



## Christian Council International Newsletter, December 2020

Dear reader,

### The Light of the World

The Christ Child born in the manger of Bethlehem is the true light in this dark world. This past year has given clear testimony that we live in a dark broken and fallen world. Sickness, strife, confusion, and change abound in every land. Also for Christian Council International (CCI), 2020 has brought significant adversity. We were unable to travel freely and meet with policy makers in various countries as was our intention and plans. But we also were able to continue with our important work via alternate means. We are reminded at Christmas that our hope for the future rests in the Hands of Him who has sent His Son in the fullness of time and that His promises and purposes will never fail. He who has been our help in ages past is our only hope for years to come. The following is a list of plus and minus points for CCI in 2020.

**Minus: Cancellation of CCI events** - Barely controllable, the corona virus rounds up and makes its victims, personal and business. Increased infections have put us back into a lockdown. For CCI and its sister organization in the Netherlands Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC), this meant that after March we had to cancel another week of public and business events, other scheduled appointments, visits and tickets of American guests in October.

**Minus: Hindered access to work areas** - Also the usual presence at international organizations and use of influence was not possible due to restrictions. Such as this autumn at the UN Third Committee in New

York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the OSCE's annual human rights meeting in Warsaw, meetings in Brussels and Washington DC.

**Plus: Signing International Pro-Life, Pro-Family Geneva Declaration** - Fortunately, this inconvenience was amply compensated by work on developments in America. [Important progress was the realization of the US-initiated Geneva Consensus Declaration:](#)

Abortion is not an international human right, 32 signatory countries stressed. They united around the goal: improved women's health and protection of life, family and sovereignty. As an NGO, TCC/CCI was involved in the realization of this momentous result and was virtually present at the signing ceremony of the declaration with persons present as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar. This signing is not an end point, but a milestone on the road to more signing pro-life/ pro-family countries. Together with partners, TCC/CCI is committed to this.



**Plus: Clear message frequently in the media** -

In addition, TCC was frequently asked for interviews and opinions in the media about the American Presidential elections. [As clearly as possible, we highlighted the arguments why we thought the Republican agenda was](#)

[closest to the values that TCC/CCI also promotes.](#)

**Minus: US election results** - [The pain in the election results is very much felt for the pro-life, pro-family and pro-freedom of religion and education agenda.](#) In many of these areas it is to be feared that the wind direction will turn around 180 degrees in the U.S. and by their representatives in international organizations. We are maintaining the carefully [built network](#) with the current policy makers at a good level as much as possible. But the positions will be taken by people with opposing views on many ethical points.



**Plus: Christian Council International established** – On the brink of the outbreak of the corona pandemic half March we were just able to start the incorporation process in Washington DC of CCI. It resulted in the legal establishment of CCI as per June 5, 2020. [Members of the Board of Directors](#) are George Roller, John Van Der Brink and Jolanda van Schothorst. Chairman is initiator Henk Jan van Schothorst, also founder of TCC.

**Plus: Tax deductible charitable status in the U.S. for Christian Council International -**

Another progress was that in November CCI received the news that [we were awarded the 501 \(c\)\(3\) status for CCI.](#) A bank account has been opened. A new combined TCC/CCI website is being developed. In this way, CCI together with its sister TCC with equal goals can also grow and flourish in the US.

**Plus: Recruiting volunteers and interns** – At TCC we have found a volunteer in the Netherlands in the person of [Ms. Rieke Hoogendoorn](#), Master of Law, who will focus on UN Geneva. [Job descriptions for internships](#) on a voluntary basis have also been set up and spread. Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis and internships usually last for 2 or 3 months. We also aim to attract volunteers and interns in the US (and maybe Canada).

**Target** – With determination we enthusiastically focus on the implementation of our [3-year project 2021-2023: Free, Brave.](#) With the support of people like you and others, CCI stands up for Christian standards in international organizations such as the UN, EU, and OSCE, as well as representatives of member states such as the US and African countries. Extra focus is on themes such as the protection of life, the natural family and freedom such as religion and education. TCC is able to do this because it has acquired the powers and access to speak and lobby with these organizations and representatives. Concretely, we try to influence international resolutions and decisions at the source by speaking to decision makers in person and getting them to make the right choices.

**Support? If you would like to support CCI's work, you can donate to Christian Council International, Account number: 8002372360 Routing number: 221271935 ([more info click here](#)) - Tax Exempt Status -**

## Content

Board of Directors CCI .....	4
Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family - RD, October 24, 2020.....	6
Christian education fervently hopes for re-election Trump – RD, October 26, 2020 .....	8
If Biden wins, I can't be proud of America anymore – AD, November 2, 2020 .....	10
Highlighted! - Extra broadcast for the US presidential elections - 4 November 2020.....	11
TCC sister Christian Council International (CCI) obtains tax-exempt status in US – November 12, 2020 .....	12
Highlighted! - Henk-Jan van Schothorst update on American elections - 17 November 2020.....	13
A Biden-Harris Administration – What it Would Mean for Christian Education in America? – J. Van Der Brink – November/December, 2020 .....	13
It is all very well to complain about fraud, but the judge has the last word - December 12, 2020 .....	15
Let us introduce: Rieke Hoogendoorn-van Zwieten – December, 2020 .....	17
The Fruit-Bearing Tree – December 15, 2020 .....	17
Colophon .....	19

## Board of Directors CCI

### **BIOGRAPHY OF HENK JAN VAN SCHOTHORST, M.A.**

Henk Jan van Schothorst is the Executive Director of the Transatlantic Christian Council and sister organization Christian Council International. As the accredited organization's representative he brings a Christian voice at international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE). He is also committed to the strengthening of the indispensable Transatlantic bond, especially between the Netherlands and the United States of America (US).



