INTRODUCTION

From Thursday, April 28, 1977 until Saturday, April 30, 1977, 140 mathematicians attended the conference entitled "A Christian Perspective on the Foundations of Mathematics," held on the campus of Wheaton College. The conference was a trial venture to see how much interest existed among Christian mathematicians for studying the foundations of mathematics. There was never the intention to imply that there is a Christian mathematics. The question was whether the mathematician who is also a Christian possesses a new and meaningful perspective when he studies the topics comprising the foundations of his discipline.

Although this particular question was not settled one way or the other at this first conference, it was the strong consensus of the delegates that the conference was successful. It broadened our concept of mathematics, it challenged us to look more closely at foundational issues, it deepened our commitment to effective teaching, and it provided an exciting medium for fellowship with other Christian mathematicians.

It should be stated that this conference was not organized around experts in the philosophy and foundations of mathematics, but was rather the product of a number of individuals (many of whom have a very limited background in the foundations of mathematics) who were willing to prepare an initial paper on some topic in this field. These papers are being published as a reference for the delegates and as a service to others who would like an introduction to foundational studies written by Christians. Each speaker has been encouraged to revise his work and seek to publish it in an established journal.

The first paper in this collection was given as a keynote address during the first evening of the conference, and is intended as a general introduction to the entire conference. The other papers are listed in the order that they were presented. An exception to this is the two papers listed under Session 3 by Michael Detlefsen. Although he was present at the conference as a panel member, he did not present any papers. In response to the request of several delegates, he wrote up these two papers after the conference which we are happy to include in this collection.

Vita information is included for each speaker, and a directory is included of those individuals who have asked to be placed on a mailing list. Tentative plans are underway for a small, intensive working conference during the summer of 1978, and a second general conference in May, 1979. You are encouraged to contact any of the listed individuals for further dialogue. If you would like to purchase a copy of these Proceedings, or add your name to the mailing list, please contact me. In addition to these Proceedings, cassette tapes are available of all the conference presentations.

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