



FEN AT OLIPHANT, ONTARIO. PHOTO: HAROLD@NSITU.CA

Newsletter

Summer 2015



Dan Osmond (1934-2015)

– Mr. Valiant-For-Truth¹

Tribute to a visionary

By Don McNally

It was with great sadness that I learned of Dan Osmond's passing on Saturday April 24th. Not only had a very good and gracious man departed; a significant chapter in the history of the CSCA had also come to a close. For over 30 years, from the founding of the CSCA in 1973, Dan had been the preeminent voice of the CSCA. Although he withdrew from his high-profile advocacy and activism for the CSCA during retirement, he always had the work of the CSCA top of mind in his prayers and support.

In many respects, Dan reminds me of John Bunyan's character "Mr. Valiant-for-Truth" in

the Pilgrim's Progress. Like Bunyan's character, Dan had a gracious and winsome tenacity in matters of faith. In whatever work he was involved with, Dan always saw the big picture in terms of God's redeeming love in Christ. This passion for seeing all of life from this perspective, and particularly with his work in science, led Dan to play a leading role in the formation of the CSCA in 1973.

While the founding of the CSCA seemed like an outlandish idea at the time, in Dan's view it was the only response adequate to the needs of the time. Well-wishers from the ASA looked on and took note of his zeal in promoting the vision of the CSCA to his contacts across Canada. In the ASA Newsletter of Fall 1977 it was noted that "The Canadians had the problem of a membership scattered across a vast country. But they have pizzazz, judging from Dan's report."

¹ My title is also intended as a playful poke at the pretensions of Post-Modernism on such matters. For a thoughtful philosophical discussion on this topic see Simon Blackburn's, *Truth: a Guide* (2007) and his talk, *Truth & Relativism* (University of Toronto, 2005) on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ef9xi-aIKPM>

In that report, Dan shared his vision for the CSCA:

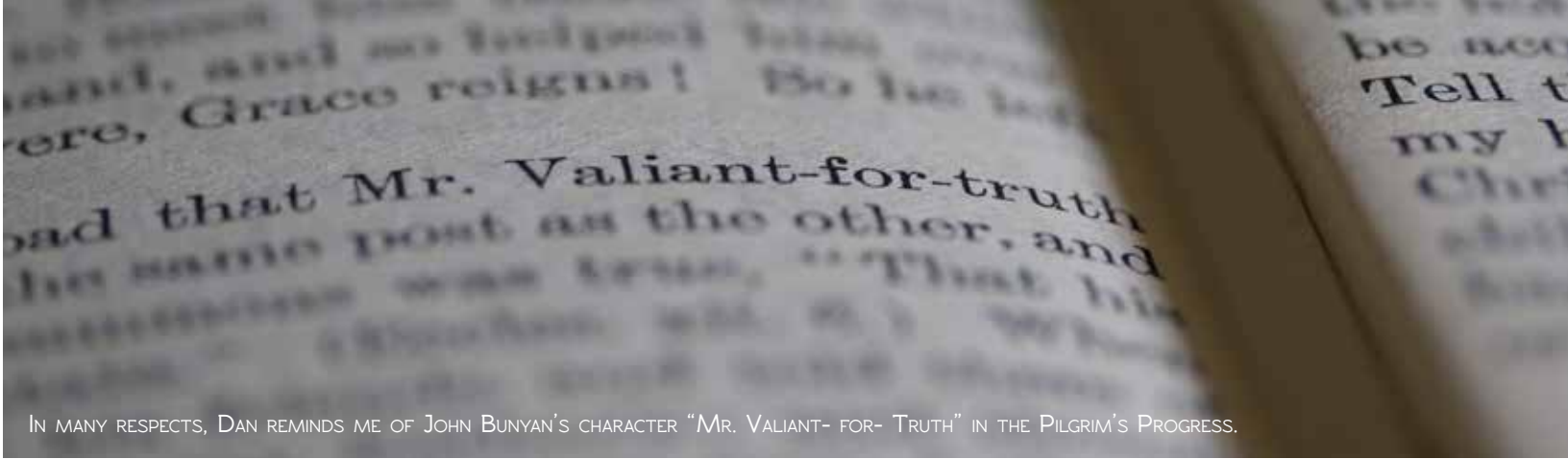
“I believe we must catch the vision of generations of teachers mistakenly teaching thousands of Canadian pupils with an anti-biblical bias; of pastors and their flocks with ill-conceived reflexes against science; of a public still somewhat misunderstood by the gurus of science holding forth outside their realms of competence; and of scientists afflicted with ‘nothing-buttery’ who, wittingly or otherwise, have excluded their Saviour from that aching, God-shaped void inside them. We must begin to respond more coherently and practically to the great moral issues that arise on all fronts out of science, medicine, and technology, in a world crying out for our talents to be used strategically.”