Henk Jan is also advisor to Christian networks, movements and political parties in several countries in (South) Eastern Europe on how to strengthen and improve their organizations and impact. From 2007 until 2011 he was assigned on behalf of the Dutch political parties to the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) to assist political parties from both sides of the political divide in Kenya and Tanzania.

From 2000 – 2007 Henk Jan served in the European Parliament (EP) as staffer to a Member of Parliament and a political group with Christian and conservative origins. He was senior staff member on behalf of this political group in the Foreign Affairs Committee and in the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue between the U.S. Congress and the EP, and in the Israel delegation.

Before serving in the European Parliament, he was a teacher and chair of a parent-school association. He attached much importance to freedom of Christian education, with the family as the most important and basic unit of society.

He started in Dutch military service as a non-commissioned officer during the Gulf war in 1991 and then as teacher at a home school for missionary children in Guinea, West Africa.

Henk Jan holds an M.A. in History with a specialization in European Integration from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, his home country. He is married and has six children.

### **BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN VAN DER BRINK, M.A.**

John Van Der Brink began his career in Christian education when he graduated from Westmar College in LeMars, Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts and an Elementary Education Teaching Certificate in 1979. He moved to Norwich, Ontario where he was employed first as a teacher and then as a principal. In 1986, he moved to New Jersey where he is currently the administrator. In 2012, he received a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Montclair State University.



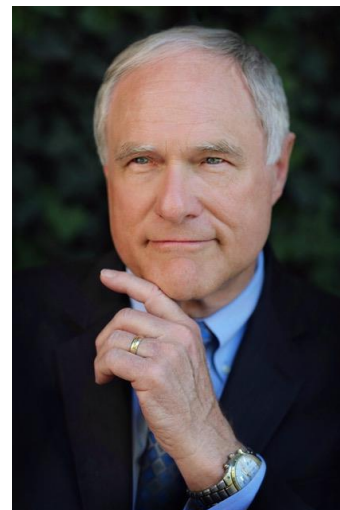
John is a member, and currently the treasurer of the Netherlands Reformed Christian Educational Association. He has participated as a team member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools which evaluates educational programs of public and private schools in New Jersey. He is very concerned about the direction of teaching and values in American schools. The influence of evolutionary thinking and multiculturalism is draining our educational system of the Biblical norms upon which our nation's schools were

founded. Today, human rights initiatives are being hijacked to promote tolerance and acceptance of unbiblical values.

#### **BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE E. ROLLER, J.D.**

George Roller received his B.A. in English from the University of Illinois and his Master's and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Miami. He taught English for 35 years, serving as English Department Chairman for many of those years. He was awarded the Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Miami's Region IV.

As an attorney, he practiced law in the Miami area for 25 years—concurrently with his teaching career. An elder in his church, he served as Missions Chairman for two years and led three missions trips to Ukraine. He was also a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Florida. George was involved with Evangelism Explosion for over 38 years—as a trainer and as a clinic instructor.



In 2003, George assumed a leadership position at the D. James Kennedy CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN STATESMANSHIP in Washington, DC where he served as a missionary to the Members of the United States Congress for 12 as executive director and for 2 years as the ministry's ambassador. After having retired from CCS, George took a two month sabbatical to write a book and has now returned to his missionary work on Capitol Hill as ambassador for Hope to the Hill and as ambassador for its parent ministry Hope Ministries International.

George has been married to Linda since 1973, and they have five children and twelve grandchildren.

#### **BIOGRAPHY JOLANDA VAN SCHOTHORST-GELUK, B.A.**

Since the establishment of Transatlantic Christian Council in 2013, Jolanda van Schothorst has been carrying out administrative work for the foundation. In addition, she has been working for the American multinational UL in Leiden (NL) since 2015, initially fulltime as a receptionist and now for three days a week in the Sales Support department.

She holds a B.A. for Social Work and Service Provision from Christian University of Applied Sciences in Ede and a B.A. for Elementary Education from Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education in Gouda. After that she worked in disability care and education and, when the children were small, mainly ran the household. As chair of the board of a choir, Jolanda discovered more and more her administrative and organizational qualities and started to use them for the foundation.



Jolanda is married to Henk Jan and together they have 6 children.



## Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family - RD, October 24, 2020



The governments of the Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Uganda and the United States cosponsored a virtual October 22, 2020 gathering in Washington, D.C. for a multinational ceremonial signing of the [Geneva Consensus Declaration](#) (so-called because it was intended to occur in Geneva before the live meeting of the World Health Assembly was postponed due to COVID-19). This Declaration further strengthens the coalition to achieve these four pillars: (1) better health for women, (2) the preservation of human life, (3) strengthening of family as the foundational unit of society, and (4) protecting every nation's national sovereignty in global politics. For example, it is the sovereign right of every nation to make their own laws in regard to abortion, absent external pressure.

We believe that finding genuine solutions to health concerns should be a priority uniting Member States. This Declaration charts a positive way forward for accelerating progress on achieving this end.

**The Declaration remains open for additional signatures. Contact [jointstatement@hhs.gov](mailto:jointstatement@hhs.gov) for more information.**

See: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/oga/global-health-diplomacy/protecting-life-global-health-policy/geneva-declaration.html>

See for video: <https://youtu.be/rRPuJVOzJz8?t=1387>

### **Reformatorisch Dagblad**

National newspaper in The Netherlands

about 50,000 daily editions, about 150,000 people reached of 13 year and older

This is a translation of: <https://www.rd.nl/vandaag/buitenland/geneefse-verklaring-abortus-geen-internationaal-recht-1.1706986>

## **Geneva Declaration: Abortion not international law**

International desk, 24 October 2020

**WASHINGTON - There is no international right to abortion and states have no obligation to finance or facilitate termination of pregnancy.**

This is stated in the Geneva Consensus Declaration that was signed virtually on Thursday by ministers and other high-level representatives of 32 countries. The states, with a combined population of more than 1.6 billion, are joining forces to improve women's health and strengthen the position of the family.

To this end, the drafters formulated four "pillars": improving women's health, protecting human life, strengthening the family as the cornerstone of society, and protecting each country's national sovereignty in international politics.

In particular, the document contains a number of affirmations and emphasize of existing rights, principles and objectives. Among other things, it "reaffirms" the statement that "women's human rights are inalienable" and that the family is "the natural and fundamental group unit of society, which is entitled to the protection of society and the state".

Abortion, according to the authors, "should never be promoted as a method of family planning". The declaration further states that the issuance of rules on termination of pregnancy may only take place according to the national legislative process.

Six countries -Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Uganda and the United States- were the sponsors of the initiative. The signing should have taken place in the margins of the meeting of the World Health Council in Geneva, but the latter was postponed due to corona. The signing now took place virtually with a ceremony in Washington, which was attended by the American Ministers of State and Health, Mike Pompeo and Alex Azar.

The list of countries that signed the declaration also includes a number of states, including Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Belarus, which are not so close to human rights in general and women's rights in particular. It is also noteworthy that Poland and Hungary have joined the initiative. Both countries are under fire in the EU for alleged violation of the rule of law.

## Christian education fervently hopes for re-election Trump – RD, October 26, 2020



*Meeting TCC-education delegation with US-Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos (29 Oct 2019): From left to right: Pieter Moens (VGS), 3x staffers Betsy DeVos, John Van Der Brink (5th from left - Netherlands Reformed Christian School - New Jersey), Jim Bazen (Plymouth Christian High School, Grand Rapids - Michigan), Betsy DeVos (Secretary of Education of the US), Henk Jan van Schothorst (founder and director TCC en CCI), André Verwijs (VCPOZ), staffer Betsy DeVos, Dick van Meeuwen (Hoornbeeck College), Wim de Kloe (Driestar College)*

In: Reformatorisch Dagblad  
October 26, 2020 Monday  
Section: FORUM; Page.24  
Dutch National newspaper  
About 50,000 daily copies  
Reach: About 150,000 people  
Authors: John Van Der Brink and Henk Jan van Schothorst – see below

### **Christian education fervently hopes for re-election Trump**

**Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos fights for free school choice in the United States. That would be a godsend for Christian education. However, if Biden wins the election, the fight will have been in vain.**

Christian education in America has a guardian in Washington DC in the person of Secretary of Education Ms. Betsy DeVos, appointed by President Trump. She is a supporter of free school choice. This removes financial barriers for parents who want to send their children to

schools of their choice. These can also be Christian schools. The Dutch organizational model has her interest, as was shown during a meeting of an education delegation of Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) with her in Washington DC. Her plea is crucial for the survival and flourishing of the American educational system. Public education has suffered in recent years from the imposition of policies and practices that have robbed it of its moral and educational integrity.

Currently, parents must send their children to public schools in their zip code area to receive government-funded education. The so-called Blaine Amendment, an archaic, anti-religious and, in fact, anti-Roman law, forbade tax money to be spent on schools owned or run by a denomination or sect. Although this law did not become a nationwide federal law when proposed in 1876, 38 states incorporated it in some form into their respective constitutions.



### **Free school choice**

On 30 June 2020, in a case in Montana, where this law had been in force since 1889, the Supreme Court ruled with a majority of one vote that this law violated freedom of religion. The Supreme Judges Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, nominated by Trump, were among the supporters. This paved the way for government-funded Christian education and the introduction of free school choice. However, if Biden wins, DeVos will be replaced by a new Secretary of Education, who will return to the policies that led to the current failures.

