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In Bereavement of a Dordt Engineering Professor

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In Bereavement of a Dordt Engineering Professor

Pam Adams

Charles—philosophical engineer,
arts and sciences Renaissance man,
skilled in wood and words, a craftsman,
technophile—loved the work of Calvin,
Dickens, Kierkegaard, and Petroski.
And he lived with both feet firmly planted
on God's earth.

Charles—critique of American culture
as materialistic, racist, “comfortably numb”*—
guided students to more lofty norms,
redirecting tech with efficient and effective
autos, machines, water ways, and bridges
so that all could “flourish,”
seeing the jewels and threads
of God's good world.

Charles—photographer of the planets' splendor—
delighted in the cosmos, cutting, fashioning
wood into coherent book shelves full of words—
of C. S. Lewis, Baldwin, Dostoevsky, Dooyeweerd—
to bring us back to God's intention for the universe—
redeeming it.

*David Gilmore and Roger Waters, “Comfortably Numb,” Disc. 2, Track 12 of Pink Floyd Pulse (New York: Columbia Records, 1995).