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*John Calvin*

# Calvin Courier

The newsletter of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies

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## From the Director

During the academic year, it seems that time speeds by. Now spring is around the corner! Apart from our usual visits by college classes for sessions on printing and the Reformation, we have also held a number of special events to help highlight the work of the Meeter Center around campus. In October, Paul Fields (the Meeter Center Curator) and I joined two other colleagues on campus to form a Genevan-psalm-singing group, which sang at the Psalmfest on campus. At the end of the month, we held an open house to mark Reformation Day, and in December, the Meeter Center hosted its first ever re-enactment of the Genevan Escalade of 1602. Over sixty people, including several families, came to enjoy traditional refreshments and watch me (in my role as Mère Royaume) heave a cauldron over a hapless Savoyard soldier (our valiant Program Coordinator, Ryan Noppen). See p. 3 for more on the Escalade's significance and for a

picture of the event. In March we held our Spring Colloquium, and a report on this can be found below. We have also selected our visiting scholars for 2006. Their names and short descriptions of their projects are listed on p. 2. The presence of these visiting scholars and other users means we have to continue expanding our collection of materials, so that we continue to be a place that provides scholars and members of the general public with a broad assortment of materials on Calvin and Calvinism. We are delighted, therefore, that we were able to purchase an extensive set of primary sources on microfiche, dealing with the Calvinist Reformation in Emden and Friesland. The purchase was made possible thanks to the Basic Historic Calvinism fund set up by Hugh and Eve Meeter. We are truly grateful for the existence of this fund and for contributions from Friends of the Meeter Center, that sustain our work and the Center as a whole.

*Karin Y. Maag*

## The Puritan View of Spiritual Adoption

On March 16th Joel Beeke, President and Professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, gave a lecture entitled "Transforming Power and Comfort: The Puritans on Adoption." His lecture emphasized that the Puritan doctrine of adoption is amply developed in Puritan literature despite claims to the contrary from modern theologians including J. I. Packer. Dr. Beeke supported his claim by showing how the subject of spiritual adoption is dealt with in Puritan literature. The following main points were discussed: the comparison with regeneration, justification, and sanctification, and the privilege and benefits of adoption. Beeke emphasized that if Christians embrace their identity as adopted sons and daughters, then they will embrace God's spiritual power and comfort.

Concerning the matter of the relation between sonship and *ordo salutis*, Beeke, in a clear and in-depth manner, dealt with regeneration, justification and sanctification. Beeke reinforced the notion that adoption is not justification. Justification is our most basic spiritual foundation for reconciliation with God.

Adoption is a richer blessing, because it brings us from the court room into the family. He used Gordon Cooke's statement, "Justification is conceived of in terms of law, adoption in terms of love. Justification sees God as a judge, adoption



*Rev. Joel Beeke*

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## Fellowships Awarded in 2006

**Student Fellowships:** Mr. Marcus Johnson, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Toronto, Toronto School of Theology, intends to research the doctrine of union with Christ in the soteriology of John Calvin.

Ms. Alida Sewell, a Ph.D. candidate from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, plans to study Calvin's view of the human body and sexuality.

**Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship:** Rev. Simon Rachmadi, another Ph.D. candidate from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, wishes to examine Calvinist spiritual pedagogy and Javanese spirituality.

**Faculty Research Fellowship:** Dr. Bin You, a visiting scholar at the Harvard-Yenching Institute at Harvard University, will research Calvin's interpretation of the Old Testament and his political thought.

**Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship:** Dr. Sun Yi, a Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the Renmin University of China, wishes to research Calvin's *Institutes* and what it means to be Reformed today, especially in China.

**Non-stipendiary Fellowships:** Dr. Yong Kyu Park, Chair of Church History Department at the Presbyterian General Assembly Theological Seminary, Chongshin University, will study Calvin and Reformation Geneva as a revival movement.

Dr. Joo-Jin Seong, President and Professor of Old Testament Studies at the Graduate School of Christian Studies, Cheonan University, will examine Calvin's understanding of the Kingdom of God and the Divine Covenants in the Old Testament.

Blacketer, Raymond A. "The Moribund Moralists: Ethical Lessons in Calvin's Commentary on Joshua." In *Dutch Review of Church History* vol. 85, edited by Wim Janse and Barbara Pitkin, 149-68. Leiden: Brill, 2006.

Engammare, Max. "D'une philologie l'autre. La muse classique, maîtresse cachée des Réformateurs." In *La philologie humaniste et ses représentations dans la théorie et dans la fiction II*, edited by Perrine Galand-Hallyn, Fernand Hallyn, and Gilbert Tournoy, 409-37. Geneva: Droz, 2005.

Engammare, Max. "La Ponctualité à Genève: La Faute à Calvin?" *Bulletin du Centre Protestant d'Etudes* vol. 57, no. 4 (2005): 3-23.

Fatio, Olivier. *Understanding the Reformation : an itinerary suggested by the International Museum of the Reformation*. Le Mont-sur-Lausanne : Jean Genoud, 2005.

Field, David P. *Rigide Calvinisme in a Softer Dresse*. Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2004.

Heckel, Matthew C. "His Spear Through My Side Into Luther: Calvin's Relationship to Luther's Doctrine of the Will." PhD diss., Concordia Seminary, 2005.

Preisig, Florian. *Clément Marot et les Métamorphoses de l'auteur à l'aube de la Renaissance*. Geneva: Droz, 2004.

Winiarska, Izabela. *Slownictwo religijne polskiego kalwinizmu od XVI do XVIII wieku*. Warsaw: Semper, 2004.

Witte, John Jr. and Robert M. Kingdon. *Sex, Marriage, and Family in John Calvin's Geneva*. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.