America is known for being the land of freedom, of opportunity, and of choice. When the founding fathers set foot upon American soil, they fostered a spirit that wanted to be free from oppressive and intrusive government. They desired the religious and education freedoms denied them in their countries of origin. They planted schools and passed laws that insured their children would be taught to read and to reason so that their children could read the Bible and make laws and establish institutions consistent with it. The Old Deluder Satan Act was passed already in Massachusetts in 1647 requiring communities of fifty or more families to start schools so the children would not grow up ignorant of the Word of God. These ideals were enshrouded in American culture. American public schools were really Christian schools for many generations.

Today's public education has lost its religious fervor. The authority of the Bible and prayer has been ruled out and replaced by multicultural influences and humanistic principles. Basic academics have fallen to identity politics, sexual exploration, and a host of other distractions. The following quote can be found on Joe Biden's website: "On his first day in office, Biden will reintroduce the Obama-Biden directive, which has been repealed by the Trump-Pence administration, and which will restore transgender students'

access to sports, bath/shower rooms and locker rooms in accordance with their gender identity." Today's teachers are shackled with spending more time on political correctness and promoting leftist ideologies than teaching traditional values and educational basics.

The results of these trends have become evident. Compared to schools in seventy other industrialized countries, American schools rank 23rd in reading, 25th in science, and an abysmal 39th in mathematics! Wealthy parents often send their children to private or charter schools to try to find good alternatives. Christian parents struggle financially to send their children to their own parochial schools, which can cost around \$10,000 per child per year. Others choose home schooling. Lawmakers scramble to establish standards and increase educational expenditures, in an effort to bring about improvements. This has been the trend of the last fifty to seventy years. However, concerns remain.

### **System of vouchers**

Education Secretary DeVos has introduced and promoted free school choice as a new solution to these persistent problems. She advocates for parents a system of vouchers in which education dollars do not go to specific schools but follow the child to the chosen school. This addresses inequity and levels the playing field for all families and allows the poor as well as the rich the quality of education that a competitive system provides.

Not surprisingly, her proposals are strenuously rejected by the Democrats, who see their own values reflected in the ideology of the public school system. On the other hand, Trump and the Republican Party are in favor of traditional values and true freedom of education.

### **Stranglehold**

Would the concerns be gone with the introduction of school vouchers? No, some concerns would remain. Left-wing policy currently has a stranglehold

on education in America. We fear that after introduction of school choice, the Democrats will try to gain control over the content of Christian school programs, in exchange for releasing tax dollars for non-public schools. This is one more reason why the elections in November are so important!

**John Van Der Brink is director of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School in Pompton Plains (New Jersey) and member of**

**the Board of Directors Christian of Council International (CCI), US-based sister organization of NL-based Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC). Henk Jan van Schothorst is founder and director of CCI and TCC. >> [tcccouncil.org](https://www.tcccouncil.org)**

Original: <https://www.rd.nl/ opinie/ christelij k- onderwijs- hoopt- vurig- op- herverkiezing- trump- 1.1707508>

If Biden wins, I can't be proud of America anymore – AD, November 2, 2020



Translation in English of short 2.5 minute film by Algemeen Dagblad (AD, 2nd biggest Dutch national newspaper) on November 2, one day before the US-elections, with Henk Jan van Schothorst, Executive Board of Directors of Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) :

**Interview:**

**If Biden wins, I can't be proud of America anymore.**

With regards to my American flag tie: "If Biden wins, I put it off. I put it off."

His policy is so far away from me, that I can no longer be proud of it.

I'm Henk Jan van Schothorst, 53, and have 6 kids.

Why I think the US is such a nice and good country: In one word I think: FREEDOM.

When I was 20 I worked in cheese and earned money for a travel to the US, I bought a nice Oldsmobile, and drove all over America, there a pic of the car, it were good old times.

I found it fascinating how elections were conducted. I loved the conservative message of for example Ronald Reagan, excellent, pro-life!

In the meantime we have had eight years of Obama, I thought this was a tragedy in the sense of his policies, as a person he might be very friendly. But he was a very activist progressive President, who brought much on a track, from which I think: NO, that's exactly the wrong direction!

And Trump was a correction on that.

I think it will be specifically a challenge for the left to control it's extremist groups, and to make them accept the election outcome, if Trump wins.

If Biden wins, I think that the conservative voters in general will accept (ultimately) the outcome.

*Question: And when do you plan to go to the US again?*

I planned already to go there several times, also now

I hope that it is possible in January, than I have an appointment in Washington DC.

*Question: In January: How does then the country looks like?*

'Divided. Divided. 20 January the new President will be sworn in. We'll have to wait and see.

## Highlighted! - Extra broadcast for the US presidential elections - 4 November 2020

Who will be the new US President? Will Trump stay in the White House for another four years or will Joe Biden take the Oval Office? These are the most exciting elections ever and the results are more uncertain than ever. Focus on the results and their consequences with Henk-Jan van Schothorst, Jan Willem Kranendonk, Martine Würsten and Martijn van Helvert.

(Dutch spoken)



## TCC sister Christian Council International (CCI) obtains tax-exempt status in US – November 12, 2020

Washington DC - November 13, 2020

Washington DC - Pro-life and pro-family defender Christian Council International, the U.S. sister organization of the Netherlands-based Transatlantic Christian Council, has been granted the 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in the U.S. as a non-profit organization. This makes donations tax-deductible.

