

Faculty of Theology Annual Report 2015



*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.*

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



Faculty of Theology Report 2015
University of the Free State

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PREFACE



Prof. S.D. (Fanie) Snyman
Dean, Faculty of Theology,
University of the Free State

2015 was a blessed year for the Faculty. We celebrated our first 35 years with stylish restraint. Most of the Faculty's activities during 2015 centred on the Faculty's 35th anniversary celebrations. A 35-year-old Faculty of Theology is in fact still in its infancy. Faculties of theology in Europe are often ten times older than a mere 35 years. What happened in our 35 years can be described, in an oversimplified manner, with two concepts. On the one hand, the

Faculty experienced a broadening regarding the academic offer of certificates, diplomas and degrees, the student profile, lecturing corps and international contacts. On the other hand, the Faculty also experienced a deepening in terms of the quality of research. The Faculty's journal has deepened from a local journal to a nationally accredited journal and then to one of only two theology journals in South Africa enjoying so-called ISI status. The Faculty has

a dedicated and competent corps of service staff who are able to ease the burden of lecturers. We are also blessed with dedicated, hardworking lecturers who go the extra mile to prepare and present excellent lectures, who work hard to obtain further qualifications and who conduct research that results in papers at important conferences and publications in academic journals. Enjoy this overview of the activities of the Faculty during 2015.

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

The Faculty of Theology: 35 in 2015

All the Faculty's activities are guided by the following vision and mission statements:

Vision: The Faculty of Theology practices theology as an academic discipline with scientific credibility and is committed herein with compassion for people.

Mission: It is the mission of the Faculty to practice theology by presenting contextual academic programmes, by undertaking significant research and by practicing relevant community involvement from within an ecumenical orientation for an African context, whilst offering a unique service.

The vision and mission statements are anchored in the following values: Transcendence as the confession of the Holy Trinity as the final horizon of meaning, justice, excellence and inclusivity.

35+

Rethinking justice and righteousness in society conference

The flagship conference in celebration of the 35th anniversary was the Rethinking Justice and Righteousness in Society Conference, presented from 24-26 August 2015. The conference represented a multi-disciplinary reflection on the theme from a variety of theological disciplines as well as other disciplines. In this regard, colleagues from the humanities, law and the economic and management sciences also presented papers. A number of experts from Europe and Africa attended the conference and presented papers, which gave the conference a truly international character. It was encouraging to see almost all the colleagues from the Faculty also presenting papers at the conference.



Dignitaries who attended the dinner of the Rethinking Justice and Righteousness in Society Conference.



Attending the Rethinking Justice and Righteousness in Society Conference were, from the left, Prof. Fanie Snyman, Ms Alice Deken, Dr Leon Wessels and Dr Dustin Ellington, who all read papers at the conference.



Prof. Snyman with Rev. Peter Awojobi, Rev. Menard Musendekwa and Rev. Ango Samuel, who were all presenters at the Rethinking Justice and Righteousness in Society Conference.

Student involvement in the 35th anniversary

Special mention must be made of the students' contribution to the 35th anniversary celebrations. For the first time in many years they have been able to get theology students from the universities of Pretoria and Stellenbosch together on the Bloemfontein Campus of the University of the Free State. The students attended lectures, mingled and played sports and also visited tourist attractions in Bloemfontein. The visit coincided with the international conference on Justice and Righteousness in Society, which afforded them the opportunity to listen to and learn from a number of academic experts. The students also attended the conference dinner. We have to congratulate the students with this excellent initiative. Students from the US have already extended an invitation for a similar event at Stellenbosch next year.



Honorary doctorate

The Faculty has a careful approach in awarding honorary doctorates. However, as part of the 35th anniversary celebrations an honorary doctorate was awarded to Dr Mercy Oduyoye, a Ghanaian theologian. She is the first black female theologian to obtain a degree in theology and she has dedicated her career to empowering women in theology, specifically in Africa.

Dr Mercy Oduyoye, a Ghanaian theologian who was awarded an honorary doctorate.



Colloquium of Deans of Theology

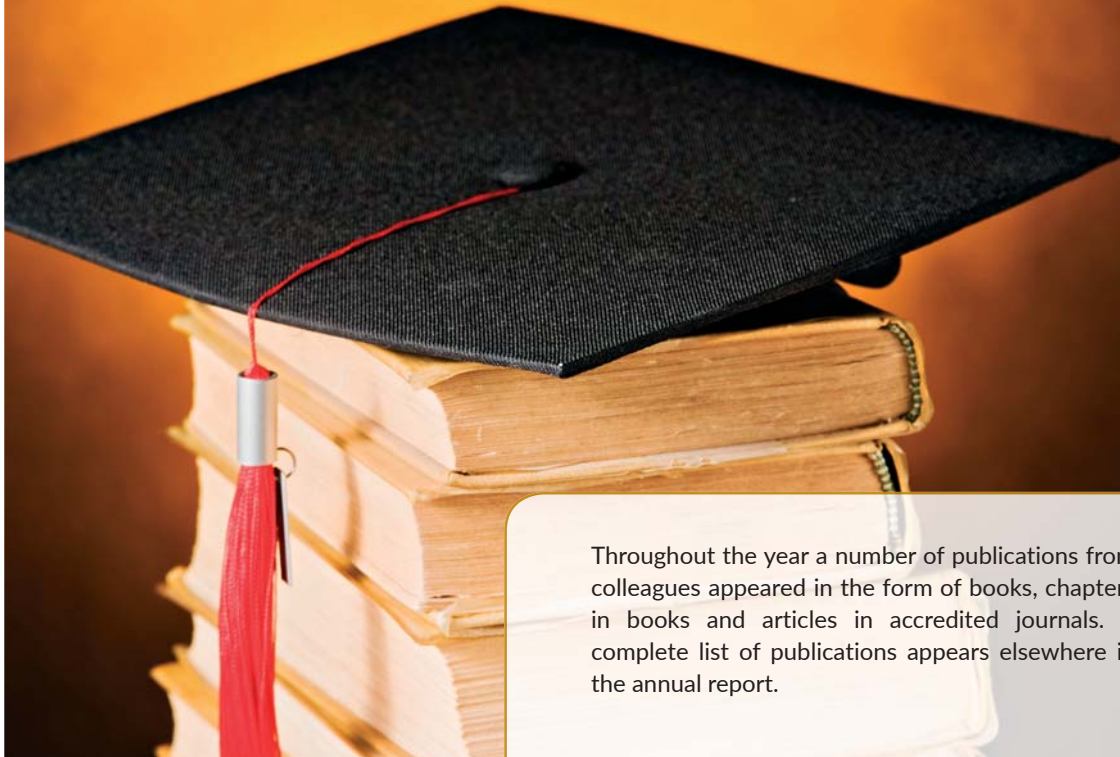
From 28-30 October 2015, 11 deans of Faculties of Theology gathered in Bloemfontein for a colloquium of deans. Three deans from Africa, four deans from Europe and three deans from South Africa attended the event. They shared their insights regarding the central theme of

“Theology in Higher Education – Mapping the challenges”. At the end of the colloquium a decision was taken for the event to be held regularly. The Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the UP extended an invitation to gather at the UP’s Faculty of Theology in 2017.



Deans of Theology who attended the Deans' Colloquium.

Publications



Throughout the year a number of publications from colleagues appeared in the form of books, chapters in books and articles in accredited journals. A complete list of publications appears elsewhere in the annual report.

Postgraduate Students

A significant number of postgraduate students completed their Master's and doctoral studies this year. We delivered 17 Master's degrees and six doctorates. Postgraduate study and the completion of postgraduate study are seen as increasingly important in the higher education environment in South Africa.

International Visits

The Department of Systematic Theology received a visit from Fr N. King SJ from Boston in the USA as part of the annual ecumenical agreement with the Roman Catholic Church (Jesuit Institute RSA). Dr H. Kroesbergen of Justo Mwale University College in Lusaka, Zambia also paid a visit.

Shepherd Centre for Spiritual Leaders

During 2015 Shepherd presented events for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) representing a total of 230 points. One of the highlights was the CPD Winter Week. Although fewer ministers attended the event, it was characterised by the quality of the presentations. Shepherd's CPD offer for 2016 consists of a number of events that represents 305 points. After ten years Shepherd is now an established centre in the Faculty and it makes an essential contribution to church communities.

Staff matters

Following the departure of Dr Maniraj Sukdaven, Head of the Department of Religious Studies, Dr Luvuyo Ntombana of the University of Fort Hare was appointed as lecturer in his place. Since 1 July this year he has also accepted the position of Head of this department.

Prof. P.J. Strauss, Head of the Department of Church History and Polity, retired at the end of June this year. However, he was appointed on contract basis for the second semester and will also continue to lecture during the first semester of 2016. On 8 December a farewell dinner was presented in honour of Prof. Strauss. Rev.



Prof. Snyman (right) at the farewell dinner for Prof. Piet Strauss.

Helené van Tonder of the Department of Church History resigned. She left the service of the university on 31 December 2015. Prof. Pieter Verster was appointed as Acting Head of the Department of Church History.

Rev. Dawid Mouton of the Department of Practical Theology accepted a calling as minister of the VGK in

Keetmanshoop in Namibia at the end of 2014. He moved to Keetmanshoop early in January 2015.

Rev. Marlene Oosthuizen was appointed as Programme Director in place of Ms Annelien Labuschagne who relocated and as a result left the employ of the university.

