



Voorwoord

Dit is 'n eer om in hierdie festschrift hulde te bring aan die Potchefstroomse filosoof, Barend Johannes van der Walt. Professor Van der Walt het oor dekades heen 'n belangrike bydrae tot die reformatoriese filosofie gelewer: in sy navorsing, entoesiastiese onderrig aan die destydse Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys, in sy leierskapsrol in IAPCHE en die IRS en veral ook in die inspirerende wyse waarop hy sy roeping uitleef. Sy talryke publikasies strek oor vakgrense heen om die idee van 'n volle integrering van 'n Christelike perspektief in die alledaagse lewens van mense te belig en te ontwikkel. Professor Bennie van der Walt het 'n besondere sensitiwiteit vir die konteks waarbinne mense werkzaam is en ontgin graag die wyse waarop dit ons verstaan van die skepping kan verryk. As een van die stigterslede van IAPCHE (International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education) en as direkteur van die Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie (IRS) het hy ook 'n grondslag gelê sodat hierdie werk voortgesit kan word.

Professor Van der Walt se bydrae tot filosofie is op internasionale sowel as nasionale vlak erken en vereer. Hy het van Kosin Universiteit, Korea, sowel as Sárospatak Gereformeerde Teologiese Skool in Hongarye ere-doktorsgrade ontvang. Op eie bodem het die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Kuns en Wetenskap in 2010 die Stalsprys vir Filosofie aan Professor Van der Walt toegeken. Hierdie spesiale uitgawe van *Koers* het dit ten doel om die viering van sy wetenskaplike bydrae voort te sit.

Dit is gepas dat die artikels in hierdie uitgawe 'n breë veld van wetenskap reflekteer aangesien Professor Van der Walt se eie werk strek van filosofiese navorsing tot meer vakspesifieke bydraes. Die lys van meer as 700 publikasies, wat in die finale deel van die uitgawe verskyn, getuig van sy omvattende navorsingsbelangstelling.

Die uitgawe bied ook perspektiewe wat van naderby 'n blik gee op Professor Bennie van der Walt se lewe en loopbaan: sy eie memoirs, 'n onderhoud wat Steve Bishop met hom voer, sowel as huldigingsblyke van kollegas bied 'n insiggewende beskrywing van sy persoonlike en filosofiese ontwikkeling. Kollegas, vriende en oud-studente van regoor die wêreld huldig graag die werk van 'n stem uit Potchefstroom wat nog vir baie jare gehoor sal word.

Redaksionele komitee

Preamble

It is an honour to celebrate the Potchefstroom philosopher, Barend Johannes van der Walt, in this Festschrift. Over the past decades, Professor Van der Walt has made a significant contribution to reformational philosophy through his research, passionate teaching at the previous Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, his position of leadership in IAPCHE and the IRS, as well as the inspiring way in which he carries out his vocation.

His many publications stretch across disciplinary boundaries in order to highlight and develop the idea of a complete integration of the Christian perspective in our daily lives. Professor Bennie van der Walt demonstrates a special sensitivity for the context in which people function and draws from this in order to enrich our understanding of creation. As one of the founding members of IAPCHE (International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education) and director of the Institute for Reformational Studies (IRS), he set down the foundation for the continuation of this work.

Professor Van der Walt's significant contribution to philosophy has been acknowledged and honoured at national as well as international level. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Kosin University, Korea, and Sárospatak Reformed Theological Seminary in Hungary. On home ground, Professor Van der Walt has recently been named the recipient of the South African Academy of Art and Science's Stals Prize for Philosophy. The purpose of this special issue of *Koers* is to continue the celebration of Professor Van der Walt's scholarly achievements.

The articles in this issue aptly reflect a broad field of scholarship. Professor Van der Walt's own work ranges from philosophical inquiries to more subject-specific contributions. The list of more than 700 publications, provided in the final section of this issue, bears

testimony to his extensive research interests. The issue also offers a more in-depth account of Professor Van der Walt's life and career: his own memoirs, an interview conducted by Steve Bishop as well as tributes by colleagues present an insightful perspective on his personal and philosophical development. Colleagues, friends and former students from all over the world celebrate the work of a voice from Potchefstroom that will be heard for many years to come.

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