



Since he retired as editor of *Christian Courier* in July 1999, Bert Witvoet, of St. Catharine's, Ontario, continues to be busy. Having written close to 2500 editorials addressing all manner of issues and doing all the things editors are supposed to do, you'd figure he'd take it easy. Not Bert.

Witvoet is chair of the local Christian school board, serves as Classis Niagara representative on the Board of Publications, edits the *Christian Educators Journal*, preaches occasionally at Jubilee Fellowship CRC, writes columns for various periodicals, and finds time for volunteering.

When Bert Witvoet speaks or writes, people sit up and take note. This unassuming, yet astute and often witty Christ-believer is well known in CRC circles and beyond, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and outside Canada. The big thing about Bert Witvoet is that he loves the Lord and is dedicated to promoting Christ's Kingship in all areas of life. His whole life is a testimony to that commitment.

Albertus Witvoet was born in The Netherlands in 1934 and grew up in Joure, Friesland where he received his elementary and high school education. His father passed away in 1946, and four years later, *Mem* Witvoet and her seven children immigrated to Canada. The family settled in Bowmanville, Ontario, and Bert found work first on a farm and later at the local Goodyear plant.

Some years later he began his studies at Calvin College. He received his BA in 1959. For the next eighteen years he was a high school teacher in both Christian and public schools. While teaching, Witvoet completed a master's degree in English at the University of Toronto.



During his years at Calvin he and other Canadian students from “Kuyperian” homes joined the “Groen Club,” and listened eagerly to the lectures of Dr. H. Evan Runner on the reformational, philosophical ideas espoused by professors Dooyeweerd and Vollenhoven of the Free University in Amsterdam. If anything, this period in Witvoet’s life was the most life-shaping. He attended the first Unionville study conferences organized by the Association for Reformed Scientific Studies and served on the early boards of this organization. He was also keenly interested in the Christian Labour Association of Canada and the Committee for Justice and Liberty.

Witvoet’s interest in writing began in childhood. From 1964–69 he was editor of the *Christian School Herald* and later became well-known as editor of the *Vanguard*. In the fall of 1982 he joined the staff of the St. Catharine’s, Ontario-based *Calvinist Contact* and became its editor a year later.

Witvoet personified the published preamble of *Christian Courier*: to report on significant events in the Christian community and the world; express opinions infused by Scripture and rooted in a Reformed perspective; and provide contact for the Christian community.

At the time of this writing, Witvoet lives with his wife, Alice Oldejans, in St. Catharine’s. They have a daughter, four sons, and three grandchildren.

—Stan de Jong