



Sentrum vir
Bybelinterpretasie
en vertaling in
Afrika

Departement Antieke Studie en
Departement Ou en Nuwe Testament
Universiteit van Stellenbosch
Privaatsak X1
Matieland 7602 Suid-Afrika
lgj@sun.ac.za
tel. 021 8083268
faks 021 8083251
webwerf: www.cebita.org

Annual Report: 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2009

1. Introduction: Focal points in the light of the Centre's objectives

In 2009 the Centre's activities were focused on the following matters – over and above its normal research activities, which will be reported on later:

- The next translation of the Bible into Afrikaans;
- Funding for, and implementation of, a post-doctoral fellowship;
- Intensifying links with UBS;
- Study tours to the Israel and Turkey;
- Development of service point for translators and exegetes.

The Mission and Aims of the Centre that have directed the above activities may be read on: http://www.cebita.org/About_Profile.htm.

2. Staff

The Centre has no permanent staff members.

Management Committee:

In 2009 Prof. CHJ van der Merwe was responsible for Bible Translation, Prof. LC Jonker for Biblical Interpretation, and Prof. J Punt for Communication and Engagement. Prof. Jonker acted as Director for the period 2006-2009.

Prof. AE Feinauer was the chairperson of the Management Committee, with Professors AEJ Mouton, HL Bosman, LC Jonker J Punt as representatives of the Theology Faculty, and Professors MW Visser, JC Thom, CHJ van der Merwe and LG de Stadler the representatives of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Prof. Bernard Combrink represented the Bible Society of South Africa and Mr H Raubenheimer the private sector.

Co-workers:

Staff from the Departments of Ancient Studies and the Old & New Testament who are engaged in related research serve as co-workers in the Centre, as do Professors Extraordinary, etc. associated with these two Departments. During the past year under review the Centre also made use of the services of Dr JP Bosman (CTL) and Dr Werner Lategan on a consultation basis.

3. Current Academic Projects

The projects for 2009 are outlined below. These projects are launched and managed by the respective individuals/departments concerned, but are at the same time

operational under the “umbrella” of the Centre. None of the projects was initiated as a project by the Centre.

BIBLE TRANSLATION

- A semantic dictionary of Biblical Hebrew (CHJ vd Merwe)
- A hypertext Bible for translators and exegetes (CHJ vd Merwe)
- The teaching of Biblical Hebrew (CHJ vd Merwe)
- Bible translation as intercultural communication: A theoretical and practical reflection (CHJ vd Merwe)
- Translation and ownership of the Bible in Africa (J Punt)

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- The reinterpretation of the book of Exodus in Africa (HL Bosman)
- Interpreting the Bible in Africa (HL Bosman)
- Prophetism in the Old Testament and in Africa (HL Bosman)
- Fundamentalism and religious conservatism (HL Bosman)
- Old Testament theological perspectives on land amidst poverty and affluence (HL Bosman)
- A theological exposition of the Decalogue on the basis of African Proverbs (HL Bosman)
- “From multiculturalism to interculturalism: The case of Biblical hermeneutics”: Intercultural reading of the Bible (LC Jonker)
- A study of the dynamics of reinterpretation in the composition history of the Old Testament – the books of Chronicles as a case study (LC Jonker)
- "Reforming history": The relation between historiography and identity formation in the Second Temple Period (LC Jonker)
- The postcolonial Bible in Africa (J Punt)
- Religion, sacred scriptures and identity (J Punt)
- Biblical hermeneutics and the Pauline letters (J Punt)
- An interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) in its literary and topological Contexts (JC Thom)

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- The New Testament and cultural studies (J Punt)

Additional information on these academic projects is available on <http://www.cebita.org/Projects.htm>.

4. Research Output: Papers Delivered

Summary

Members of the Centre delivered a total of 13 papers at South African conferences, while 10 papers were presented at international subject conferences.

Full information on the papers delivered by members of the Centre during 2009 is available on: http://www.cebita.org/Research_Papers.htm.

5. Research Output: Publications

Summary

Members of the Centre produced the following publications (Key: *: accredited; #: non-accredited; SA: South African publications; Int: international publications):

Bosman: 5* + 5# (of which 4SA, 6 Int)

Foster: 1* (of which 1SA)

Jonker: 2* (of which 2Int)

Mouton: 1# (of which 1SA)

Punt: 4* + 1# (of which 2SA, 3Int)

Thom: 2* (of which 2Int)

Van der Merwe: 2* (of which 2Int)

Wendland: 3* + 1# (of which 3SA, 1Int)

In total 19 accredited and 8 non-accredited publications were published in 2009. Of these, 11 appeared in South African publications and 16 in international publications.

Full information on the academic publications of members of the Centre during 2009 is available on:

http://www.cebita.org/Research_Publications.htm.

6. Research Output: Doctoral Dissertations

Summary

There were 28 current doctoral projects during the year under review, 13 at the Department of Ancient Studies and 15 at the Department of Old & New Testament (2 with co-promoters at Ancient Studies).