Conferences and papers

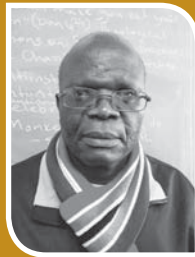
A number of colleagues presented papers at local and international conferences. Prof. Verster presented a paper in China, while Prof. Tolmie presented a paper at a Society of Biblical Literature conference in Buenos Aires in Argentina as well as a guest lecture at the Heidelberg Universität in Germany. Prof. Snyman presented a paper at the annual conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in the USA that took place in Atlanta, Georgia in 2015. Colleagues also presented papers at national conferences. Rev. Anlene Taljaard spent time at the

Princeton Theological Seminary as part of her studies for her doctorate. These instances are mentioned specifically because conferences form an important component of academic activity. Here people are exposed to the latest trends in research while interacting with colleagues. Something that should not be taken for granted is the fact that the Faculty has managed to attract so much international attention with a number of experts from outside the borders of South Africa making the effort to attend conferences and present papers.

Dean's Office:



Mrs Ingrid Mostert
(Chief Officer – Faculty Manager)



Dr. Thomas Resane
(Teaching & Learning Manager)



Mrs Annelize Dreyer
(Administrative Officer)



Mrs Nathlene van Wyk
(Office Manager – Dean)



Mrs Ronel Ellis
(Secretary)



Mrs Story Leeuw
(Messenger)



Rev. Marlene Oosthuizen
(Programme Director)



Mrs Lena Herselman
(Secretary)



Mrs Hazel Mothibatsela
(Cleaning Services)



Departments in the Faculty **Theology**

DEPARTMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT

Serving through teaching, research and community service

The Department of Old Testament unlocks the rich variety of the Old Testament to undergraduate students. At postgraduate and research level, the Old Testament is studied in more depth as part of the canon of the church and as authoritative revelation for Judaism.

Teaching in the department

In the Department of Old Testament a high premium is placed on excellent teaching of especially undergraduate students. This was again the case during 2015. Students could look forward to well-prepared lectures presented with enthusiasm by lecturers.

Research activities

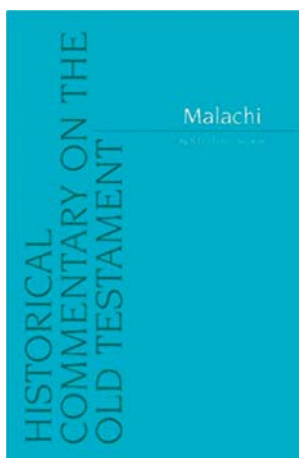
A number of lecturers and research fellows had the opportunity to present their research results at national and international conferences. In this regard, Mr Neels Redelinghuys presented a paper titled Creation Utterly Consumed: A 'Green' Review of Zephaniah 1:2-6 at the conference of the Old Testament Society of South Africa (2-4 September 2015). Dr Steve van der Walt, who obtained his doctorate in the department in 2014, presented a paper titled Polluted water, stinking water, frozen water, no water: A life threatening situation! Perspectives from Exodus 1-11 and 15-17 at the same conference. In his paper he introduced some of the

findings of his doctoral research to a broader audience. Both these papers were received well and have been submitted for publication in academic journals. Prof. Snyman presented a paper on the theme "Aspects of reconciliation in the book Genesis" at the NAVONT conference. He also presented papers at the faculty's Justice and Righteousness in Society Conference at the UFS and the Society of Biblical Literature's conference in Atlanta, Georgia in the USA.

Research publications were published locally and internationally. Prof. Snyman published a commentary on the book Malachi in the well-known HCOT series, published by Peeters-Uitgeverij in Leuven in Belgium. A book of which he is co-editor and co-author, and which focuses on the prophetic literature of the Old Testament, was translated into Korean. Research fellows associated with the department published a number of important monographs. In addition, articles by Prof. Snyman and several research fellows were published in academic journals.

In terms of community service a number of workshops were presented for ministers in which the exegesis and application of a text were discussed. In this regard, Mr Neels Redelinghuys made a valuable contribution.

The department is grateful for all the activities that could take place during 2015.

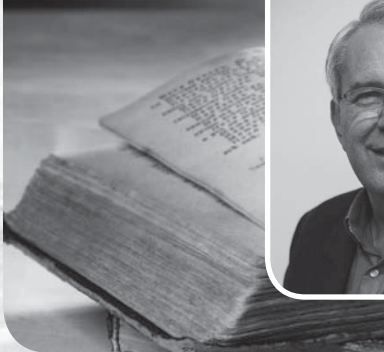


Prof. Snyman's commentary on the book of Malachi as published in the well-known HCOT series.

Research Fellows:

Prof. H. Ausloos
Prof. A. Leder
Prof. B. Lemmelijn
Prof. E. Peels
Dr S. Fischer
Dr M. Terblanche
Prof. R.W. Kessler

Staff:



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Mr Neels Redelinghuys
(Lecturer)



Rev. Nic Schmidt
(Lecturer)

DEPARTMENT NEW TESTAMENT

2015 characterised by continuity and renewal

Several academic conferences

During 2015 the Department of New Testament was involved in several academic conferences. Prof. Pieter de Villiers was responsible for organising the bi-annual meeting of the international Society of Christian Spirituality. For the first time in the existence of this society the meeting was held outside the USA. It took place from 21-25 May in Johannesburg. Two world-renowned researchers on spirituality, Profs Kees Waaijman and Bernard McGinn (both Research Fellows at the department), made contributions at the conference. The theme of the conference was holiness. This successful conference was attended by a large number of people. Prof. De Villiers also read a paper at the conference and took part in a panel discussion on the teaching of spirituality as an academic discipline. He was also elected to the editorial board of *Spiritus* – one of the two most important journals on spirituality internationally – and was appointed as chair of the International Relations Committee of the international Society for the Study of Spirituality.

At the beginning of the year several researchers linked to the department read papers at the NAVNUT conference that was held at the North-West University. NAVNUT consists of researchers from South Africa and the Netherlands and regularly holds academic conferences on a research theme on peace and violence in the New Testament. At the 2015 event Profs Pieter de Villiers, Jos Huls and Francois Tolmie read papers. During the year Prof. De Villiers also read a paper at the international

conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as two papers at the annual conference of this society in Atlanta, USA. Prof. Tolmie also read a paper at the conference in Buenos Aires and delivered a guest lecture at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Furthermore, he participated in the conference on justice which was organised by the faculty as part of the 35th anniversary celebrations. At this conference Dr Peter Nagel and Dr Dustin Ellington also read papers.

First post doc researcher

During 2015 the department appointed its first post doc researcher. Dr Peter Nagel was appointed in this position from 1 April 2015. His PhD focused on the *Kurios* and *Theos* citations in the Pauline literature. His post doc research focuses on the impact that research in Biblical Studies could have on the public sphere.

Postgraduate students

In 2015 a new group of students was admitted to the highly popular Master's degree in spirituality. Under the guidance of Prof. Pieter de Villiers, all the students passed their first module successfully during the second semester. In addition, Dr Jae-Young Song finished his DTh during 2015. His research focused on Paul's view of the law.



Prof. Kees Waaijman, Prof. Bernard McGinn and Prof. Pieter de Villiers



Dr Jae-Young Song

Popular-scientific contributions

Researchers at the department did not only focus on academic issues. They are also involved in popular-scientific projects. For example, Profs Hermie van Zyl and Francois Tolmie were asked by the Christelike Uitgewersmaatskappy to take responsibility for the

New Testament writings in a new thematic Study Bible that will be published within the next couple of years. Furthermore Prof. Van Zyl is also involved in the English Bible translation for the Deaf, by the Bible Society. He also regularly writes articles on theological issues for *Volksblad*.

Honorary Professor:

Prof. P. Lampe

Extraordinary Professor in Biblical Spirituality:

Prof. P.G.R. de Villiers

Research Fellows:

Ms P. Dijkhuizen
Prof. W.R. Domeris
Dr H.C. du Toit
Dr D.W. Ellington
Dr A. Friedl
Dr A.L.A. Hogeterp
Dr J. Huls

Prof. S.A. Hunt
Dr T. Jantsch
Dr P.G. Kirchsclaeger
Prof. C.R. Koester
Prof. C.E.T. Kourie
Prof. J.S. Kruger
Ms J.E. Lam
Dr G.M.H. Loubser
Prof. B.C. McGinn
Prof. T. Nicklas
Prof. M. O'Sullivan
Dr V. Rabens
Prof. A.H. Snyman
Prof. J.G. van der Watt
Prof. H.C. van Zyl
Prof. C.J. Waaijman
Prof. H. Welzen
Prof. R.G. Zimmermann

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Dr A. Hoffman
(Part-time lecturer)



Rev. De la H. le Roux
(Part-time lecturer)



Rev. N.F. Schmidt
(Part-time lecturer)



Rev. A.J.J. Stander
(Part-time lecturer)



Prof. H.C. van Zyl
(Part-time lecturer)



Dr. Peter Nagel
(Postdoc-Researcher)

DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Quality teaching, meaningful research and exciting international contact

The Department of Systematic Theology experienced yet another year of quality teaching, meaningful research and exciting international contact.

Undergraduate teaching is valued in the department. Study-guides are regularly revised to reflect current scholarship, to interact with an ever-changing environment and to explore innovative learning experiences.

