

FACULTY OF
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION
Annual Report 2020



THEOLOGY AND RELIGION
TEOLOGIE EN RELIGIE



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Staff from the Faculty of Theology and Religion

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Faculty of Theology and Religion
Annual Report 2020
Dean: Prof. Rantsoa Letšosa



Letter from the Dean

No different from previous years, the start of the 2020 academic year kicked off and gradually progressed without any major complications. The Annual Theological Day held on 3 February 2020 at the NG Geloofsentrum, Universitas was a historic event with a huge student turnout, highlighted by the theme for the day, *The crucified Christ: Transforming salvation for a desperate world*, presented through thought-provoking and inspiring lectures by Professor Derrick Mashau and Emeritus Professor Takatso Mofokeng from the University of South Africa. The programme also included an inspiring sermon by **The Rt Revd Dintoe Letloenyane**, Bishop of the Diocese of the Free State, Anglican Church. The faculty also hosted a successful Open Day in February 2020.

Planning for this year included a number of events to celebrate the faculty's 40th year of existence. Little did we know or anticipate that this year would present us with an unforeseen obstacle in the form of a devastating worldwide pandemic, COVID-19.

The SARS-CoV-2 strain, a severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, which caused the corona virus disease outbreak (COVID-19) in Wuhan, China during the latter part of 2019 to spread uncontrollably around the globe. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern** on 30 January 2020, and a **pandemic** on 11 March 2020, resulting in governments worldwide instituting country lockdowns in attempts to contain the spread of the feared disease. The academic year, which had started smoothly, paused abruptly.



The Dean, Prof Rantsoa Letšosa during Theological Day at the NG Geloofsentrum, Universitas



Theology Students attending Theological Day at the NG Geloofsentrum, Universitas



Theological Day 2020 Speakers: Bishop of the Diocese of the Free State, Anglican Church The Rt Revd Dintoe Letloenyane; Archbishop Modiri Patrick Shole (guest at function); the Dean: Theology and Religion, Prof. Rantsoa Letšosa; Emeritus Professor Takatso Mofokeng and Professor Derrick Mashau from University of South Africa

These unfortunate events forced us to regroup, reassess and replan, within the dire constraints of social and physical distancing regulations. It indeed proved to be an extremely challenging and perplexing academic year. Not only did the pandemic rearrange and affect the normal academic routine, but it also severely threatened the essence of human life, social interaction and the overall emotional wellbeing of people worldwide. Faculty management, academic and support staff, and most importantly our students, were caught between a rock and a hard place as we had, in a short space of time, to adapt to the changing and challenging circumstances, to a new and revised academic plan, activities and a more technology-based teaching and learning process.

We had to amend our teaching and learning strategy and address risks affecting the day-to-day business of the institution. The situation and outlook at first appeared bleak, but through the concerted efforts of the very competent Department Heads, Programme Director, Teaching and Learning Manager and the academic personnel together with the assistance of the faculty support staff, the academic year could be salvaged. For this, we are extremely grateful. The challenges that the teaching staff and students encountered will be dealt with in more detail in the next section of the report, but the efforts and contributions of all of those who were key to addressing the demanding teaching and learning challenges need to be commended and applauded for a job well done. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the resilience of the faculty management, staff, and in particular, the students.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, all planned activities to celebrate the 40th year of existence of the faculty were postponed. However, although we were faced with the negative challenges of the pandemic, a number of positive aspects evolved, with the result being that many of our programmes are now offered online. New modes of learning and teaching were introduced, and the faculty managed, with the help of different stakeholders, to achieve a very good pass rate. Our research initiatives also advanced well, with the publication of both scholarly and popular books, and in the form of sermons, articles and academic presentations through webinars.


The Faculty Committee appointed Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg as the Secundus Dean of the Faculty: Theology and Religion tasked to 1) advise the Faculty Committee with informed *interpretation* of the evolving Covid-19 condition; 2) support reciprocal *communication* between various stakeholders, specifically between UFS management committees and the Faculty Committee, and between faculty and students; 3) *coordinate* the functioning of procedures between senior administrative staff and HoDs; and 4) submit written *plans* to the Faculty Committee to achieve the completion of the 1st semester, the planning and completion of the 2nd semester, and the planning of the 2021 academic year.



Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg
Secundus Dean of the Faculty: Theology and Religion



Ms Samantha Baron,
Office Manager: Dean Theology and Religion



At the start of 2020 the faculty welcomed Mrs Samantha Baron, new office manager in the office of the Dean. During lockdown we also welcomed the addition of a new academic in the Department of Historical and Constructive Theology, Dr Eugene Fortein, as well as the new Project Coordinator for the Shepherd Centre, Ms Sinovuyo Mogwasi. We were also privileged to participate in the Qhubeka Development Programme (QDP), which is an initiative from the university to “grow its own timber”. Three vacancies were advertised and we identified three upcoming academics who would fill these positions from the beginning of 2021. We are thankful for the growth of the faculty, not only in the number of students, but in relation to staff as well. Our Student Adviser, Percy Ngubane, left the faculty for a higher position at another institution and his position will be filled by the beginning of January 2021.

We are glad that despite all these challenges we could conclude the year in good health. Some of our colleagues suffered ill health as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and some had family members who were affected by the pandemic. We rejoice in the Lord for all who are now in good health. One of our colleagues was diagnosed with cancer and is currently under treatment. Our prayers go out to her and we are thankful that she is making good progress.

With all of this said, I would also like to convey our deepest appreciation and thanks for the manner in which the Dutch Reformed Church Executive and Curatorium supported the faculty not only through words and deeds, but also through prayers. Special mention needs to be made of the contribution towards food parcels for needy and vulnerable students registered at the University of the Free State. Without the support of the DRC, the effects and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic would have been even more difficult to bear.

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic marred the academic year with near-impossible circumstances at times for students, academics and faculty management, causing anxiety, discomfort, difficulty, disappointment and for many, illness, pain and loss, we nevertheless persevered. I am hopeful that the new year will bring forth testimonies of renewed hope, strength, comfort, healing and restoration.

Prof. Rantoa Letšosa

Dean: Faculty of Theology and Religion
University of the Free State

Leave no student behind: Teaching and Learning in the time of Covid-19

Ms Siphokazi Dlwati

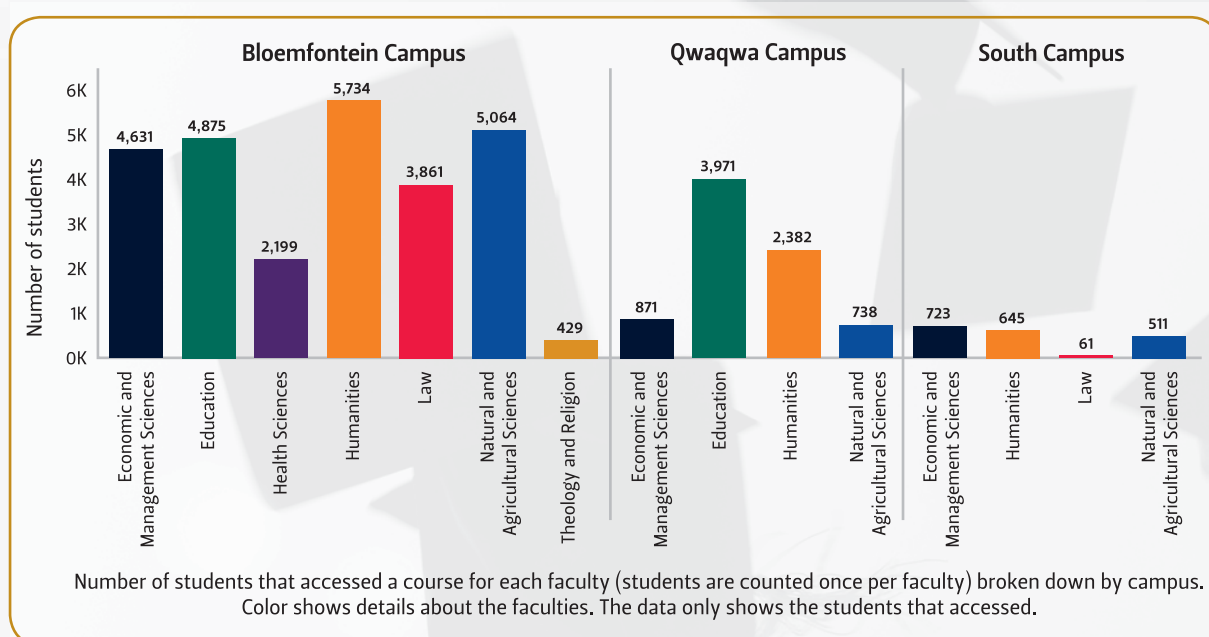


Ms Siphokazi Dlwati from
the Centre for Teaching and Learning

Following the 21-day national lockdown in March 2020, the institution was forced to make a decision to immediately continue all of its activities online, with online remote teaching and learning commencing a few weeks after the initial announcement, on 20 April 2020. The transition was not without its challenges for both staff and students as the lockdown restrictions made access nearly impossible for many. Device access, data and network connectivity became contentious challenges that not only drastically increased the workload of staff but also increased the anxiety of students, as some were falling behind and were unable to catch up. Fortunately, thanks to the multidimensional assistance from the faculty, the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the institution at large, the students were able to receive the assistance they needed to successfully complete the academic year.

