



Sentrum vir
Bybelinterpretasie
en vertaling in
Afrika

Departement Antieke Studie en
Departement Ou en Nuwe Testament
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Annual Report: 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2007

1. Introduction: Focus points

In 2007 the Centre's activities were focused on the following matters in particular:

- The next translation of the Bible into Afrikaans;
- Formalising the relationship between the United Bible Societies (UBS) and the Centre;
- The establishment of research networks for the study of the OT in Africa (especially Exodus and the Prophets): The NRF study of Exodus as an identity-creating narrative on origin and migration – collaboration between lecturers from South Africa and Zambia, as well as postgraduate students from Nigeria. In June 2007 10 OT researchers met for a workshop with a view to establishing a Prophets Research Group. The first two themes that were addressed were the redefinition of profession in the light of social anthropological research on profession in Africa, and the role of oral traditions in the creation prophetic texts.

2. Staff

The Centre has no permanent members of staff.

Management Committee:

In 2007 Prof. CHJ van der Merwe was responsible for the Bible Translation focus area, Prof. LC Jonker the Bible Interpretation focus area and Prof. J Punt for the Communication and Appropriation focus area. Prof. Jonker will be acting as director for the period 2006-2008.

Prof. AE Feinauer acted as chairperson of the Management Committee, with Professors AEJ Mouton, HL Bosman, Jonker and Punt as representatives of the Theology Faculty, and Professors MW Visser, JC Thom, CHJ van der Merwe and LG de Stadler as representatives of the Faculty of the Arts and Social Sciences. Pastor Manie van den Heever represented the Bible Society of South Africa and Mr H Raubenheimer the private sector.

Collaborators:

Staff members of the Departments of Ancient Studies and of the Old and New Testaments, who are engaged in related research, act as collaborators in the Centre as well as professors extraordinary, etc. who are associated with these two departments.

3. Current Academic Projects

The following projects were active during 2007. The projects are launched and managed by the individual/department concerned, but function simultaneously under the umbrella of the Centre. None of the projects was specifically initiated as a project by the Centre.

BIBLE TRANSLATION

- A Biblical Hebrew Semantic Dictionary (CHJ vd Merwe)
- A Hypertext Bible for Translators and Exegetes (CHJ vd Merwe)
- Teaching Biblical Hebrew (CHJ vd Merwe)
- Bible Translation as Intercultural Communication: A Theoretical and Practical Reflection (CHJ vd Merwe)
- Translation and Ownership of the Bible in Africa (J Punt)

BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- The reinterpretation of the book of Exodus in Africa (HL Bosman)
- The interpretation of the Bible in Africa (HL Bosman)
- Prophetism in the Old Testament and in Africa (HL Bosman)
- Fundamentalism and religious conservatism (HL Bosman)
- Old Testament theological perspectives on land in the midst of poverty and wealth (HL Bosman)
- A theological reading of the Decalogue on the basis of proverbs in Africa (HL Bosman)
- "From multiculturalism to interculturalism: The case of biblical hermeneutics": Intercultural reading of the Bible (LC Jonker)
- A study of the dynamics of reinterpretation in the composition history of the Old Testament – the books of Chronicles as a case study (LC Jonker)
- "Reforming history": The relationship between historiography and identity formation in the Second Temple period (LC Jonker)
- The postcolonial Bible in Africa (J Punt)
- Religion, holy scriptures and identity (J Punt)
- Biblical hermeneutics and the Pauline letters (J Punt)
- An interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) in its literary and topological contexts (JC Thom)

COMMUNICATION AND APPROPRIATION

- The New Testament and cultural studies (J Punt)

An Addendum with full descriptions of these academic projects, as well as the planning for 2008, is available on request from the Director (lcj@sun.ac.za).

4. Research Output: Papers Delivered

1. "African perspectives on prophecy and prophetism"
HL Bosman, PROPHET Research workshop, Stellenbosch
2. "Defining a prophet according to the Balaam narratives"
HL Bosman, PROPHET Research workshop, Stellenbosch
3. "Remembering Moses as a model of Israelite and early Jewish identity"
HL Bosman, Tri-annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of the Old Testament, Ljubljana, Slovenia
4. "Intertextuality between the Torah and the Prophets: the 'new exodus' in Isaiah 40–55"
HL Bosman, PROPENT Research workshop, held at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Studies, Vienna, Austria
5. "Exodus from the perspective of Collective Memory Theory: From slave to servant during the emergence of Israelite monotheism."
HL Bosman, International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Studies, Vienna, Austria
6. "The possible combination of creation and exodus motifs in Isaiah 51: 9-11: A typological 'antidote' for suffering during the exile"
HL Bosman, Old Testament Society of South Africa, University of Pretoria
7. "'Lord of the animals' in Ancient Near Eastern iconography and the interpretation of Job 39"
HL Bosman, Niehr Symposium with Dept. Ancient Studies, Stellenbosch
8. "Textual identities in the Books of Chronicles: The case of Jehoram's history"
LC Jonker, Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, Saskatoon, Canada
9. "The global context and its consequences for Old Testament interpretation"
LC Jonker, Tri-annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of the Old Testament, Ljubljana, Slovenia
10. "Who constitutes society? Yehud's self-understanding in the Late Persian Era as reflected in the Books of Chronicles"
LC Jonker, International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Studies, Vienna, Austria [also presented at Niehr Symposium with Dept. Ancient Studies, Stellenbosch]
11. "The Exile as Sabbath rest: The Chronicler's interpretation of the Exile"
LC Jonker, Old Testament Society of South Africa, Pretoria
12. "Seminaries and Stewardship"
AEJ Mouton, Presentation during NetAct AGM, Justo Mwale Theological College, Lusaka, Zambia
13. "Jesus in South Africa: Lost in translation?"
E Mouton (with DJ Smit), International Conference of the Moluccan Theological Council, IRTI & BNS & PCN, Houten, Netherlands