"That's not one day too soon," says founder and director Henk Jan van Schothorst.

If Biden indeed wins the elections, the U.S. will lapse as a partner in the international fight for the protection of unborn life and the natural family. That means all hands on deck in the US to stand up for the protection of traditional values. The 'Biden Plan to promote LGBTQ+ and equality in America and the rest of the world' is full of 'bold ideas', as he himself writes it down.

(<https://joe Biden.com/lgbtq/>).

These ideas therefore also apply in an international context to organizations such as the UN, where TCC has consultative status with corresponding powers such as participation in meetings. Together with remaining pro-life and pro-family member states, often developing countries, and a few other non-governmental organizations, we will have to work hard to turn the tide of secular flooding. For example, the gender ideology and the sexual and reproductive rights and education imposed mainly by Western countries, without respecting the sovereignty of often poorer countries with opposing policies. CCI is a welcome partner to continuously monitor and take targeted action at the UN in New York. This gives TCC more time to exert influence in European institutions and Geneva-based UN organizations such as the Human Rights Council. As of January 2021, TCC and CCI will start a joint 3-year project.

At the same time, a network of contacts with good forces in Washington DC is being further developed. An important spearhead for CCI will be the protection of Christian education in the US. With board members such as George Roller, gospel missionary in Congress on Capitol Hill, and John Van Der Brink, director of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School in New Jersey, a lot of knowledge is present.

On Friday, March 13th, Van Schothorst arrived in an empty New York city with the last possible flight because of the Covid-19 travel ban from Europe. On Monday, March 16, preparatory talks were held in, according to the hotel porter, 'scary quiet' Washington DC for the founding of CCI and Van Schothorst was able to return to the Netherlands with one of the last possible flights. On June 5 the establishment of CCI was a fact. The now obtained status also makes it possible to build a support network in the US.



## Highlighted! - Henk-Jan van Schothorst update on American elections - 17 November 2020

President Trump still maintains that he has won the US elections. Despite the fact that no evidence of fraud has so far been found, Trump refuses to acknowledge his loss. Will there be a peaceful handover? And the Christian Union and the Labour Party are coming up with an action plan to tackle poverty and debt.

(Dutch spoken)



### A Biden-Harris Administration – What it Would Mean for Christian Education in America? – J. Van Der Brink – November/December, 2020

November 3 is past, the voting is over, and the outcome is still being debated. But unless something very unusual happens, we will have a new administration that takes office in Washington come January 20. With it will come a very different set of policies that will fundamentally change America, and it is to be feared away from Biblical values. These

policies will reach into every area of life and will most certainly have a negative impact on the freedom on religion and on the cause of Christian education in America. Below is a list of concerns that will directly affect our church and school community.

*a. The Biden-Harris platform is supportive of views on abortion which are the most extreme in the history of America. Senator Harris is the most liberal of all 100 senators on this issue and supports abortion rights up to the day of birth. Abortion advocates see November 3 as a victory for America.*

*b. Throughout the campaign Biden and Harris have openly supported and promoted groups*



*like Black Lives Matter and Antifa. The constitution of BLM is decidedly un-Christian and Antifa has been behind many of the violent riots that have taken place across America.*

*c. Both Biden and Harris have been outspoken supporters of the LGBTQ movement in America. The so-called equal rights of this group reaches into the way people run their businesses, what they are allowed to say in public, what we are allowed to teach in school, and even what is preached in church. Once this ideology gets entrenched in the public arena, it will influence practically every private institution as well.*

*d. The new administration promises to promote a comprehensive sex education program for our nation's schools that normalizes the gay and lesbian lifestyle. Religious opposition or dissent to this program will not be tolerated.*

*e. Education Secretary Betsy de Vos will be replaced with a more liberal secretary. Betsy de Vos has been an ardent advocate of School Choice which provides support for low income students to choose alternatives to traditional public schools including charter schools and Christian schools.*

*f. The American Ambassador to the Netherlands Peter Hoekstra will also be replaced. Ambassador Hoekstra has also been a proponent of international Christian policies and has also been supportive of groups which advance traditional values.*

*g. Efforts are abroad in America to develop state approved textbooks that line up with leftist ideologies including a re-visioned history, re-defined moral values, new views on sexual identity etc. The Biden-Harris administration will almost certainly promote this development.*

*h. The new administration will promote more of an open door policy to immigration from countries who do not hold to traditional American values. We have already seen*

*America fundamentally change due to these poli-cies, and this is likely to increase.*

*i. A Biden-Harris administration will promote an entire worldview that purports to be unifying to all opinions and viewpoints, but which leaves no room for people with historic Christian values or moral absolutes.*

The freedoms to believe and confess as we now know them are under attack. Supreme court Justice Samuel Alito recently gave a speech before The Federalist Society in which he expressed concern about the stress that the pandemic is having on our constitutional freedom of speech. Many gatherings, including religious gatherings, are being restricted due to the pandemic even though we have a constitutional right to assemble and speak. In other words, Americans are being asked to give up their rights to speak for the sake of the pandemic. By the same token, we are asked to be silent about our religious convictions about marriage and homosexuality although it is our constitutional right to speak and be heard. But our right to be heard may be soon taken away.

