



Redaksioneel

Dit is vir ons as redaksie 'n voorreg om hierdie huldigingsbundel aan prof. Ben de Klerk aan te bied. Vir hierdie uitgawe is proff. Fritz de Wet en Rantsoa Letšosa gevra om as gasredakteurs op te tree. Ook dus aan hulle ons dank vir die uitstekende werk wat hulle in hierdie verband gedoen het. Ons gee daarom ook graag aan hulle die geleentheid om die voorwoord vir hierdie besondere uitgawe te skryf.

J.M. Vorster

Redakteur: *In die Skriflig*

Voorwoord

Dit is vir ons 'n groot voorreg om as gasredakteurs op te tree vir hierdie spesiale uitgawe wat die teologiese bydrae van ons kollega, B.J. (Ben) de Klerk, feestelik gedenk. Ben is vir ons 'n vaderfiguur in ons lewens. Sy inspirerende mentorskap lê ons naby aan die hart. Hy het ons op 'n besondere manier aangemoedig om 'n liefde vir die vakgebied, Praktiese Teologie, te ontwikkel. Hy speel in baie opsigte 'n kardinale rol in die ontwikkeling van ons menswees as iemand in wie se lewe die gesindheid van Jesus Christus duidelik sigbaar is.

Ons dink aan professor Ben as 'n getroue bedienaar van die Woord met 'n lang, kleurrike loopbaan in diens aan die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika (GKSA) en in sy verbintenis aan die Teologiese Skool te Potchefstroom (TSP) en die Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys (PU vir CHO)/Noordwes-Universiteit (NWU). Hy het voltyds in die gemeentes te Gobabis (1970-1975), Cachet (1975-1981), Randburg-Oos (1984-1987) en in Potchefstroom-Noord (1978-1998) gedien waar hy tans steeds as hulpdienspredikant werksaam is.

As bedienaar van die Woord het hy ook as vader opgetree vir die studente van die destydse Hammanskraalse Teologiese Skool asook vir die studente van Soutpansberg. Hy het hulle nie net tuis laat voel nie, maar almal op die hart gedra. Baie veranderings het onder sy leiding plaasgevind in die Gereformeerde Kerk Potchef-

stroom-Noord ten opsigte van die integrasie van die multi-kulturele element – die tekens daarvan is nog steeds sigbaar. Deur sy betrokkenheid by die TSP het hy studente wat uit verskillende agtergronde kom, geleer om met mekaar kontak te maak.

Hy is 'n gereelde spreker by toerustingsgeleenthede en saamtrekke in die geledere van die GKSA, waaruit sy besondere liefde vir die kerk van die Here blyk en hy 'n groot invloed uitoefen met sy vriendelike en innemende geaardheid. Sy verbintenis aan die Universiteit sluit die volgende in: Direkteur (Dekaan) van die Studenteburo van die PU vir CHO en professor in Wetenskapsleer (1981-1984), professor in Nuwe Testament en Praktiese Teologie (1998-2000), professor in Praktiese Teologie (2000-tans). Hy het ook die besondere voorreg geniet om as rektor van die Teologiese Skool te Potchefstroom (2007-2009) te dien – op voetspoor van sy vader, wat in 1952-1953 in dieselfde pos gedien het.

Wat sy akademiese loopbaan betref het professor Ben 'n veelsydige pad geloop. Deur sy aanvanklike studie in die Nuwe-Testamentiese wetenskap is hy uitstekend toegerus om vanuit eksegetiese diepgang met 'n teoretiese onderbou te werk vir die praxis in kerk en koninkryk waarin die gesag van die Skrif altyd die deurslag gee. Sy akademiese kwalifikasies sluit die volgende in: *Die gesag van die prediking van Jesus* (Th.M.-verhandeling, PU vir CHO, 1976), *Die gesag van die Nuwe-Testamentiese briewe* (Th.D.-proefskrif, PU vir CHO, 1983), *Die Heilige Gees en die verhouding Skriflesing, prediking en gebed in die erediens* (Th.D.-proefskrif, PU vir CHO, 1987).

As kollegas in Praktiese Teologie het ons besondere waardering vir die manier waarop Ben in talle wetenskaplike artikels en ander publikasies kerklike en koninkrykshandeling telkens pneumatologies in die Woord van die Here anker. Die temas wat deur hom verken word op die vakgebied van die Liturgiek (waarin hy hom in die later deel van sy loopbaan veral toegespits het), getuig van 'n diepe begrip van die lewende, altyd nuwe en relasionele aard van liturgiese gebeure in die erediens; ook vir die manier waarop erediensgebeure integraal met die liturgie van die lewe verbind is.

