Editorial – *HTS Theological Studies*’ 75th anniversary volume: Maake Masango dedication

**HTS Theological Studies** celebrating 75 years of scholarly publication in South Africa

*HTS Theological Studies* is a mega-journal accredited by Scopus of Elsevier, the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science Index (ISI), Norwegian Scientific Register level one and Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) SA of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). Based on this international accreditation, HTS is automatically an approved journal of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). In 2017, HTS has added to its supplements series a new HTS Religion and Society Series to benefit the best of what the new DHET policy offers regarding subsidy incentives paid to the University of Pretoria. In 2017, five books were published, of which one was *HTS Supplementum* 12. The other three books are part of the HTS Religion and Society Series. In 2018, the following four books were launched as an initiative of the HTS Religion & Society Series:


Considering research articles, in 2018, HTS received 350 submissions, of which 202 were approved and published (one as an editorial and the other as a review article). The published articles, aside the approved independent original research articles, consist of a number of special collections. Those were as follows:

- Ignatius (Natije) van Wyk Dedication.
- Septuagint SA, sub-edited by Johann Cook (Stellenbosch University).
- Change agency in a 21st-century South Africa, sub-edited by Erna Oliver (University of South Africa).
- Youth marginalisation as a faith-based concern, sub-edited by Ignatius Swart (University of the Western Cape).
- Religion in dialogue, sub-edited by Maniraj Sukdaven (University of Pretoria).
- Faith-based action and urban regeneration, sub-edited by Stephan de Beer (University of Pretoria).
- Biblical spirituality, sub-edited by Christo Lombaard (University of South Africa) and Dirk van der Merwe (North-West University).

The spreading of author affiliations were as follows: 55 (University of Pretoria), 42 (University of South Africa), 35 (North-West University), 21 (University of the Free State), 33 (International) and 16 from diverse other South African universities.

Geographical spreading of online users was as follows: 77 407 (United States of America), 30 077 (Europe), 8046 (Oceania), 22 965 (Asia) and 81 326 (Africa).

The impact factor of HTS has increased over the years because of its growing influence in scholarly publishing. Elsevier Scopus h-index was 12 (top in Africa; 13% globally of all theological and religious journals). ASSAf SciELO h-index was 14 (top in South Africa amongst theological and religious journals). HTS’ Google Scholar h-index was 18.

The present editorial board comprises 52 members. It was constituted by 32 scholars from international institutions and 13 from South African universities beyond the executive of the
editorial board, representing the Reformed Theological College and other scholars attached to the University of Pretoria. A new term of newly assigned editorial board membership is commencing in 2020. This new assignment happens together with the transference of title ownership – a development that takes HTS on a new journey of scholarly publishing.

Transference of title ownership

The year 2019 witnessed the publication of the 75th volume of the HTS Theological Studies. The first volume was published in November 1943 ‘under the editorship of the Theological Professors of the Netherdutch Reformed Church at the University of Pretoria’. The first publisher was the firm ‘J.H. de Buissys [in Pretoria] and H.A.U.M. [in Cape Town]’. On the title page of the first volume, the ‘Secretariat of the Editorial Board’ is given as ‘164 Lisdogan Ave, Brynterion, Pretoria’. That was the home of Prof. S.P. Engelbrecht, the first Church History professor at the Universiteit van Pretoria.

Senator T.F.J. Dreyer, who was a minister of the Church and the general secretary of the Executive of the Synod, wrote the ‘words of welcome’. Ds. T.F.J. Dreyer was the grandfather of Professors of the Netherdutch Reformed Church at the University of Pretoria. That was the home of Prof. S.P. Engelbrecht, the first Church History professor at the Universiteit van Pretoria.

The first volume was published in Cape Town, but the title page included a note: ‘The General Secretary of the NHKA, Dr Frikkie Labuschagne, and Dr Pierre de Villiers, Managing Director of AOSIS. The General Secretary of the NHKA, Dr Frikkie Labuschagne, and Dr Pierre de Villiers, Managing Director of AOSIS, signed the backdated 01 September 2019 contract. The partnership with AOSIS had begun in 2009 when HTS became the first open access theological journal in South Africa. The first volume comprised 266 research articles. The 75th anniversary volume comprises 266 research articles.

