



Centre for Bible Interpretation and Translation in Africa

Department of Ancient Studies and
Department of Old and New Testament
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Annual Report: 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2019

1. Introduction: Focal points in the light of the Centre's aims

The Centre's activities in 2019 were focused especially on the following:

- Finalising the next translation of the Bible into Afrikaans; and
- The possible integration of CEBITA and CIAS.

The Mission Statement and Aims of the Centre that direct its activities may be read on: http://www.cebita.org/About_Profile.htm.

2. Staff

The Centre has no permanent staff members.

Management Committee:

Prof. CHJ van der Merwe acted as director in 2018.

Prof. L Jonker acted as chair of the Management Committee. Prof. T Leysens (Dean: Arts and Social Sciences) and Prof. R Nel (Dean: Theology) were ex officio members; Professors LC Jonker, J Punt and MJ Nel represented the Faculty of Theology, and Professors A Kotze, CHJ van der Merwe, PR Bosman and Dr. Johanna Steyn represented the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Dr Masenyani Baloyi represented the Bible Society of South Africa. Mr Jurie Hattingh represented the private sector. Doctors NS Cezula and P Nagel were co-opted members.

Collaborators:

Staff members of the Departments of Ancient Studies and of the Old and New Testament who are engaged in related research serve as collaborators in the Centre, as do Professors Extraordinary etc. who are associated with these two Departments.

3. Research output and PhD projects

The following articles and chapters in books directly related to Bible translation and

interpretation were published in 2019 by members of CEBITA, or by some of their students or collaborators:

- DE BLOIS R. Biblical Lexicography and the Semantic Structure of the Target Language: The Case of *ach*. In: Kotze GR, LOCATELL CS, MESSARRA JA (eds.) *Ancient Texts and Modern Readers Studies in Ancient Hebrew Linguistics and Bible Translation*, Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 2019: 165-179.
- MBAYA H. & CEZULA N. The Contribution of John S Mbiti to the Study of African Religions and African Theology and Philosophy. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal*, 2019: 5(3): 421-442.
- JONKER LC. *Herinnering en Verlange: Gesprekke oor Mag, Geskiedenis en die Bybel*. Stellenbosch: African Sun Media, 2019.
- JONKER LC. Achaemenid understanding of law and justice in Darius I's tomb inscriptions: Any connections with Hebrew Bible Pentateuchal conceptions? *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 2019: 33/1: 23–40.
- JONKER LC. Nuwe ontwikkelings in die Ou-Testamentiese vakgebied. In: NEL MJ en VAN DER WALT P (eds). *Anderkant die Breuklyn? Nuwe Ontwikkelings in Teologie*, Wellington, Bybel-Media, 2019:55–70.
- JONKER LC. Chronicles and Judges: Any Relationship? In: MICHEL A and RÜTTGERS NK (eds.) *Jeremia, Deuteronomismus und Priesterschrift. Beiträge zur Literatur- und Theologiegeschichte des Alten Testaments. Festschrift für Hermann-Josef Stipp zum 65. Geburtstag*, ATSAT 105, Sankt Ottilien, EOS Verlag, 2019:179–200.
- JONKER LC. Establishing a Centre for the Interpretation of Authoritative Scriptures (CIAS). *Religion and Theology* 2019: 26/1-2: 41-51.
- JONKER LC. Numbers and Chronicles: False Friends or Close Relatives? *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 2019: 8/: 332-377.
- JONKER LC. Family Genealogies and Religious Ideology: The Case of the Chronicler's Introduction. *Theology Today* 2019: 76/3: 200-208.
- JONKER LC. Op soek na diepgang in prediking: Die bydrae van die literêre geskiedenis van die Bybel. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 2019: 5/2: 213-234.
- LOCATELL CS. Casual Categories in Biblical Hebrew Discourse: A Cognitive Approach to Casual *ky*. *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 2019: 45(2):79- 102.
- LOCATELL CS. An Alternative to the Coordination - Subordination Dichotomy: The Case of Causal. In: Kotze GR, LOCATELL CS, MESSARRA JA (eds.) *Ancient Texts and Modern Readers: Studies in Ancient Hebrew Linguistics and Bible Translation*, Brill, Lelden, 2019: 79-99.
- LOCATELL CS, MESSARRA JA. Ancient Text and Modern Readers: An Introduction. In: Kotze GR, LOCATELL CS, MESSARRA JA (eds.) *Ancient Texts and Modern Readers: Studies in Ancient Hebrew Linguistics and Bible Translation*, Brill, Leiden, 2019: 1-13.
- NAGEL, P. Problematising the divinity of Jesus – Why Jesus is not Θεός. *Neotestamentica*, 2019: 53.3: 557-584.
- NAGEL, P. An attempt to liberate the womb from divine overburdening – in conversation with

- Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:4-45). In: Kotze M, Marias N, Müller van Velden N (eds). *Reconceiving Reproductive Health – Theological and Christian Ethical Reflections*. AOSIS: Durbanville, 2019, 145-166.
- NEL, MJ. The Relationship between Christian Metanarratives and Authoritative Scriptures in South African Society. *Religion and Theology* 2019: 26(1-2):72-83.
- NEL, MJ. The folly of preaching the cruciform God. *Stellenbosch Teologiese Joernaal*, 2019: 5/2: 391-404.
- PUNT J. What are authoritative Scriptures? *Religion & Theology*, 2019: 26: 52-71.
- PUNT J. Apostolic folly: Pauline foolishness discourse. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal*, 2019: 5(2 Supplementum): 455-471
- PUNT J. Lilly Nortjé-Meyer's (en)gendered New Testament hermeneutics: Theory, practice, engagement. *Neotestamentica*, 2019: 53(2): 231-248.
- PUNT J. Scripturing movies and filming Scripture: Bidirectional hermeneutics. In: CLOETE A (ed.) *Interdisciplinary Reflections on the Interplay between Religion, Film and Youth*, SUNPress, Stellenbosch, 2019: 1-15.
- PUNT J. 2019. Pauline Uterine Discourse in Context. In: Kotzé M, Marais N, and Müller van Velden N (eds.) *Reconceiving Reproductive Health: Theological and Christian Ethical Reflections*, Reformed Theology in Africa Series, AOSIS Pretoria, 2019: 125–43.
- VAN DER MERWE CHJ, CORNELIUS I. A Profile of *yad* in the Book of Jeremiah. A Perspective from Lexical Typology and Material Imagery. In: Michel A, Ruttgers NK (eds.) *Jeremia, Deuteronomismus und Priesterschrift: Beiträge zur Literatur- und Theologiegeschichte des Alten Testaments: Festschrift für Hermann-Josef Stipp zum 65. Geburtstag*, EOS Verlag Sankt, Ottilien, 2019: 279-304.
- WENDLAND ER. "Do the Dead Praise God?" A Literary- Structural Analysis and Translation of Psalm 6. In: Kotze GR, LOCATELL CS, MESSARRA JA (eds.) *Ancient Texts and Modern Readers Studies in Ancient Hebrew Linguistics and Bible Translation*, Brill, Leiden, 2019: 228-245.
- WENDLAND ER. Translating 'translation': What do translators 'translate'?. In: Faiq S (ed.) *Discourse in Translation*, Routledge, London, 2019: 8-30.

PhD and MA projects that have direct implications for Bible interpretation and translation were completed:

- ADEBAYO, PO. "Θεόπνευστος and its Implications for the Concept of Scripture in 2 Timothy 3:14-17". MTh in NT. Supervisor: J Punt
- AMEVENKU, M. "The reinterpretation of the Law in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount: Exploring its contextual interpretation among the Ewes of Ghana". PhD in NT. Promotor: J Punt
- DAVID, T. "Women, Teaching and Leadership in 1 Timothy 2:11-15: A rhetorical-critical study, with reference to Angola". MTh in NT. Supervisor: J Punt
- HASISO, EA. "The Holy Spirit in Matthew 12:15-32: An Intertextual Investigation." MTh in New Testament. Supervisor: MJ Nel.