One of Justice Alito's critics quipped, "He's upset because, like so many conservatives he is 'losing' his coun-try." Yes, we are losing our country. We are losing the values and morals that have been with us for many generations. Now our students, our children, and young people, are growing up in an America which is not the same America envisioned by our fathers. Are we going to help our children understand the world they will live in? Perhaps there is a time of persecution coming. Are we prepared for that? Are we preparing our students for that?

One thing remains stable in an ever-changing world. God is, was, and will forever be the same. He is a refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The Psalmist had a blessed place to hide in the midst of all the turmoil and confusion of the day. That is our hope also for tomorrow, also for a rising generation. May the Lord grant to each of us

such a place of refuge. We are not the first generation that faced dark days ahead. Some of the darkest days for the church have been the time for their greatest growth. So, whatever the future brings, may it bring and keep us in the right place before God.

Here are links to two insightful resources:

[Judge Alito's Speech or google Judge Alito's speech \(49 min\)](#)

[Albert Mohler Analysis \(check out commentary provided on November 17, 2020\)](#)

Original: [NRCS](#) Communicator

John Van Der Brink is director of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School in Pompton Plains (New Jersey) and member of the Board of Directors Christian of Council International (CCI), US-based sister organization of NL-based Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC).

It is all very well to complain about fraud, but the judge has the last word - December 12, 2020

***Reformatorisch Dagblad***

***Richard Donk***

***December 12, 2020***

**Complaining about electoral fraud is allowed in a democracy. But the judge has the last word. Henk-Jan van Schothorst: "That is what we have to deal with".**

Since 1984, Henk-Jan van Schothorst, director of the Transatlantic Christian Council, has been following developments in the United States very closely. But he cannot remember such 'confrontational elections'. "This ballot was different from all the others. In terms of style, but also in terms of content. All the commotion about possible fraud adds to that."

Van Schothorst does not dare to make any statements about the truthfulness of the many allegations of fraud that have been made in recent weeks. "I cannot investigate and prove it myself. I do not have enough insight into it from here. It is precisely for this reason that we must be cautious when making overly firm statements".

*A lot of big words are being used in the meantime.*

"This is indeed happening back and forth. You are quickly dismissed as a conspiracy thinker, or as naïve. That is what has happened to me. I don't like that. As far as I am concerned, those are too easy conclusions to draw.

*In the meantime, the accusations of fraud have been made. How do we find out the truth?*

"In our democratic legal order, the majority of voters are the deciding factor. These are the rules of the game to be respected by all of us. If someone feels aggrieved, they can lodge a complaint. We have devised a system for this - and in the United States, too, it is well established. We need control here. Because man is inclined to all evil, but also to build in 'checks and balances'. It is up to the courts to have the final say in this. That is what we have to deal with.

*The criticism of all court cases is that the complaints are not specific enough and, above all, that no evidence is provided.*

"I assume that the complaints that have been made are well formulated and substantiated. Otherwise you can save yourself the trouble. As far as evidence is concerned, there are a lot of witness statements and many other opinions circulating. All that is being investigated. And here too: I hear it all and take note of it, but the judge decides".

*The same judge concluded in a number of cases that the 'evidence' was fake. Like the photo of discarded postal voices that turned out to be from two years ago.*

"It is very good that this kind of thing should be made public. My main concern is the way in which the votes were collected in these elections. There were over 100 million postal votes. Anything can go wrong with that. Had it not been for those postal votes, there would not have been so much swell.

*At the same time, the complaint sounds that it is the mainstream media in particular that are blocking or somewhat pitying the news about possible fraud.*

"If a party claims to have great concerns about the conduct of the elections, I would find it easy for myself if I were not prepared to take note of them. Especially if a party claims to have an avalanche of evidence and witnesses. You have to pay attention to that. At the same time, taking the wrong camp to court is a considerable responsibility. It will really have to come up with substantial and well-founded complaints".

*There has been a lot of speculation over the past few months about confidence in American democracy because of all these developments. How do you view that?*

"The American system is well-designed, as has recently been proven once again. At the same time, however, the ideologies are clashing more and more sharply".

*On 20 January, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as President. How do you view that day?*

"That is the day when we will have to wear all our armour and fight, given the liberal agenda that Biden advocates. My work is very directly linked to that. We prayed so hard for Trump to win. At the same time, however regrettable I may think it is, the Lord goes His own way. That is why we should never be afraid. But we must be vigilant.

Original in Dutch Daily newspaper Reformatorisch Dagblad (last part):

<https://www.rd.nl/artikel/904216-president-trump-blijft-zijn-huid-duur-verkopen>

## Klagen over fraude mag, maar rechter heeft laatste woord

Richard Donk

Klagen over verkiezingsfraude mag in een democratie. Maar de rechter heeft het laatste woord. Henk-Jan van Schothorst: „Daar hebben we het mee te doen.”