On 26 September 2019, the 72nd Synod of the Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa (NHKA) a resolution to transfer the title ownership of HTS to the Cape Town-based open access academic publisher, African Online Scientific Information Systems (AOSIS). The General Secretary of the NHKA, Dr Frikkie Labuschagne, and Dr Pierre de Villiers, Managing Director of AOSIS, signed the backdated 01 September 2019 contract. The partnership with AOSIS had begun in 2009 when HTS became the first open access theological journal in Africa. The first volume comprised four research articles. The 75th volume comprised 266 research articles.

The first editorial board consisted of Prof. J. de Zwaan (Leiden), Prof. H.W. Obbink (Utrecht), Prof. B. Gemser (Groningen), Prof. A. Van Selms (UP), Prof. J.H.J.A. Greyvenstein (UP), Prof. S.P. Engelbrecht (UP) and Prof. A.S. Geyser (UP). The first three professors, who were from different Dutch universities, influenced the ethos of local theologians with their ‘ethical-dialectical theology’. This meant a commitment to both ‘ecclesial confessional convictions and critical biblical scholarship’. The latter four professors were members of the Lecturers’ Meeting of the Church at the University of Pretoria. Prof. Greyvenstein, the first theology professor at the University of Pretoria, was appointed in 1917. Till the publication of the 75th volume in 2019, the executive of the editorial board consisted of the lecturers of the Church.

In 1985, Prof. Andries van Aarde was contracted by the Church to become the editor-in-chief of the journal.

In 2019, he was assisted by Prof. Yolanda Dreyer, associate editor, Dr Tanya van Wyk, assistant editor, Prof. Jaco Beyers, assistant editor and Prof. Ernest van Eck, chairperson of the executive of the editorial board.

The Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa attained title ownership when the Church bought the H.A.U.M publishing company. Prof. Andries van Aarde was contracted by the Church to become the editor-in-chief of the journal. In 2019, the report on HTS was presented at the 72nd Synod of the Church by the College.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the accreditation of academic journals in South Africa was managed by the National Bureau for Publications with the mandate of the Minister of Higher Education. Prof. P.S. Dreyer, professor of philosophy at the University of Pretoria, was the representative of HTS at the bureau. The national fiscus created a subsidy system for South African universities according to which accredited research publications by academics would earn subsidy for the South African universities with which they were affiliated. In order to be accredited by the DHET, editorial boards of journals have to be independent of universities. This requirement made the transfer of title ownership of HTS in 2019 necessary. The contract, however, makes provision for theologians affiliated with the University of Pretoria to still publish in HTS. The number of their publications is not exceeded 25% and the usual stringent external independent peer evaluation is applied. In this way the ethos of theology of the Church continues and the words in the first volume of 1943 remain the prayer for the future: Vivat, crescat, floreat.

The 75th anniversary volume dedicated to Maake Masango

The 75th volume, No. 3, of HTS is dedicated to Prof. Maake Masango, the first black academic to be appointed as professor in the Faculty of Theology. Professor Masango is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa. With his appointment the faculty had come to full circle: in 1917 the Presbyterian Church and the Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa became the first church partners of the Faculty of Theology. With this volume the HTS not only honours Prof. Maake Masango, the gifted, charismatic and pioneer theologian, but also confirms the 75-year-old editorial policy of the journal to foster an inclusive theology while, at the same time, honouring the heritage of Reformed theology of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (NHKA) which has left its footprint not only in South Africa but also in Africa and the world.
Maake Masango

Personal information

Maake Jonathan Masango, born 27 October 1947, is an emeritus professor of Practical Theology at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He enrolled for theological study in 1972 and has served as a senior minister in the Presbyterian Church of South Africa since 1977. In 1998, he was appointed as associate professor at the Faculty of Theology and Religion (UP) and became the first black lecturer of the faculty. He is married to Pauline Velaphi Masango, and they have a daughter, Dr Tshepo M. Chery, a son, Dr Lisly Chery, and three grandchildren: Nandipa (God given one), Ndileka (the dignified one) and Naledi (the star).

Formal education

- Diploma in Theology from Federal Theological Seminary, Alice, Fort Hare (1972–1974).
- Master of Arts in Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, Georgia), USA (1981–1982).
- Certification in Psychotherapy from American Association of Pastoral Counsellors, USA.

Professorship

- 1998–1999: Associate Professor in Practical Theology, University of Pretoria.
- 2000–2012: Professor of Practical Theology, University of Pretoria.

Minister of religion

- Minister of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa.
- Senior minister at Schoemansville Presbyterian Church, 1975–1976.
- Associate minister at Woodville Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, USA, 1982–1983.
- Senior minister at the St Giles Presbyterian Church in South Africa, from 1996–1999.