- JUNG, KJ. "Circumcision and Persecution: A Pauline perspective according to Gal. 5:11 and 6:12". MTh in NT. Supervisor: J Punt
- MESSARRA JA. "An Investigation of *(we)'attah*: Beyond the temporal/logical bifurcation." MA in Ancient Languages. Supervisor: CHJ van der Merwe.
- PARK, H "The Role of the Ascended Jesus in the Acts of the Apostles." MTh in New Testament. Supervisor: MJ Nel.
- RUARK J. "Toward an Old Testament Theology of Light: From Physical Concept to Metaphysical Analogy." PhD in Old Testament. Supervisor: LC Jonker.
- SILAS, DT. "The Synagogue as locus for ministry in Luke-Acts: A Socio-historical study." PhD in New Testament. Supervisor: MJ Nel.
- SMUTS, R. "Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42): A paradigmatic encounter for discipleship (μαθητής) and witness (μαρτυρία)". PhD in NT. Promotor: J Punt
- SON, K. "Structural unity and thematic coherence: The unity of the Philippians letter in light of the imitation theme (Phil 3)". MTh in NT. Supervisor: J Punt
- STEIN DES. "The relational meanings of the noun יֵשׁ in Biblical Hebrew." PhD in Ancient Languages. Supervisor: CHJ van der Merwe.

4. New Afrikaans Bible translation

Prof. Christo van der Merwe attended the final working session of the editorial committee of this project, which has run for 15 years, in Kempton Park on 1 May 2019. The managing committee, of which he was also a member, approved the translation on 2 May. The Bible Society envisages launching the Bible on 30 November 2020 in Bloemfontein.

Work on a series of articles to be published in the November 2020 issue of *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe/Journal of Humanities* devoted to this project is progressing well. The Guest Editors are Prof. Herrie van Rooy, Professor Emeritus from North-West University, and Prof. CHJ van der Merwe.

5. CEBITA and CIAS

Considerable progress was made, with the help of the Division for Research Development, during the second half of 2019 to identify possible international funders. Karen Bruns and MS Jolene Fransman from this division were especially helpful. Ms Bruns was to have held discussions in the UK with a potential funder (Mr David Dangoor) towards the end of March 2020, after she had already had discussions with several parties in Germany in November 2019. But because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, she was prevented from travelling to the UK, and so this task has been postponed for the moment. There is thus still no confirmed funding for 2020 available yet, although the situation looks very promising. In the meantime, Prof. LC Jonker has submitted an application to SU's Strategic Fund for an amount of R3,5 million to serve as bridging finance for 2021. If this is successful, the new Centre will be constituted towards the end of 2020, advertisements will be placed for postgraduate

bursaries, and operations will commence early in 2021.

There have also been further discussions between the CIAS project team and Prof. C van der Merwe from CEBITA to consider the possibilities of merging these two entities. The proposal accepted by this group is that the new Centre will be established as CITAS (“Centre for the Interpretation and Translation of Authoritative Scriptures”), which explicitly includes the dimension of translation as represented by CEBITA (although in expanded format to include the scriptures of other faith traditions, and not only the Bible). The adapted plan and the proposed Rules for the newly established CITAS are attached as Addenda B and C.

The following proposal has been submitted to the CEBITA Management Committee for their consideration:

1. That the developments regarding CIAS/CITAS that have taken place in the meantime, as set out in Addenda B and C, be noted;
2. That the Department of Ancient Studies be requested in the meantime to comment on the proposed Rules for CITAS, before they are submitted officially to the meeting of the Faculty of Theology;
3. That the decision of the 2019 meeting regarding further action be accepted.

6. Finances

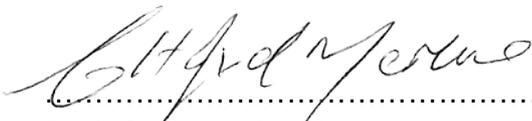
The Centre’s short-term finances are sound. The details appear in the financial statement for 2019. The report is attached.

7. Acknowledgements

The Centre wishes to thank the Management Committee and the Executive Committee for their support.

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Prof. LC Jonker

Chair: Management Committee


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Prof. CHJ van der Merwe
Director

19 May 2020