

## March 2024 Newsletter



Matt Lundberg  
Director

By the time we send out our May newsletter (note: we are moving from a quarterly schedule to bimonthly!), the first cohort of [de Vries Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows](#) will be done teaching at Calvin. For me, this is a bittersweet moment. These four scholars have gained valuable teaching experience. They have contributed in important ways to the life of Calvin University, not least through the impact they have made upon the students in their classes. They have together explored an array of themes relating to the integration of Christian faith with all aspects of academic life. It is my belief—and I suspect they would agree—that they leave the program better equipped for the careers they have ahead of them.

At the same time, we will miss them. I will miss having them in this program. I will miss meeting with them weekly and having rich conversations about scholarship, teaching, theology, philosophy, culture, the joys and struggles of academic life. They have grown closer with one another and with other members of the Calvin community, so it is hard to see this experience come to an end.

Mingled with this sadness, excitement simultaneously builds as we anticipate the next cohort. As I write this in late February, we anticipate a busy month of March doing interviews on campus for the finalists for the next cohort. I expect that we will meet wonderful people who are also terrific scholars and who aspire to be excellent teachers shining the light of Christ into every corner of their academic work. I expect that we will have to make some hard decisions that will include not being able to offer a position to some candidates who would be outstanding contributors to the program.

To Jae, Joe, Michael, and Tucker, we at the de Vries Institute and Calvin University express our deep gratitude for your hard work and your contributions to this university. We are excited about what you will accomplish in your careers as Christian scholars and teachers. And to their successors in cohort number two—whoever you end up being—we eagerly await your arrival at Calvin.

## Reflecting Faith: Image of God Course

In May, scholars from around the world will be joining an online course to explore the topic **Humanity in God's Image**.

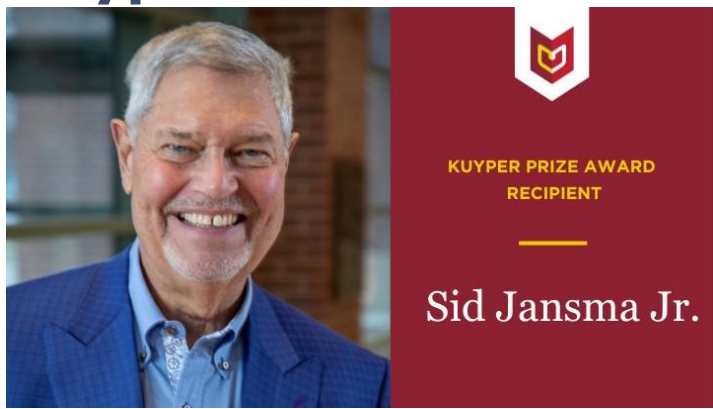
Join us for this course in which you will analyze the biblical theme of humanity created in the image of God by studying selected texts from Scripture and the Christian tradition as well as interacting with contemporary theological explorations. In addition, you'll encounter examples of how scholars in disciplines outside of theology have related the idea of the image of God to their work while developing ideas about how viewing humans as image-bearers might inform your own work in higher education.

To register, create an account at [learn.calvin.edu](https://learn.calvin.edu) then navigate to the Calvin Offerings list to find the course. The cost is \$100 but discounts are available in the registration process for those with financial need.

Contact [dvi@calvin.edu](mailto:dvi@calvin.edu) with questions.



## Register for the Kuyper Conference



Interested in exploring the topic **"Stewardship in the Kingdom: Business, Academy, and Society"** with others from around the world?

Join a community of scholars, pastors, ministry professionals, laypeople, and civic leaders at the Kuyper Conference, taking place April 2-4, 2024, at the Calvin University Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Register now for the 2024 Kuyper Conference.**

The Kuyper Conference builds on the tradition of neocalvinist theologian and statesman Abraham Kuyper. In plenary sessions, panel discussions, and roundtables, you and your fellow attendees will explore the ways that Kuyper's thought and legacy can inform how we engage with the marketplace and public square.

