



Sentrum vir
Bybelinterpretasie
en vertaling in
Afrika

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Departement Ou en Nuwe Testament
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Annual Report: 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2008

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

In 2008 the Centre focused on the following matters, over and above its normal research activities, which will be reported on later:

- The next translation of the Bible into Afrikaans;
- The developing synergy between the research fields of colleagues in Ancient Studies and in Old & New Testament;
- Coordination of discussions on re-curriculation;
- Development of service points for translators and exegetes, as well as a dedicated service point for the translators of the new Afrikaans Bible (at the request of BSA).

The Mission Statement and the Aims of the Centre that guide the abovementioned activities may be read at <http://www.cebita.org> > Profile.

2. Staff

The Centre has no permanent members of staff.

Management Committee:

The following members of staff were responsible for particular focal areas in 2008: Prof. CHJ van der Merwe for Bible Translation; Prof. LC Jonker for Biblical Interpretation; and Prof. J Punt for Communication and Appropriation. Prof. Jonker is acting as the director of the Centre for the period 2006-2009.

Prof. AE Feinauer was the chair 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 Arts and Social Sciences. Prof. Bernard Combrink represented the Bible Society of South Africa and Mr H Raubenheimer the private sector.

Associate staff:

Staff members from the Departments of Ancient Studies and the Old & New Testament who are working on related research topics serve as co-workers in the Centre, as do professors extraordinary associated with these two departments. Over the past year being reported on here the Centre has also made use of the services of Dr JP Bosman (CTL) on a consultation basis.

3. Current academic projects

The Centre was engaged in the following projects during 2008. The projects are initiated and managed by the respective individuals/departments, but operate simultaneously under the umbrella of the Centre. None of the projects was specifically initiated as one of the Centre's projects.

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)

BIBLICAL 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 account 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)
- Studying the dynamics of reinterpretation in the compositional 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, sacred writings 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)

Further information on these academic projects is available on <http://www.cebita.org> > Projects.

4. Research output: Papers delivered

Summary

Members of the Centre delivered 11 papers at South African conferences, 13 papers at international subject conferences, and 1 paper at an ecclesiastical consultation.

Full information about the papers delivered by members during 2008 is available on <http://www.cebita.org> > Papers.

5. Research output: Publications

Summary

Members of the Centre produced the following publications (Key: * – accredited; # – non-accredited; SA – South African publications; Int – International publications):

Bosman: 3* (2 SA, 1 Int)

Jonker: 6* (1 SA, 5 Int)

Mouton: 2* + 1# (2 SA, 1 Int)

Punt: 7* + 1# (2 SA, 6 Int)

Thom: 1* (1 Int)

Wendland: 3* + 3# (1 SA, 5 Int)

In total, thus, 22 accredited and 5 non-accredited publications appeared in 2008. Of these, 8 appeared in South African publications and 19 in international publications.

Full information on the academic publications produced by the members of the Centre during 2008 may be found on <http://www.cebita.org> > Publications.

It is also worth mentioning the involvement of several members of the Centre in the launch of the popular publication, *Christelike Kernensiklopedie* (edited by FM Gaum and AA Boesak, Lux Verbi.BM, 2008). In addition to the fact that Professors Bernard Combrink and Louis Jonker served as chief collaborators, members of the Centre from the Departments of Ancient Studies and of the Old & New Testament (along with alumni of these departments) produced some 80 articles for this encyclopaedia.

6. Research output: Doctoral dissertations

Summary

In total there were 24 ongoing doctoral projects during the year, 5 at the Department of Ancient Studies and 19 at the Old & New Testament (2 with co-promoters from Ancient Studies).

In 2008 doctoral degrees were awarded to 7 candidates, 2 from Ancient Studies and 5 from Old & New Testament.

Full information on the doctoral students (along with the titles of their research projects) may be found on <http://www.cebita.org> > Dissertations.

7. New Afrikaans Bible translation

The Centre remains involved through its individual members in the new Afrikaans Bible translation project of the Bible Society of South Africa (BSA). Christo van der Merwe not only serves on the steering committee and executive of this project, but is also (along with Hendrik Bosman, Louis Jonker, Jeremy Punt, Elna Mouton, Johan Thom and other colleagues in the participating academic departments) involved as exegete and/or as source language specialist.

8. Service point for translators and exegetes

The idea of a service point raised at last year's annual general meeting gained considerable momentum during 2008. Assistance was bought to help develop a system. It was eventually decided to use Web 2.0 technology in order to set up discussion groups (rather than one-to-one communication) as the basis of the service point. The respective service points were developed in Moodle (open-source software offering the possibilities required).

Finalising the service point is currently underway and publicity will commence soon.

9. United Bible Societies (UBS) and the Centre

Dr Muthwii, the Africa coordinator of the UBS's translation activities, visited Stellenbosch from 14-16 April 2008 as a guest of the Centre. The purpose of Dr Muthwii's visit was to take a step further an initiative by Dr Phil Towner (the UBS's worldwide coordinator of translations), who visited the Centre in 2007. This initiative was aimed at strengthening – and, where possible, formalising – the collaboration between the University and the UBS.

Dr Muthwii held discussions with Professors Elna Mouton, Johan Thom, Christo van der Merwe, Louis Jonker, Jurgens Hendriks, Marianne Visser and Ilse Feinauer. She also visited the International Office.

At the end of the visit a draft plan was drawn up on ways in which the University can become involved from 2010 in the training of UBS translators working in Africa. This draft plan will be discussed in 2009 at the three-yearly workshop of the UBS in Bangkok. If possible, strategies for implementing a plan of action will be finalised at this workshop. Christo van der Merwe, who was elected for another four-year term to the UBS's *Committee on Translation Policy*, will probably also be able to attend the meeting in Bangkok himself.

10. Centre's publication series

Intensive discussions were held with Sun Media in 2008 on ways in which the marketing of the Centre's publication series can be improved. According to Mr van Zyl from Sun Media, few of the proposals made by the Centre could be carried out (e.g. the inclusion of the series in the Amazon.com catalogue). Sun Media was at that stage busy with negotiations to give all their publications greater exposure on the American market. But Mr van Zyl could not say when this initiative would get off the ground.

11. External communication

The Centre dropped the idea of sending out a newsletter, as the redesigned website now served that function.

12. Finances

The Centre's short-term financial position is sound. The details are contained in the 2008 financial statement (see attachment).

13. Acknowledgements

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



5 May 2009

Prof. AE Feinauer
Chair: Management Committee

Date



5 May 2009

Prof. LC Jonker
Director

Date