

## ADDICTIONS SEMINARS FOR OFFICE BEARERS

Almost a year ago Rev. Harry Zekveld from Providence United Reformed Church, and a former Board member of CCC, suggested the idea of CCC facilitating a seminar series on addictions in the London area. Around that time, Henk Van Dooren, our former Director had hosted several forums for people interested in "learning from each other and exploring biblically-based and well informed responses to the problem of addiction". These were people, committed to our Lord and Saviour, who have a calling in what is called the "mental health professions" and have a desire to do more than work on their own from their area of expertise, but come alongside elders, deacons and pastors in their responsibility to heal the wounded.

The forum was able to use the services of Archie Bax in sifting through the content of the discussions and identifying main themes. A top concern was the need for training of office bearers to have more knowledge and better care with people suffering from addiction. So it happened that the work of the forum and Rev. Zekveld's request came together providentially, and the series of seminars started to take form.

Mrs. Joyce De Haan, Registered Social Worker led off the first session in October along with Rev. Matthew Van Luik, who is also our chair. Joyce is well known in our community as she has counselled many people over the years. Rev. Van Luik shared his experiences in working with addiction when he ministered in the Fraser

Valley, B.C. The November seminar featured Dr. Eric Mulder, psychiatrist at the Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene. He was able to sketch out how addictions often go together with other conditions like depression and anxiety. The December seminar featured Dr. Gary Veenman who has a diploma in Addictions medicine and works out of Homewood Psychiatric Hospital in Guelph. He was able to build on Dr. Mulder's presentation and add many personal insights.

We were pleased to have Murray Hofsink speak to the group in January 2010. He provided more information and experiences from "within" what works for support groups. Murray is involved with Family Outreach and has a deep passion for the wounded and the need for understanding, comfort and direction from pastoral caregivers as well as specialists. Dr. Marta Durski, who has a private practice in Oakville, Ontario and formerly worked at Bellwood Addictions Treatment Centre, has spoken widely on Sex and Love Addictions, and we were honoured to have her speak at the February seminar. The final session was to be in March but was postponed to April. This brought back Mrs. De Haan, and she proved to be an effective "closing act" with more of an emphasis on office bearers working with the rich material that had been presented and applying it in their special roles and functions in the church.

We will have further evaluation of the series and consider the possibility of

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## Welcome Kevin



Christian Counselling Centre is pleased to announce that Kevin Hoogstad has recently been hired as an Associate Counsellor in our Burlington office. Kevin recently graduated from Tyndale University College with a Masters in Counselling and he is also a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. Kevin will be accepting new clients and appointments can be made by calling 1.866.833.2741. Kevin we welcome you to CCC and wish you God's blessing as you begin your work.



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launching this in other areas as well. This may not be replicating the same format but to take the best from the presentations with a clear concern of fitting it to the requirements of the office bearers. The approach of using Biblically centred professionals interacting with church leaders may be a different forum for dialogue. It is not without some tension when some of the terms are unfamiliar,

and when there is no simple answer to the problem of addiction in our churches. However, all presenters and participants could acknowledge the deep impact of sin and brokenness and the need for God's grace and redemption. We could also celebrate further possibilities for restoration through good collaboration between "people in the field" and office bearers.

Finally a very special thank you to Archie Bax who not only coordinated the seminars but was able to give of his free time to coach the presenters on effective ways of presenting the material, maintaining continuity, and also paying heed to whether this was coming across well to the participants.



# BRINGING GLORY TO GOD BY CARING FOR EACH OTHER

## From the Board of Directors

Change is a part of life and it is no different at CCC. While we usually try to avoid change in our lives because we like the security of that which is familiar yet change can also bring about a new energy and renewal to an organization. In a way CCC has been coasting comfortably for some time, having Henk VanDooren as our full time counselor. As board we could always count on Henk to take care of the matters that needed attending. Well, Henk has come to the age of retirement and decided that it is time to let go of the reins at CCC. With his retirement the board has had to take a much more serious look at the future direction of the organization.

One of the challenges that we faced as a board was the large turn over of board members. We had 5 board members come to the end of their terms and ask to be released from the board and 4 new board members have taken their place. First, I would like to express appreciation for the work that was done by the outgoing board members. Rev. Henk Bergsma, Jim Bezemer, Ada Dieleman, Alfred Otten and Dr. Jerry Visscher all finished their terms on the board. We are thankful for the faithful work you have done for CCC. A special word of thanks to Jim Bezemer who acted as the treasurer, Ada Dieleman who served as the board secretary and Dr. Jerry Visscher who served as board chair and who allowed his term to be extended by a year. It is only through the dedicated work of a board that an organization can function successfully. We are thankful to the Lord for their dedication to CCC.