And respond he did. This passion was the focus for all of Dan’s work and the source of numerous initiatives to help students and faculty see the deep meaning of Christian faith for their work in science. Prayer and

fellowship meetings at his home, unflagging commitment to meetings with students at the “Think Tank” over dinner at St. Michael’s College, formation of the CSCA as an officially recognized campus group at the University of Toronto, constant effort to bring the CSCA and Inter-Varsity together for joint ministry,² work on the John Templeton Foundation Board, numerous meetings with the CSCA and ASA, countless talks and lectures on faith and science—all of these activities were centred in his deep Christian faith.

In the context of this life of service to the vision of the CSCA, Dan shared his retrospective on the founding of the CSCA in our *40th Anniversary Newsletter*^{*}. In many respects, this article was his last charge to the CSCA, and in this article he raised the question of whether the CSCA policy of being “neutral” on controversial issues concerning creation and evolution might not be counterproductive. In his words, “If being “neutral” is already a turn off for many students, should the CSCA consider changing tactics and doing more to defend ‘scientific truth’ with the kind of zeal it devotes to ‘Gospel truth’? Is not all truth God’s truth?”

On the matter of the close collaborative relationship between the ASA and CSCA, Dan was very clear: “Our unity in Christ, our desire to serve our Lord first and foremost and our reliance on the Holy Spirit have made it possible to work together in harmony on a win/win basis.” True to form, Dan was an active participant in the joint meeting of the



ASA, CSCA and CiS at McMaster University last year, and he was instrumental in having John Walton’s special sessions on Genesis part of the program. He had come full circle from the highly successful joint ASA/CSCA meeting that he and his wife Faith organized at the University of Toronto in 1996.

Dan remained active to the end: working to prepare his farm at Roseneath for a new season, corresponding with friends and contacts on matters of faith, and preaching at his local church. Dan’s last sermon, just weeks before his death keyed off Psalm 46: 1-3 and selection of related texts on the theme:

“Living in the fear of the Lord . . . therefore we will not fear.”³

When his Master came for him, Dan was found a faithful steward, busy with kingdom work.⁴

May we, like Dan, be “valiant for truth” in the firm conviction that “all truth is God’s truth”; may we share his vision for the work of the CSCA in close collaboration with the ASA; may we strive to reach this generation with the liberating faith of the Gospel which shall make us truly free from the false idols of our age; may we shine this light in the dark places of our world as faithful stewards of the living Word by whom all things were made.

² In June 2005 Dan wrote an extensive 57 page memorandum “Building authentic ‘educational’ and ‘witnessing’ IVCF communities in Canada’s universities”. The document still stands as a comprehensive and prescient assessment of what needs to be done to maintain an authentic Christian presence in all aspects of university life.

³ Job 1: 6-12 Job 2: 1-10 Psalm 111: 10 Acts 9: 31

⁴ I have concentrated on Dan’s faith life and vision in this tribute. A lengthy tribute could also be written on Dan’s considerable academic and scientific accomplishments.

CSCA Report, 2014-1015

Don McNally

The past year has been one of growth and expanding influence for the CSCA. Membership currently stands at just under 200 and has been increasing steadily. Highlights of the past year include the very successful joint meeting of the ASA/CSCA/CIS at McMaster in Hamilton, ON, and the ongoing development of CSCA local chapters. The joint meeting in July received very good reviews from participants and help to strengthen the bonds of community and scholarship across a wide range of disciplines, institutions and geographical regions. The past year also saw the continued flourishing of local activities in Vancouver and Hamilton, and the formal incorporation of Hamilton and Edmonton as official new ASA chapters.

Current plans call for formation of additional local chapters in Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Waterloo, Montreal and Halifax. Establishment of active local chapters in these regions, associated with major research Universities, would give the CSCA a truly national outreach at the ground level, and provide a much wider base from which to reach students and

faculty and involve them with the work of the CSCA.

The CSCA has its administrative centre in Hamilton, and works as a 'virtual organization' spanning Canada, reaching into the US, and extending to the UK. Through its association with the ASA, the CSCA is able to leverage the organizational and administrative assets of the ASA membership services to expand its reach into many institutions across Canada, and to build up a base of important "influencers" in academic and church life in Canada.

One unique feature of the Canadian context, as compared to the US, is the relatively small number of Christian institutions of higher learning. There is a small cluster of church-based institutions in the Maritimes, Redeemer University in Hamilton, The King's University in Edmonton, and Trinity Western University in BC. The CSCA is working to expand its network and influence in these institutions, and use them as bases from which to reach a wider Christian and secular academic community.

A key part of the CSCA strategy for the growth of its network and influence is based on the development of strong local chapters that can be a focal point for activities in a specific region: these reach the community, mobilize local resources and provide points of

contact among faculty, Christian organizations and local area churches. Our plan is to build up these local areas of influence wherever we achieve a critical mass of 5 to 6 active members.

Although the CSCA has a small membership base, its members are distributed very widely across Canada and in many secular as well as religious academic settings. The current arrangement allows the CSCA to work through the tremendous volunteer efforts of its members with very low overhead. The CSCA has been blessed in that it includes very dedicated and talented members who have considerable influence.