Associations

- Member, Georgia Association of Pastoral Counselors, 1989 to date.
- Executive and central committee member, World Council of Churches, 1999–2006.
- President of Africa Urban Rural Missions, 2001–2009.
- Vice president, the Society for Practical Theology, 2004–2006.
- Member, International Societas Homiletica, 2004 to date.
- Member, International Association of Pastoral Care, 1992–present.
- Member, Southern African Association for Pastoral Work, 2000–present.
- Convener of Ministerial, Marriage and Divorce Committee (UPCSA), 1999–present.
- Members of Peace Negotiations with South and North Korea, 2000–2011 through Asia Council of Churches.
- President of Theological Institution, All Africa Council of Churches, 2010–present.
- Member, Ecumenical Advisory Board of the Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria, 2006–2016.
- President, Theological Institutions of Southern and Central Africa (ATISCA).

Main speaker and visiting scholar, and also dealing with reconciliation

- Africa
  - European countries
    - Austria, London, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Albania, Cyprus, Ireland, Finland, The Netherlands, Greece, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Norway, Denmark and Belgium.
  - Australia.
  - New Zealand.
  - Asia
    - Bangkok, South Korea, North Korea, Thailand, India, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, The Philippines, China, Myanmar (Burma), Sri Lanka and Japan.
  - West Indies
    - Jamaica, Cayman Islands, St Thomas, St Croix, St Martens’, Cuba, Bermuda, Barbados and Haiti.
  - North America.
    - USA (spoken in 32 states) and Canada.
    - South America
      - Brazil (spoke in 32 states) and Canada.
    - Pacific.

http://www.hts.org.za
**Published work**

**Journal articles**
- 2016, ‘Community transformation through the Pentecostal churches’, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i3.3749
- 2014, ‘An economic system that crushes the poor’, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v70i1.772
- 2014, ‘Pastoral care in the context of poverty: A Zambian perspective’, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*
- 2013, Message of Prof Maake Masango at the memorial service of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.
- 2012, ‘In support of female leadership in the church: Grappling with the perspective of Setswana men. Shepherding as solution offered’, *Verbum et Ecclesia*. https://doi.org/10.4102/ve.v33i1.433
- 2012, ‘Generating hope in pastoral care through relationships’, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v68i1.957
- 2010, ‘Is prophetic witness the appropriate mode of public discourse on the global economy?’, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v66i1.772
- 2010, ‘Hope in pastoral care through relationships’, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*
- 2003, ‘Aristotle’s philosophical influence on Western civilization, history and theology placed women in inferior positions’.
- 2003, ‘Church and peace in Africa: The role of the churches in the peace process’, *Missionalia*.
- 2003, ‘Church and peace in Africa: The role of the churches in the peace process’, *Missionalia*.
• 2005, ‘To reverse the paradigm’, Communio Viatorum.
• 1996, ‘Church union issues’, Perspective.
• 1995, ‘She is silenced again’, Perspective.
• 1992, ‘Pastoral perspectives’, Georgia Association for Pastoral Care Journal.
• ‘Practical and Pastoral Theology’, Handbook of Theological Education in Africa.
• ‘Who will take care of the orphan Ministerial formation?’, WCC Magazine Issue.

Book chapters
• 2015, Politics and economics of liberation [Politik und Ökonomie der Befreiung].
• 2006, ‘World life forum: Geopolitics of the empire’.

Conference papers
• 2016, Papers on human dignity in the city of Kottarakara, Maraman Convention, India, 29 January–10 February.
• 2016, ‘Reformation and one world’, in Twin Consultation Reformation, Sao Paolo, 6–11 June.
• 2015, Christianity and the future of our societies.
• 2015, ‘Reconciliation in conflict situations’, in National reconciliation and civil society conference, Colombia City, Bogota, 12–18 May.
• 2015, ‘Reformation and modernity in the light of socio-historic Bible research’, Predigerseminar Nurnberg, 7–13 April.
• 2015, Reformation, education and transformation, Sao Leopoldo, 19–23 November.
• 2009, ‘Called to be one church: Faith and order at Crete’, report of the 2009 meeting of the Plenary Commission.
• 1999, Svergises Kristna Rad, Kyrkorna Tillsammans: State of the Nation (South Africa) SACC, Swedish Government.

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Author(s) contributions
Both authors contributed equally to this work.

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