14. "Sex and gender, and liminality in biblical texts: Venturing into postcolonial, queer biblical interpretation"
J Punt, International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Vienna, Austria
15. "A biblical death-wish: Paul celebrating dying in Phil 1:21"
J Punt, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, Amsterdam
16. "Paul and postcolonial hermeneutics: Marginality and/in early biblical interpretation"
J Punt, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature/American Association of Religion (Paul and Scripture Seminar), San Diego, CA, USA
17. "'To Show the Difference by Comparison': The New Wettstein and Cleanthes' Hymn"
JC Thom, Doctoral Colloquium, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany
18. "Justice in the Sermon on the Mount: An Aristotelian Reading"
JC Thom, Logos and the Word Conference on Ancient Philosophy, Hellenistic Judaism and Biblical Literature, Stellenbosch
19. "Who are You, Pythagoras? Hermeneutical Pressure and Identity in the Pythagorean Akousmata"
JC Thom, Classical Association of South Africa, Cape Town
20. "Another look at the focus particle *gam*."
CHJ van der Merwe, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, USA
21. "Aspects of the principle of 'parallelism' in Hebrew poetry"
ER Wendland, UBS AFRATCON, Nairobi, KENYA
22. "The present state of study Bible programs in Africa: Progress, problems, prognosis"
ER Wendland, UBS AFRATCON, Nairobi, KENYA
23. "THE DRAMA OF JAMES: The oral performance of a NT epistle and its implications for Bible translators, with special reference to James 2:14-26"
ER Wendland, 62nd Meeting of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS), Sibiu, Romania

5. Research Output: Publications that appeared in 2007

(All publications marked with [*] appeared in fully or partially accredited publications.)

1. "Old Testament Studies from African perspectives: a research survey and some suggestions about future trends"
HL Bosman, in: Alston, W M J & Welker, M (ed.), *Reformed theology: Identity and ecumenicity II: Biblical Interpretation in the Reformed Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 58–65. [*]
2. "Remembering Moses as a model of Israelite and early Jewish identity"
HL Bosman, *Scriptura* 96, 326-333. [*]
3. *Behutsamens Lesen. Alttestamentliche Exegese im inderdisziplinären Methodendiskurs. (FS Hardmeier)*.
LC Jonker, S Lubs, A Ruwe & U Weise (eds.), Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt. [*]

4. "Reforming history: The hermeneutical significance of the books of Chronicles"
LC Jonker, *Vetus Testamentum* 57/1, 21-44. [*]
5. "Refocusing the battle accounts of the kings: Identity formation in the Books of Chronicles"
LC Jonker, in: S Lubs et al (eds.) *Behutsamens Lesen. Alttestamentliche Exegese im inderdisziplinären Methodendiskurs. (FS Hardmeier)*. Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 245-274. [*]
6. "On becoming a family: Multiculturality and interculturality in South Africa"
LC Jonker, *Expository Times* 118/10, 480-487. [*]
7. "The Exile as Sabbath Rest: The Chronicler's Interpretation of the Exile"
LC Jonker, *Old Testament Essays* 20/3, 703-719. [*]
8. "The reorienting potential of Biblical narrative for Christian ethos, with special reference to Luke 7: 36-50"
AEJ Mouton, in Brawley, R (ed), *Character ethics and the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox, 35-55. [*]
9. "Surprised by new contexts? Challenges of Reformed Exegesis from within Liminal Spaces"
AEJ Mouton, in Alston, W M J & Welker, M (eds), *Reformed theology: Identity and ecumenicity II: Biblical Interpretation in the Reformed Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 230 -241. [*]
10. "On articulating marginalisation and marginality. Reviewing Postcolonial biblical criticism: Interdisciplinary intersections."
J Punt, *JSNT* 30(4): 455-472 [*]
11. "The dignity of human sexuality: Compromised sexual selves and violated orientations."
J Punt, *Scriptura* 95, 241-252. [*]
12. "Subverting Sarah in the New Testament: Galatians 4 and 1 Peter 3"
J Punt, *Scriptura* 96: 453-468. [*]
13. "Rom 1:18-32 amidst the gay-debate: Interpretative options."
J Punt, *Hervormde Teologiese Studies* 63(3): 965-982. [*]
14. "Popularising the prophet Isaiah in parliament: The Bible in post-Apartheid, South African public discourse."
J Punt, *Religion & Theology* 14(2): 206-223.
15. "The letter to the Hebrews."
J Punt, in: Segovia, FF and RS Sugirtharajah (eds) *A Postcolonial Commentary on the New Testament writings*, edited by FF Segovia, *The Bible and Postcolonialism*, Vol. 13. London/New York: T&T Clark, 338-368. (ISBN 0567045633) [*]
16. "Of grass, food, and hospitality: the role of cognitive studies in the translation/ communication task."
RD Shaw, *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in Southern Africa* 2007; 96 : 501-522. [*]
17. "'To Show the Difference by Comparison': The New Wettstein and Cleanthes' Hymn."
JC Thom, in: Aune, DE & Young, RD (ed.), *Reading Religions in the Ancient World*,