In addition to its work in Canada, the CSCA extends its influence with very active Student and Early Career member in the UK. CSCA Past President Jim Peterson (presently in Virginia) is also well connected with CSCA members, and provides a valuable academic link for CSCA members to share research and ideas with the wider ASA community as editor of the journal, Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith. The CSCA has also focused attention on expanding its reach through its online presence via the web and social media. Influence has been significant but it is always somewhat limited by time and resources.



ONTARIO PITCHER PLANT. PHOTO: HAROLD@NSITU.CA

The CSCA Executive & Activities

Donald McNally, Executive Director CSCA *President NetAccess Systems Inc.*

Don has combined academic and business careers for the past 22 years, and has served as Executive Director of the CSCA since 2003. Don's primary work has been in the development of collaborative business networks and educational initiatives in the study of faith and science. He completed his PhD at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto with an area of specialty in the study of science and religion in the early Victorian period.

Don has been a member of the CSCA since 1984, and has a passion to see the CSCA use the best available communications technology to build community, and make the CSCA the leading professional organization of its kind in Canada. Don also works on the program planning committee for the Hamilton local chapter.



Arnold E. Sikkema, President CSCA, *Trinity Western & Vancouver Area Local Chapter.* *Professor of Physics,* *Chair, Mathematical Sciences Department,* *Trinity Western University, Langley, BC*

Arnold is a theoretical physicist, with background in general relativity and condensed matter theory. His current research interests are in theoretical biophysics and in the Christian philosophy of science, particularly in the relationship between physics and biology. Since 1997 he has been involved in Christian

higher education, and joined the executive council of the CSCA in 2011. Together with his wife Valerie (a professional horticulturist) and their three children born in the 1990s, they enjoy the many wonderful outdoor activities BC offers.

www.csc.twu.ca/sikkema
www.twu.ca/directory/faculty/arnold-e-sikkema.html
arnold.sikkema@gmail.com

Activities

Under Arnold's leadership, the CSCA's Vancouver chapter has been active, hosting a display table at the Apologetics Canada conference in Abbotsford, BC, and hosting guest lectures at TWU. Speakers for 2014 include:

- **Craig Bartholomew**, "Genesis 1:2 and the Doctrine of Creation" (Jan. 29)
- **Katharine Hayhoe**, "Climate Change: Facts, Fictions, and our Faith" (Oct. 8)
- **Jon Baker**, "What mean these stones?: Adventures in blogging about Young-Earth Creationism" (Oct. 22)

Arnold hosted a lunch conversation for faculty from TWU & SFU with John Lennox of Oxford. He also hosted a visiting scholar at TWU, Steve Ball of LeTourneau University (Longview, TX), who facilitated faculty conversations on science & faith. And he contributed a book chapter "Religion and the Science Classroom", in Matthew Etherington, ed., *Foundations of Education: A Christian Vision* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2014), Ch. 5 (pp. 61-76).



Arnold also gave the following presentations relevant to science & Christian faith:

- “The Uses and Abuses of Science in Apologetics”, presented at Apologetics Canada Conference 2014, Abbotsford, BC, 8 March 2014 (12:30pm and 1:30pm); the same lecture was presented as part of “Faith and Science Week”, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC, 11 March 2014.
- “Emergence: Science, Theology, and Philosophy”, a panel discussion with Harry Cook and Jitse van der Meer, presented at the CSCA/ASA/CiS conference “From Cosmos to Psyche: All Things Hold Together in Christ”, Hamilton, ON, 27 July 2014.
- “Reformational Perspectives in Physical Science”, presented at “Academy Regained”, a satellite conference of the CSCA/ASA/CiS conference “From Cosmos to Psyche: All Things Hold Together in Christ”, Hamilton, ON, 28 July 2014.
- “Are Science & Religion in Conflict?”, for “God and Reason”, a lecture series at University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, BC, 28 January 2014.
- “Colossians 1 and Science: Delight, Confidence, and Motivation”, Providence Christian College, Pasadena, CA, 21 February 2014.
- “Conflict or Harmony: How can science & faith coexist?”, for the Soul-City-Socrates series at Reality Church, Vancouver, BC, 4 May 2014.



E. Janet Warren, Vice President CSCA

*Family Physician/Independent scholar,
Hamilton, Ontario*

Janet has been practising Family Medicine for 20 years, with a special interest in mental health care and counselling. She recently attained her PhD in Theology and published her thesis as *Cleansing the Cosmos: A Biblical Model for Conceptualizing and Counteracting Evil*. Her current research interests include the integration of psychology/neuroscience and theology. Janet has been involved with CSCA since 2011 and is excited to be part of the executive council.

Janet devoted a lot of time to helping with ASA/CSCA/CiS conference in 2014. She led devotions and the CWiS hike, arranged for the article in Faith Today and distribution of free copies at the conference. She continues to network and to promote the CSCA, especially at McMaster and in the Hamilton region. She also serves on the program planning committee for the Hamilton area local chapter.

