

## Report of the Ministers and Wives Conference

Esteemed Brothers,

The triennial Ministers and Wives conference was again held in the relaxing surrounds of Forest Lakes camp grounds at Otaki during the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. It was heartening to see most of our Ministers and their Wives in attendance; Gary and Carol Milne, John and Corry Ter Horst, and Jane Archbald were the only people unable to attend.

As at previous conferences, morning and evening devotions were shared by various ministers. Each morning devotion was followed immediately by the morning's study session.

On this occasion, our keynote speaker was Rev. Dr Murray Capill, Lecturer in Pastoral Ministry at the Reformed Theological College, Geelong. Dr Capill spoke about a very relevant topic, Gospel Oriented Ministry. He developed his topic in four parts, namely (1) Gospel Shaped Preaching; (2) Gospel Soaked Application; (3) Gospel Styled Communication; and (4) Gospel Secured Ministry.

Earlier, as a second speaker, we had also secured the services of Rev. Dr George Logan, minister at Manly West Presbyterian Church (Brisbane) and a lecturer at the Queensland College of Ministry. However, at almost the last moment, Dr Logan suffered a severe stroke and had to withdraw his services.

It was then with the timely assistance of Rev. Bruce Hoyt that we managed to secure as a second speaker, Rev. Yonson Dethan from the Indonesian Reformed Church (GGRC) at Kupang in West Timor, who was able to provide valuable insight into Christian–Moslem interaction in Indonesia. Yonson addressed us about (1) Understanding Muslims; (2) Bringing the Gospel to Muslims; (3) Bringing the Gospel to Pagans; and (4) the work of the GGRC in West Timor.

In one evening session, Rev. Bruce Hoyt reported on recent developments in the ICRC. In another evening session, we had an opportunity to meet informally with Dr Capill, to discuss the Redemptive-Historical understanding and application of Scripture in our preaching.

During our free moments, Rev. Jim and Julie Klazinga volunteered to keep us entertained with an ongoing mystery search for “Who’s Who” among those present, while Rev. Andrew Nugteren provided his very helpful technical skill to record the proceedings.

The value of such a conference as this for providing some in-service training and encouragement really goes without saying. Hence it was not surprising that many who attended, left Forest Lakes looking forward to the next inter-Synodical conference.

The costs involved with this conference were:

Catering	\$1181.00
Misc.	\$58.69
Speakers	\$2652.55
Ministers’ Travel	\$5781.40

## Recommendations

That Synod:

- 1. Receive this report;*
- 2. Provide for another Ministers’ & Wives’ Conference in the next inter-Synodical period;*
- 3. Appoint the Auckland Presbytery ministers to organize the next Conference.*

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Klazinga

Hans Vaatstra

Michael Flinn

Andrew Nugteren

Robert van Wichen

Ralph Adams (reporter)