Research projects by postgraduate students are carefully planned. Not only should it be supported by the supervisory expertise in the department, but it should interact with contemporary scholarship and the knowledge needs of the church and the society. Students are encouraged to pursue own creative interests, but are also sensitised to the larger function of knowledge production. Some of the Master's mini-dissertations finished during the year can be mentioned: H. Hay completed "Die viering van die Nagmaal as etiese respons op die verbruikerskultuur"; S. Majiedt "Towards a trinitarian public theology in South African"; K. Stapelberg "Christologie en 'Die skuif na die Suide' – In gesprek met Velli-Matti Kärkkäinen"; and D. Struwig "Christology and Evolution: Interpreting Jesus Christ in the context of the faith-science dialogue". It should be pointed out that Stapelberg's work was selected as the best MDiv research script of the year.

Other research in the department by lecturers are supported by a number of highly esteemed research fellows. The output during the year was particularly good and twelve articles were published in various accredited journals. (These are listed elsewhere in this annual report.)

Contact with scholars from other institutions is crucial for the department and a number of international theologians were welcomed who presented guest-lectures. Fr. Nicholas King SJ from the Jesuit School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College in Massachusetts spoke on "The Scandal of Christian Disunity – A Biblical Approach" and Dr H. Kroesbergen from Justo Mwale Theological University in Lusaka, Zambia on "Doctrine of Scripture today".

Rev. Anlené Taljaard, during her study-leave, spent a period of four months at Princeton Theological Seminary in the United States. She was able to further her research project on "The priesthood of Christ in the work of Calvin, Barth and TF Torrance". Princeton Theological Seminary provided ample space and time to write and reflect and the theological library holds the archive of a selection of publications of Karl Barth. During this time in the United State she also had the privilege of attending three interesting conferences, namely the well-known Warfield Lectures, given by Anglican theologian, Dr Sarah



Nicholas King with Prof. Rian Venter



Rev. Anlené Taljaard at Princeton.

Coakley, Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity, University of Cambridge, on the theme “Knowing in the Dark: Sin, Race, and the Quest for Salvation”; the annual Barth Conference, on the theme “Karl Barth & The gospels: Interpreting gospel texts”; and the bi-annual conference of the International Reformed Theological Institute in New Brunswick on the theme of “Liturgy and Ethics”.

Prof. Rian Venter was involved with various academic activities. He wrote several book-reviews for journals, did external assessment of research projects for other universities, spoke at a number of occasions to various audiences (e.g. the Inter-religious Forum at the UFS, to ministers and to students) and presented a paper on “Justice and the divine: A trinitarian re-imagining” at the UFS’s conference on “Rethinking justice & righteousness”.



Dr Kroesbergen (middle, white shirt) with Bdiv students.

Research Fellows:

- Prof. E.J. Echeverria
- Dr M. Juma
- Dr A.C. Pieterse
- Prof. P.C. Potgieter
- Dr K.T. Resane
- Prof. D.J. Tombs
- Dr J.M. Urbaniak
- Dr H.M. van den Bosch
- Dr D. van den Bosch-Heij
- Prof. E.A.J. van der Borgh
- Prof. C. van der Kooi
- Dr H. van der Westhuizen

Staff:



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Rev. Anlené Taljaard
(Lecturer)



Dr. Thomas Resane
(Part-time lecturer)

History for the future

Ecclesiology views the often outdated division of teaching, research and community service as still relevant for an academic department at the University of the Free State in 2015.

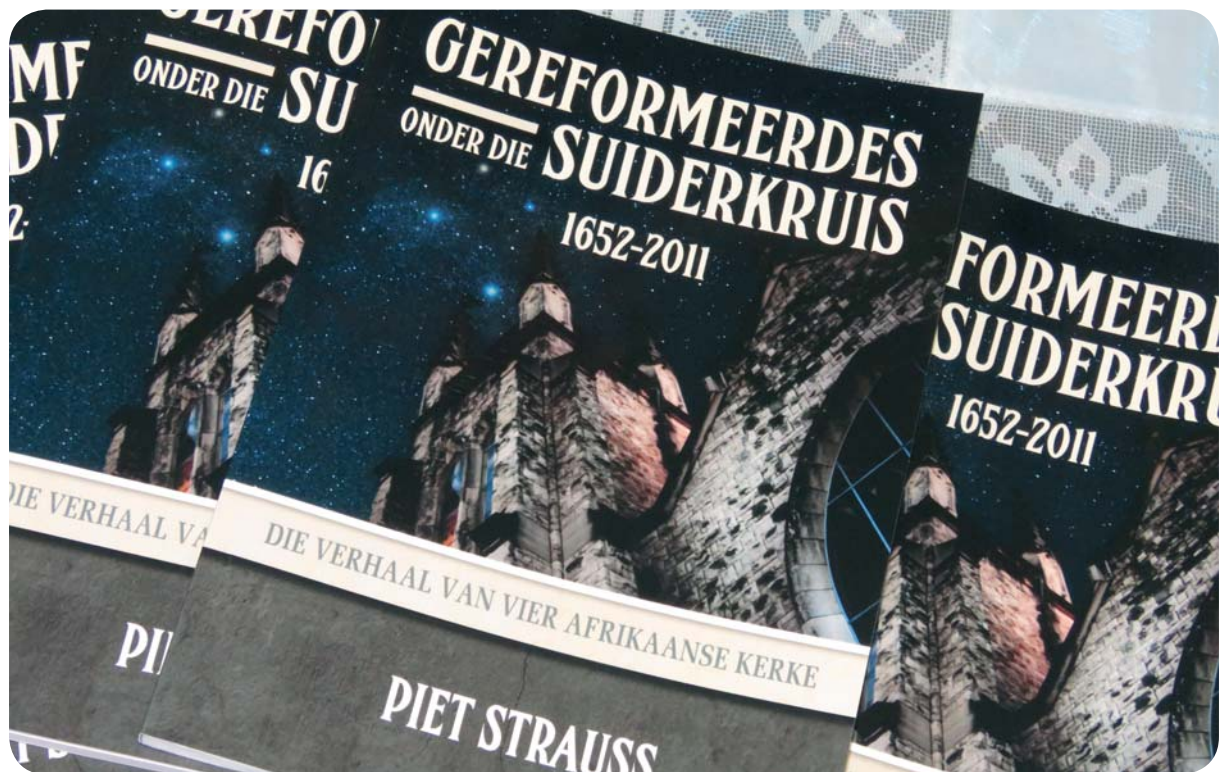
Teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students in this department was therefore continued as such in 2015. From a reformed-theological perspective teaching ministers remains a calling. In this process the various subjects in Ecclesiology tuned in to the church and ecumenical situation in which our students are going to find themselves. General Church History is complemented with African and South African as well as church-specific Church History. Dogma History concentrates on the big dogmatic questions in the mainstream churches throughout the centuries and Polity is based on the church ordinance of the churches that the students represent.

Rev. Helené van Tonder has made excellent progress with research for her doctoral thesis. She is registered at both the University of Stellenbosch and the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

Early in 2015 a church-historical work titled *Gereformeerdes onder die Suiderkruis 1652-2011* by Prof. Piet Strauss was published. In this book he concentrates on the main lines of the history of South African churches – also in terms of how they are interrelated. The work deviates from the approach in certain church-historical churches in that, apart from church and societal issues, he also addresses confessional, canonical and other internal church issues.

Ecclesiology is grateful for the output of research fellows. The department published articles on recent South African church history and the way in which, for example, the Dutch Reformed Church accepts its confessions.

Prof. J.W. (Hoffie) Hofmeyr was involved in the department as Extraordinary Professor. He was also a visiting professor at the Department of Historical Theology at the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit in Leuven, Belgium and he was responsible for lectures in two courses in Historical Theology. He was also a senior researcher at the Andrew Walls Centre at the Liverpool Hope University in Liverpool, England. Currently he is



Rector and Vice-Chancellor at the Nkhoma University in Nkhoma, Malawi.

In terms of community service staff members of Ecclesiology was again involved in the church community. In this process their academic background – on church commissions – played an important role.

Prof. Strauss retired at the end of June, while Rev. Van Tonder accepted another position early in 2016. Prof. Strauss has since been appointed as Professor (Units) and continues to lecture. During 2016 Rev. Jan Lubbe will assist the department temporarily while Rev. Van Tonder's position is advertised.

The end of 2015 also saw the end of an era in Ecclesiology. Details regarding the future of this department form part of the restructuring process in the faculty.



Prof. Piet Strauss (centre) at the launch of his book *Gereformeerdes onder die Suiderkruis 1652-2011*.