A total of 5 doctoral students obtained their doctorates in 2009, 1 from Ancient Studies and 4 from Old & New Testament.

Full information on the doctoral students (including the titles of their research projects) is available on: http://www.cebita.org/Research_Dissertations.htm.

7. New Afrikaans Bible Translation

The Centre, through its individual members, is still involved on a continuous basis with the new Afrikaans Bible Translation project of the Bible Society of South Africa (BSA). Christo van der Merwe not only serves on the executive and management committees of this project, but he is also involved (along with Hendrik Bosman, Louis Jonker, Jeremy Punt, Elna Mouton, Johan Thom and other colleagues in the participating academic departments) as an exegete and/or specialist in the source languages.

Progress with the NAB has been slower than the Bible Society of South Africa had hoped. This is particularly the result of the full programmes of the co-workers, who hold full academic positions. The BSA held a brainstorming session at the beginning of 2008 in which members of the Centre participated. This led to, among other things, an

adaptation of the processes through which the translations pass. An editorial committee was also set up. (Prof. Christo van der Merwe is one of the 7 members of this committee.) From now on this committee will be responsible for finalising the translation. The first meeting of this committee completed the books of Obadiah and Ruth.

8. Service Point for translator and exegetes

Publicity for the Service Point was launched in 2009. It was advertised in *Die Kerkbode*, on the websites of the Western Cape and General Synods of the DRC, and on “Vrydagnuus” of the DR Church (Western Cape). Werner Lategan was contracted to undertake the initial administration of the Service Point. Unfortunately the response to the Service Point was extremely disappointing. It dealt with a few enquiries, but did not lead to extensive communication.

The Bible Society also requested us to withdraw the Service Point for Bible Translators, as it would lead to problems if the documentation around the new Afrikaans Bible Translation became accessible to the general public through it.

The Management Committee decided to make the Service Point a part of the proposed post-doctoral project. One of the tasks of the post-doctoral candidate will be to develop the Service Point as an empirical instrument for the research project. Hopefully this will stimulate further traffic on the Service Point.

9. United Bible Societies (UBS) and the Centre

Prof. Christo van der Merwe attended the UBS's triennial workshop for translation consultants in Bangkok (11-26 June 2009). At the workshop Prof. Christiane Nord (University of Heidelberg) presented a week-long series of lectures. Her attempt to demonstrate how biblical translation can benefit from her translation model was very well received, and this series of lectures could be regarded as a watershed in the UBS's post-Nida search for more accountable translation models. During the workshop various working groups met on a daily basis. Prof. Van der Merwe joined the working group concerned with curricula for Bible translators.

He also held in-depth discussions with Dr M Muthwii (UBS's chief co-ordinator of translations). It was agreed that during Jan-Feb and May-June 2011 CEBITA would present Biblical Hebrew 178 (in the form of two short courses) to 15 Bible translators in Nairobi. If this experiment succeeds, it will be extended to Biblical Hebrew 212 and 242, as well as Greek on first- and second-year level. The aim of this project is to address the urgent need for source-language knowledge in the practice of Bible translation in Africa. But it also forms part of a longer-term project that will enable Bible translators who already have a degree to take postgraduate programmes in Bible Interpretation and Theology at Stellenbosch.

10. Liaison with American Bible Societies (ABS)

Dr Phil Towner from the American Bible Society's translation division (the Nida Institute) approached CEBITA to become involved in the design (and even presentation) of Biblical Hebrew and Greek courses in an undergraduate programme on Bible translation launched by the Nida Institute. There are at present negotiations in progress on ways in which the Nida Institute could fund possible experiments in this regard at Stellenbosch.

11. Centre's Publication Series

Sales of the publication series are still sluggish. According to Ms Sonja Badenhorst, the books have all been listed on Google Booksearch, which is an excellent platform and obviously accessible worldwide. The books are also on SUN-Media's "e-shop" as well as in their colourful catalogue. According to Ms Badenhorst, "Book sales are low everywhere and books are unfortunately still regarded as a luxury."

12. Post-doctoral Fellowship

Louis Jonker submitted a successful application to Sub-Committee A of the US. We have been allocated R120,000 per year for two years to grant a post-doctoral bursary. According to decisions of the Theology Faculty and the CEBITA Management Committee (email communication in November 2009), this annual amount has been supplemented with R25,000 from the Theology Faculty, and R11,000 from CEBITA funds. A total amount of R156,00 can thus be granted per year.

After a project was formulated by a designated committee (Professors Bosman, Thom, Van der Merwe, Punt, Jonker), an advertisement was drawn up in 2010 and sent to the media. Five applications were received. It was eventually decided to grant the bursary to Dr Charlene van der Walt.

13. Finances

The Centre's short-term finances are sound. The details appear in the financial statement for 2009 (Addendum C).

14. Acknowledgements

The Centre wishes to thank the Management Committee and the Executive Committee for their support.



.....
Prof. AE Feinauer
Chair: Management Committee

Date



.....
Prof. LC Jonker
Director

Date