



Cultivating our minds to love God fully

June 2025, Newsletter #2

Identity

Sometimes people wonder what we are. We are not a seminary, not a university, not a research institute, and not a church. So, what are we?

We are a learning community. We focus on loving God with the mind. We seek to understand and engage culture with the biblical worldview and Neo-Calvinistic principles. We want to be disciple-makers.



To put it another way, our activities define who we are, which we describe in the section "Demographics" on this page.

Functionally, we are a network, serving thinkers of various intellectual interests and educational backgrounds, using in-person and online venues.

Hunger to Learn

In every Center activity, an emerging hunger for deeper understanding appears. A desire to explore relevant cultural themes with the biblical worldview is growing. With this in mind, we currently offer an in-person Masterclass called Our Political Matrix. We also hosted an online reading group about common grace.



One person commented: "I want to thank the Kuyper Christian Study Center for the course about presuppositional apologetics. I don't find opportunities in Latin America where the rational aspect of faith is practiced. Here, I found a space where I feel understood, can raise my doubts in a loving and professional setting, and that also strengthens my faith for the Great Commission. I hope there are more opportunities like this for Argentinians to love God with their minds."



Demographics

With every activity, new people attend. We have gained over 200 followers on Instagram and our mailing list continues to grow, though our ministry is still embryonic. We continue to explore new formats and themes.

Online activities (reading groups and webinars) attract an international audience. People from Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, and Peru have participated. Most possess university or seminary degrees.



In-person events generally attract various participants. At a church in the center of town, professionals and university students come. For this audience, we watch thought-provoking films. For example, we discussed The Hidden Life, about an Austrian farmer who refused to affirm Nazism during WW II. At another church on the western edge of the

city, we watched “Amazing Grace,” concerning William Wilberforce’s crusade against slavery in Britain. In that case, the participants were mostly laymen.

Iván Went to Brazil

In May, Iván Tomassini, our Academic Coordinator, represented the Center at a conference in São Paulo called A Public Gospel: Evangelicals, Neo-Calvinism, and Society. In this picture, Iván (middle) is with Drs. James Eglinton and Cory Brock.



In reality, Iván represented all of all of Argentina, since he was the only Argentine attending. Neo-Calvinism is quite unknown here and, in the continent, generally. He had quality discussions with various scholars and attendees. He made many friends for our Center with whom we hope to collaborate in the future.



A Sneak Peak

In July, Richard will represent the Center at the annual conference of the Consortium of Christian Study Centers taking place in Charlottesville, Virginia. With Dr. Ryan O'Dowd, he will present a workshop entitled, “Thinking Biblically: Putting the Bible at the center of the Center.”

Richard's comments are entitled “One Thing Necessary” based on Luke 10:42. Here are several points from his presentation:

*Is it important whether Jesus was literate or illiterate, educated or uneducated? As Christians, is it important for our intellectual life if Jesus was ignorant or knowledgeable? Is it relevant whether Jesus was a witness first century peasant or supremely astute?

*From the beginning, Jesus' knowledge has been a point of contention. Doubts about his intellectual acumen appeared when he first preached in his hometown, Nazareth: “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him?” (Mark 6:2).

*Jesus was brilliant, a savant, a true sage, and we even could say, a scholar. And he loved God with all his mind, despite the chaotic, confusing, and demonic context he ministered. To put it another way, when we answer Jesus' question, “Who do you say that I am?,” we must also reckon with his intellect and knowledge.

*Jesus manifested right thinking, pious motivation, and wise application. He modeled mental piety in our twisted and destructive world. The obvious implication is that we should do likewise and, in this way, learn to love God with all our minds (Mark 12:30).



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