Extraordinary Professor:

Prof. J.W. Hofmeyr

Research Fellows:

Dr B. Celliers
Dr V. d'Assonville
Rev. E. Kayayan
Rev. J. Lubbe

Staff:



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Prof. Piet Strauss
(Professor: Units)



Rev. J. Lubbe
(Acting lecturer)



Ds. Helené van Tonder
(Lecturer)

DEPARTMENT OF MISSIOLOGY

Emphasising the meaning of the Gospel

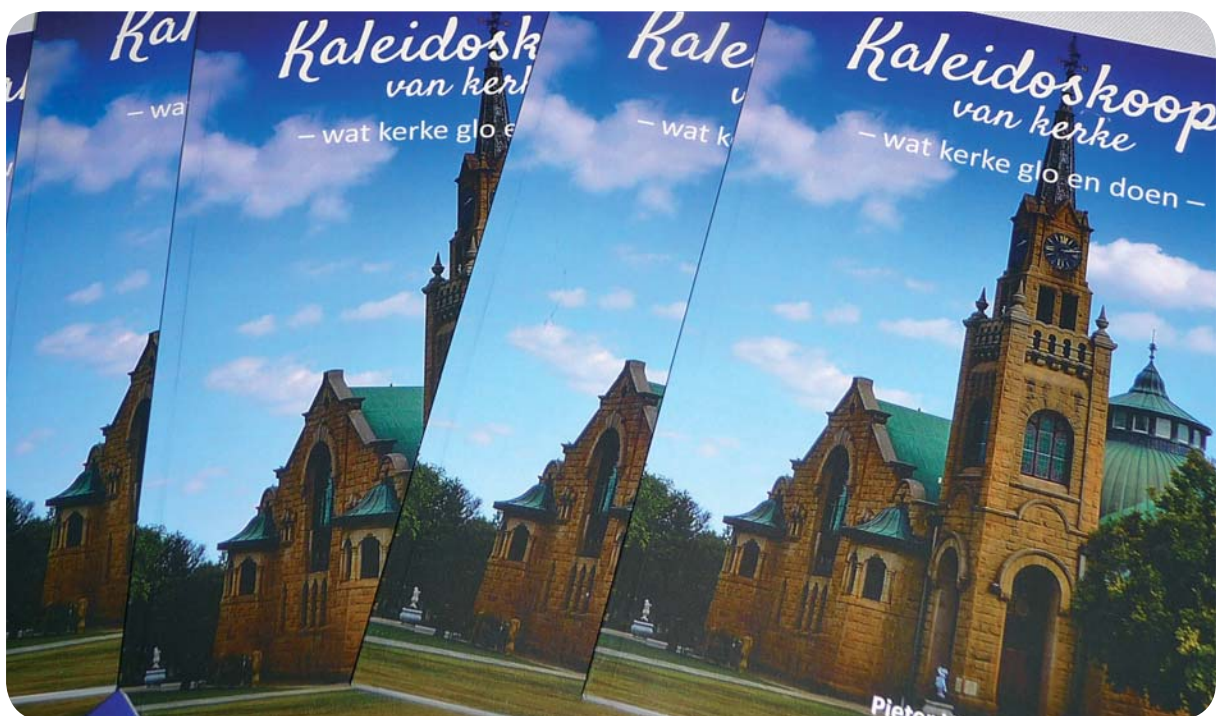
The Department of Missiology emphasises the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its meaning for people in all contexts. Academic teaching is combined with practical outreach actions.

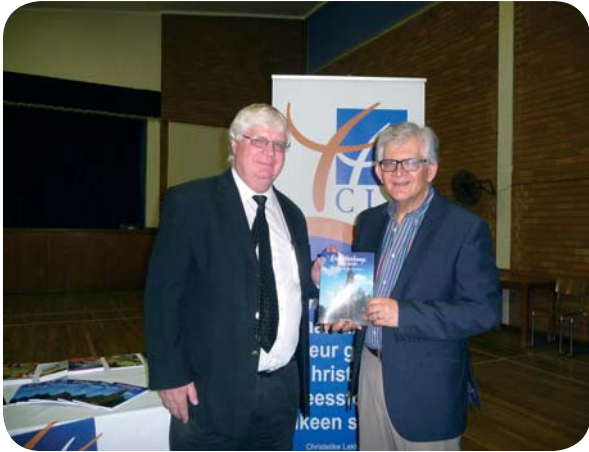
Outreach actions

Outreach actions to Phase 7 in the township took place and students also attended a church service by Rev. J. Kofa of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa on 3 May 2015. In addition, the fifth-year class visited the missionary group Jesus4Africa in Kimberley, as well as a Muslim mosque and a Hindu temple. It remains a unique experience for students to visit flats in the inner city and to talk to people from various backgrounds, share the Gospel with them and invite them to the Twin Spire Church (Tweetoring-kerk) to join Towers of Hope. The Department of Missiology also housed the SAMS Conference (Southern African Missiological Society) from 11-13 March 2015.

Staff activities

The way in which missiology can be taught via movies was the focus of a paper read by Prof. Pieter Verster in Beijing on 9 April 2015, namely "Using films to enhance theological studies". Research in the township areas around Bloemfontein continues and Rev. Bongani Ngesi has made an important contribution as co-researcher. Prof. Verster also attended the 3rd Annual Peer Review Conference in Johannesburg from 19-21 August. He read a paper on the theme "Models for mission and reconciliation: Future perspectives" at the Faculty of Theology's conference from 24-26 August. In addition, he attended a conference on the theme "A covenantal vision for global mission in the Reformed tradition" on the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University from 30-31 July 2015. Prof. Verster often presents church services on Radio Rosestad and was also honoured by this radio station in the category for theology. He published the popular book *Kaleidoskoop van kerke - Wat kerke glo en doen* with CLF Publishers.





Prof. Pieter Verster (left) at the launch of his book: *Kaleidoskoop van kerke - Wat kerke glo en doen.*

Dr Frans Hancke's research material was used to strategically position Afrikaans-speaking congregations in the United Arab Emirates. It has had significant consequences in terms of focus, vision, planning, the ministry and structure and also forms the basis for future positioning in a Muslim country. The research material is also used by the newly-established Circle of Lobatse in the Reformed Church in Botswana to equip and strategically position them.

Dr Johan Carstens has established the I-Opus Institute for Missiological Research and Development. The book *My work, my worship*, that focuses on work as the goal of creation and as instrument for transformation, was published. Dr Gideon Petersen's paper "Orality: Mind the gap" was read at the First International Conference on Adventist Theology and Mission in Africa at the Adventist University in Africa (Kenya) in August.

Postgraduate students

Three PhD students completed their theses, namely Pieter Bezuidenhout and Jongimpi Papu of South Africa and Zakari Kassoule from West Africa.

Research Fellows:

- Dr A.M. Hoffman
- Dr G. van der Watt
- Prof. P.J. Robinson
- Dr G. Petersen
- Dr J.J. (Dons) Kritzinger
- Dr Johan Carstens

Staff:



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Dr. Andries Hoffman
(Part-time lecturer)



Dr. Gideon van der Watt
(Part-time lecturer)



Dr. Frans Hancke
(Part-time lecturer)

DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

High quality academic involvement

The Department of Practical Theology aims to make an academic contribution of the highest quality within the framework of the university and the faculty. The department also remains committed to exceptional research and community involvement that makes a difference. The 2015 report is testimony to these efforts.

Annual meeting of the Society for Practical Theology

The privilege of hosting the annual meeting of the Society for Practical Theology in South Africa (SPTSA) from 21-23 January fell to the UFS. High-profile keynote speakers discussed the topic of “Power of religion and religions of power”. Prof. Johann Rossouw from the UFS Department of Philosophy presented a paper on “Power, the state and the church in South Africa”. Twenty years since the dawn of South Africa’s democracy, “the gap between the country we were promised and the country we received is bigger than ever,” Prof. Rossouw said. “A South African church ... cannot but make her voice heard regarding this gap.”

Prof. Hussein Solomon from the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance, an expert on conflict resolution and fundamentalism, scrutinised the compatibility of Islam with democracy. Prof. Solomon’s paper, “Political Islam: trends, trajectory and future prospects”, not only advocated tolerance and political pluralism, but also pointed to the fact that it is “in the common good of all humanity” to avert a “Clash of Civilizations”.

“God in granite?” – Prof. Johan Cilliers’ paper – investigated the phenomenon of the monumentalisation of religion. Prof. Cilliers, from Stellenbosch University, explained that monuments often have “spiritual character and iconic value, in the sense that it offers a space for the formation or discovery of meaning”. In his presentation he showed, though, that monuments – even those connected to religious motifs – “seldom escape the lure of power”.

Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg and Ms Annelize Dreyer were responsible for the administrative arrangements for hosting the conference. The following papers were read by lecturers from the department:



Prof. Chris Hermans of the Radboud University in Nijmegen conducted a workshop on qualitative empirical research. From left to right are, front: Johan Vermeulen, Nico Mosterd, Prof. Chris Hermans and Prof. Kobus Schoeman; back: Steyn Venter, Chris de Beer, Jaco Schoeman and Johan Janse van Rensburg.

Rev. Dawid Mouton (UFS): *The power of stories from within – The Dingleton Community Relocation*

Rev. Joseph Pali (UFS): *The power of spirituality in transformational leadership*

Prof. Malan Nel (University of Pretoria) and Prof. Kobus Schoeman (UFS): *From powerful to vulnerable – a critical engagement with missional ecclesiology*

Rev. Martin Laubscher and Wessel Wessels (UFS): *Contemplating Allan Boesak's fascination of preaching 'Truth to Power'*

Dr Lyzette Hoffman (UFS): *Spirituality in students' lives: Does the University need to know?*

Other papers

The following list bears testimony to lecturers from the department's involvement in national and international conferences:

God bless Africa – Worship in a time like this (Ekklesia Worship Conference, Stellenbosch, 17-19 March 2015)

- Rev. Martin Laubscher: *New Trends and Developments in Preaching – Especially in South Africa*

Accountable leadership and sustainability in Africa: religion, democracy and civil society (University of South Africa, Pretoria, 21-24 April 2015)

- Prof. Kobus Schoeman and Joseph Morenammele: *Exploring authentic leadership in workplaces and the role of parachurch organisations in Lesotho*
- Prof. Kobus Schoeman and Rev. Joseph Pali: *The search for transformational leadership in congregations: an explorative study in an African church*

12th Conference of the International Academy of Practical Theology (IAPT, Pretoria 16-20 July 2015)

- Prof. Malan Nel (University of Pretoria) and Prof. Kobus Schoeman (UFS): *A contextual ecclesiology: to rediscover the social responsibility of congregations – a South African perspective*
- Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg: *Connected or disconnected? A practical theological tracing of the Ubuntu concept on Twitter*

Transforming Religious Identities and Communities at the Intersections of the Rural, Urban, and Virtual (Third Working Conference Pretoria, 14-16 July 2015)

- Prof. Kobus Schoeman: *Religion and Sustainable Communities*

Conference on justice and righteousness (Faculty of Theology, UFS, Bloemfontein, 24-26 August 2015)

- Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg: *Expressions of justice and righteousness on Twitter? Perspectives on relevant theological tweeting*

- Dr Nico Keyser and Rev. Martin Laubscher: *Envisioning Justice? A dialogue on justice between an economist and a practical theologian*

International Congress on Pastoral Care and Counseling (San Francisco, 15-21 October 2015)

- Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg: *Tweeting God: Tracing religious reporters' expressions of faith on Twitter*

International visitors

International scholars visiting the department provide the opportunity to engage with the wider academic discourse and this happened twice during 2015.

