutions. But I think this is a category error. Many communities have a legitimate claim to our allegiance, while our ultimate allegiance is to the body of Christ and the God who has called it into existence.

SPECIAL FEATURE

SR: You suggest that the Biblical story of creation and redemption leads us toward support for pluralism as a central task of the state. But then you complicate this discussion by suggesting that there are different types of pluralism: a.) spiritual pluralism or directional diversity; b.) cultural pluralism or contextual diversity; and c.) societal pluriformity or structural diversity. When faced with these multiple types of pluralism, what should be the central focus and task of the state/the nation?

DK: However we define pluralism, the state has an obligation to protect it. That said, I think societal pluriformity is of utmost importance. In a

differentiated society such as those we experience in the western world, and increasingly elsewhere as well, our states need to maintain the legal space for a variety of social formations to live and flourish. When one of these becomes too large and attempts to crowd out the others, people will not flourish. If, for example, every good becomes a commodity to be bought and sold in the marketplace, family, marriage, the arts, sport, education, and so many more phenomena will develop in stunted fashion. Or if the state becomes the grand impresario of every human activity and enterprise, it risks becoming totalitarian, as we saw in so many countries in the mid 20th century.

SR: You describe Catholic Christian and Reformed Christian scholarship as providing two different approaches that in clear fashion set forth logical alternatives to secular political ideologies. In what ways are the convictions and perspectives of these two approaches similar? In what ways do they differ? How can Catholic and Protestant Christians in faith-based higher education aid each other in developing shared scholarship about Christian alternatives to political illusions?

DK: Let me start with the differences. In the Roman Catholic worldview, society is hierarchical in structure, with various communities at the high end mediating God's authority to those below. Subsidiarity is a principle long associated with the tradition of Catholic social teachings since Pope Leo XIII in the late 19th and very early 20th centuries. Subsidiarity requires that most activities be handled by the lower agents in a hierarchy, with

the higher agents intervening temporarily to provide help only if the lower agents fail in their responsibilities.

By contrast, a Protestant approach is not hierarchical in the same sense. According to Abraham Kuyper's notion of sphere sovereignty, God confers his authority directly on the pluriform agents of society rather than through an intermediary institution such as the state. Parental authority within families is bestowed directly by God rather than by means of institutional church or state. There are no higher or lower agents as such. Each has its own assigned sphere under God's all-encompassing sovereignty.

However, Catholic and Protestant approaches are similar in that both affirm societal pluriformity. Both recognize God's sovereignty over his creation, including his human creation with all the communal formations growing out of our created nature. The ideologies ascribe sovereignty to the individual, the economic class, the nation, the democratic people, or some such, while the two Christian traditions recognize that ultimate sovereignty belongs to God alone.

SR: How can we form our students to transcend political ideologies and keep themselves solidly grounded in Christian foundations for their personal lives and for life together? How do we shape our graduates to become mature Christian believers who are wise about political illusions and spread Christian visions of political life?

DK: I think we need to start with the basics, which means we need to dig deeper than politics. Political life, like the rest of life, finds its origin in the human heart and in its ultimate loyalties. We need to model for our young people how to live a full life in Christ, underscoring the importance of church attendance, daily prayer, reading the Bible, and participation in the various communities where God has placed us, including our political communities. We need to model spiritual discernment, teaching our young people to recognize the true nature of the various spirits vying for our allegiance. Most of all we need to model lives of gratitude and obedience in the power of the Holy Spirit.



"I Believe in ... the Communion of Saints"



RESOURCES & BOOKS



ST ANDREWS
ENCYCLOPAEDIA
of THEOLOGY

St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology

<https://www.saet.ac.uk/>

The Encyclopedia can be accessed without a fee and contains a growing set of articles to support theologically-based education throughout the world.

"As a collaborative and ongoing construction effort, the Encyclopaedia is being built article by article. For now, we plan fortnightly release of articles in the Christianity section, with publication in the other sections to begin in spring 2023. Even in its full form, however, readers will not encounter a complete and static collection, as in a print encyclopaedia, but rather a growing and lively conversation among different voices, subjects, and traditions." - taken from the website description



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eTBN is a product of Theological Book Network. It leverages the unique capacities and strengths of digital technologies to equip Majority World Bible colleges, seminaries, and faith-based universities with affordable, effective, and convenient access to academic theological texts. Multiple users can access texts simultaneously for both classroom and scholarly initiatives. Find eTBN at: www.etbn.global



YouTube recording

Dr. John Stackhouse, Jr, Crandall University, offered the opening plenary session at the 2023 Kuyper Conference hosted by INCHE member, Redeemer University. In it, he asked foundational questions about Biblical and theological knowledge as foundations for Christian higher education. Found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKM-bbHqzY>



International Journal of Christianity and Education:

The Challenges of Writing about Teaching - David I. Smith (onchristianteaching.com)

An Excerpt: "Teaching is of course neither the whole of education nor the sum of what educational scholarship is trying to understand. It should be informed by detailed work in all of the relevant disciplines. Yet teaching is not reducible to findings from those disciplines, and teaching is at the heart of what educators do... it seems to me that we need more books about teaching that also teach, books in which we find ourselves gaining informed insight into the concrete weave of practices in which we are embedded and a sense of hope and possibility for how they could be made new."