Novum Testamentum Supplements 125. Leiden: Brill, 81–100.

18. "A cognitive linguistic perspective on *hinneh* in the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges and Ruth."
CHJ van der Merwe *Hebrew Studies* 48 (2007) 237-277. [*]
19. "n Nuwe vertaling van die Bybel in Afrikaans: die praktiese aanvaarbaarheid van 'n nuwe vertaalmodel."
A van Rensburg en CHJ van der Merwe, *Nederduits Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif* 48/1-2, 270-285. [*]
20. Worldview analysis as an exegetical tool (Part 2)
GJ Van Steenberg, *The Bible translator* 2007; 58(3) : 128-147
21. Aspects of the principles of 'Parallelism' in Hebrew poetry.
ER Wendland, *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 2007; 33(1) : 101-124. [*]
22. The drama of Zephaniah. a literary-structural analysis of a proclamatory prophetic text.
ER Wendland, *Journal for Semitics/Tydskrif Vir Semitistiek* 2007; 16(1) : 22-67. [*]
23. The rhetoric of reassurance in First John: 'Dear Children' versus the 'antichrists'.
ER Wendland, *Neotestamentica: Journal of the New Testament Society of South Africa (ntssa)* 2007; 41(1) : 173-219. [*]
24. Bible translation and Christian mission in Africa
ER Wendland, *Word and Context* 2007; 6(1) : 4-20.
25. *Galu Wamkota: Missiological reflections from South-Central Africa*.
ER Wendland & S Hachibamba, Kachere Series, Zomba, Malawi 2007:508 pp.

6. Service

The staff involved at CEBITA rendered the following services to the broader community:

- Bible for the Deaf (completed in 2007);
- New Afrikaans Bible translation project;
- Served as editors and on editorial boards;
- Popular publications and presentations;
- Bible study and discussion groups, and preaching.

7. United Bible Societies and the Centre

Dr Phil Towner, the head of the translation division of the UBS, visited the Centre in March 2007. On this occasion he conducted exploratory discussions with the Vice-Rector (Research), the Deans of the Faculty of the Arts and Social Sciences and of Theology, the chairs of various departments, programme co-ordinators and the Director of NETACT. Dr Towner was very impressed with the research structure of the University, as well as the programmes on offer. He undertook to take the next step in the process of formalising links between the University and the UBS by sending the translation co-ordinator for the African region, Dr M Muthwii, to Stellenbosch. In order to further indicate the goodwill of the UBS, he handed a cheque of \$20 000 to the Centre as a bursary for a doctoral project.

Unfortunately Dr Towner resigned from his position in September. Prof. van der Merwe then himself made contact with Dr Muthwii, who undertook to visit Stellenbosch in April 2008.

8. The Centre's publication series

Dr Stuart Foster's "An experiment in Bible translation as transcultural communication: The translation of ברית 'Covenant' into Lomwe, with a focus on Leviticus 26" was supposed to appear in 2007. Sun Media began using a new page-layout program, however, that could not cope with the Unicode Hebrew fonts used in this publication. After several attempts, it was agreed that Dr Foster would come to Stellenbosch in 2008. He would then investigate ways of solving the problem with Sun Media.

The sales of the existing two publications, namely those of Dr Gerrit van Steenberg and Dr Eric Hermanson, have been disappointing. It appears that Sun Media's marketing is not very effective.

9. Communication

The Centre's Newsletter was not sent out in 2007. But the CEBITA website was redesigned and updated; the annual report (in English) will always be available on it. The website will also contain up-to-date news (<http://www.sun.ac.za/as/cbta>).

10. Finances

The Centre's short-term finances are sound. The financial statements as prepared by the University's Finance Division are attached. Additional details are available on request from the Director (lci@sun.ac.za).

11. Acknowledgements

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



12 May 2008

Prof. AE Feinauer
Chair: Management Committee

Date



12 May 2008

Prof. LC Jonker
Director

Date