Prof. Chris Hermans, Professor in Pastoral Theology at Radboud University in Nijmegen, visited the department from 4-5 March 2015. He conducted a workshop for doctoral students on qualitative empirical research.

Prof. Ruard Ganzevoort and Dr Johan Roeland (VU, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) visited the department from 25-28 July 2015. They delivered lectures during the master's block week, but also had a critical discussion with the department on "Lived religion" as a concept to be used in further research in the field of practical theology. A joint project between the two institutions are planned in this regard.

Co-operation with the Unit for Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Sciences (UNIBS)

The department is involved with UNIBS through Dr Johan Nel, who is also the chairperson of the governing body of UNIBS. He mans an office once a week, delivering the following services, amongst others:

The facilitation of practical preparation of students in pastoral therapy. The development of the module in the Master's programme creates the opportunity for students to become part of the internship programme. Two students completed this programmes successfully during 2015.

The accompaniment of fifth year students in understanding their own narrative. A total of 40 individual discussions with the students in this year-group were conducted during 2015.

Delivering a pastoral therapy service on campus to the broader community of Bloemfontein. It includes an



From left to right are, front: Rev. Jackie Barker (UPCSA), Prof. Ruth Powell (NCLS Research, ACU, Project Co-leader), Ms Rinel Hugo (DRC), Ms Ester Steyn (Project Co-ordinator); back: Prof. Kobus Schoeman (DRC, UFS, SA Project Leader), Prof. Klippies Kritzing (URCSA), Rev. Steyn Venter (SDA), Dr Chris van Wyk (DRC), Rev. Barnard Steyn (DRC), Dr Wouter van Wyk (HKA), Prof. Rein Brouwer (VU), Prof. Ian Nell (US), Rev. Japie Coetzee (HKA) and Dr Johan Avenant (DRC).

outreach to disadvantaged communities, which was realised during 2015. Students involved in this regard are still supported by the pastoral consulting room. This service is expanded in 2016.

Pastoral therapy, in co-operation with UNIBS and by implication the Faculty of Theology, has developed into a respected discipline that delivers an effective service on campus. The partnership between the department and UNIBS creates the space to deliver an exceptionally effective service and pastoral training of the highest standard within a bigger holistic system.

Honours and Master's programme in Theologia Praxis

The programme has grown from six honours students in 2010 to 17 honours and 20 Master's students in 2015. An important development during 2015 was the development of supervision as an extension of the internship module as part of the pastoral care modules.

The South African Association of Pastoral Counsellors (SAAP) has increased its efforts to obtain accreditation

with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). This implies that standards for registration with this body increase dramatically. Various categories of registration are currently possible, with a basic entry-level where certain theoretical material, practical exposure as well as internship hours are required from candidates. Categories differ from Level 1 to Level 10 (Specialist/Supervisor). With the inception of the course module TPTH7948 in 2015, Master's students currently qualify to register in Category 3 (Pastoral Counsellor). The ideal is to build out the module in order to register in an advanced category with the SAAP.

An SAAP requirement is that each student will receive a specified number of hours of supervision under the guidance of a supervisor registered in Category 10 (Specialist/Supervisor). The pastoral counsellor at UNIBS and lecturer in the department, Dr Johan Nel, is registered in this category. He is also registered as a psychological counsellor at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). He may therefore supervise students. Two students received supervision during 2015 in order to qualify for registration with the SAAP.



Prof. Ruard Ganzevoort and Dr Johan Roeland (VU, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) discussed with the department the concept of "Lived religion" as a concept for further research. From left to right are, front: Rev. Marten Laubscher, Dr Lyzette Hoffman, Rev. Joseph Pali, Ms Annelize Dreyer and Prof. Ruard Ganzevoort; back: Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg, Prof. Kobus Schoeman, Dr Johan Roeland, Dr Johan Nel and Dr Dawid Kuyler.

Research

Within the field of congregational studies and leadership empirical research plays an important role. The research takes place in collaboration with National Church Life Survey and the Australian Catholic University in Sydney. Prof. Ruth Powel (Director of NCLS and associated with the ACU) visited South Africa from 13-14 July. During this time, workshops on the results of the research were conducted. The NCLS is quantitative survey conducted amongst those attending a sermon on a specific Sunday. Five denominations (Dutch Reformed, Uniting Reformed Church in South Africa, Reformed Church in Africa, Uniting Presbyterian Church of South Africa and Seventh Day Adventists) took part in the survey and 18800

questionnaires were completed in 141 congregations. The Dutch Reformed Church (704 congregations) and Reformed Church (99 congregations) also took part in the survey of *Kerkspieël*.

During July 2015 an online survey was conducted amongst ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church who are set to retire within the next six years. The survey was conducted in collaboration with Dr Liezel Alsemgeest from the UFS Centre for Financial Planning and Dr Theo Swart, research fellow in the department. The research is important for future planning for the faculty and the church as the results will assist in determining the need for training of ministers.

NetACT Annual General Meeting

NetACT is the Network for African Congregational Theology, a network of individual theological networks operating on a post-secondary level and that had their origin in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa. They held their annual general meeting from 26-30 January 2015 in Johannesburg. More than 40 institutions were present at the meeting. Four regional networks were formed at the meeting. The following institutions are part of NetACT (Central):

- Faculty of Theology, University of Livingstonia (Malawi)
- Faculty of Theology, University of the Free State (South Africa)
- International Leadership University (Kenya)
- Justo Mwale Theological University College (Zambia)
- Morija Theological Seminary (Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa)
- Nile Theological College (South Sudan)
- Religious Institute - Ethiopian Full Gospel Believers' Church (Ethiopia)

The executive of NetACT (Central) consists of Prof. Liz Mburu (Chairperson; International Leadership University), Dr Edwin Zulu (Vice-Chairperson; Justo Mwale Theological University College) and Prof. Kobus Schoeman (Executive Director; UFS). This network provides an opportunity for the department and the faculty to be involved in the further development of theology on the African continent.



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Prof I.M. Bredenkamp
Dr A. de Beer
Dr L.M. Foot
Dr M.C. Fourie
Prof. J. Janse van Rensburg
Prof. R.R. Ganzevoort
Prof. C.A.M. Hermans
Dr T. Swart
Dr A.R. Tucker
Dr C.H.J. van Schalkwyk
Ms L. Vermeulen

Part-time lecturers:

Dr D. Kuyler
Dr G. Botha
Dr J. Beukes
Dr L. Hoffman
Dr J. Nel
Dr C. van der Merwe
Rev. D. le Roux
Rev. R. van Zyl
Mrs A. Olivier
Dr C. van Schalkwyk
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Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg (Lecturer)



Ds. K. Joseph Pali (Lecturer)



Ds. Martin Laubscher (Lecturer)



Dr. Johan Nel (Part-time lecturer)

Embodying various religions

Talk and visit by Prof. Martin Prozesky

Professor Martin Prozesky is a retired professor who is also a research fellow in the Department of Religion Studies. He visited the Faculty of Theology as guest of Religion Studies from 9-12 September 2015. Prof. Prozesky presented a paper on *Ethics of Biblical interpretation* and the discussion was well-attended by staff and students from the faculty.



Dr Luvuyo Ntombana, Prof. Martin Prozesky and Prof. Fanie Snyman

Enrolment of postgraduate students

With the assistance of the NRF-Thuthuka Grant, the Department of Religion Studies was able to offer financial scholarships to six postgraduate students (three honours and three Master's). The honours students have

completed their honours course and are due to proceed to Master's. The Master's students are in their second year and are working on completing their dissertations before proceeding to a PhD in Religion Studies.

Workshop with postgraduate students

The Department of Religion Studies organised two workshops for postgraduate students on various topics including thesis writing, research methodology and data analysis. The first workshop took place from 10-13 May and the second from 10-15 November 2015. All six postgraduate students who are registered in the department attended both workshops. Feedback indicated that they all gained knowledge that would assist them in their dissertation writing process.

Relationship with Inter-religious Forum

The Inter-religious Forum (IRF) is a forum that has a strong relationship with the Department of Religion Studies. This forum is composed of representatives from various religious and faith formations. Members meet monthly to discuss various issues that relate to faith, society and the role of religion. In 2015 various papers were read at these meetings, some by guests, some by members of the IRF and some by university staff members.

Relationship with Mangaung Ministers' Fraternal

Early in 2015 the department initiated a relationship with the Mangaung Ministers' Fraternal (MMF). This is a local forum with representatives from more than 30 independent churches around Bloemfontein. The department facilitated various workshops that were led by academic staff from Theology, including Dr Ntombana, Dr Resane and Rev. Pali. The plan for 2016 is to organise more structured workshops and also to involve Shepherd in capacitating these church leaders.