The Lord has also provided CCC with new board members, Marija Lodder, Rob Verloop, Jerry Bosscher and Rebecca Slingerland. Jerry has been able to put his business background to good use as the new treasurer and Rebecca is using her skills as the new board secretary. The new board is working together very well as everyone is putting their shoulder to the load. There is a spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm that is important for CCC to move forward in the future. There is also an underlying desire for CCC to be a good resource to the Reformed Churches in Southern Ontario where God's people can turn for counselling that is founded on biblical principles.

The board has taken some time to think through the direction that CCC will take. We see a need for Christian counsellors to whom members of the churches can be referred with confidence. While a counsellor has special skills to help people work through difficult issues, yet the counsellee needs to be confident that the counsellor will direct them in a way that is consistent with the will of God. It is our hope that there will be people within the churches who will desire to pursue a career in the counselling field and that CCC may be the place where they can work with a team of counsellors to help those in need. As we pursue this vision we need your support and more importantly the blessing of the Lord.

I would also like to mention with gratitude the work that Lammert Jagt has done for CCC as the Executive Director. He did this

work on a volunteer basis. Lammert's work has been very helpful for the board to better understand the operations of CCC and he has also been instrumental in raising funds that made it possible for CCC to continue to function. Lammert has resigned his position as Executive Director and on behalf of the board I would like to thank him for the work and great effort he put into it. We are thankful that Lammert has agreed to continue to assist CCC in connection with the promotions committee. His continued insights will be very beneficial for the board.

For some 10 years or so Henk has been the full time counsellor at CCC. We are thankful to Henk for the years of service he has given to CCC. While we do our work with much weakness yet we can also acknowledge that the Lord has given him the strength to fulfill his task. There is probably nothing more rewarding than to help those who struggle and see them progress through the troubles of life with the help of the Lord. We pray that the Lord may also have used Henk as an instrument over the years to touch the lives of many of His people. Henk will finish his work with CCC at the end of May. Thank-you Henk for your dedicated service at CCC and we wish you the Lord's blessing in your retirement. No doubt you will still find ways to use your talents in the Lord's service. We would also like to thank Henk's wife Rita for always being there to support him in his work.

Henk's retirement also means that there will be changes in the CCC office. Heather Sager, who has been working as a counsellor

for CCC on a part-time basis, has taken a full time job at Homewood in Guelph, meaning that she will be giving up her position at CCC. We would like to thank Heather for the work that she has done and we wish her the Lord's blessing at her new task. Monica DeVries has also been doing some counselling in the Lambeth/London as well as Burlington area. She works mainly with children and adolescents and has had training in Art therapy which is very helpful when dealing with children. We pray that she may also grow with CCC.

We can also inform you that the board has hired Kevin Hoogstad as the new counselor who will work from the Burlington office. Many of you may already know Kevin since he is involved in the SES program at Guido de Brés Christian High School in Hamilton. At Guido de Brés, Kevin is available a few hours every week so that students dealing with struggles in their lives can consult with him. I understand that the program has been very successful and that Kevin's work is very much appreciated. Kevin will begin working for CCC a couple days a week beginning June 1. It is our prayer that Kevin will quickly grow into his role and that he may be a blessing to the work of CCC.

The board also had to make some decisions about office space in Burlington. Our lease will expire at the end of May and the board decided not to renew the lease. We have taken up the generous offer to sub-lease space from Open Door Financial in the same building. This will make a considerable difference to our monthly costs although our up front costs will be sizable. We are asking for donations in order to make renovations to the new space so that we can move our office. The location of the new offices will be on the ground floor and the entrance to the new office will be from the outside of the building, which will ensure the privacy of our clients. This will be a great improvement especially for those who come to the office in the evening.

While the board has been busy during this period of transition, we continue this work trusting that we do not do it in our own strength but in the strength of the Lord. Therefore we continue to ask the Lord to give us wisdom for this work and pray that He may also open up opportunities for CCC to serve His people. We would also ask that you support us not only with your financial contributions but more importantly with your prayers.

Rev. Matthew VanLuik, Chair

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