Sinds 1984 volgt drs. Henk-Jan van Schothorst, bestuurder van Transatlantic Christian Council, de ontwikkelingen in de Verenigde Staten op de voet. Maar dergelijke „confrontatieve verkiezingen” kan hij zich niet herinneren. „Deze stembusgang was anders dan alle andere. Qua stijl, maar ook wat betreft de inhoud. Alle commotie rond mogelijke fraude doet daar nog een schepje bovenop.”

Van Schothorst waagt zich niet aan uitspraken over het waarheidsgehalte van de vele beweringen over fraude die de afgelopen weken werden gedaan. „Ik kan het niet zelf onderzoeken en bewijzen. Daarvoor heb ik er hier vandaan onvoldoende zicht op. Juist daarom moeten we voorzichtig zijn met al te stellige uitspraken.”

Er worden intussen wel veel grote woorden gebruikt.

„Dat gebeurt inderdaad over en weer. Je wordt al snel als complotdenker, of juist als naleveling weggezet. Dat is mij ook gebeurd. Daar houd ik niet van. Dat zijn wat mij betreft te gemakkelijk getrokken conclusies.”



Henk-Jan van Schothorst: Grote zorgen over Amerika onder Joe Biden. beeld RD, Anton Donnerholt

Intussen zijn de beschuldigingen van fraude er wel. Hoe komen we achter de waarheid?

„In onze democratische rechtsorde geeft een meerderheid van de kiezers de doorslag. Dat zijn de door ons allen te eerbiedigen regels van het spel. Als iemand zich verongelijkt voelt, kan hij een klacht indienen. Daar hebben we een systeem voor bedacht – en ook in de Verenigde Staten zit dat goed in elkaar. Hier is controle nodig. Omdat de mens geneigd is tot alle kwaad, maar ook om „checks en balances” in te bouwen. Het is aan de rechter om daar het laatste woord in te hebben. Daar hebben we het mee te doen.”

De kritiek op alle rechtszaken die

worden gevoerd is dat de klachten niet specifiek genoeg zijn en vooral dat er geen bewijs wordt geleverd. „Ik ga ervan uit dat de klachten die zijn ingediend goed geformuleerd en met redenen omkleed zijn. Anders kun je je de moeite besparen. Wat het bewijs betreft: er circuleren heel veel getuigenverklaringen en nog veel meer meningen. Dat wordt allemaal onderzocht. En ook hiervoor geldt: ik hoor het allemaal aan en neem er kennis van, maar de rechter beslist.”

Diezelfde rechter kwam in een aantal gevallen tot de conclusie dat het 'bewijs' nep was. Zoals de foto van weggegooid poststempelen die van twee jaar geleden bleek te zijn. „Het is heel goed dat dit soort dingen openbaar komt. Waar het mij vooral omgaat is de manier waarop bij deze verkiezingen de stemmen zijn vergaard. Er waren meer dan 100 miljoen poststempelen. Daar kan gewoon van alles bij fout gaan. Als die poststempelen er niet waren geweest, was er niet zoveel deining geweest.”

Tegelijkertijd klinkt de klacht dat vooral de „mainstream media” het nieuws over mogelijke fraude wegstoppen of er enigszins meewarig mee omgaan.

„Als een partij zegt grote zorgen te hebben over het verloop van de verkiezingen, zou ik het gemakkelijk van mezelf vinden als ik niet bereid was daar kennis van te nemen. Zeker als een partij claimt over een lawine aan bewijzen en getuigen te beschikken. Daar moet je wel aandacht aan besteden. Tegelijkertijd laadt het verongelijkte kamp met de stap naar de rechter wel een flinke verantwoordelijkheid op zich. Het zal echt met substantiele en gefundeerde klachten moeten komen.”

De afgelopen maanden is door al deze ontwikkelingen veel gespeculeerd over het vertrouwen in de Amerikaanse democratie. Hoe kijkt u daar tegenaan?

„Het Amerikaanse systeem zit goed in elkaar, dat heeft zich de afgelopen tijd juist weer bewezen. Tegelijkertijd botsen de ideologieën wel steeds harder.”

Op 20 januari wordt Joe Biden als president geïnstalleerd. Hoe kijkt u naar die dag?

„Dat is de dag waarop we de volle wapenrusting aan zullen moeten hebben en de strijd zullen aangaan, gezien de liberale agenda die Biden voorstaat. Daar is mijn werk ook heel direct aan verbonden. We hebben er zo voor gebeden dat Trump mocht winnen. Tegelijk geldt ook: hoe jammer ik het ook vind; de Heere gaat Zijn Eigen weg. Daarom moeten we nooit bang zijn. Wel waakzaam.”