Mangaung Ministers' Fraternal



Mangaung Ministers' Fraternal

Conclusion

The department's focus for 2016, apart from our academic responsibilities, will be on more activities, including inviting representatives from other religions to introduce themselves, to present positional papers and to showcase their worship activities. The main aim is to make known that the Department of Religion Studies represents and embodies the thinking of all religions, not only Christianity.

Extraordinary Professor:

Prof. M. Prozesky

Research Fellows:

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Dr M. Girma

Dr O.N.O. Kealotswe

Prof. D.N. Pienaar

Prof. E.W.G. Raffaelli

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Ds. Nic Schmidt
(Lecturer)



Ds. Kirna Hellmuth
(Lecturer)



Shepherd and its flock still growing

The Shepherd Centre supports and cares for spiritual leaders within the Christian tradition in the community on behalf of the Faculty of Theology through theological training. For some spiritual leaders registering as full-time students at the UFS is not an option. Shepherd makes this training available through short-learning programmes.

Our flock in Qwaqwa and surrounds

In light of the big demand for theology training amongst the people of Qwaqwa, Rev. Debois du Toit has been appointed as convenor for the *Shepherds4Africa* short-learning

and numbers are set to increase further in future. Rev. Petrus Tsiane started with his second group in July 2015.

Our flock at the Shepherd Schools

During 2014 116 students started with or completed *Shepherds4Africa* short-learning programmes. For 2015 this number has increased to 258.

Kroonstad's Shepherd School, under the leadership of Rev. Clement Modise, held their first certificate



Qwaqwa's class of 2015 with Prof. Fanie Snyman and Dr Gerhard Botha

programmes in this area. Under his leadership six mentors present the programmes. A total of 64 students received their certificates during Shepherd's annual Saturday School in Qwaqwa on 28 November. Prof. Fanie Snyman and Dr Gerhard Botha handed over the certificates.

Our flock on the South Campus

Shepherd's short-learning programmes on the South Campus is growing with leaps and bounds. Interest is high

ceremony on 7 August. Twelve students completed the short-learning programme *The Plan* with great success. Dr Gerhard Botha attended the event and handed over the certificates.

During 2015 a Shepherd School under leadership of Rev. Annatha Nel was established in Kimberley. Her first group of students received their certificates on 18 October 2015. Prof. Fanie Snyman represented the Shepherd Centre and handed over the certificates.



Rev. Clement Modise (fourth from the bottom) with his group of students who completed the short-learning programme *The Plan*.

CPD opportunities

The Shepherd Centre is also responsible for the continuing training of Dutch Reformed ministers. This training is presented in the form of opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Theology Day and discussion with Faculty on 2 February was a CPD opportunity where ministers could earn CPD points during discussions with the departments of New Testament and Systematic Theology. The theme was *The world of the minister and the minister in the world*. The opening service was conducted by Rev. Martin Laubscher. Speakers included Prof. Yolanda Dreyer (UP), Prof. Theo Neethling (UFS Department of Political Science) and Theo Vorster (*Sakegesprek*).

From 18-20 March a workshop **“Built to last”** was presented. This session was developed to assist ministers

with the challenges of the ministry. The theme was *The toolbox of a resilient minister*. The presenters were Dr Annette Prins, Dr Annette Wyers and Dr Ronel van der Watt as well as Mrs Rozanne Raath.

The **Certificate in Ministry Innovation** was developed by the CPD task team in cooperation with Communitas, Excelsus and Shepherd. The sessions are open and anyone can attend. Ministers attended Module 1 (Group 2) at Parys from 16-17 February. The theme was *About our context – towards deeper understanding of the world and the times we live in*. The presenters were Prof. Rian Venter and Dr Gerhard Botha.

Rev. Gys van Schoor of Durbanville presented Module 4 from 4-5 May. The theme was *Identity*. Rev. Van Schoor is also the initiative behind the Centre for Spiritual Formation that provides spiritual direction country-wide.



Rev. Lourens Bosman (front) from Pretoria presented Module 5 of the Certificate in Ministry Innovation for Dutch Reformed ministers.



Presenters during the CPD Winter Week. From left to right: Rev. Jan Lubbe, Prof. Fanie Snyman, Dr Leon Wessels, Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg, Dr Gerhard Botha and Nadia Marais.

For the last module of the year we were fortunate to receive Dr Lourens Bosman of Pretoria. He presented Module 5, with the theme *The heart of a minister's work – ministry and spiritual leadership*, from 16-17 November.

The **CPD Winter Week 2015**, with the theme *Rejoice and Hope*, was presented on the Bloemfontein Campus from 22-24 June as part of the 150-year celebrations of the Free State Synod. Themes and speakers included: *Geestelike verdieping en teologiese visioenering* – Jan Lubbe; *Die veranderde sosio-ekonomiese werklikheid* – Lochner Marais; *Florerende ekologie? 'n Teologiese refleksie op huidige energie-uitdagings in Suid-Afrika* – Nadia Marais; *Die uitdagings van 'n digitale kultuur* – Jan-Albert van den Berg; *Eenheid, Versoening en Geregtigheid* – Fanie Snyman and *Quo Vadis* – Leon Wessels.

Theology Conference was another opportunity to earn CPD points. It was presented on the Bloemfontein Campus from 24-26 August and the theme was *Re-thinking justice and righteousness in society*.

Our flock in Ethiopia

Early in 2012 Pastor Thesfaye Edema registered as a PhD student at the Faculty of Theology, with Dr Botha as his supervisor. Pastor Edema immediately recognised the need for theology training, not only in his church, but also in his country – Ethiopia. During March 2014 Dr Botha and Prof. Fanie Snyman visited the seminary of the Full Gospel Church in Ethiopia and signed an agreement of mutual cooperation. The two Free Staters also visited the Shiloh Bible School in Hawassa. As a result of the meeting Shepherd's short-learning programmes will be presented in Addis Ababa in the near future. Shepherd also aims to present postgraduate programmes on Master's and doctoral level to these students. Most of the postgraduate programmes are in Practical Theology.

The Shepherd Centre aims to be a one-stop support and training centre for the churches in South Africa and Africa. Shepherd stills provides "Guidance to spiritual leaders who take care of God's flock".

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ACTA THEOLOGICA

The Faculty's academic journal, *Acta Theologica*, publishes articles of the highest scientific standard in the fields of the Biblical sciences, theology and the religion sciences. Regular issues are published annually in June and December. Although the journal is managed by the Faculty of Theology, authors are associated with a number of national and international institutions. The journal is distributed in hard copy to subscribers across the world and is also available electronically on various platforms.

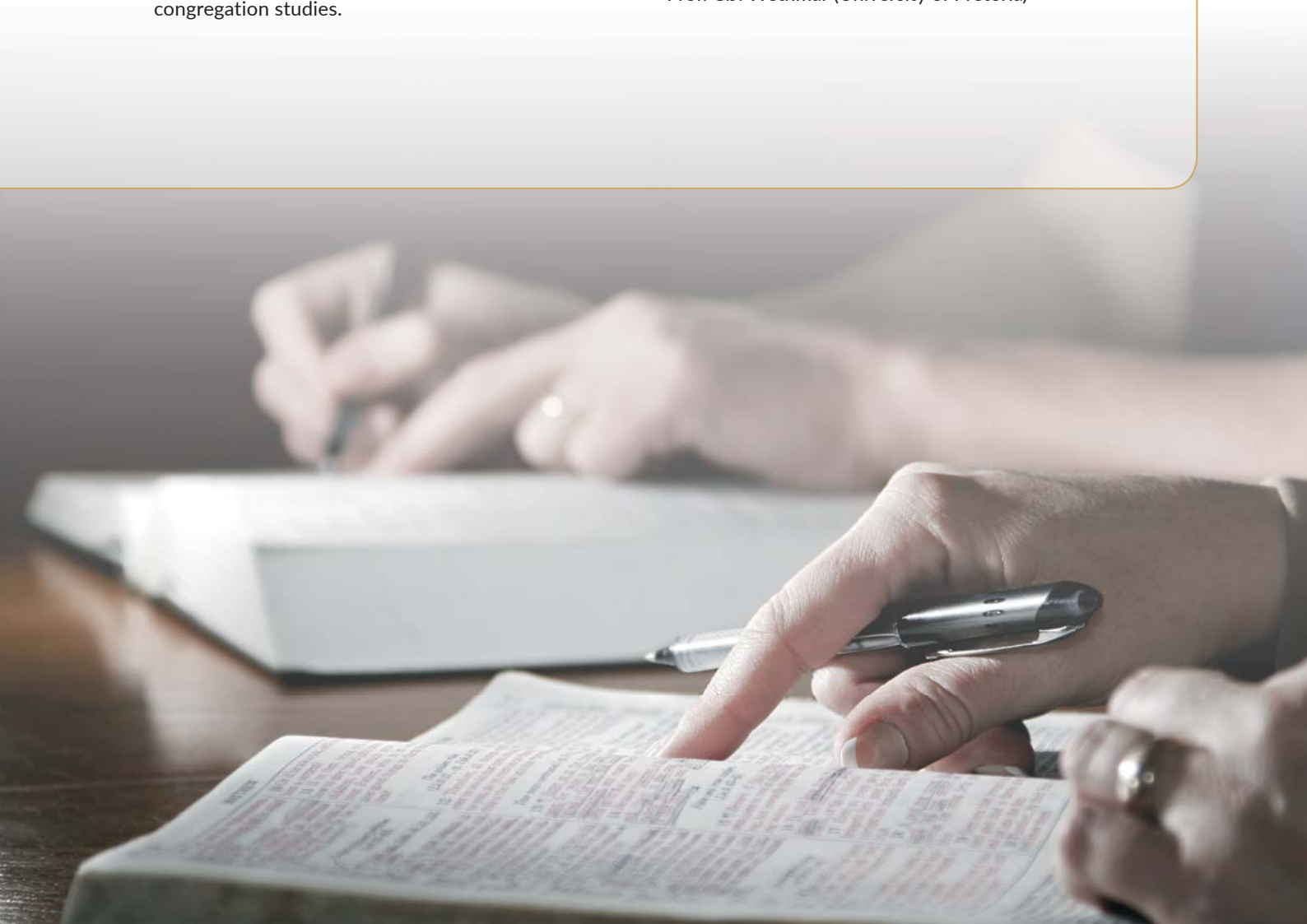
Two supplementa were published during 2015. Supplementum 21, titled *The story of Jesus and the blind man - a speech act reading of John 9*, is an adaptation of Hisayasu Ito's doctoral thesis. Supplementum 22, titled *The exploration of congregations in South Africa - a practical theological perspective*, with guest editor Kobus Schoeman, included several research projects in congregation studies.