Our Information and Communication Technology department created a GlobalProtect app that continues to give our students and staff zero-rated access to our learning platforms, whilst the Centre for Teaching and Learning initiated a #TeachOn series for support of our academic staff, and a #LearnOn series for the students. Where these initiatives were unable to provide the needed support, the faculty supplemented with flexible assessment submission deadlines, alternative assessment opportunities, tutorial support and catch-up periods, in terms of which all identified vulnerable students were invited back to campus for access purposes from July 2020. This however proved challenging for some students as they could not take up the offer due to other challenges arising (i.e., cancelled accommodation, no funds for interprovincial travel and in some instances, parents refusing to release their children due to the fear of rising COVID numbers). Even amidst these challenges, this did not stop the successful completion of the academic year as, with the gradual adjustment of the national lockdown levels, alternative plans were made to accommodate struggling students and the results were very rewarding. By the end of the first academic semester, 429 of our 494 registered students had accessed our main learning system, Blackboard:

Blackboard Learn: Students that accessed by faculty (20 April – 31 August 2020)

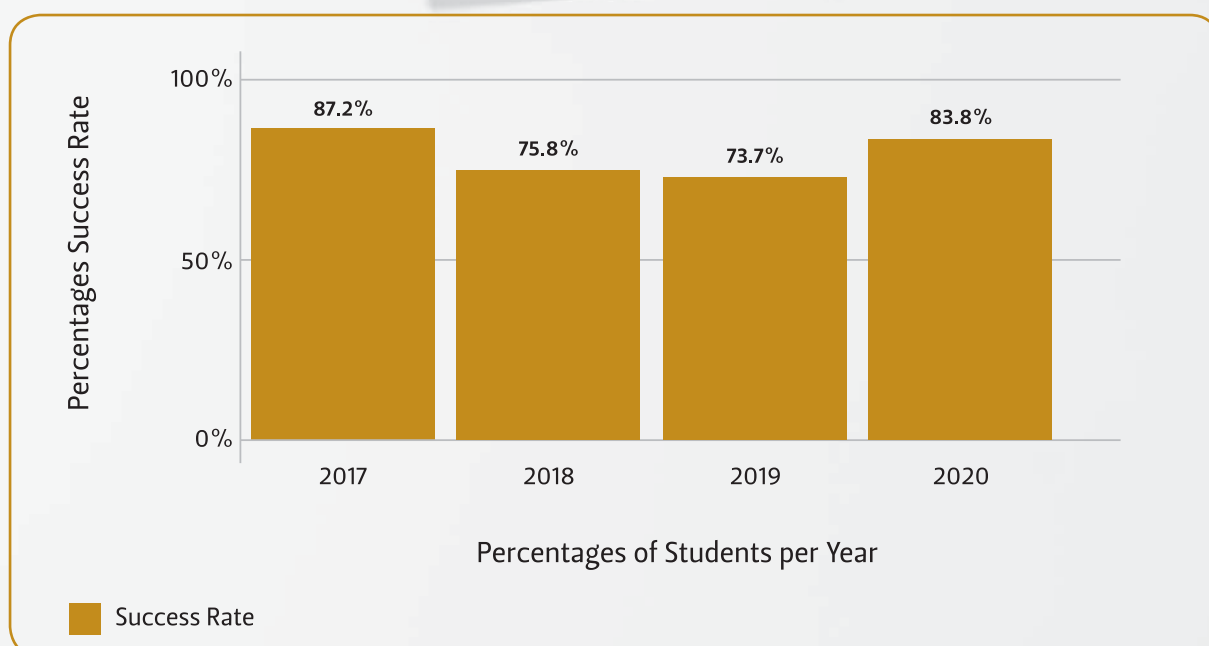


Source: CTL (2020) Blackboard Multimodal Report 37

There were varying reasons for students not being able to access Blackboard. Sadly also, two students passed away. Our prayers and thoughts go out to their families and friends.

Against all the odds of an interrupted academic year, our overall success rate saw a 10% increase from 73.7% in 2019 to 83.8% by the end of 2020:

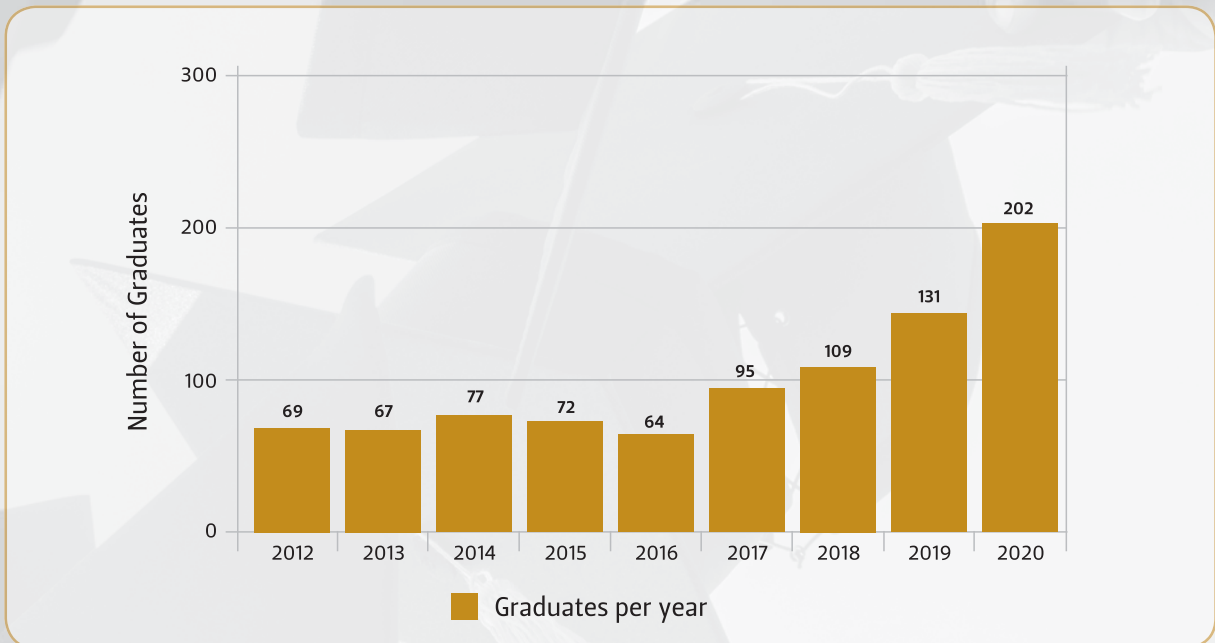
Faculty of Theology and Religion's success rate by year:



Source: <http://info.ufs.ac.za/PowerHEDA/dashboard.aspx>

This remarkable increase also led to our highest number of graduates in the last nine years:

Theology and Religion graduates by years



Source: <http://iinfo.ufs.ac.za/PowerHEDA/dashboard.aspx>

Covid-19 presented us with opportunities to adjust and adapt. Our teaching and learning practices have taken on a new shape as student engagement has evolved. As a faculty, we have the potential to grow, not only in regard to physical headcount, but in our remote online offering as well. In light of leaving no student behind, we have learned significant lessons, with one standing out in particular: staff members and students are equally important! As the Faculty of Theology and Religion, we are so grateful to everyone who rallied together to make 2020 a year of remarkable achievements. Indeed, where there is unity, nothing is impossible!