Janet's publications related to science and faith include:

- Her devotional in *God and Nature*
- “On Grass that Withers: Overloaded Brains and Spiritual Discernment.” *God and Nature*, Summer, 2014.
- A PCSF article: “Feminine Sin and Female Scientists,” *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, 67/1 (2015).
- A poem in the *GPPA journal*: “On Birth and Rebirth.” Spring, 2014.
- An article in the Christian Medical Dental Society journal
- “Mediating the Transcendent: Practitioner as Priest.” *Focus* (CMDs Journal), December, 2014.

James Peterson

Past President

B.A. (Northwestern University), M.Div. (GCTS of the Boston Theological Institutes), M.A. (University of Iowa), Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Schumann Chair and Director of the Center for Religion & Society, Roanoke College, VA



Jim is the editor of the academic journal *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* and his most recent book is *Changing Human Nature* (Eerdmans) which considers the best use of our quickly developing capabilities in genetics. He held the R. A. Hope Chair at McMaster University, training MD, MDiv, MA, and PhD students for three faculties, and has now taken up a newly endowed chair as the Schumann Professor and Director of the Center for Religion & Society at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. He was recently inducted into the International Society for Science and Religion at Cambridge University.



Bethany Sollereder

Student & Early Career Representative

Bethany has a PhD in Theology from the University of Exeter, UK and a Master's Degree in Christian Studies from Regent College in Vancouver, Canada. Her focus has been on science and religion, specifically in the area of non-human animal suffering and the love of God in the evolutionary process. Currently she works as a research coordinator for the Materials Department at the University of Oxford, is a member of Regent's Park College, and tutors for Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO).

After nearly 5 years of service on the Executive Council as the Student and Early Career Representative, she is stepping down. If you would be interested in this exciting position, please see page 29 below.

Bob Geddes, Secretary / Treasurer

*B.Sc., M.Sc. (University of Western Ontario),
M.Div. (Knox College, University of Toronto)
The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Retired*



Bob's first calling was as a geologist, working for 15 years in mineral exploration in northern Canada and then with the Ontario Geological Survey. He then became a Presbyterian minister, pastoring a congregation on the Hamilton mountain for nearly twenty years. He enjoys exploring science and faith issues by way of nineteenth-century Christian geologists such as Canada's Sir J. William Dawson, and also as manifested in the new science of astrobiology.

Much of Bob's work in 2014 centred on the job of local arrangements convener for the 2014 ASA annual meeting at McMaster. Bob did a tremendous job not only in preparing for the conference, and but also during the meetings to ensure that everything ran smoothly. He found it a pleasure to work for and with the ASA staff. The meeting was immensely successful.

Bob also set up an online donation system for CSCA members through CanadaHelps. It is a good system and is working well. However, one task for Bob over the coming year will be to advise members that this is not a site for renewals or membership registration but

simply a vehicle for making donations more easily.

Bob ensured that the annual donations letter was sent in November. He looked after donations, deposits, tax receipts and coordination with the ASA office systems.

Bob was very successful in promoting the CSCA and ASA within the Presbyterian system:

1. In July he led two workshops in Science and Faith for Presbyterian youth at their biennial conference at Brock University.
2. In October he led a day-long science and faith workshop at the Presbyterian national retreat and conference centre (Crieff Hills Community). Registration was 105.
3. He had an article published in the October Presbyterian Record, (the denomination's national magazine), which included a detailed report of the ASA annual meeting in Hamilton.

As for future challenges, Bob sees the need for a better way to connect with all members, and especially with student members. This should be in addition to communications that members receive from the ASA.



Executive Council

Update

The CSCA Executive Council meets regularly by Skype, and most recently held meetings March 18th, May 21st and June 22nd to review and evaluate priorities: to build out the local chapters of the CSCA and to develop a presence and voice in matters concerning the interactions between faith and science with particular attention to the Canadian context.

Don McNally

March 2015



CanadaHelps for On-line Donations

At the end of 2014, the CSCA was able to register with CanadaHelps, for the purpose of allowing on-line donations directly to the CSCA. CanadaHelps is itself a “charity helping charities”. It offers an on-line fundraising platform for all registered Canadian charities, and is designed to provide high-level technical expertise for small and medium sized charities, that only larger groups can generally afford. It is, by far, the most economical mode for giving that is available to us, and saves significantly on bank fees, exchange rates, mail costs, etc. It also provides training, educational initiatives, and promotional concepts to assist charities in their own fundraising.