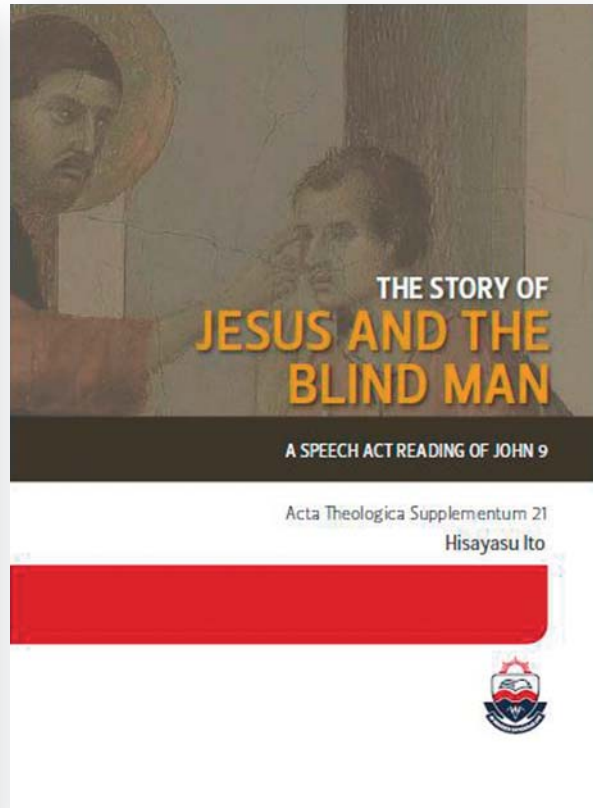
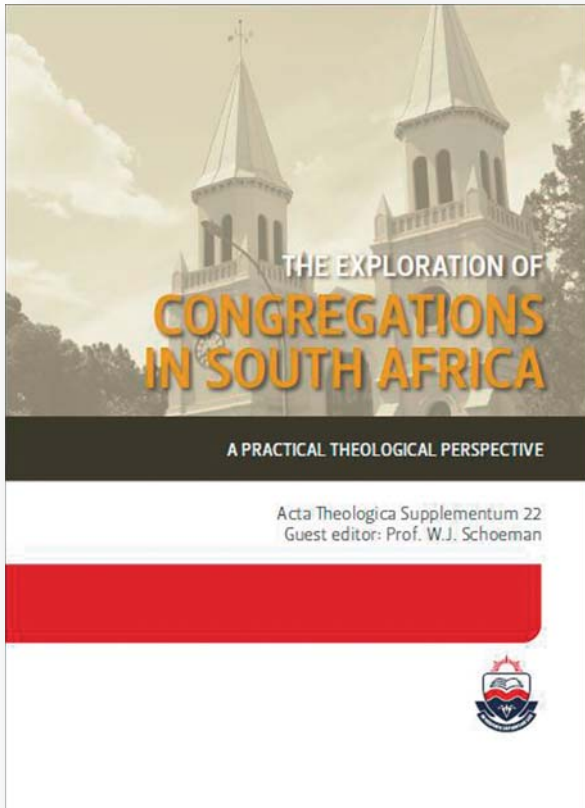
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Dr Lyzette Hoffman
Executive Editor

SOLA GRATIA

2015 in a nutshell...!

Sola Gratia is the student body of the Faculty of Theology. The body aims to be the link between the faculty, curatory, lecturers and students. Sola Gratia wants to create a balance between the academic and social components in order to establish relationships, not only for the here and now, but also for the future. In order to realise this goal, Sola Gratia organises several activities during the year.

The Faculty of Theology is a smaller faculty, which provides us with the opportunity to become a family. We kicked off early in 2015 with an informal ice-breaker for lecturers and students in the form of a MasterChef competition. In the same manner, the Sola Gratia Camp's aim is to strengthen the bond between senior students while at the same time getting to know new first-year students. Another popular activity is the sêr (serenade) at the homes of lecturers. This creates the space for lecturers and students to form a bond outside of the classroom and is also an opportunity to have fun and to say thank you to lecturers for their efforts in preparing students academically for the ministry.

Another Sola Gratia initiative is the annual outreach to the staff of the UFS Security Services, who are responsible for making students' lives easier and safer. During the outreach soup and sandwiches are distributed

with an uplifting spiritual aspect in order to show our appreciation for their work.

During 2015 Sola Gratia had the privilege to act as host for students from the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Pretoria as part of the annual public relations tour (skakeltoer). The tour provides students with the opportunity to get to know one another as colleagues, to form friendships, to attend lectures together and to spend time reflecting about theology and our understanding of our faith. This was the first full-scale public relations tour in many years in which so many universities took part. We trust that this initiative will grow in future!

Another highlight was the Sola Gratia Forum, during which we reflected on relevant aspects of the ministry of the church and her environment. Lecturers, students and invited guests discussed the topic in depth with the aim of personal theological reflection and development.

The year ended on a high note with a gala evening. During this event we reflected on a year in which we were formed and guided by one another but also by the hand of God.

Gerhard Wessels: Sola Gratia 2015-Chairperson

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WHAT DO THE STUDENTS SAY?

"It is a privilege to study theology. Not only does it deepen my relationship with God, but He is also bringing hope to a broken world. To proclaim His liberating love and to make a difference as an instrument in His hand. The faculty is unique and special! The support and positive spirit among staff and students are incomparable." – Jacques Else

"I study theology to make a difference in people's lives and to proclaim the Word of God. I enjoy theology because you learn more about the Bible and I also enjoy the people!" – Paul Els

"Theology is a calling. Once the Lord has put it in your heart there is no going back. It creates an opportunity for me to discover the Lord in a new manner and to experience more about His grace and greatness, not only today but also in the past. The Faculty of Theology at the UFS is unique in the sense that you really find a family here that supports you. It is very clear that God's love is being expressed in this faculty. Here it is not only about knowledge of the mind but also about knowledge of the heart!" – Rikus Botha

"Of course theology is fun! During the past three and a half years I've grown spiritually, I've increased my knowledge of the Scripture and I've rediscovered the unbelievable experience of Christian traditions in which I may take part. For me, theology is a way to get to know the Lord better together with a great group of friends in Christ. Through our koinonia and laughing together but especially through studying together we are honed to stand in the service of the Master." – Hanneke Meyer

"The thing I enjoy the most about studying theology is the people who study with me. We are a little family at the faculty, with everyone helping each other and laughing together. I also think we have the best lecturers in the country, if not the world! They really go out of their way to help you when you struggle with something." – Bernard van Wyk

"I enjoy studying theology because each time I enter a class, I always learn something new. Because of theology my knowledge of God is now much deeper than before and I am always ready and excited to share it with others. What is nice in the faculty is the spirit amongst students, despite our cultural, racial and background differences. We are united and reconciled as children of the true God.

And also the relationship between students and lecturers is amazing. God rules this faculty!" – Mawande Soga

"In a grown-up world it is always nice to be part of a faculty where you are still allowed to have fun. It is so nice to be part of the Theology family, where we can laugh, serve and learn together." – Minke du Plooy

"I enjoy studying theology because not only am I learning to become a minister – a childhood dream of mine – but I am also learning about God on a daily basis, with the Bible as my textbook. How blessed can a person be?!" – Chris Wheeler

"Theology is a way of life ... the faculty welcomes you with open arms which will lead to plenty of new adventures where one gets to experience new friendships, new challenges and new opportunities. Since I've been at varsity I couldn't remember a happier time to be alive..." – Adrie Els

"I enjoy studying theology because it allows you to look deeper into the content of the Bible and the church and the Christian way of life. What makes it nice is the fact that we are one big family. You can be yourself. And you never have to feel alone as there are always fellow students there for you, even if you are a first-year and they are fifth-years!" – Monozel Foulds

"I love studying theology, because in this way I learn more about God and God's word. It helps me think about things differently. Our faculty feels like home to me. All the lecturers and students are very polite and they are always willing to help and support you. We also have lots of fun activities which makes everything fun and interesting." – Bea Otto

"Normally people would think this is just another course for a minister, but no. Although we are at an academic institution, these are family, friends and community of faith who try to fulfil their passion and calling. It is truly a blessing to be part of this." – Marnico Wessels

"Theology is about more than just vocational training. It is about life, meaning, belief and identity at its deepest level. Studying theology has provided me with new and interesting ways of viewing religion with peers who share my values in life. I enjoy following the evolution of religion through the ages and its implications in the daily life we lead. The small, close-knit faculty provides what feels like a personalised experience." – Suthea van der Westhuizen

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Undergraduate training

Programme	Minimum Period	Compulsory grade 12 Subjects	Subject to selection	Minimum Admission Score
Higher Certificate in Theology	1 or 2 years	None	No	20
BDiv	4 years	None	No	30
BDiv (Extended Programme)	5 years	None	No	25-29
Advanced Diploma in Theology	2 years (part-time)	A diploma (240 credits, NQF Level 6) or Bachelor's Degree (360 credits, NQF Level 7)		

The Faculty of Theology subscribes to the general admission requirements of the University of the Free State.