At this conference, Sid Jansma Jr. will be awarded the Kuyper Prize. [Learn more about Mr. Jansma](#) and his influential impact in industry and business.

Have questions about the Kuyper Conference and Prize? Contact [Dr. Jordan Ballor](#).

## Post-Docs and Academic Publishing



David Wunder,  
Tucker Adkins and  
Matt Lundberg in Liverpool

One aspect of the de Vries Institute's work is providing professional development for the de Vries Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows, who meet regularly to think about a variety of topics. In February, we were joined by Bryan Dyer, senior acquisitions editor for Baker Academic, and Jennifer Holberg, editor of the journal *Pedagogy* (Duke University Press), to share insights about academic publishing with post-docs Michael Dirksen, Jae Yang, and Joe Shin.

Close readers of this newsletter might remember that Calvin has a fourth post-doc, historian Tucker Adkins. Tucker is currently leading Calvin's semester in England, so while he missed out on this event, he has been given another exciting opportunity to grow as a Christian academic and teacher through this postdoc program.

De Vries Institute director, Matt Lundberg, and Calvin's dean for faculty development and research initiatives, David Wunder, recently paid a visit to Tucker in Liverpool. In addition to meetings with him, his family, his students, and staff and administrators at our partner university, Liverpool Hope University, they also joined Tucker and his students for a class session.



Calvin Students in Liverpool



Academic Publishing Workshop

## Cohort Registration for Reflecting Faith Courses

Are you looking for ways to encourage dialogue among your colleagues about topics related to faith and higher education? Consider signing up as a group for a Reflecting Faith course. Faculty who take a course together find that it spurs conversations on important issues and creates a collaborative culture.

As Todd Lake, V.P. for Faith-Based Engagement & Church Relations, Belmont University, said:

*"There is simply nothing else available for Christian faculty development that even begins to approach what Reflecting Faith offers. It builds community among faculty, helps them engage with Scripture and Christian thinking in fresh ways, and encourages them to take what they learn and apply it thoughtfully to how they teach. It has been enthusiastically embraced across our university as the very best way to do Christ-centered faculty development."*

In recent months, several Reflecting Faith courses have been completed by cohorts of Calvin University adjunct professors - a great way to provide professional development and a sense of community. A group of faculty from Calvin's Speech-Language Pathology department also signed up to take a course together, in addition to groups from LEMA Seminary in Nigeria and a multi-university cohort in Indonesia.

[Explore cohort registration](#) to learn more.

## Neocalviniana Journal Introduction



Under the auspices of the Kuyper Conference at Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary, as well as partnership with various other institutions, a new open access, peer reviewed, journal recently launched—[Neocalviniana](#)!

*Neocalviniana* will publish inter-disciplinary research on all aspects of the neocalvinist tradition. The neocalvinist tradition is historically associated with university developments in the Netherlands and with thinkers like Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck, but also includes a global legacy of institutions and thinkers through the twentieth century to the present day. The tradition's historical roots are in the fields of theology, religion, and philosophy, but it continues to attract the broad interest of scholars in fields as unrelated as history, psychology, economics, arts, education, politics, and science. This journal will be an excellent complement to the annual Kuyper Conferences, and will hopefully serve as a venue for published versions of many contributions to the conferences as well as other forms of creative research on this tradition of Christianity.

[Read the introductory editorial](#) by executive editor (and Kuyper Prize and Conference coordinator in the de Vries Institute), Jordan Ballor. The managing editor of the journal is [Dr. Antoine Theron](#). If you would like to submit a manuscript for consideration, [see further information](#).

## Stay Informed by Following Us on LinkedIn

Want to be the first to find out about conference dates? Want to gain helpful tips taken from Reflecting Faith courses?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to get updates and information between newsletters!

We look forward to staying in touch with you regularly!



## Contact us

Have a question? Contact [dvi@calvin.edu](mailto:dvi@calvin.edu).