Donors may give once or monthly, donate securities (thus avoiding capital gains charges), give a memorial donation, or give anonymously. The most convenient way to give is by way of the “Donate” button on the CSCA website (www.csc.ca). This takes you directly to the CSCA donation site. However, it is also suggested that you check out the CanadaHelps website itself (www.canadahelps.org). You will encounter some of the other services that this charity provides, and you may see something quite

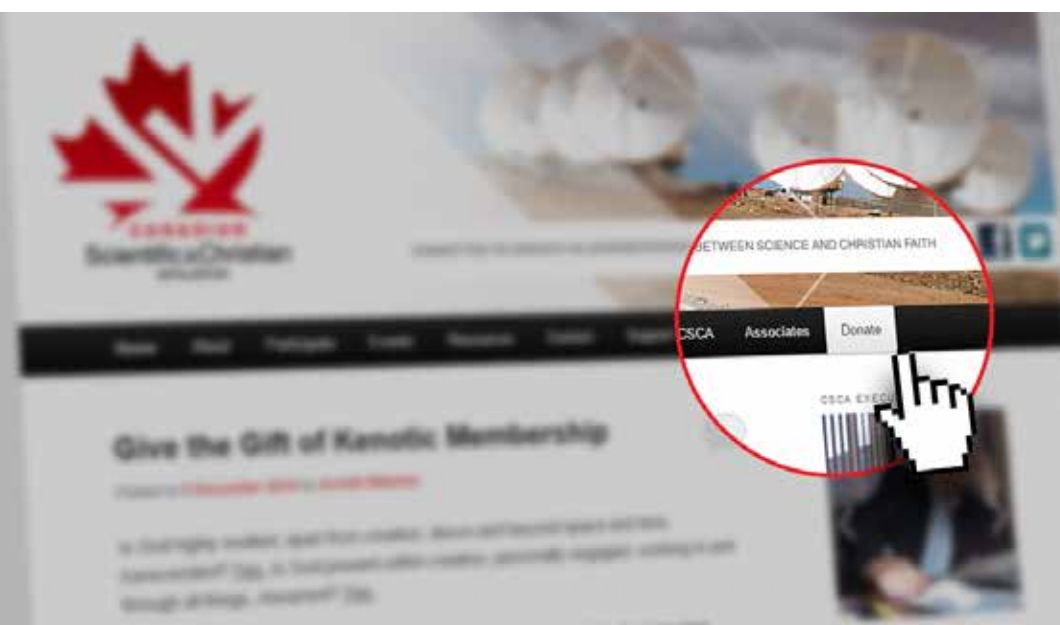
suitable for the CSCA. We would be very interested in knowing your thoughts!

Please know that this site is for donations only. They cannot process memberships or renewals. Please use our other online or mail options for this purpose.

You are reminded that the CSCA receives virtually all of its operating funding by way of donations. Your on-going support is deeply appreciated, and we are always looking for more convenient ways for you to participate. We hope you give CanadaHelps a try.

Bob Geddes
CSCA Secretary-Treasurer

THE MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE IS BY WAY OF THE “DONATE” BUTTON ON THE CSCA WEBSITE





LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER, ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY, PHOTO: FLICKR.COM/KRISTINNADOR

2015 Annual Meeting at Oral Roberts University

Dominic Halsmer *Program Chair*

This summer we will be “Hearing God’s Voice in Nature” at the Annual ASA Meeting at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 24-27, 2015. How do we hear God’s voice in the study of what he has made? What is God saying through the creation? And how do we best steward the knowledge we gain from listening to God’s voice in nature? These are just some of the intriguing questions that will

be addressed at this summer’s ASA Meeting. “Great are the works of the Lord! They are pondered by all who delight in them” (Psalm 111:2).

The plenary speakers are lined up to provide exciting presentations that will stimulate our thinking on multiple facets of this theme. We will start out on Friday night with Dr. Bethany Sollereeder, freshly minted PhD from the University of Exeter, delivering a provocative lecture entitled, “Blood, Fire, and Fang: Listening for God in the Violence of Creation.” Then, on Saturday Morning, Dr. Alister McGrath, Andreas Idreos Professor of

Science and Religion at Oxford, will join us live from England, via virtual connection, to address questions regarding his prerecorded plenary lecture, “Natural Theology: Seeing God’s Fingerprints in Creation.” On Sunday morning, Dr. Esther Meek, Professor of Philosophy at Geneva College, will deliver, “Covenant Realism: How Love is at the Core of All Things.” And to close the meeting on Monday, Dr. Amos Yong, Director of the Center for Missiological Research at Fuller Theological Seminary, will present, “The Breath of God and the Light of Nature: Toward a Pneumatology – Science Dialogue.”

We will also be offering introductory and advanced workshops on science and religion on Friday, along with a variety of interesting tour options that will highlight the culture in and around Tulsa. For example, ASA’s affiliate, Christian Women in Science, is sponsoring a tour of Tulsa’s famous Boston Avenue Methodist Church. And don’t forget the picnic and sand volleyball tournament planned for Saturday night. All in, it should be very informative, and a lot of fun as well. Bring your thinking cap and your play clothes, and get ready for a great time.



BOSTON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH, TULSA. PHOTO: DAVID J. BROWN



GEORGE STUBBS, LION ATTACKING A HORSE, 1765

Spring, Spiders, and Speech

Bethany Sollereder

As the snow melts and the northern world warms, life will reemerge in strength from its wintery slumber. Soon everything will be a mad rush of activity in order to make the

most of the short Canadian summer months. As a child I both loved and hated spring. True, it meant outdoor sports and school vacation were on their way, which was very good. But it also meant that spiders were going to return. Spiders were—for me—the source of an uncontrollable, primal fear that could stun me into an immobile terror. The joy of playing in the garden would be suddenly and entirely

ruined by the discovery of one of these tiny predators, lurking amongst the leaves. (It was only upon moving to England that I discovered just how small most of the spiders I had been afraid of were, in comparison to the massive and ubiquitous “garden spider” here.)