Department Historical and Constructive Theology

The year 2020 started as a normal year, but contrary to any expectation, turned out to become historically an exceptional year with the global spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Residential higher education with its mass assembly of students was particularly affected. The migration from face-to-face teaching and learning to a remote mode of education posed serious challenges for students and lecturers.

In the department, a large number of under- and postgraduate modules are offered annually. The mediated form of learning via the electronic platform Blackboard enabled the continuation of these modules. The pandemic situation has revealed unexpected consequences: it accentuated the difficult economic and social circumstances of students, but also the creativity and commitment of lecturers. The contribution of part-time lecturers Bertus Celliers, Cobus Hamman, Valentine Ihaenacho, John Letsie, Marius Louw, Jan Lubbe, Marlene Oosthuizen, Erika Senekal and Wessel Wessels must be mentioned, especially as part-time lecturers seldom receive the deserved credit for their contributions to the quality of teaching. In comparison with the previous year, the throughput success rate was excellent. The department did its utmost to support students and to avoid leaving any student behind.

The lockdown conditions obviously had an effect on research; all research by postgraduate students had to take place electronically without visits to the library or personal consultations with study leaders. Despite these inhibiting factors, the research work continued. The department had a particularly fruitful year with regard to Honours students – five students completed the programme with the finalisation of their research papers this year. Master's mini-dissertations have been undertaken on interesting research problems such as sexual violence, blessing as a theological phenomenon, wealth in the church before and after Constantine, and the relation between worship and world, liturgy and life. Prof. Rian Venter acted jointly with Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg as promoter of PhD student D Struwig, who completed his thesis on the spirituality of the millennial generation.

Research by lecturers and research fellows continued during the pandemic and a large number of outputs have been registered. This department has become a particularly productive unit during the last few years. Research fellows such as Drs Deetlefs, Pieterse, and Resane, as well as Profs Hofmeyr, Potgieter, Prozesky, Strauss and Urbaniak, deliver a steady stream of research outputs every year. Prof. Rian Venter published an article on how to theologise newer technologies in the volume on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (edited by Prof. J-A van den Berg). Dr Henco van der Westhuizen continued to do research and to publish on doing theology from below and on pneumatology. Furthermore, apart from publishing five articles, he also edited a collection of essays titled *Justice and Beauty*.

Public and international engagement was obviously inhibited in regard to personal travel and contact. Despite the pandemic circumstances, however, various activities took place. Prof. R Venter authored two opinion essays in the Dutch newspaper *Nederlandsdagblad*, on Covid-19 and on the political landscape in South Africa. He also peer-reviewed a large number of articles for journals, Master's and Doctoral dissertations and theses for other universities, as well as one NRF-rating review. Henco van der Westhuizen wrote opinion essays for *Die Kerkbode* and delivered a paper at the International Bonhoeffer Congress in Stellenbosch.



Prof. A Boesak and Dr H v d Westhuizen



Dr E Fortein, Lecturer: Church History

In terms of staffing, the department experienced some exciting developments. Dr Eugene Fortein joined the faculty as lecturer in Church History. He was a minister of URCSA in Citrusdal, and completed his PhD in Ecclesiology at Stellenbosch University, on A Boesak and the Dutch Reformed Mission Church. Towards the end of the year the University advertised three lecturer positions within the faculty, to redress the demographic profile in terms of the lecturer complement. As part of this Qhubeka agreement, a young woman, Ntando Mlambo, was appointed as lecturer in Ethics. She would join the faculty in January 2021. Her research field is space theory and justice.

Department Old and New Testament Studies

Undergraduate teaching

The academic year started in the normal fashion, but the COVID-19 crisis turned everything upside down, especially when all the students had to return home. Through dedicated work by the full-time staff members (Dr Lodewyk Sutton and Prof. Francois Tolmie) and the part-time lecturers (Drs Erika Senekal-Van den Berg, Riaan Stander, Andries Hoffman, and Rev. De la Harpe le Roux), numerous changes were made so that the department could move to online teaching, thus making it possible for students to complete their modules from home. At the beginning of the second semester, vulnerable students were invited back to campus so that they could make use of the computer labs, but the rest continued to study from home. In general, the pass rate of students was similar to that of 2019 – a good indication that the crisis was managed very well. Some of the new skills learned by lecturers as a result of the COVID-19 crisis will be used to enhance teaching in the department in the years to come.

In terms of further development of teaching skills, Dr Sutton attended eight workshops on teaching and learning during the year and Prof. Tolmie five. Dr Sutton also received a special UFS TeachOn Champion award from the Centre of Teaching and Learning for his dedicated work in this regard during 2020.

Postgraduate studies

At postgraduate level, Dr Lodewyk Sutton and Prof. Francois Tolmie were responsible for lecturing on perspectives from the Old and New Testaments as part of the M Div. module on “Naming and the Divine”, and Rev. De la Harpe le Roux, Dr Marius Terblanche and Prof. Fanie Snyman lectured in the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (“Gemeentejaars”) programme. Study guidance of Honours, Master’s and PhD Students continued as usual in spite of the COVID-19 crisis, under the guidance of Dr Sutton and Prof. Tolmie. A new group of students was also taken in for the Master’s in Spirituality and they completed the module on Biblical Spirituality during the second semester.

Staffing

Prof. Tolmie is currently head of the department and responsible for teaching of the New Testament. Dr Sutton is senior lecturer and responsible for teaching of the Old Testament. Mrs Marina Van Biljon is our very capable departmental manager. Furthermore the department also makes use of several part-time lecturers (mentioned above), and has around 40 research fellows from all over the world, who play a very important role in research in the department. Dr Doniwen Pietersen has been appointed as new lecturer in Old Testament, to commence in January 2021. Furthermore, New Testament Greek will move to the Faculty of Theology and Religion in 2021, and Ms Annéli Machin will thus move from the Faculty of Humanities to our faculty in January 2021.

Research activities

Research continued as normal in the department and researchers published a great number of research outputs (for details, see further on in this report). The following should be noted in particular: Dr Sutton published a chapter on 2 Maccabees 7:1-42 in N.P.L. Allen, P.J. Jordaan & J. Zsengellér (eds.), *Passion, persecution, and epiphany in Early Jewish literature* (Routledge), and also wrote a chapter on the shape and shaping of the King in the Psalter for a publication for LIT Verlag. Prof. Fanie Snyman published a commentary

on Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah in the Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries Series. Together with Dr Albert Hogeterp, Prof. Tolmie contributed to Contexticon, an online Greek dictionary that is being developed in the United States.

Dr Sutton delivered two academic papers, one at the UFS and one at the E-Pro Seminar (UP), and also attended two other academic conferences, as well as eight workshops/seminars. Furthermore, he is currently part of the Emerging Scholar Accelerator Programme at the UFS, and completed the Engagement Leadership Professional Programme successfully. He also received a Y-rating from the NRF, an excellent achievement for a young researcher. Prof. Fanie Snyman read a paper at the E-Pro Seminar (UP).

Members of the department also fulfil various leading roles in academic societies and on editorial boards: Prof. De Villiers is the chair of the Spirituality Association of South Africa and editor of LitNet (Religion Studies). Prof. Tolmie is editor of *UFS Theological Explorations* and a member of the editorial board of *Acta Theologica*. In 2020, he was elected as a committee member of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*. Dr Sutton is a sub-editor of *Acta Theologica*, a member of the editorial board of *UFS Theological Explorations*, and has also been elected to organise the 2021 conferences of the South African Society for Near Eastern Studies and the Old Testament Society of South Africa, to be held at the UFS.

Public and international engagements

The department received Prof. Stefan Fischer, from the Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Universität Wien, as guest lecturer during February and March. He lectured to the fourth-year B Div. students on the topic of retribution in the Book of Job. Furthermore, he offered a public lecture at the faculty, titled “The transformation of theology and religion in and by the Biblical Wisdom Literature”. This formed part of the faculty’s 40 year celebrations.