The full blog post is found here: <https://onchristianteaching.com/the-challenges-of-writing-about-teaching/>



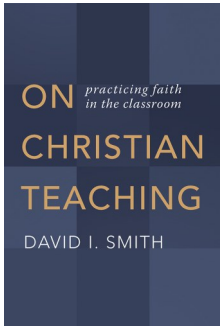
With Faith in Mind:

A weekly Religion, Spirituality, and Christianity podcast.

With Faith In Mind is intended for academically-minded, ecumenical Christians. The goal is to engage listeners with a thoughtful and faith-informed perspective on important issues and big questions that society faces. The producers do this by having real conversations with people who have great stories and expertise. In our first series, titled "Christian Education at the Crossroads," they have interviewed top leaders and scholars in varied Christian education spaces included churches, Christian schools, and Christian higher education. INCHE Executive Director, Shirley Roels, was interviewed for a recent Podcast. This series is produced by Upper House, a Christian ministry launched to engage University of Wisconsin students and Christian listeners far beyond this university.

Found here: <https://www.podchaser.com/podcasts/with-faith-in-mind-5284560/episodes/recent>

RESOURCES & BOOKS



David Smith (Kuyers Institute): [On Christian Teaching: Practicing Faith in the Classroom](#) (Eerdmans, 2018) was recently published in **Portuguese**. It is currently being translated into **Korean** and **German**.

Is there a way to go beyond Christian perspectives on the subject matter and think about the teaching itself as Christian? Christian teachers have long been thinking about what *content* to teach, but little scholarship has been devoted to how faith forms the actual *process* of teaching. Smith's scholarly exploration of education combines both theory and practice. With clever and sometimes funny examples, he shows how teachers of every subject and age group can be attentive to how their students are experiencing and interpreting learning. From desk arrangement to discussion questions, there are myriad opportunities to design classes that are deeply rooted in Christian faith practices. *On Christian Teaching* provides fresh insight into Christian education that expresses faith and community



Kuyers Institute of Christian Teaching and Learning: Two online resources for teachers, *whatiflearning.com* and *teachfastly.com*) recently had versions in **Lithuanian** added to the existing **Russian** and **Ukrainian** versions through their partner organization MAPXO. Work has started on an **Indonesian** version of *whatiflearning.com*. These are excellent resources for teacher education programs to introduce to teacher education students in relevant contexts.

NOTE: Reviews are taken directly from the publishers' promotional materials and should not be considered reviews by INCHE.



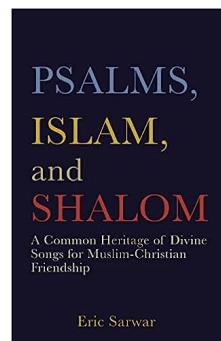
Vision and Vocation: An Exploration of Vocational Calling in Light of the Bible's Grand Narrative

By Phillip Larking

Christian Education Trust, 2023

<https://christianeducationtrust.org.nz/>

Vocation is about the meaning we associate with our work. This book explores the themes of vocation and purpose through the lens of the Bible's grand narrative. Written from a Christian perspective, this text takes an invitation-stance towards all people to engage with the content from the perspectives of their own life experiences, worldview, and values. When we are captured by a vision for shalom, defined as flourishing communities, we can find our unique place in God's big vision



Psalms, Islam and Shalom: A Common Heritage of Divine Songs for Muslim-Christian Friendship in the 21st Century

By Eric Sarwar

Fortress Press, 2023

For fourteen centuries, a gap of mutual suspicion and hostility has existed between Christians and Muslims, despite attempts to engage theologically, apologetically, polemically, and militarily (such as the Crusades). Historic animosity has resulted in widespread violence and persecution. Amid such an environment, past efforts at reaching Muslims with the gospel have proved ineffective or even detrimental, highlighting a need for a different approach to engaging with Islamic culture.

Eric Sarwar's research, experience, and practice have uncovered the valuable and mostly untapped role of the biblical Psalms in fostering peaceful friendship with Muslims. The book of Psalms, called Zabor in Arabic, is a common heritage of divine song that can be used as a point of connection for public witness between Muslims and Christians. Especially in the Pakistani context, Psalms carries vast potential, in terms of both text and musical expression, as a bridge to peacemaking and missional engagement. Yet the book of Psalms has never been a significant part of witness to the Muslim world. Sarwar believes that can change.

Contact

Contact is the official newsletter of the International Network of Christian Higher Education (INCHE). It is published quarterly as a way of informing its members about news from across the many world regions in which INCHE operates. If you have any news items you would like to share with INCHE's members worldwide, please contact INCHE at:

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ABOUT INCHE

INCHE is a network of institutions and individuals worldwide committed to advancing Christian education through training, capacity building, scholarship, and networking in ways that reflect both the universal (shared view of Christ's centrality in our identity and work) and the local (attending to the specific realities and practices of where and who we serve).

INCHE's Mission is to develop a network that facilitates contact and mutual assistance, acts as a catalyst for research and training, and encourages biblical and contextual responses to the critical issues in contemporary society, so as to help people serve the Lord Jesus Christ in an integral way.



**Have news you would like to share
with other INCHE members?**

Members may email articles to office@inche.one. We suggest articles contain 400 words or less.