As Christians we celebrate God as the Good Creator of the natural world. However, my childhood ambiguity about spring raises an issue that is seldom talked about in church: the natural world is full of nasty things. While my arachnophobia is a thing of the past, there are still many instances of natural horror. Parasites, violence, and natural disasters are just three common realities that cause a simple declaration of the goodness of God to catch in the throat. Watch a video online about cordyceps, or look once more at pictures of Ebola coverage, and you will see what I mean. Did God do this? If God did create such horrible things, should we really still consider God good? If God did not create them, who or what did? What does the violence of creation tell us about the world and about God?

At the Tulsa ASA meeting this summer, we will leave behind reflections on sunsets and kittens, waterfalls and willows, and delve instead into the world of blood, fire, and fangs to see if God’s voice can still be heard in the difficult and the dark places of creation. We may be surprised by what we discover about God’s heart in and through these less-heard voices! I hope to see you there.



CEDAR APPLE RUST (FUNGUS). PHOTO: HAROLD@NSITU.CA

A book note

by Arnold Sikkema

Steven Weinberg,
*To Explain The World: The
Discovery of Modern Science*
(Harper, 2015); 365 pages (including 95 pp. of
technical notes) plus 52 pages of endnotes,
bibliography, & index.

This was one of the first books I picked up for my summer reading. I recognize Weinberg as a significant theoretical physicist, having worked in detail through his text *Gravitation and Cosmology* and studied the electroweak theory for which he jointly received the 1979 Nobel Prize. I was also aware of Weinberg's reductionistic and anti-religious views, and so was curious how he would treat the history of science. I am not qualified to write a proper book review, not being a science historian, but then again neither was the author; he wrote the book after volunteering to teach (and thus learn) the topic over the past decade at the University of Texas at Austin.

A highlight of the book (for me) is its extended appendix of 35 precise, succinct, and accessible

technical notes spanning 95 pages. The author presents important historic calculations from Thales's geometrical theorem through Aristarchus's ratios of terrestrial, lunar, and solar distances and diameters to Newton's ratios of the solar mass to those of Jupiter, Saturn, and Earth. These calculations are sometimes corrected (showing how even the original scientist should have been able to do better) and/or compared with modern-day results.

The book is a delightful tour divided into four eras — Greek physics, Greek astronomy, the middle ages, and the scientific revolution — focused understandably on the history of physics though touching on other sciences as well. His anti-religious stance comes out strongly in several places, where he over-emphasizes episodes in which the church harmed science and under-emphasizes its positive influence. But he does not single out religion alone, addressing connections with technology, poetry, philosophy, and mathematics as well.

I appreciate the significant attention paid to



Arabic science, noting that “Arab scientists in their golden age were not doing Islamic science [but] science” (123). I was struck with how some Muslim responses are similar to those of Christian fundamentalists which I hear today: al-Ghazali (1058–1111) “compared

science to wine [which] strengthens the body but is nevertheless forbidden to Muslims. In the same way, astronomy and mathematics strengthen the mind, but ‘we nevertheless fear that one might be attracted through them to doctrines that are dangerous’”(122ff). Weinberg relates how his co-laureate Abdus Salam found to his dismay that “the rulers of the oil-rich Persian gulf states...were enthusiastic about supporting technology, but they feared that pure science would be culturally corrosive” (123).

“the world acts on us like a teaching machine, reinforcing our good ideas with moments of satisfaction”