Prof Stefan Fischer visiting lecturer from Evangelische Fakultät, Universität Wien.

Dr Sutton was the chair of the Forty Year Celebrations Committee of the faculty, and also represented the faculty at the Internationalisation Committee of the university.

In terms of community engagement, all of the members of the department regularly preach at churches in the Bloemfontein area. Prof. Tolmie and Dr Sutton offered Bible School lectures at the DRC Universitas, and serve on the DRC’s committee for Bible Translation. Prof. Hermie van Zyl made numerous contributions to the blog www.bybelkennis.co.za which is read widely. Furthermore, Profs Van Zyl, Snyman and Tolmie contributed to the new Afrikaans translation of the Bible (*2020 Vertaling*) that was officially launched in November 2020. Due to the pandemic, the educational study tour to Egypt that was organised by Dr Sutton unfortunately had to be postponed to December 2021.

Department Practical and Missional Theology

Undergraduate teaching

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the imposition of strong restrictive measures in March, after two months of academic tuition, challenged the biggest department in the faculty to reconsider the facilitation of academic learning and teaching on undergraduate level. For example, the department offers 4 modules of the Higher Certificate programme to over 150 first-year students per module. Some of the challenges entailed, among other things, following the University's drive of "no student left behind", and actively involving students in all the modules by effectively managing learning and teaching on various online platforms. In facilitating this teaching and learning, dedicated full-time lecturers, with the help of part-time lecturers and the excellent administrative support of the departmental manager, made an invaluable contribution towards the successful ending of the academic year.

Postgraduate students

The department offers a number of postgraduate programmes in the faculty, with a special focus on the structured *Theologica Praxis* Honours and Magister programmes, which consist of three meeting blocks on campus, among other things. Although these meetings were held under strict Covid protocol measures, teaching and learning were further supported by active strategies on various online platforms. The department also welcomed a relatively high number of international students: one from Benin; one from Namibia; four from Zambia, and one from Zimbabwe. The four students from Zambia as well as the one student from Zimbabwe are the direct result of an existing memorandum of agreement between the Faculty of Theology and Religion and the Justo Mwale University. In 2020, three PhD degrees were successfully completed in the Department.



Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg with Postgraduate Diploma students.

Staffing

The Department Practical and Missional Theology consists of eight full-time staff members, namely Ms Annelize Dreyer as departmental manager, and Rev. Martin Laubscher; Drs Juanita Meyer, Eugene Baron and Joseph Pali as well as Profs Kobus Schoeman and Jan-Albert van den Berg who are responsible for the academic teaching and learning. Dr Baron was awarded the NRF-BAAP (Black Academics Advancement Programme), a 2-year research period award from 2020-2021. NRF-graded researchers in the department currently include Dr J Meyer, Profs WS Schoeman, P Verster and J-A van den Berg. Two members of the Department, Rev. Martin Laubscher and Mr Wessel Wessels, also completed their doctoral studies in 2020 and formally handed in their theses.

Research activities

Full-time and part-time academic staff members, supported by 15 research fellows associated with the department, continuously contribute to accredited research outputs published as professional articles and chapters in books.

A special research highlight this year occurred against the background of the 40th birthday celebrations of the faculty. With the help and participation of two extraordinary professors associated with the department, Profs Chris Hermans and Stephan Joubert, a research conference was held on 26 February 2020, at the faculty in Bloemfontein. Colleagues from other departments in the faculty as well as academics from other South African universities took part in the prestige conference. The edited papers were published towards the end of 2020, in a book titled *Battle for the heart: How (not) to transform church and society* of which Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg was the editor.



Extraordinary Prof Stephan Joubert, at the Practical & Missional Theology Conference held on 26 February 2020



Extraordinary Prof Chris Hermans, at the Practical & Missional Theology Conference held on 26 February 2020



Battle of the Heart Conference presenters, 26 February 2020

The department also produced the following noteworthy book publications:

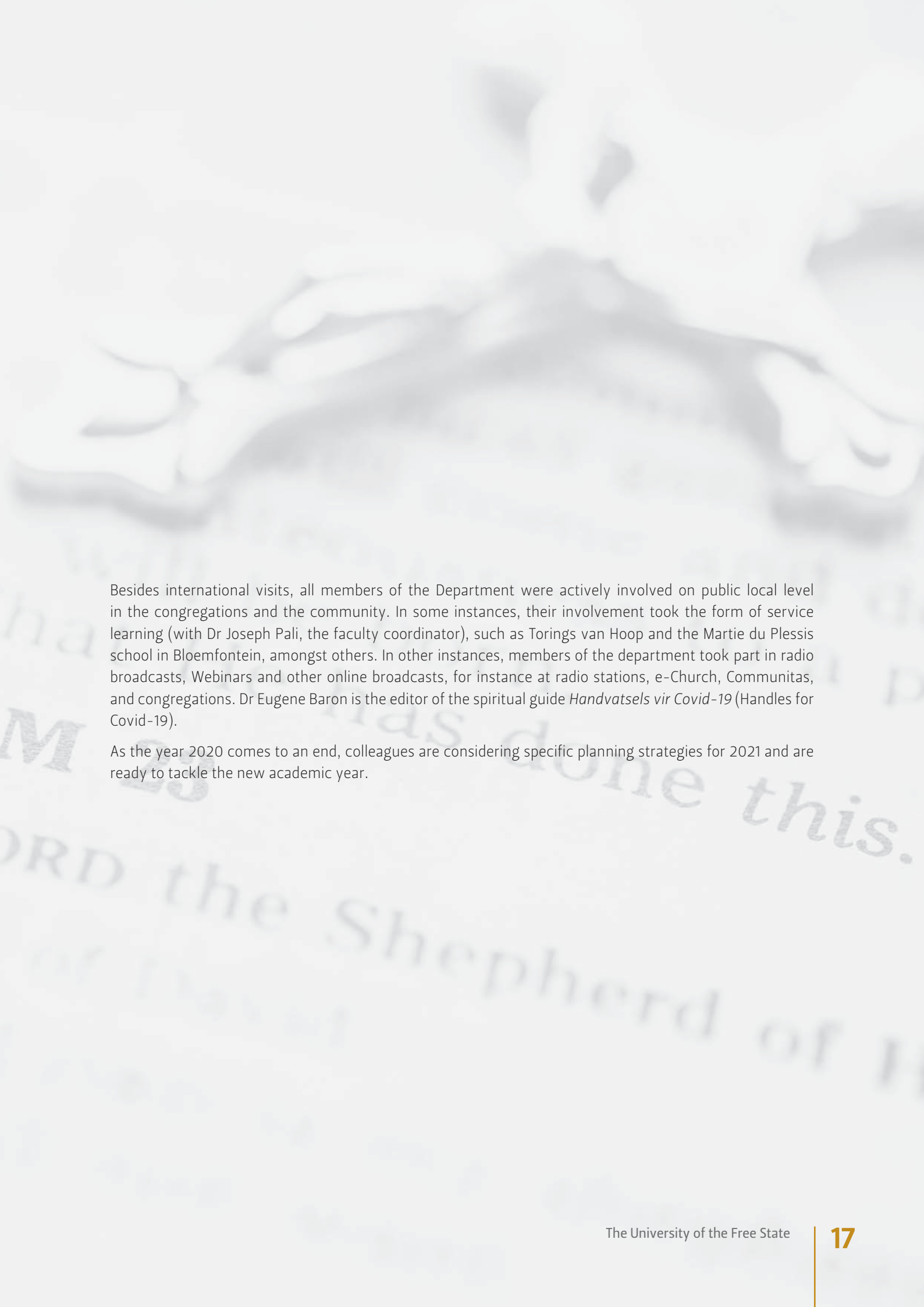
Prof. Pieter Verster published *Die wonderbare Heilige Gees én die Vader van liefde: 'n Missionêre teologie*.

Dr Eugene Baron co-authored *Obedience and servant leadership: Apollis, Appies, Buti, Buys* with Prof. Nico Botha. This is a historical account of the founding synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) with a specific focus on the constituting moderature. Another example of research collaboration is the volume titled *Majority World perspectives on Christian Mission*, which has a majority of international contributions and of which Dr Eugene Baron is one of the co-editors.