## The Puritan View of Spiritual Adoption

(continued from page 1)

as a father" (Gordon Cooke, *The Doctrine of Adoption and the Preaching of Jeremiah Burroughs*, p. 23). Beeke asserted that for Puritans, the status of adoption, like justification, is an act rather than a process. The relationship between sanctification and adoption, Beeke emphasized, can be understood as follows: sanctification is the process of acting like sons and daughters, and through sanctification, Christians are brought into a fuller experiential awareness of their adoption. Beeke concluded that the Puritans used the truth of adoption as a means of transformation for God's needy children through powerful comfort. When believers were enticed by the world or alarmed by fears of death, the Puritans encouraged them to take refuge in their heavenly Father. Beeke ended his lecture with Willard's statement (Willard, *The Child's Portion*, p. 54, 66-70), "Let this joy dispel the mists of every sorrow, and clear up your souls in the midst of troubles and difficulties . . . you will dwell at the fountain, and swim forever in those bankless, and bottomless oceans of Glory".

Billy (June Won) Yang  
Th.M Student at Calvin Theological Seminary



Calvin Courier is published twice yearly by the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546.

Ph. 616-526-7081

E-mail: meeter@calvin.edu

## 2005 Escalade Celebration



*La Mère Royaume attacking  
the Savoyard*

of the invasion by a Genevan woman, La Mère Royaume, who dropped a cauldron of vegetable soup upon a Savoyard climbing the wall. Thanks to the alarm being raised, the Genevans rallied and successfully repulsed the Savoyard attack. This event highlighted the importance of Genevan independence to the rest of Protestant Europe and is celebrated to this day in Geneva. The Meeter Center celebrated the Escalade in true Genevan style. Our talented acting troupe led by Karin Maag as Mère Royaume, Ryan Noppen as the Savoyard, and Paul Fields as the Narrator re-enacted the events of the Escalade for our guests. Traditional Escalade foods including vegetable soup and mulled fruit cordial were served. Most important however were the miniature chocolate cauldrons filled with marzipan shaped into vegetables. These confectionery delights are made in all sizes in Geneva and are smashed apart to symbolize Mère Royaume's heroic act. As the crowd chanted, in traditional Genevan style "thus perish the enemies of the Republic," we smashed a large chocolate cauldron of our own. With lots of food and fun for over seventy guests, we at the Meeter Center had a smashing good time.

Attention scholars! Thanks to the Basic Historic Calvinism Fund established by the Meeter family, the Meeter Center recently acquired the second installment of *Sources of the 16th and 17th centuries: East Friesland and North-Western Germany* from IDC Publishers. This fantastic collection contains 385 separate works by many authors, including Martin Chemnitz, Johannes Cocceius, Tilemann Heshusius, and Jan Laski, that our collection does not presently possess in any other form. Dr. Richard Muller, professor of Historical Theology at Calvin Theological Seminary, recently outlined the significance of this new addition. East Friesland and North-Western Germany represented a distinctive and intellectually lively development in Reformed life and thought. They were one of the few places in the Holy Roman

Empire (with the exception of Heidelberg and East Prussia) where the Reformed faith made major inroads. Protestants fleeing from the Spanish occupation of the Netherlands found refuge in these areas during this time. Dr. Muller also pointed out the importance for the Meeter Center to expand its microfiche collection. The use of



*Dr. Richard Muller*

microfiche produced by professional publishers such as IDC is a cost-effective method to collect titles which are typically unobtainable in any other form. Longevity is another important consideration since microfiche has proven to be long-lasting whereas other electronic methods of conservation have yet to be perfected. Finally, an expanding collection of primary source titles will continue to attract scholars to the Center from around the country and abroad.

The Meeter Center honors the memory of Dr. Dick Van Halsema, who died November 12, 2005. A Calvin College and Seminary graduate, he served as a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church and as long-time president of the Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids. In 1987, the Van Halsema family set up the annually awarded Emo Van Halsema fellowship (honoring Dick Van Halsema's father) for pastors in the Reformed tradition to come to the Meeter Center for a four-week period of research. The Meeter Center joins with over twenty recipients of the Van Halsema fellowship in expressing profound sympathy to Dick's wife Thea Van Halsema, and the entire Van Halsema family.

The Meeter Center also notes with sadness the death of Dick Oostenink Jr, a long-time friend and supporter of the Center and its work. An ordained pastor in the Christian Reformed Church, he served for many years as a chaplain in the US army, and retained throughout his life a profound enthusiasm for books and for the history and theology of Calvinism. He died on December 12, 2005 in Grand Rapids.

### **Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors**

The 2006 winners are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Libby Veldkamp** of Grand Rapids, MI

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Erik Bolt** of South Bend, IN

Both winners will attend Calvin College

## Visitors from Geneva

On Thursday March 2, 2006, the Meeter Center hosted two distinguished guests from Geneva, Switzerland. Madame Isabelle Graessle is the director of the International Museum of



*I. Graessle & F. Demole*

the Reformation that has recently opened in Geneva and Madame Françoise Demole is the vice-president of the museum's foundation. They met with faculty and administrators from Calvin and other interested people to spread the word about the museum and to build stronger contacts between Geneva and the North American Protestant world. They gave a short presentation in the Meeter Center. We are fortunate that they made Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary one stop on their North American tour: it was a great opportunity for us to build stronger links with Genevan colleagues.

### **Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors**

The research paper topic for 2007 is  
**John Calvin and Prayer**

For more details go to

[http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/scholarships/highschool\\_award.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/scholarships/highschool_award.htm)

*The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies  
Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary  
1855 Knollcrest Circle SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402*

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