

Key-note Speakers



Dr Jan van Doleweerd Dr. Jan H. van Doleweerd studied and published in pedagogy and theology. He currently teaches Religious Education at Driestar Christian University and leads a research project on religious education in public schools. He worked in missions for many years and obtained his doctorate with a hermeneutical study on intercultural Bible reading.

Topic Bible study: Unity in plurality - the global church as one body, About Ephesians 3:14-19

Dr Jan van Doleweerd will speak on Wednesday 15 March 2023.



Prof. Dr Henk van den Belt (FRT) is professor of systematic theology at the VU University, Amsterdam and director of the Herman Bavinck Center for Reformed and Evangelical Theology and of the Cornelis Graafland Center, the theological institute of the Reformed League in the Protestant Church in The Netherlands. He received his PhD in theology at Leiden University (2006), worked as Associate Professor of Reformed Theology at Utrecht University (2008-2012), as Professor of The History of Reformed Theology at the University of Groningen (2012-2018). He is currently working on a research project concerning the development of the doctrine of divine providence in

Reformed theology. He is the author of *The Authority of Scripture in Reformed Theology: Truth and Trust* (Brill, 2008) and of several articles on Reformed Orthodoxy and on neo-Calvinism; he edited *Restoration through Redemption: John Calvin Revisited* (Brill, 2013) and the second volume of the *Synopsis of Purer Theology* (Brill, 2016). Before his academic career he worked as a pastor in the Protestant Church in the Netherlands and he still is a pastor with a special assignment on behalf of the synod.

Topics

- What do we mean by 'the spirit of our times' or the 'Zeitgeist'?
- What can we learn from Scripture about the 'the spirit of our times' ?

Dr Henk van den Belt will speak on Thursday 16 March 2023.



Dr Dave Benson | Culture and Discipleship Director at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (licc.org.uk)

Dave is a leading thinker and researcher on the role of faith in 21st-Century western culture. Formerly a high school teacher, then lecturer at Malyon Theological College in Brisbane, Australia, he now heads up the LICC's work for Culture & Discipleship. In part, this role includes consultation with theological education institutions toward forming whole-life disciplemakers (licc.org.uk/about/theological-education). His mission is to cultivate disciples

with wisdom for the way of Christ in a post-Christendom culture. His 2016 Ph.D project entitled 'Schools, Scripture and Secularisation' considers the telos of competing curricular visions and the place of sacred texts in secular education. Dave is the lead editor of *Transforming Vocation: Connecting Theology, Church, and the Workplace for a Flourishing World* (Wipf & Stock 2021).

Topic

'Disenchantment, Diversity, and Disciple making: A Process for Christlike Schooling in Post-Christendom Times' Educating in a distinctively Christian way, in this post-Christendom period, is becoming ever more challenging. Confronted by a cacophony of curricular voices and a plurality of ideological visions for the good life, our teachers are easily confused, overwhelmed, and then discouraged—ceasing to be salt and light in rotting and dark times. And our students tend to deconstruct whatever filaments of faith remain. What, then, is Christian education for? And how might a bigger story of God's mission reorient both the content we teach and our pedagogical approach in this cultural moment? In this session, we'll learn from the Master Teacher, Jesus, a process of journeying with disenchanting disciples in our schools en route to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–36). Tackling the modern penchant for unbounded plurality, which dissipates passion for following Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, we will discover how to listen, imagine, create, and communicate in divine conversation. We'll find wisdom for Christian schooling, whatever our particular national context, as we walk together toward shalom, a unity-in-diversity imaging our Creator God.

Dr Dave Benson will speak on Thursday 16 March 2023.

Contributions from Ukraine (if possible)

Tatiana Chumakova, Director of International Alliance for the Development of Christian Education

Contribution from Australia

Mark Spencer , Director of Public Policy | Christian Schools Australia

With over thirty years professional experience serving Christian schools, Mark Spencer was appointed in a national policy role in 2010. Mark is responsible for advocacy on behalf of Christian schools in a wide range of educational policy as well as areas relating to religious freedom and equal opportunity and discrimination law across Australia. In addition to his advocacy role Mark, provides advice to schools in all non-educational areas.



Mark has qualification in accounting, governance and law, and in 2014 completed an executive education program at the Said Business School of the University of Oxford.

His extensive governance experience includes serving on Christian school boards in a variety of roles as well as church boards. He has also been involved in politics in a variety of roles.

Mark is married to Melanie, a Christian teacher and school leader, and they have three adult children.

Mark Spencer will speak on Friday 17 March 2023.

Contributions from other countries | round table (March 17, 2023)

- Graham Coyle, Eureka Network (Europe)
- Laci Demeter, CEO ACSI Europe
- Christian Baldauf, Leader of the VEBS-Academy VEBS (Germany)
- Ábrám Tibor, headmaster of Lévy József High School of the Reformed Church (Hungary)