Public and international engagements

During 2020, the following international research-oriented projects were also pursued further and developed in the department with international partners:

- Project on spiritual direction with the University of Queensland.
- National Church Life Survey (NCLS) in Australia.
- Joint PhD degree research project in Practical Theology with the Vrije University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- Joint postgraduate research programme in Practical Theology with the Justo Mwale University, Lusaka, Zambia.
- The Department had the privilege of welcoming the following international visitors in early 2020:
- Prof. Ruard Ganzevoort, Dean of the Faculty of Religion and Theology, Vrije University, the Netherlands, visited the department and faculty (29-31 January 2020). During his visit, he facilitated workshops and held personal consultations.
- Prof. Chris Hermans, Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, also visited the department (25 February-1 March 2020). Besides attending and presenting papers at a conference presented by the department/faculty, Prof. Hermans also joined a departmental visit to Morija Theological School in Lesotho.



Besides international visits, all members of the Department were actively involved on public local level in the congregations and the community. In some instances, their involvement took the form of service learning (with Dr Joseph Pali, the faculty coordinator), such as Torings van Hoop and the Martie du Plessis school in Bloemfontein, amongst others. In other instances, members of the department took part in radio broadcasts, Webinars and other online broadcasts, for instance at radio stations, e-Church, Communitas, and congregations. Dr Eugene Baron is the editor of the spiritual guide *Handvatsels vir Covid-19* (Handles for Covid-19).

As the year 2020 comes to an end, colleagues are considering specific planning strategies for 2021 and are ready to tackle the new academic year.

Department of Religion Studies

Teaching and Learning

Dr Joel Mokhoathi was responsible for teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate modules. He teaches the following undergraduate modules: Studies in the Social Ethics of Selected Religions (TRLS 1714); Study of the Phenomenology of Religion (TRPH3712); Study of Selected World Religions (TRWR3722). With regard to postgraduate studies, he teaches the following modules: Research Report in Religion Studies (TRRR 6818/6828); Research Methodology and Theory (TRRM 6814/6824); Advanced Study in the History and Theories of the Origins of Religion (TRHS 6815/6825); Advanced Study of Christianity (TRCR 6815/6825); Advanced study African Traditional Religion (TRAT 6815/6825); Advanced Study of Islam (TRIS 6815); Advanced Study of Buddhism (TRBU 6815/6825); Advanced Study of Judaism (TRJU 6815/6825); and Flourishing and the Divine (TFDI 7910).

The other remaining undergraduate modules were shared equally among the part-time lecturers. Bishop Dintoe Letloenyane was responsible for Hinduism and Buddhism (TRHB3714), and Judaism and Islam (TRJI3724). Ms Palesa Mohapi was responsible for Religion and Social Milieu (TRRS1514), and Introduction to the Study of Religion and Development over the Centuries (TRID1522). Mr Wessel Wessels was responsible for the Christian Religion (TRCR2614), and Africa Indigenous Religions and Africa Indigenous Churches (TRAI2624). Mr Bongani Ngesi was responsible for Contemporary Expression of Religiosity in Africa (TRER1524).

Postgraduate students and research

Dr Joel Mokhoathi supervises and co-supervises postgraduate students from Honours to PhD levels. During 2020, he co-supervised one PhD student and supervised three PhD students, two research Master's students, two structured mini-dissertation students, and one Honours student.

Staffing

The Department appointed four part-time lecturers to assist with teaching and learning responsibilities for the duration of 2020. A new full-time lecturer was also appointed. He will commence teaching and learning duties early next year (2021). Mrs Ronel Ellis is the department's very able departmental manager.

Research – lecturers and research fellows

The Department of Religion Studies is composed of the following academic staff members:

- Prof. Pieter Verster (acting head of department)
- Dr Joel Mokhoathi (senior lecturer)
- Bishop Dintoe Letloenyane (lecturer – part-time basis);
- Ms Palesa Mohapi (lecturer – part-time basis);
- Mr Wessel Wessels (lecturer – part-time basis);
- Mr Bongani Ngesi (lecturer – part-time basis).

Research Fellows

Rev. I Boaheng
Prof. E Chirese
Mr H Fernana
Dr TE Jentile
Dr ON Mndende
Rev. IR Mokotso

Conferences

Dr Joel Mokhoathi attended and presented a paper at a scholarly conference organised by the Department of Practical and Missional Theology in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, at the University of the Free State. The theme of the conference was: “A battle for the heart: How (not) to transform church and society”. The conference took place on Wednesday, 26 February 2020. Dr Mokhoathi’s contribution was titled “Conflicting spiritualities or transforming religions? Religious intersections at Mantsopa Cave in Modderpoort”.

Dr Mokhoathi also attended another scholarly conference organised by the Department of African languages at Rhodes University, in the Eastern Cape. The theme of the conference was: “Umsitho wenyanga yamafa enveli, Inkolo nenkcubeko” [The celebration of African heritage, religion and culture]. The guest speakers included Dr Nokuzola Mndende (UFS research fellow); Dr Nkosinathi Ngesi (Archbishop of the Ethiopian Episcopal Church in Southern Africa); and Prof. Ncedile Saule (academic, novelist, writer and traditional literature professor at the African Languages section of Rhodes University). The said conference took place via Zoom on 23 September 2020.

Engaged scholarship

Dr Joel Mokhoathi was invited as a keynote speaker by the Ethiopian Episcopal Church in Southern Africa, to present a research paper on the following theme: “Theological insights on the confluence of Christianity/Christian tradition and African tradition/culture”. The conference was held on 13 September 2020, via Zoom. His contribution was titled: “En route in African Christianity: Encounters between the African Heritage and Christian tradition”.

Other departmental activities

Conferences/workshops offered

There were no workshops offered during year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initiatives

The Department of Religion Studies hosted a public lecture on 16 September 2020 via Microsoft Teams. The guest-speaker was Rabbi Shlomo Glicksberg from Israel. His lecture was on “Organ donation according to the Jewish law and the current policy of the Beth Din of South Africa”.



Shepherd Centre

2020 has tested us immensely as the Shepherd Centre, but we managed to overcome every hurdle by the grace of God. We started the year with Mr Andries Cilliers having taken the role of Project Coordinator of the Centre in February 2019.

At the start of the year he continued the task of moving of all our student administration processes to PeopleSoft Campus Solutions. We are proud to announce that we are now completely on PeopleSoft CS and all our students have been allocated UFS student numbers, which has helped and improved our data management processes.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit South Africa and the President declared a National Lockdown in March 2020, the Shepherd Centre was very negatively affected. We have 19 schools around the country, with a team of dedicated facilitators who present the courses on our behalf in their communities. All of our course offerings were facilitated through contact sessions when the lockdown started. The Centre was forced to halt all classes for a period of five months (March to July 2020). By the time classes resumed most of the groups were already way behind schedule for completing the course, while others were experiencing difficulties with venue access. Under enormous pressure, the Centre managed to provide all the necessary support and resources that our schools required to complete the year.

In May 2020, amidst all of the challenges and changes, the Centre welcomed Ms Sinovuyo Mogwasi, who was appointed as the new Project Coordinator of the Centre taking over from Mr Andries Cilliers. We would like to thank Mr Cilliers for his dedication and hard work at the Shepherd Centre. We salute him and wish him God's blessing in his future endeavours.



Newly appointed Project Coordinator, Ms Sinovuyo Mogwasi

With the lockdown altering most of our plans for 2020, the Centre did not host an event this year. However, we received an invitation from SAUCIC to attend their certificate ceremony in Johannesburg for the class of 2020 who completed The Plan course at the Centre. The certificate ceremony took place on the 16 October 2020 and we were happy to be part of such a beautiful event. Given the challenges faced this year, we believe it has made us stronger and we are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2021.



Prof. Letšosa (Dean), Rev. Kganyapa (Shepherd facilitator) and Ms Mogwasi (Shepherd Project Coordinator) handing over a certificate to one of our students.



