



## Redaksioneel

Dit is vir ons as redaksie 'n voorreg om hierdie huldigingsbundel aan prof. Dries du Plooy aan te bied. Vir hierdie uitgawe is prof. Rikus Fick gevra om as gasredakteur op te tree. Ook dus aan hom ons dank vir die uitstekende werk wat hy in hierdie verband gedoen het. Ons gee daarom ook graag aan hom die geleentheid om die redaksioneel vir hierdie besondere uitgawe te skryf.

**J.M. Vorster**

**Redakteur: *In die Skriflig***

## Voorwoord deur die gasredakteur

Dit was vir my 'n besondere voorreg om as gasredakteur op te tree vir hierdie huldigingsbundel vir prof. A. le R. (Dries) du Plooy. Dit is egter nie 'n maklike taak om in die bestek van twee bladsye 'n beeld te gee van 'n man wat soveel besondere gawes van die Here ontvang het en dit op so 'n wye gebied in sy kerk en koninkryk aangewend het nie – reeds al op skool en as student.

Dries kom uit 'n bekende familie in die GKSA. Sy vader (J.F.), sy broer (J.S.) en oom (J.S.) was ook predikante. Hy was vanaf 1970 tot 1986 predikant in die Gereformeerde Kerke Durban en Alkant-rant. In 1986 word hy beroep as professor in Kerkreg en het in sy dienstryd as rektor van die Teologiese Skool Potchefstroom (1992-2003) en as dekaan van die Fakulteit Teologie van die PU vir CHO en die NWU opgetree (1995-2009). Hy was ook lid van die Senaat van die PU vir CHO (1986-2003) en lid van die Raad van die NWU (2004-2009). Vir sy werk by die Teologiese Skool en die Universiteit was daar uit alle oorde besondere waardering vir sy vermoë om vinnig tot die kern van 'n probleem deur te dring en rigting te kon gee vanuit die beginsel van die saak. Hy het ook as bestuurslid van PUK Forum 2000 'n waardevolle bydrae gelewer in die transformasieproses van die universiteit wat, in vergelyking met ander opvoedkundige instansies, besonder goed verloop het.

As kerkregtelike het Dries 'n besondere rol in die kerkverband en die akademiese wêreld gespeel. Uit die aard van sy vak en besondere

kennis en ervaring moes hy dikwels kerke en sinodes van advies bedien – 'n taak wat hy met soveel insig en wysheid gedoen het, dat die vrug daarvan baie moeilik te bepaal is. Die talle akademiese publikasies uit sy pen en voordragte getuig van 'n besondere kennis en belangstelling in talle kerkregtelike aspekte soos die grondslae van Kerkreg as teologiese wetenskap, kerkverband, kerkeenheid, ekumene, denominasionalisme, tug, die dienste, die verhouding tussen kerkreg en arbeidsreg, die verhouding tussen die koninkryk van God en die staat en die verhouding van kerkorde en grondwet. Sy akademiese status is ook bevestig deur die feit dat hy by twee geleenthede deel was van 'n paneel wat akademiese evaluering by ander universiteite gedoen het en dat hy van 2002 tot 2005 voorsitter was van die Forum for University Theological Education in the RSA (FUTE).

In sy talle artikels van nie-akademiese aard, veral in die *Kerkblad* en die *Gereformeerde Vroueblad* het Dries daarin geslaag om leiding en insig te gee in sake wat op sinodes gedien en soms vrae by lidmate van die kerke laat ontstaan het. Wanneer 'n mens sy publikasielys deurgaan, merk 'n mens 'n aantal publikasies wat kerkhistories van aard is. Hy was lank lid van die Kerkhistoriese Werkgemeenskap van Suid-Afrika en het ook Kerkgeskiedenis doseer in die tyd toe daar nie 'n professor in Kerkgeskiedenis by die TSP was nie.

As dit by kerkeenheid en ekumene kom, het dit nie net by publikasies gebly nie. Dries se betrokkenheid by die GKSA se deputate vir ekumeniese sake het daartoe gelei dat hy sedert 1988 lid was van afvaardigings na die volgende kerke in die buiteland: die Christelike Gereformeerde Kerk Nederland, die Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken, die Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland (Vrijgemaak), die Gereformeerde Bond in Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk, die Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland, die Free Church of Scotland, die Christian Reformed Church of North America and Canada, die Reformed Church in New Zealand, die Christian Reformed Churches in Australia, die Christian Reformed Church of North America and Canada, die United Reformed Church of North America and Canada, die Orthodox Presbyterian Church of USA en die Presbyterian Church of America. Daarbenewens was hy ook 'n medestigterslid van die Gereformeerde Konvent in Suid-Afrika in 1997.

In al hierdie hoedanighede het hy met sy besondere gawes 'n gewaardeerde invloed uitgeoefen. Die grootste invloed wat hy myns insiens egter gehad het, was die invloed op en deur die studente wat deur die jare by hom onderrig ontvang en hulle nagraadse

studies by hom voltooi het. Hy het 'n besondere bydrae gelewer tot hulle vorming as predikante en veral die vorming van 'n gesonde gereformeerde kerkbegrip. Hy was en is steeds betrokke by studie-leiding vir twaalf meestersgraad- en ses doktorsgraadstudente. Die praktiese inslag van hierdie nagraadse studies bring 'n mens onder die besef van die nut en invloed wat daarvan uitgegaan het en steeds uitgaan.

