

Happy Anniversary!



James C. Peterson

The American Scientific Affiliation, the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation, and Christians in Science will soon be gathering together in Canada for a joint meeting this July 25–28. It is particularly fitting then to wish here a hearty congratulations to the CSCA on the 40th anniversary of its founding.

Forty years ago was a time of rapid change in Canada. Canada had just celebrated its centennial and repatriated its constitution from Britain. There was a sense of joining the world stage as its own country. That impetus was spurred further by new laws in Canada that donations would only be recognized for income tax reduction if they were to a Canadian organization. Canadian members of the American Scientific Affiliation worked with the ASA to establish the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation as a unique voice alongside the ASA. The ASA could not have been more gracious ever since in sharing expertise, publications, and people with its continental ally.

The USA and Canada are distinct from each other, yet have much in common. Canadians remember that armed forces have invaded from the United States as recently as 1866, yet despite more stringent controls of late for security on the American side and taxes on the Canadian side, the border remains the world's longest boundary without military defense. Both are geographic giants. When the CSCA council meets by Skype, it is over eight time zones from the president Arnold Sikkema in Vancouver PST to the early career representative, Bethany Sollereder on Greenwich Mean Time at the University of Exeter, England. The two countries occupy an almost identical number of square miles, but Canada has one-tenth the population. Both nations are increasingly urban, but Canada's cities have more open space

between them. Both are democracies, but one has a queen. Both work in dollars, but one shows a portrait of Lincoln on the five and the other has a game of pond hockey. We build and drive the same cars, but in kilometers and miles. There are identical Thanksgiving Day feasts of turkey and apple pie, but one is celebrated in October and the other in November.

Only the most experienced Europeans can distinguish us North Americans from each other, yet we are different enough that we can complement each other and serve better for it. For example, Canada has a geography and history that lends itself to bringing together for this year's annual meeting the sibling associations of Christians in the sciences from the neighboring colossi of the US and the UK. As with the ASA, the CSCA has been about people learning with each other, enjoying each other, struggling with each other, working alongside each other, in a remarkably diverse yet common service to one Lord. There has been much challenge, dialogue, and insight.

Forty years. A biblical generation. That is long enough to be clear that no one individual has carried the CSCA. The only persons who have been at the center all the way through have been the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For our Lord's calling, work, and encouragement to that work, we are thankful. May the next forty be as collegial, fruitful, and enduring for the CSCA as the last.

With deepest appreciation to all those who have made and continue to make the service of the CSCA possible, moving forward in common cause and fellowship with the ASA,

Grace and peace,

James C. Peterson, *Editor*