The Dean, Prof. Rantsoa Letsosa and Ms Sinovuyo Mogwasi with the SAUCIC class of 2020 group at their certificate ceremony held on 16 October 2020.

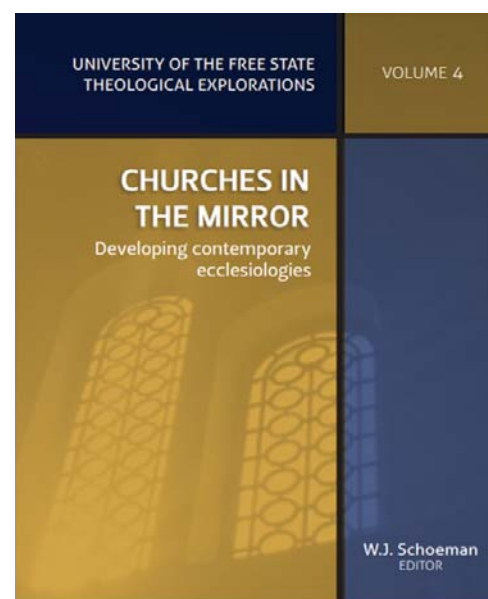
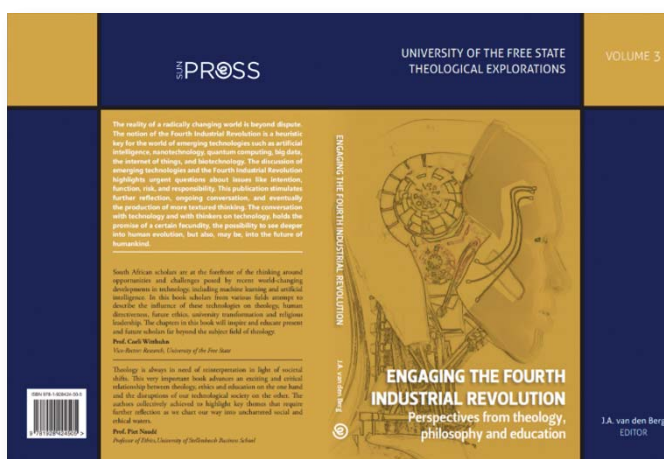
Acta Theologica

2020 was a busy year for the accredited journal *Acta Theologica*, which is associated with the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of the Free State. As the journal is one of only two Web of Science-indexed theology journals in South Africa, the editorial staff endeavours to continuously publish outstanding volumes. Under the leadership of Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg (editor-in-chief), Dr Lyzette Hoffman (executive editor), and with the support of Dr Hanneke Meyer (editorial secretary), the working editorial academic staff from various departments in the Faculty of Theology and Religion meet quarterly. Sub-editors were elected from among the editorial board members. They are as follows: Book reviews – Rev Martin Laubscher; Historical and Constructive Theology – Dr Henco van der Westhuizen; Old and New Testament Studies – Dr Lodewyk Sutton; Practical and Missional Theology – Dr Juanita Meyer; and Religion Studies – Dr Joel Mokhoathi.

Four volumes, including the usual two volumes for June and December, were published in 2020. The substantial December issue includes a special annexure devoted to theological research done on the influence of Covid-19 in the field of theology. Two *Supplementa* were also published in November and December, respectively. Dr Henco van der Westhuizen was the guest editor of *Supplementum 29*, titled *Justice and Beauty*, with contributions from historical and constructive theology. Prof. Chris Hermans was the guest editor of *Supplementum 30*, titled *Spirituality in leadership: Research into schools, congregations and the workplace*, which addresses perspectives on spirituality and leadership in various contexts.

University of the Free State Theological Explorations

Under the leadership of the series editor, Prof. Francois Tolmie, the third and fourth volumes in the series UFS Theological Explorations, titled *Engaging the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Perspectives from theology, philosophy and education* (editor Prof. Jan-Albert van den Berg) and *Churches in the mirror: Developing contemporary ecclesiologies* (editor Prof. Kobus Schoeman) were also published in 2020.



Studying theology during the Covid-19 pandemic

Xuvuriso Mganini, Academic Representative 2019/2020



After the President's announcement that the country would embark on a lockdown from 27 March 2020, the University management was left with no choice but to re-evaluate the teaching and learning methods. As a public space where students participate and attend classes together, the UFS had to cancel the classes and initiate "online classes" as part of the measures to keep safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. This decision was questioned by the Student Representative Council on many occasions, but the students soon realised that they needed to work hard with what was at hand and possible. As a theology student, it was not easy to adapt to the new learning environment prescribed, because we had never been exposed to such a situation and had no idea of how to cope. This caused some challenges in the beginning, such as obtaining data and connecting with the GlobalProtect app that the UFS offered to all students. The challenge with working from home was the fact that some homes were not conducive providing an academic environment, even if one was disciplined. The challenge of being sent

around by parents for chores and errands remained a norm in some of our homes, since this is a traditional and parental norm. From the beginning of the online learning, one had to be strict and focus on the studies, to engage with the theory, to learn and to keep up to date with all assignments. With the resources which the faculty endeavoured to provide, there was enough support for most students to make it through in the first semester. Although my year group was considered later by the faculty to return to work on campus, the cold front of Bloemfontein dealt decisively with me (as well as many other students), until I received a blanket from one of the faculty staff members. There were so many humble outreaches from unexpected sources to support students during those trying times. The Faculty of Theology and Religion made sure that every student was supported and no one was left behind at all, unless they were not doing their own part to keep up. The pandemic offered many students an opportunity to examine their surroundings and commit to studying independently outside the normal learning environment, as there had to be an adaptation of the environment where there was no lecturer to elucidate the information face-to-face as was once the norm. One had to make sense of it alone and support each other in the online world of studying for success. The Office of the Dean and the Advising Office was always hands-on in making sure that the queries and challenges submitted by students via the faculty Student Council were addressed fairly over the period. The faculty identified the H. van der Merwe Scholtz Lecture Hall 10 as a place where students could work during the day, from 10:00-15:00. As the academic representative for the students, I can confirm and show my appreciation for the fair opportunities granted and kindnesses shown to the vulnerable students in order to support the 'no student left behind' campaign. On behalf of the Theology and Religion students, we thank the faculty and all of their hard-working staff. May they remain blessed and safe always.

Studying theology during the Covid-19 pandemic

Omolemo Lesia, former Treasurer and current faculty Student Council Chairperson

“Life isn’t a book. Life isn’t logical or sensible or orderly. Life is a mess most of the time. And theology must be lived in the midst of that mess.”

Charles Caleb Colton



As the academic year of 2020 began in the Theology and Religion Faculty which was celebrating 40 years of existence, students coming in with different senses of vocation and uncertainty to find their place in theology, sought to embark on another year in which they would seek to have their endless questions answered; questions relating to existence, our evolving society with all of its fragmented aspects of life, and individual difficulties that some could not explain outside of theological spaces because of their own understanding of self and others through this particular discipline.

Needless to say, even though some of us are well acquainted with Caleb Colton’s words when he says “Life isn’t a book. Life isn’t logical or sensible or orderly. Life is a mess most of the time. And theology must be lived in the midst of that mess”, most, if not all, of us were not prepared to discover the meaning of living in that mess as students, and most importantly, learning from that mess coming as a form of *living* in the midst of a pandemic.

We were forced to adapt to a new form of learning and engagement, and as a theology student I was confronted with the challenge of seeing parts of myself reflected in the very study material I was required to use as part of my studies, both in a personal and a professional light. Our experience as students at the beginning of this time caused a huge misconception amongst most of us, as we believed that we had all the time in the world, since there were fewer classes and consultations. Due to our different backgrounds or prospects, some of us, who simply wanted to walk through certain subjects, or thought that we could, found that we needed to re-align our experiences with those of the theological concepts explored today, and there was a growing sense of a need for reflection that was collective, and a willingness, from those whose true wish was to study theology intently, to have lived experiences of what we learned in the classroom through vocational exposure that was ecumenical. Surprisingly, this could only come through our personal engagements as students, such as picking up the phone to call another student after a long day, somewhere during the weeks leading up to task submissions, and simply to ask: “How are you?”

