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## Retreat

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# Incidentally

by Lillian V. Grissen

## Retreat

Friday, September 5th, was busy! Dordt Students loaded their cars and headed for Lake Okoboji to participate in the annual recreational and spiritual retreat which marks the beginning of the school year.

Games, group singing, and free time filled the thirty-six hours at the lake, but as Dordt counselor Jay Van Groningen said in the opening devotions, the major emphasis of the retreat was on fellowship, study, and worship.

On these topics, Rev. J.B. Hulst, vice-president in charge of student affairs, addressed the students in three lectures which highlighted the retreat.

Rev. Hulst addressed the students on "Called to Community," based on I Peter 1:15-2:3. This passage, he said, was a letter of hope written to the persecuted Christians who felt a lack of community. He defined Christian community.

**Christian:** The members of the community are Christian. Both the faculty and student body at Dordt are one with each other in Christ.

**United:** The people in the community experience a oneness in the Spirit. They love each other deeply. If someone needs help, he receives it, but if he needs discipline, he will also receive that.

**Separated:** The people in the community are separated from sin through Jesus Christ. Worldliness divides. When students at Dordt try to be "cool," they soon find that community dies.

**Obedient:** The people in the community have a special attitude toward authority. Obedience to God's Word

leads to unity; disregard separates the community.

**Enduring:** The community endures in spite of conflict, crisis, and time. Conflict and crisis cannot break down the community; not even time can do that! The community always endures, even beyond Dordt.

Rev. Hulst concluded, "You have been called to this community. If you don't know that, hear me. You should."

The second speech was entitled "Summoned to Study" and was based on Genesis 2:8-17, which deals with man being put in the garden to work. Man "blew it," though; he sinned. In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus Christ who *worked* for our salvation. Just as God said to man at the time of creation, now Jesus says, "I want you to work for me."

Man must work in community. In early times man had only one community, but now life has become so complex that he has many communities. These are called spheres.

Dordt's sphere is education. We at Dordt must gain knowledge of God's created order so that we may be able to use it for his Kingdom. Being in the sphere of education means we are not on an unending holiday. All, not just the professors, are part of the academic community, and therefore we should work together to fulfill its task. Together we have work to do.

Work at Dordt is hard work. Just ask any college student. It is good work. God wants us to work. It is academic work. It is the office to which we are appointed. It is Biblical. We work in the light of Scripture. It is Kingdom work. It

prepares us for work in the Kingdom and it is Kingdom work in itself.

Rev. Hulst's last speech, "Wanted for Worship," was based on Romans 10:1-15. He expressed concern for Dordt. "Sometimes I'm afraid that Dordt will forget what it means to worship."

Worship has two aspects, the formal and the informal. Informal worship is essential in daily life. God's Word continually speaks to us and we must respond in humble, obedient service. Academic work, then, must be worship. "Every class should be a divine worship service."

This is not happening though, he said. The Christian community does not live Christ seven days a week; it just gathers together every Sunday. In a similar way, most colleges are not

Christian, only church-related. To be church-related is not enough; every aspect of the college must be Christian. "Our life at Dordt must be a continual life of worship."

Formal worship is also essential. We must have form and pattern in our worship. "If we do not go to church, we will bring Dordt to the point that Dordt will no longer worship in the classroom." Church services do not make Dordt Christian but we make up Dordt, so we make it Christian, and if we crumble, Dordt will, too. "Without formal worship, life ceases to be worship. When life ceases to be worship, we cease to be Christian. When we cease to be Christian, Dordt College ceases to be Christian."

## DeBoer and Faber Lecture

Hans DeBoer and Sytze Faber, members of the Dutch Parliament, each gave a short lecture at Dordt College on September 1. The two politicians were touring the United States at the invitation of the State Department and hoped to gain a better understanding of American politics and life. Of life here DeBoer said, "This seems like a paradise."

DeBoer, chairman of the Anti-Revolutionary Party, spoke of party beginnings, which were based on the Calvinistic principles as set forth by Groen Van Prinsterer and Abraham Kuyper. He said Kuyper "awakened the small people" of the Netherlands and inspired them to be interested in issues such as economic equality in private education.

"Christians," he said, "are a minority today." Because they are, they must work together with Catholics in the Netherlands to make their voice

heard in the European Common Market.

DeBoer said we should all work for the Kingdom of God and "astonish people with what we do." We must work for the Kingdom because as Christians we are "responsible for everything God has given us."

Faber, vice president of the Christian Democratic Appeal, spoke of his impressions of Sioux Center and Dordt. He grew up in the "heritage of Kuyper," he said, and here, at the other end of the world, he met the Kuyper of his youth.

He said there is a danger in the world today of a "bourgeoisie Christianity," of a Christianity of words and no action. "What we do with our lives must be subservient to the coming of Christ our Savior," he concluded.

DeBoer and Faber concluded their lectures by fielding questions about international and Dutch politics.