Dries het as dekaan ook 'n groot rol gespeel in die verbreiding van die gereformeerde teologie in Suid-Afrika en Afrika (Uganda, Mosambiek, Namibië, Kenia, die Kongo). In Engeland was hy ook betrokke by die sluiting van geakkrediteerde ooreenkomste met verskeie teologiese kolleges, wat ongeveer 350 studente verteenwoordig.

Die artikels in hierdie bundel is uit waardering en agting deur kollegas en oud-studente geskryf. Dit word aan hom opgedra met die bede dat die Here hom ná sy emeritaat steeds sal begenadig met goeie gesondheid sodat hy sy gawes kan aanwend in kerk en koninkryk. Een van sy gewaardeerde kollegas en vriende, prof. C.F.C. Coetzee, het ook 'n bydrae ingedien met die titel "Belydenisgebondenheid in 'n postmoderne era". Dit kon as gevolg van tegniese probleme ongelukkig nie in hierdie bundel opgeneem word nie, maar sal in 'n volgende nommer verskyn.

**P.H. Fick**  
**Gasredakteur**





## Editorial

It is a privilege for the editorial staff to offer this tributary volume to Prof. Dries du Plooy. Prof. Rikus Fick has been asked to act as Guest Editor to this edition. A word of thanks therefore for the excellent work that he has done in this regard. We gladly give him the opportunity to write the Editorial to this special edition.

**J.M. Vorster**

**Editor: *In die Skriflig***

## Foreword by the Guest Editor

It was a special privilege for me to act as Guest Editor to this tributary volume for Prof. A. le R. (Dries) du Plooy. However, it is no easy task to give an account of a man who has received so many gifts from the Lord and who has applied these gifts to such an extended area within his church and the kingdom – even at school and as a student – in two pages.

Dries comes from a well-known family in the GKSA. His father (J.F.), his brother (J.S.) and his uncle (J.S.) were also ministers. From 1970 to 1986 he was a minister in the Gereformeerde Kerke Durban and Alkantrant. In 1986 he is called as professor in Church Law and during his time in service he acted as Rector of the Theological School of Potchefstroom (1992-2003) and as Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the PU for CHE and the NWU (1995-2009). He was also a member of the Senate of the PU for CHE (1986-2003) and a member of the Council of the NWU (2004-2009). There has been wide appreciation for his work at the Theological School and the University from and especially for his ability to penetrate the core of a problem quickly and to provide guidance based on the principle of the matter. He also made a valuable contribution to the transformation process of the University as a member of the PUK Forum 2000, a process that went particularly well in comparison to other educational institutions.

As church law specialist Dries played a special role in the denomination and in the academic world. Due to the nature of his

subject and his knowledge and experience he has had to advise churches and synods – a task that he has done with so much insight and wisdom that the fruits are difficult to determine. The countless academic publications from his pen and presentations testify of special knowledge and interest in several church law aspects such as the foundations of Church Law as theological science, denomination, church unity, ecumenicity, denominationalism, church discipline, the services, the relation between church law and labour law, the relation between the kingdom of God and the state and the relation between church order and constitution. His academic status has also been confirmed by the fact that he has at two opportunities been part of a panel that did academic evaluation at other universities and that he was the chairperson of the Forum for University Theological Education in the RSA (FUTE) from 2002 to 2005.

In his several articles of non-academic nature, especially in the *Kerkblad* and the *Gereformeerde Vroueblad*, Dries succeeded to provide guidance and insight into matters that served at synods and caused questions to arise for members. When one goes through his list of publications, one notices that a number are church historical in nature. He was part of the Church Historical Work Society of South Africa and lectured in Church History in the times that there was no professor in Church History at the TSP.

When it comes to church unity and ecumenicity, he did not stay with publications. Dries' involvement with the GKSA's deputies for ecumenical matters led to him forming part of delegations to the following churches abroad since 1988: the Christelike Gereformeerde Kerk Nederland, the Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken, the Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland (Vrijgemaak), the Gereformeerde Bond in Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk, the Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Christian Reformed Church of North America and Canada, the Reformed Church in New Zealand, the Christian Reformed Churches in Australia, the Christian Reformed Church of North America and Canada, the United Reformed Church of North America and Canada, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church of USA and the Presbyterian Church of America. In addition to this he was also a founder member of the Gereformeerde Konvent in Suid-Afrika in 1997.

In all these roles he exercised special influence with his special gifts. However, the greatest influence that he had in my view, was that on and through the students that received instruction from him and who

completed their post-graduate studies under him. He made a valuable contribution to their shaping as ministers and especially the formation of a healthy reformed church concept. He was and is still involved with guiding the studies of twelve masters and six doctoral degree students. The practical approach of these post-graduate studies brings one under the impression of the usefulness that goes forth from it.

As Dean Dries also played a great role in the expansion of the reformed theology in South Africa, Africa (Uganda, Mozambique, Namibia, Kenia and the Congo) and in England through his involvement in agreements of accreditation with several theological colleges that represent about 350 students.

The articles in this volume have been written by colleagues and past students in appreciation and respect and it is hereby dedicated to him with the prayer that the Lord will bless him with good health after his retirement so that he can continue to apply his gifts in the church and kingdom. One of his valued colleagues and friends, Prof. C.F.C. Coetzee, also submitted a contribution with the title “Belydenisgebondenheid in ’n postmoderne era”. It could unfortunately not be included into this volume due to technical problems, but it will appear in a next volume.

**P.H. Fick**  
**Guest Editor**