It was in this sense that our faculty Student Council from last year, Sola Gratia, also proved to need to put academic concerns and well-being of students before anything else with the slow adaptation to the new manner of working. This had just come after all students had had a Meet-and-Greet, and all other social events were put on hold because of the pandemic. This has been a challenge for the incoming committee of 2021: to find creative ways in which both academic and social aspects of responsibility and leadership can be covered.

Beyond all of that, I know and appreciate how we all still believe that we have something to learn, deduce and understand better about ourselves, beyond the peripheries of society in this field of study, to know ourselves better through the *lived* experiences of learning in unprecedented situations.

Doing theology in the shadow of the pandemic

Dr Martin Laubscher



One of the best books thus far on grappling with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, is Fareed Zakaria's *Ten lessons for a post-pandemic world* (New York: Norton, 2020). Zakaria is a well-known and respected social commentator, who amongst other things, hosts every Sunday on CNN his highly informative news and actuality programme called GPS (the Global Public Square). I find his work in general, and especially his latest book, extremely stimulating as we ourselves are challenged to reflect upon doing theology in the shadow of the pandemic.

Zakaria's basic point of departure is that the pandemic will not so much reshape history as accelerate it. He quotes Lenin who said, "There are decades when nothing happens, and then there are weeks when decades happen" (3). If we were already in a fast-forward mode of history before the pandemic, we are now undeniably so, and such a "world on steroids can suffer unpredictable side effects" (3). Obviously this is important for theologians who are by nature

interpreters of Word and world, and thus called to witness to the coming of God's Kingdom. Thus, let me briefly share and translate some of Zakaria's *Ten lessons for a post-pandemic world* for our purposes.

The first lesson continues to explore this large and looming idea of an accelerated world on steroids, and thus the need to "buckle up". The pandemic has illustrated how we are all connected, but no one is really in control. "The world we live in is open, fast – and thus, almost by definition *unstable*" (14). Between the three characteristics of any system – open, fast and stable – it is important to note that you can apparently only have two of those three characteristics at once. We have seen in the last year how new calls for security and stability have put our open and fast system under severe pressure. Is it therefore possible or even viable to imagine the world as slower in terms of an open, dynamic, and thus also more stable and secure system, especially for the most vulnerable? Is it possible to set a kind of "race pace" in which we become more attentive to little details, appreciative of the contrasts, and even more sensitive to the huge differences?

As Zakaria mentions in the beginning, somehow we have seen during the pandemic that we cannot think big if we are not also prepared to think small. After all, the virus is about 1/10,000th the size of the period that ends this sentence (2). Thus, what we eat, how we interact with nature, how we regulate, and keep one another accountable, do matter if we as a world community want to slowly but surely make any real progress.

Secondly, if our "race pace" is more sensitive to little details and the bigger picture, then "what matters is not the quantity of government, but the quality" (29). The key within this lesson is of course to enhance and not to undermine the strength and further development of our "fragile" democracy. We have seen too many coercive methods and power abuses, and too much corruption in governments' response to the crisis, and we can only hope that the free flow of information, respect for the people, and an ethic of accountability, will put the necessary pressure on elected officials (when and where it counts). Let us hear more about making governments-and-governance (read: public service) great again, instead of our respective empires as such.

The proper and right "belief" in *good* governance and public service, means that "markets are not enough" (56). Beside the seeking of a newly defined and more nuanced position between an either-or socialist

and capitalist position, looms a fascinating idea of God as an essential worker, and theology as integral to our understanding of essential work. Perhaps there is now a new window of opportunity to invest in such spiritual capital. We know the market does not recognise the value of people whose jobs do not generate huge income, and yet we have rediscovered anew that they are worthwhile, even essential, noble, and rewarding – from scholars and teachers to janitors and cleaners (69). The interdisciplinary dialogue with our colleagues in the economy is long overdue, because we know markets are powerful, yet not sufficient; other sensitivities and supplements are needed as well.

Toying often with the question, “who are the real theologians?”, the fourth lesson reads that “people should listen to the experts – and experts should listen to the people” (75). On the one hand this deals with the issue of engaged scholarship, honouring the idea that the public can grasp nuance if it is presented with some honest logic. However, on the other hand, it also exposes our current epistemic crisis. The issue is not just a matter of mere knowledge or more information, because though “we use rationality as a means to an end – our gut often tells us where we want to go in the first place” (87). Getting the facts (*and* interpreting them), we know is not a neutral act, but that it is always loaded with political meaning. How to seek and speak truth thus does not belong to either the establishment, or to the populists. Or, in more theological terms, (public or practical) theology is also supposed to be people’s theology, or it is not (public or practical) theology at all; and, of course, vice versa.

If we still doubt whether the pandemic really accelerated the current trends in our world, then the fifth lesson will put all doubt to rest: “Life is digital” (97). While the digital economy’s growth was strongly anticipated in the past, its victory over the material economy is now celebrated (99). Data is now the new oil, and the main resource for fuelling modern business (101). For almost every business, “software has become the key to growth” (101). And yet, this progression will take those on the right side of the digital divide “back to the future” in terms of how we work. “In a sense, work would return to what it was like for much of history, more closely tied to life at home” (105). But that is only one side to it. What about those losing their jobs because of AI, and thus through no fault of their own; do they still deserve to be paid for not working? (112). In short, we need *wisdom* for the ethical issues we are already facing in this regard. As Yuval Noah Harari says, we are up against “the creation of a god-like superman: Homo Deus” (119), and perhaps we need to hear anew the wisdom of “back to the future” in this regard.

How promising and challenging the above might be, there is more to life than mere information, data, software, and AI. Though some work and meetings could continue through most of the previous year, we know the next lesson (six) also to be true, namely that “Aristotle was right – we are social animals” (122). We shall probably continue to have online *and* hybrid meetings in the future, as the value of in-person encounters will not disappear. Or, in Zakaria’s apt phrase: “When you teleconference, you are spending social capital rather than building it” (143). It is against this backdrop that we reinforce the idea that creativity flourishes in environments where people can undertake the long inward journey of doing some deep thinking, *and* mingle, network, and cooperate with others around their (often shared, or yet to be discovered) innovative ideas. Thus, the “renewed” calls for the end of human dwelling in cities, are taken with a pinch of salt. As in the past, city life is expected to bounce back stronger than before. We shall continue to form cities, and cities will continue to form us as well. It is no coincidence that Scripture tells us that life started with garden, and ends with a very particular city.

The elephant in the room thus far is of course that “inequality will get worse” (lesson seven) (147). There is a digital *divide*, also clearly visible within and between various cities. Though the virus is a great equalizer and does not discriminate, it too has a preference for the most vulnerable at the margins of society. And to put the matter further into perspective, much of the progress gained in the last two decades – like the Millennium Development Goals reached five years ahead of time (151) – could be reversed and fade in years to come. Or, even if you are on the right side of the digital wall, and have a small window of opportunity

to start a business, the big tech companies – and there are only a few, because the name of the game is ‘monopoly’, with the winner taking it all – run the show. Take for instance the following statistic: “Google’s global market share is close to 90% and Bing’s [their closest rival; and only because it is the pet project of another tech giant, Microsoft] is around 5%” (157). For the big guys, “big” will become even bigger and more beautiful. This so-called “Matthew Effect” (cf. Matthew 25:29) is of course of great concern, because inequality undermines trust and breeds revolution (with no winners). (Post script: Remember “markets are not enough”.)

The eighth lesson takes the above discussion further by affirming that “globalization is not dead” (167). The pandemic has just reaffirmed, despite all the push-back, how flat and interconnected the world has become. As with the virus, globalization too will not necessarily disappear or even retreat; it too will continue to change its form and mutate (181); and hopefully connect us in more free, fair, just and humane ways.

Behind the fear of killing globalization and its multilateral ties is of course lesson nine’s critical awareness that “the world is becoming bipolar” (187). The rise of China’s economic growth since the post-Cold War era is nothing less than phenomenal. Whereas they accounted for less than 2% of the global GDP back then, they now account for 16% (193). To put their significant economic growth of the last three decades into perspective, their current second position in the world “is almost as large as that of the next four countries combined” (194). In terms of technology, AI, and economic growth, China will indeed be a world force to be reckoned with in years to come. Against the backdrop of all the “tough” and “fight like hell” talk we have heard during the Trump era (resonating with the growth of populism in other parts of the world as well, including South Africa), we should hear the call that such rhetoric “is a dangerous way to frame international affairs. The real question is, can they be smart rather than stupid?” (203). Tensions and bipolarity between United States and China might be inevitable, but conflict and war is not (205). In such a bipolar world, we are still left with many choices.