In hierdie bundel word twaalf wetenskaplike artikels ingesluit, wat getuig van die wye invloed wat professor Ben in die navorsingsveld van teologie uitgeoefen het en ook van die oorfloedige waardering wat daar vir hom is, nie alleen onder plaaslike kollegas en studente nie, maar ook op nasionale en internasionale vlak. Na ons oordeel is die omvang en gerigtheid van die temas wat in hierdie bundel ter

sprake kom, 'n duidelike weerspieëling van die veelsydigheid en die sensitiewe gerigtheid van professor Ben se navorsingsfokus op kontekste van verandering waarin die evangelie rigtinggewend en genesend bedien moet word. Ons glo dat al die skrywers wat 'n bydrae gelewer het tot hierdie feesbundel uit een hart saam met ons sal praat wanneer ons die Here dank vir die besondere indruk wat hierdie gewaardeerde kollega op ons lewens gemaak het. Ons wil ook die verwagting uitspreek dat ons in die tyd wat kom, sal kan deel in die verdere vrugte van sy besondere bydrae.

F.W. de Wet & R.S. Letšosa
(Gasredakteurs)



Editorial

The Editorial Board feels privileged to present this issue of *In die Skriflig* in honour of Professor Ben de Klerk. For this edition Professors Fritz de Wet and Rantoa Letšosa were asked to act as guest editors, and we thank them for excellent work done in this regard. We, therefore, presented them with the opportunity to write the foreword for this special edition.

J.M. Vorster

Editor: *In die Skriflig*

Foreword

It is a great privilege to us to act as guest editors for this special edition which celebrates the theological contributions of our colleague B.J. (Ben) de Klerk. Ben is like a father to us. We dearly embrace his inspiring mentorship to us. He in a special manner managed to inspire us to develop love for the subject field, Practical Theology, and he plays in many aspects a cardinal role in the development of our lives as someone in whose life the attitude of Jesus Christ is clearly perceivable.

We think of Professor Ben as a faithful servant of the Word with a long, colourful career in service of the Reformed Churches in South Africa (RCSA) and in his involvement to the Theological School Potchefstroom (TSP) and the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE)/North-West University (NWU). He ministered as fulltime minister of the Word in the following congregations: Gobabis (1970-1975), Cachet (1975-1981), Randburg-East (1984-1987) and in Potchefstroom-North (1978-1998) where he still serves as part-time minister.

As minister of the Word, he also acted as father to the students of the Hammanskraal Theological School and Soutpansberg students during the merger with the TSP. He did not only make them feel at home, but also treated them with compassion. Many changes took place in the Reformed Church Potchefstroom-North during his time as minister with regard to the integration of the multi-cultural

elements and the signs thereof are still visible. By means of his involvement at the TSP he enabled students from different backgrounds to make contact with one another with ease.

He is a regular presenter at workshops and gatherings among the members of the RCSA, from which his special love for the church of the Lord becomes visible and where he plays an influential part with his friendly and outstanding character. His involvement with the University includes the following: Director (Dean) of the Student Bureau of the PU for CHE and Professor in Science Theory (1981-1984), PU for CHE; Professor in New Testament and Practical Theology (1998-2000) and Professor in Practical Theology (2000-now). He also had the privilege to act as Rector of the Theological School Potchefstroom (2007-2009) just like his father who served in this position during 1952-1953.

Regarding his academic career, Professor Ben pursued a multi-faceted path for which he was initially well equipped by means of his roots in New Testament studies. His theoretical considerations regarding the praxis of the church and kingdom were always deeply rooted in the authority of Scripture. His academic qualifications includes the following: *The authority of the sermons of Jesus* (Th.M. dissertation, PU for CHE, 1976), *The authority of the New Testament letters* (Th.D. thesis, PU for CHE, 1983), *The Holy Spirit and the relationship between Scripture reading, preaching and prayer in the worship service* (Th.D. thesis, PU for CHE, 1987).

As colleagues in Practical Theology we have special regard for the manner in which Professor Ben anchored himself pneumatologically in the Word of the Lord in various scientific articles and kingdom activities. The themes of the articles in the subject field of Liturgics (which he specifically focused on later in his career) bear witness to an intense comprehension of the living, always new and relational nature of liturgical activities in the worship services, but also for the manner in which the activities in the worship service are related to the liturgy of life.

In this journal twelve articles are included, which bear witness to the influence that Professor Ben widely exerted in the research field of theology as well as to the widespread appreciation he enjoys, not only among colleagues and students locally, but also on national and international level. To our judgement the variety and focus of themes in this journal are a clear reflection of the multi-dimensional and the sensitive character of Professor Ben's research focus on contexts of change in which the gospel has to be ministered in

giving direction and healing. We believe that all the authors that contributed in this celebration journal will speak from the same heart with us when we thank the Lord for the exceptional impression which this esteemed colleague made in our lives and express the expectation that in time to come we shall still reap the fruits of his profound contribution.

F.W. de Wet & R.S. Letšosa
(Guest Editors)