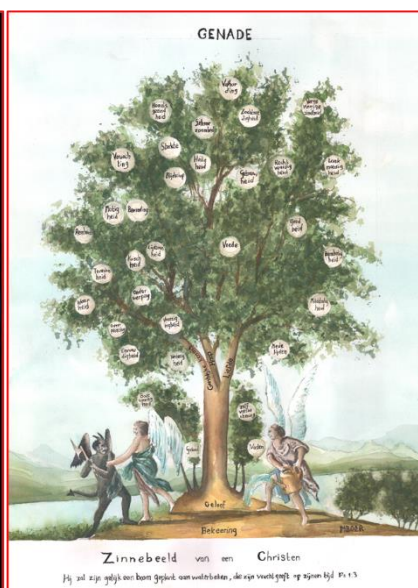


## Let us introduce: Rieke Hoogendoorn-van Zwieten – December, 2020

I would like to introduce myself to you briefly. I am Rieke Hoogendoorn-van Zwieten, married and mother of 3 children. When our eldest child was born I chose to become a stay-at-home mother. When you want to raise young children according to God's word, you experience that we in the Netherlands fortunately still have a lot of freedom to do so. At the same time there are worrying developments in the Netherlands and worldwide, especially concerning the freedom of religion and education, the protection of unborn life and the traditional family as the cornerstone of society. As a Christian and mother I therefore wholeheartedly support the mission of TCC and hope, as a volunteer with a Master of Laws degree, to be able to contribute to it. I will be particularly concerned with the developments at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in order to support TCC in their efforts to influence the progressive decision making there.



## The Fruit-Bearing Tree – December 15, 2020

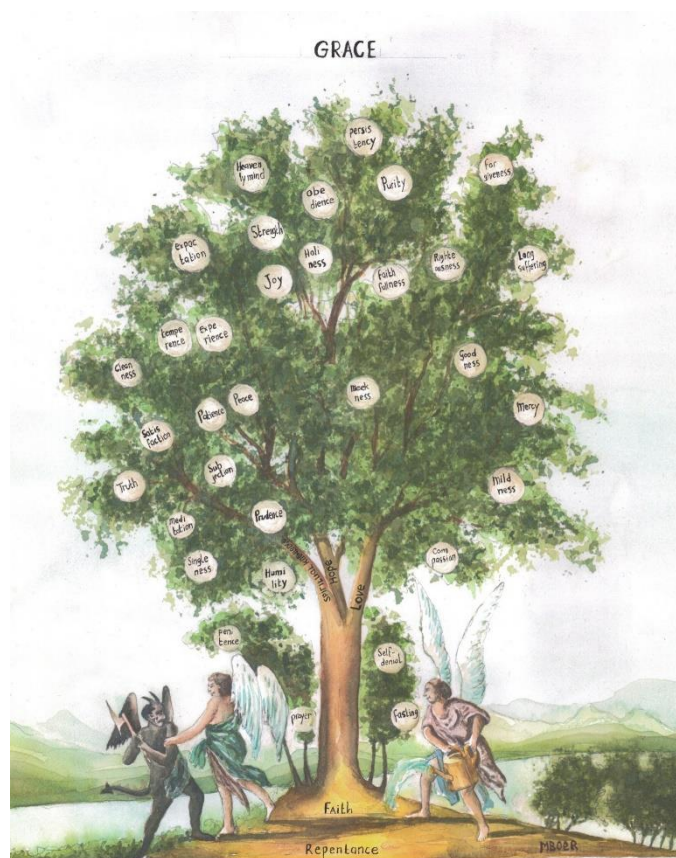


The logo of the U.S. Department of Education shows a tree. A tree symbolizes, among other things, growth, strength, potential. However, this tree lacks fruits.

In the Holland Museum in Michigan, the state where Pete Hoekstra comes from, hangs an image of a tree that does have fruit. They symbolize the fruits of the Spirit, after Psalm 1:3: And he shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. It is these fruits that TCC/CCI sees as an added value of Christian education.

Impressed by this watercolor, last year Henk Jan van Schothorst showed a copy to U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and had replicas made in Dutch and English.

December 15, 2020, the Dutch version was handed over to US Ambassador Pete Hoekstra; the English version is intended for the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.



Symbol of a Christian

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season



## Colophon

### **Colophon**

**CHRISTIAN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL**  
**1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW STE 1000 -**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20006**  
**EIN: 85-1382246**  
**E: [info@tccouncil.org](mailto:info@tccouncil.org)**  
**W: <http://www.tccouncil.org/>**

#### **Donate to Christian Council International (CCI):**

**Account name: Christian Council International**

**Account number: 8002372360**

**Routing number: 221271935**

**[Click here for Domestic Wire Transfer](#)**

**[instructions](#)**

**[Click here for International Wire Transfer](#)**

**[instructions](#)**

**Checks can be sent to:**

**Mr. John Van Der Brink, 243 Garside Ave**  
**Wayne NJ 07470**

CCI is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization under the IRS code, so contributions are tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

Website: [www.tccouncil.org](http://www.tccouncil.org)

Support: <http://www.tccouncil.org/support-us>

### **Board of Directors:**

*Chairman:* Mr. Henk Jan van Schothorst,  
TCC/CCI activities coordinator, former  
European Parliament policy advisor

*Member:* Mr. John Van Der Brink,  
Administrator at Netherlands Reformed  
Christian School, New Jersey

*Member:* Mr. George E. Roller, Ambassador  
for Hope to the Hill at Capitol Hill

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Mrs. Jolanda van  
Schothorst-Geluk, General Administrator  
TCC/CCI