Therefore, lesson ten reads, “sometimes the greatest realists are the idealists” (210). To shut down borders and turn inward, put our own national interests first at the expense of our neighbours, might seem to stop the virus, but such narrow self-interest will not create any relative form of peace in the long run. Take for instance the developments surrounding the funding and cooperation with the WHO: the actual need is for more multilateralism and cooperation, not less (217). In other words, what inspires and drives us, is not (just) our narrow national interests, but seeking the common good of the world as such, and especially for generations to come. Speaking from his USA context, Zakaria believes that “the most serious threat to the liberal international order [...] is not China’s expansion but America’s abdication” (225). Or, as he says in the end: “It is not a flight of fancy to believe that cooperation can change the world. It is common sense” (233). We can take the other and ourselves more seriously. To raise the bar even higher is a smart strategic step to make the world an even more inclusive dwelling place for all of us.

The chorus of re-imagining a bigger world (and its fine print in the explosive details) in which we cooperate and live together through the problems and answers, is, I believe, extremely meaningful for how we do theology in the shadow of this “revealing” pandemic. Zakaria’s ten lessons speak to us, though they do not explicitly say a lot about theology as such. Of course, that is not his task, but ours. These ten lessons, I believe, are not that far removed from the well-known ten words of instruction. The latter may have particular roots and specific context, but their universal scope and embracing address are not in doubt. Therefore, we as theologians, and I mean all of us, have a golden opportunity to add our public theological voices to this open discussion. As Zakaria concludes with “nothing has yet been written” (242), meaning that there is always human agency and the possible political will, we too know there is a Word of Light who speaks of the advent – and in the not-so-distant future – of a post-pandemic world where the shadows have been put (anew) into perspective.



Faculty of Theology and Religion celebrating 40th year of existence

Dr Lodewyk Sutton

The Faculty of Theology and Religion celebrated its 40th year of existence in 2020 with the theme “Transforming theology and religion”. The celebrations started early in the year with the academic conference “A battle for the heart. How (not) to transform church and society”, hosted by the Department of Practical and Missional Theology. A number of local and international scholars attended this conference.

In March a public lecture was hosted by the Department Old and New Testament Studies. The speaker for this lecture was Prof. Stefan Fischer from the University of Vienna, with a paper titled “The transformation of theology and religion in and by the Biblical wisdom literature”. It was a very successful occasion with a large number of attendees.

Unfortunately, the current pandemic and restrictions caused the rest of the planned programme to be postponed. Scheduled speakers, such as Profs Isabel Phiri and Willie Jennings, and functions, such as the scheduled 40-year celebration dinner with Prof. Petersen as guest speaker, had to be cancelled. Although we are still experiencing the pandemic’s restrictions, we are hopeful that 2021 will bring other opportunities to continue our celebrations. One of these is the planned *Acta Theologica* supplementary issue for the 40-year celebrations titled “Transforming Theology and Religion”. Currently, more than 20 authors are participating in this project, including eight international scholars. This publication is scheduled to appear in October 2021 with guest editors, Drs Joel Mokhoathi and Lodewyk Sutton.



Dr Lodewyk Sutton



Prof. Stefan Fischer from the University of Vienna, public lecture.



Prof. Stefan Fischer from the University of Vienna, public lecture.

Student activities





Research Outputs 2020

Historical and Constructive Theology

Authored books

De Boer, E.A.

De doorstart van de gereformeerde kerk. Kampen: Summum Academic Publications.

Resane, K.

South African Christian experiences. Bloemfontein: Sunbonani Scholar Media.

Van Vlastuin, W.

Catholic today. A reformed conversation about catholicity. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Chapter in books

Fortein, E.

Celebrating the Lord's supper in South Africa, conscious of the paschal patterns in our history. In: R. Vosloo, S. Mahokoto & M.J. Havenga (eds), *Broken bodies and redemptive tables: The Lord's Supper and its theological, historical and socio-political dimensions* (Wellington: Bybel Media), pp. 45–64.

Hadebe, N.

"Igniting theologies from below in Africa". Kairos methodology as a resource: A case study of violence against women and sexual minorities. In: S. Chu Ilo, J.C. Nabushawo & I.U. Okafor (eds), *Faith in action, Vol. II: Pastoral renewal, public health and the prophetic mission of the church in Africa since the two African synods* (Abuja: Paulines Publications Africa), pp. 299–320.

Resane, K.T.

Who has the authentic voice to change the heart of communities: The church or the government? In: C.A.M. Hermans and J.-A. van den Berg (eds), *Battle for the heart* (Münster: Lit Verlag), pp. 137–150.

Venter, R.

Theologising emerging technologies. In: J.-A. van Den Berg (ed.), *Engaging the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Perspectives from theology, philosophy and education. Series: University of the Free State Theological Explorations* (Bloemfontein: SUN Media), pp. 65–78.

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Kayayan, E.

From Israel to Geneva. Calvin's Sermons on Deuteronomy as second instruction on God's government in the wake of the elections of 3 February 1555. In: A. Huijgen & K. Maag (eds), *Calvin frater in Domino. Papers of the 12th International Congress on Calvin Research* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, *Series Reformed Historical Theology*, Vol. 65), pp. 257–269.

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Calvin's catholicity reconsidered. In: A. Huijgen & K. Maag (eds), *Calvinus frater in Domino. Papers of the 12th International Congress on Calvin Research* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, *Series Reformed Historical Theology*, Vol. 65), pp. 353–367.

Journal articles

Coates, A.M.

Beauty lived towards Shalom: The Christian life as aesthetic-ethical existence. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 29:93-113.

Bonhoeffer on amusing ourselves to death: Mature aesthetic existence as antidote to everyday aestheticism. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(2):67-90.

D'Assonville, V.E.

"...Glaubensgerechtigkeit" Calvins Begründung der Reformation. *Koers* 85(1):1-15.

Deetlefs, J.P.

Preaching the Trinity today. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(1):319-337.

Delpont, K.M.

The *Oresteia* and the poetics of equity. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(2):153-174.

Fortein, E.

Allan Boesak: A theology of prophetic resistance (1976-1990): Some historical-theological reflections. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(2):253-274.

Hofmeyr, J.W.

Die Afrikaanse Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika en hul aanbiddingspraktyke (1990-2020). *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(3):171-198.

Enkele slotakkoorde oor die toekoms van die Afrikaanse Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika, ook na Covid-19. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(3):389-429.

Iheanacho, V.U.

Oscar Romero (1917-1980): A model of pastoral leadership for church leaders in Africa. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 76(2):1-8.

Plantatio Ecclesiae in Africa: From tutelage to maturity. *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* 46(1): 1-18.

Louw, M.

Beautiful justice and just beauty? Exploring justice and beauty from the perspective of the wronged. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 29:114-135.

Pieterse, A.C.

The nature of human nature: Christ's resurrected body as the theological response to the mind/brain problem. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(1):499-524.

God's intervention revisited: An illumination of his continuous presence. *Acta Theologica* 40(2):281-299.

Resane, K.T.

Theological dialogue towards ethical restoration in a homophobia-riddled society. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 76(4):1-8.

Difficult dialogue: A tool towards racial harmony in a multicultural church. *In die Skriflig/In Luce Verbi* 54(1):1-8.

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Servant leadership and shepherd leadership: The missing dynamic in pastoral integrity in South Africa today. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 76(1):1-8

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Paul and African chauvinists at loggerheads with contemporary feminist theologians. *The South African Baptist Journal of Theology* 29:17-35.

Sands, J.

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Die Dordtse Kerkorde van 1619 en die NG Kerkorde van 1962: Laasgenoemde 'n ontwikkeling van eersgenoemde ten opsigte van die kerklike tug? *In die Skriflig/In Luce Verbi* 54(1):1-8.

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Urbaniak, J. & Manobo, B.M.

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