Admission requirements are subject to change.

What can I do with a BDiv degree?

Minister or pastor / Missionary (local or international) / Chaplain in e.g. the Police Services / Youth Worker / Project leader in community development / Journalist or announcer in religious matters / Researcher / Life coach / Pastoral counsellor / Bible translator

Postgraduate training

PROGRAMME	MINIMUM PERIOD
Postgraduate Diploma in Theology	1 year (full-time)
Honours in Theology	1 year (full-time) / 2 years (part-time)
MDiv	1 year (full-time)
MA Bible Translation	1 year (full-time) / 2 years (part-time)
MA Bible Translation Management	1 year (full-time) / 2 years (part-time)
Master's degree in Theology (MTh)	1 year (full-time) / 2 years (part-time)
Doctorate in Theology (DTh/PhD)	2 years (full-time) / 4 years (part-time)

The Faculty consists of seven departments:

Old Testament
New Testament
Systematic Theology
Church History and Polity
Missiology
Practical Theology
Religion Studies

Programme

(1) Higher Certificate in Theology

This course offers an introduction to the study of Christian ministry. Christian leaders are trained and empowered to make a meaningful impact in the community. This course is ideal for anybody who is in a situation where Christian ministry is needed, e.g. Bible study leaders, Sunday school teachers and youth leaders. Special attention is paid to African theology. This course also serves as a bridging qualification for the BDiv degree for students with an AP score of 20-24.

(2) BDiv:

BDiv is a full-time course where you will learn:

- how to study and interpret the Bible;
- about the history of general Christendom;
- how to do missionary work;
- how to apply theology practically in the church;
- about other religions;
- how to read and understand ancient languages such as Greek, Hebrew and Latin; and
- about other disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, sociology and music.

For further enquiries on the courses, please send an email to Rev. Marlene Oosthuizen at moosthuizen@ufs.ac.za or 051 401 2617. The above information was taken from 2016's Koviese guide for the Faculty of Theology and is subject to change. Consult the Faculty's year book at www.ufs.ac.za when final decisions on courses are made.



OLD TESTAMENT

Journal articles

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Authored book

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NEW TESTAMENT

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De Villiers, P.G.R. 2015. Vrede as 'n onontginde navorsingstema in die Nuwe-Testamentiese Wetenskap. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-9.

De Villiers, P.G.R. 2015. Geweld en geweldloosheid in Openbaring. *In die Skriflig* 49(2), pp. 1-11.

De Villiers, P.G.R. 2015. Die nugtere mistiek van Andrew Murray. *LitNet Akademies* 12(3), pp. 639-663.

Du Toit, H.C. 2015. Exploring the function of relative sentences in New Testament Greek. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-8.

Green, B.G. 2015. An interpretation map: Finding paths to reading processes. *Acta Theologica* 35(1), pp. 59-79.

Kourie, C.E.T. 2015. Weaving colourful threads: A tapestry of spirituality and mysticism. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-9.

Lam, J.E. 2015. Reading the Song of Songs through a spiritual direction lens. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-9.

McGinn, B. 2015. Mysticism and the reformation: A brief survey. *Acta Theologica* 35(2), pp. 50-65.

Nicklas, T. & Sommer, M. 2015. 'Der Tag des Herrn ist schon da' (2 Thess 2:2b) - Ein Schlüsselproblem zum Verständnis des 2. Thessalonicherbriefs. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-10.

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Snyman, A.H. 2015. 'n Retoriese analise van Romeine 9:1-10:4. *In die Skriflig* 49(1), pp. 1-7.

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Timmins, F., Kelly, S., Threadgold, M., O'Sullivan, M. & Flanagan, B. 2015. Serenity Spirituality Sessions: A descriptive qualitative exploration of a Christian resource designed to foster spiritual well-being among older people in Nursing Homes in Ireland. *Religions* 6, pp. 299-316.

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Tolmie, D.F. 2015. Versoening in aksie: Enkele gedagtes oor die Brief aan Filemon en ons nadenke oor versoening. *LitNet Akademies* 12(1), pp. 226-238.

Van der Watt, J.G. 2015. Johannine research in Africa, part 1: An analytical survey. *In die Skriflig* 49(2), pp. 1-14.

Van der Watt, J.G. 2015. Johannine research in Africa, part 2: An annotated bibliography. *In die Skriflig* 49(2), pp. 1-15.

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2015. The ethical implications of 2 John 10-11. *Verbum et Ecclesia (Skrif en Kerk)* 36(1), pp. 1-7.

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Zimmermann, R.G. & Zimmermann, M. 2015. Mimesis in Bible Didactics - an outline in the context of religious education. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-6.

Authored book

Zimmermann, R.G. 2015. *Puzzling the parables of Jesus*. (First edition). United States, Minneapolis: Fortress. 496 pp.

Papers and posters

Nagel, P. 2015. Key in understanding the Markan gospel as a 'parable'. NTSSA Annual Conference, UKZN, South Africa. 18-22 June.

Nagel, P. 2015. A critical investigation of Romans 4:3 - its determinative value for justice and righteousness. Rethinking Justice and Righteousness in Society conference, Bloemfontein, South Africa. 23-26 August.

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Juma, M. 2015. Enhancing local ownership of the reintegration of ex-combatants in Kivu, the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Peace and conflict review* 8(2), pp. 15-31.

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Resane, K.T. 2015. Naboth's Vineyard: Theological lessons for the South African land issue. *Acta Theologica* 35(1), pp. 174-188.

Urbaniak, J.M. 2015. Religions as a source of (dis)order. *Acta Theologica* 35(2), pp. 154-172.

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Van der Borgh, E.A.J.G. 2015. Reconciliation in the Public Domain. *International Journal of Public Theology* 9, pp. 412-427.

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CHURCH HISTORY AND POLITY

Journal articles

Strauss, P.J. 2015. Die Wêreldbond van Gereformeerde Kerke, die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk en 'n status confessionis teen die teologiese en morele regverdiging van apartheid. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(3), pp. 1-8.

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Strauss, P.J. 2015. Die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk en die aanvaarding van sy belydenisskrifte. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal (STJ)* (formerly NGTT: *Ned Geref Teologiese Tydskrif*) 1(2), pp. 667-682.

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MISSIOLOGY

Journal articles

Verster, P. 2015. A Christological approach to poverty in Africa: Following Christ amidst the needy. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(1), pp. 1-8.

Verster, P. 2015. Die soeke na God in 'Groot ode' van N.P. Van Wyk Louw. *LitNet Akademies* 12(3), Desember, pp. 546-565.

Verster, P. 2015. Inspiration from the Gospel for the fullness of life in the informal settlements in Mangaung, Free State Province, South Africa. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal (STJ)* (formerly NGTT: *Ned Geref Teologiese Tydskrif*) 1(2), pp. 761-781.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Journal articles

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Hermans, C.A.M. 2015. Towards a theory of spiritual and religious experiences: A Building Block approach of the unexpected possible. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion-Archiv für Religionspsychologie* 37(2), pp. 141-167.

Janse van Rensburg, J. 2015. 'n Prinsipiële diskoers oor die epistemologiese fundering van die Pastorale Teologie: 'n Oproep tot reformasie. *In die Skriflig*, 49(3), pp. 1-10.

Joubert, S.J. 2015. 'Walking the talk': Paul's authority in motion in 2 Corinthians 10-13. *In die Skriflig* 49(2), pp. 1-7.

Nel, J. 2015. Die etos van die Hervormde Kerk in die derde millennium. *HTS Teologiese Studies-Theological Studies* 71(3), pp. 1-7.

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Schoeman, W.J. & Hermans, C.A.M. 2015. Practice-oriented research in service of designing interventions. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 22, pp. 26-44.

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Schoeman, W.J. & Nel, P.C.J. 2015. Leadership in rural congregations and communities: An exploration in the North-Eastern Free State. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 22, pp. 153-170.

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koronêre vatomleidingsoperasie-uitkomst: 'n Chirurgiese hermeneutiek. *Acta Theologica* 35(2), pp. 120-141.

Papers and posters

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Chapter in book

Hoffman, L. 2015. Contesting spiritual formation in theological education. In: Naidoo, M. (ed.). *Contested issues in training ministers in South Africa*. Johannesburg: SUN MeDIA METRO. (pp. 87-100).

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Journal articles

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Ntombana, L. & Meveni S. 2015. Spiritual or social phenomenon: A cultural analysis of amakhosi possession in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. *Pharos Journal of Theology* (formerly *Ekklesiastikos Pharos*) 96, pp. 1-15.

Papers and posters

Kealotswe, O.N.O. 2015. The dilemma between what is law and what is religion in Africa: The Botswana case. *Law and Religion in Africa: The quest for the common good in pluralistic societies*. Stellenbosch, South Africa. 25-28 May.