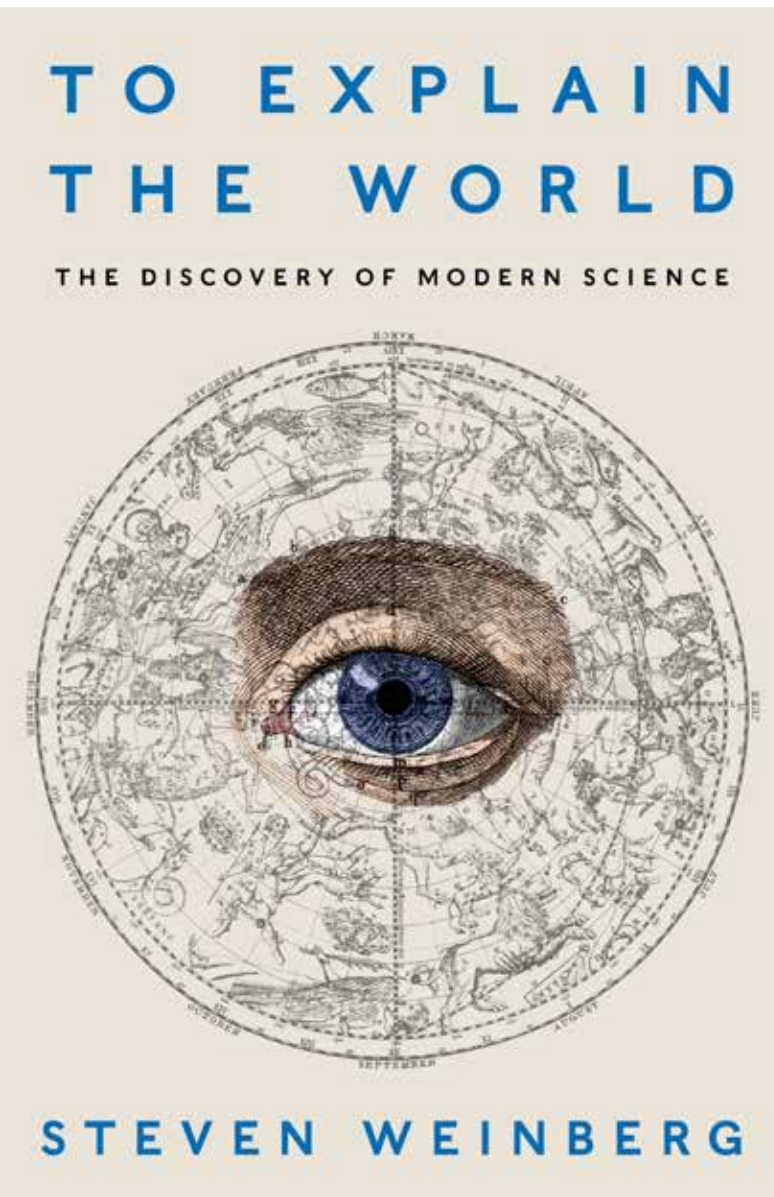
Weinberg depicts the pleasures of discovery throughout, but especially as he wraps up his discussion on Newton, speaking of finding “a way of explaining some phenomenon that fits so well and clarifies so much that it gives the finder intense satisfaction” (254) because “the world acts on us like a teaching machine, reinforcing our good ideas with moments of satisfaction” (255).

Weinberg closes the book with an epilogue entitled “The Grand Reduction”, explaining how various subfields in physics were unified over time (e.g. electricity & magnetism &

optics into electromagnetism). I am glad to see that he has listened somewhat to his critics who have pointed out problems with his earlier extreme reductionist views. But he seems unaware of the tensions when writing, “biology joined chemistry in a unified view of nature based on physics... No one is going to replace the language and methods of biology with a description of living things in terms of individual molecules [or] we would lose the things that interest us—a lion hunting antelope or a flower attracting bees” (266ff) and his dismissal of emergence by claiming that “reductionism is a view of why the world is the way it is” (267). I think I will return to this book from time to time; as a perspective on the history of science from the point of view of a practicing scientist, it is a valuable contribution. I look forward to an additional review in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*.

amazon

To purchase Steven Weinberg’s book:
<http://www.amazon.ca/dp/0062346652/>



STEVEN WEINBERG. PHOTO: © MATT VALENTINE



McMASTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY CLUB

Public Lecture

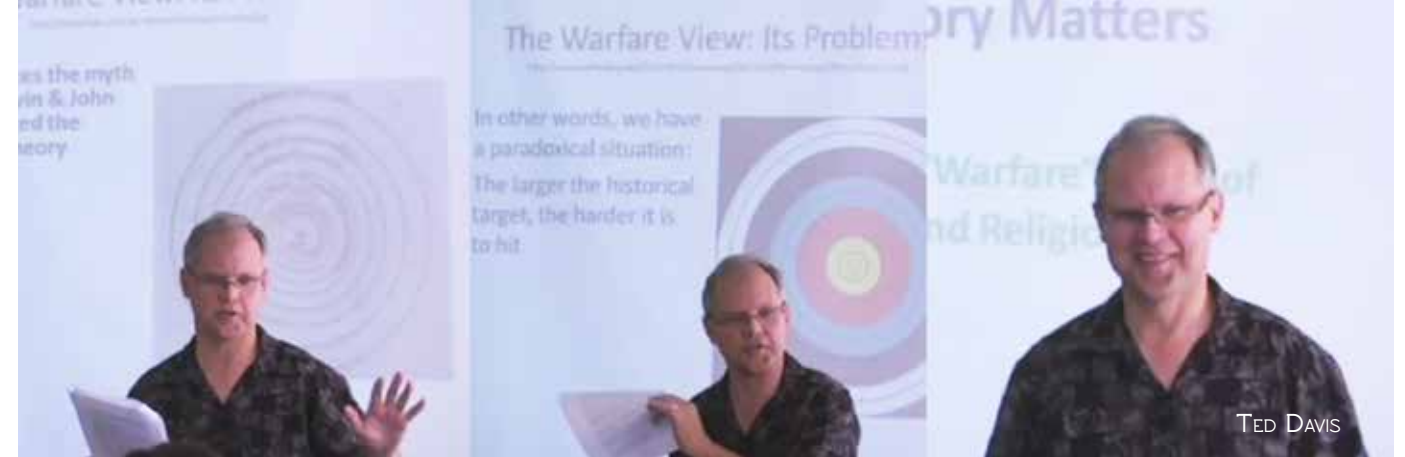
McMaster University Club

Friday Sept. 18th 2015, 4:15PM

Why History Matters: Debunking the “Warfare” View of Science and Religion

Ted Davis

Many people believe that science and religion are engaged in an ongoing, inevitable conflict. This view is often supported by offering famous historical examples, which are alleged to show that conflict between science and religion has always been the normal state of affairs. However, a more accurate understanding of the history of science shows that the “warfare” view of science and religion fails entirely to capture the complexity

