

A Few Words from the Director

December 2009

The Christian Century is one of two journals that any Protestant in this country who wants to have an informed understanding of the current state of the church and its interaction with the world should be reading. The other is ChristianityToday, which tends to be more conservative. They are both well edited, and they are designed to be accessible to the lay reader. They are now accessible online and are often available in public libraries as well. I think our church libraries should subscribe to both.

I have been reading these journals for years, and I treasure some of the articles I have found in their pages. I have particularly fond memories of some of the articles that have appeared in the Century in a series they have run several times called "How My Mind Has Changed." Each of the people who has been asked to contribute to these collections has been a noteworthy Christian thinker, and in each case, what the author has done is provide an account of his or her intellectual development. The stories they tell often make for fascinating reading, and they can be quite revealing as well.

I mention this because the Century has just initiated another installment of this series, and the initial contribution comes from Nicholas Wolterstorff, who, you may remember, was the Reformed Institute's convocation speaker in 2008. I commend his article to you ("The Way to Justice," Dec. 1 issue) because one of its main themes is the connection between his upbringing in a Dutch Reformed family in Minnesota and his life-long concern with issues of social justice. If anyone is looking for a concise, down-to-earth summary of what the Reformed version of the Christian religion means in practice, this is one of the best examples I have seen in quite a while.

Let me say, finally, how pleased I am that we are now able to roll out this new version of the Institute's website. It's the work of the newest member of our staff, Oraly Spatz, and we are delighted to have her--and the skills she adds to our team--sharing in the work of the Institute. Our intention is to make much more extensive and elaborate use of the website as a programmatic resource in the months and years ahead. Hopefully that will enable us to do a better job of fulfilling our mission.

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