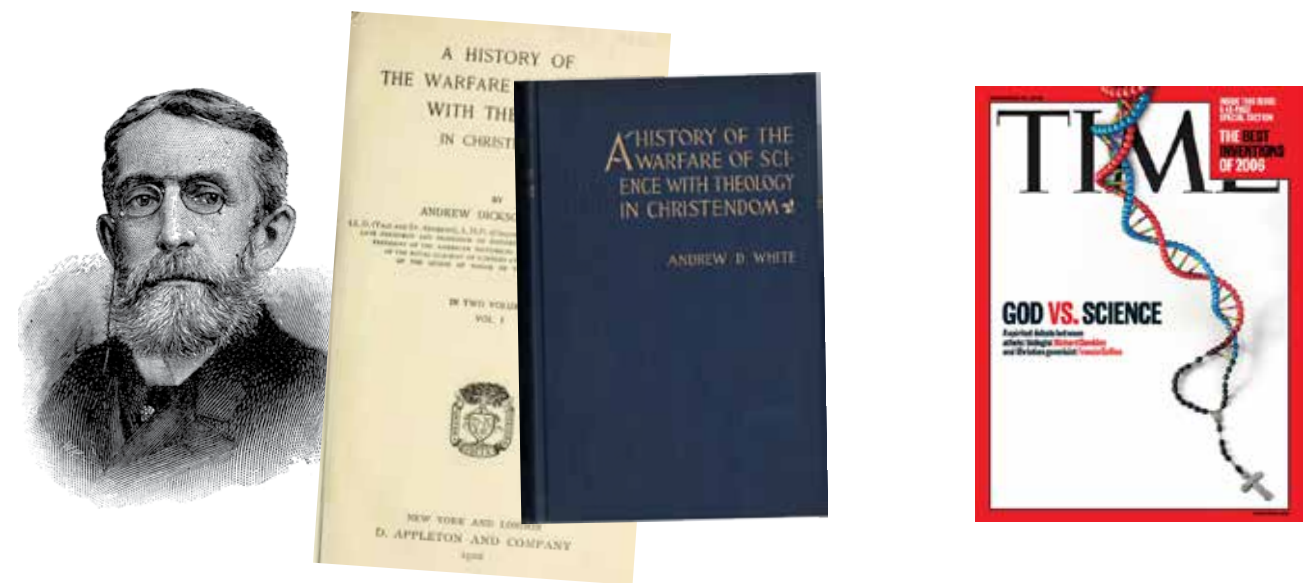


TED DAVIS

of the actual historical situation. Dr. Davis examines the sources of the “warfare” view, showing how two nineteenth-century American scholars – chemist John William Draper of NYU and historian Andrew Dickson White, the first president of Cornell University

– effectively created the historical myth of an ongoing, inevitable “warfare” of science and religion. He also explains why modern scholars have found the “warfare” view all but useless as a guide for writing the history of science and religion.

This talk was previously given at Arizona State University, Cornell University, the University of Minnesota, the Faraday Institute (Cambridge, UK), and the Pennsylvania State University-Schuylkill.



Student/Faculty Reception

Opportunity for students to meet Christian faculty on campus and share their experiences of integrating faith/vocation with faith and science.



Thursday, Sept. 17th 2015
4:00-6:00pm
University Club
(West Room)



Friday, Sept. 18th 2015
Public Lecture: 4:15-5:45pm
Annual Meeting: 6:00-8:00pm
University Club (Dining Hall)



Annual Meeting

+ Public Lecture (with Ted Davis)

Why History Matters: Debunking the "Warfare" View of Science and Religion



OPPORTUNITY:
student & early career
representative

Create.
Experience.
Represent.

Why might you want to join the CSCA as the student and early career rep?

Joining the CSCA executive council has some wonderful benefits. The first is creative freedom. You get to bring your creative ideas and unique skills to influence the future of science and religion in Canada! The council is

a close team of enthusiastic people who are open to the innovative suggestions you could bring. The second reason to join is experience. As a member of the CSCA council, you will be able to meet other leaders in science and religion from around the world. Executive council membership of an internationally-linked organization looks great on a CV! The third, and most important, reason to join is because the members of CSCA are tremendously wonderful people to serve. You will have the chance to meet and encourage students from across the country, and have a real impact for moving the conversation of science and faith forward.

Contact: bobgeddes@rogers.com



The Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation is committed to growth in understanding between science and Christian faith.

