



Sentrum vir
Bybelinterpretasie
en vertaling in
Afrika

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Departement Ou en Nuwe Testament
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[Centre for Bible Interpretation and Translation in Africa]

Annual Report: 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2006

1. Introduction: Focal points

In its activities during 2006 the Centre focused on the following matters in particular:

- The next translation of the Bible into Afrikaans;
- Formalising the relations between the United Bible Societies (UBS) and the Centre;
- Presenting an international conference on the theme "Exegesis and Actualization in Africa and Europe: A Dialogue";
- Establishing research networks for studying the OT in Africa (especially Exodus and the Prophets);
- Arranging and presenting a workshop on "Defining religious fundamentalism and religious conservatism in the Western Cape" (in collaboration with UWC).

2. Staff

The Centre has no permanent staff.

Management Committee:

In 2006 Prof. CHJ van der Merwe was responsible for the focus on Bible translation, Prof. LC Jonker for the focus on Bible interpretation, and Prof. J Punt for the focus on Communication and Appropriation. Prof. Jonker will act as director for the period 2006-2007.

Prof. AE Feinauer acted as chairperson of the management committee, With Professors AEJ Mouton, HL Bosman, Jonker and Punt as representatives of the Faculty of Theology, and Professors M Visser, I Cornelius, CHJ van der Merwe and L de Stadler as representatives of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Pastor Manie van den Heever represented the Bible Society of South Africa, and Mr H Raubenheimer represented the private sector.

Co-workers:

Staff members of Department of Ancient Studies and of the Old and New Testaments, who are engaged in relevant research, serve as co-workers in the Centre, as do Professors Extraordinary, etc. who are associated with these two departments.

3. Current Academic Projects

The following were ongoing projects during 2006. These projects are initiated and managed by the individual/department concerned, but function simultaneously under the “umbrella” of the Centre.

BIBLE TRANSLATION

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

BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- “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 compositional history of the Old Testament – The books of Chronicles as a case study (LC Jonker)
- Old Testament theological perspectives on land in the midst of poverty and riches (HL Bosman)
- A theological account of the Decalogue on the basis of African proverbs (HL Bosman)
- The postcolonial Bible in Africa (J Punt)
- Religion, religious documents and identity (J Punt)
- Biblical hermeneutics and the Pauline letters (J Punt)
- Interpreting the Bible in Africa (HL Bosman)
- A interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) in its literary and topological contexts (J Thom)
- The reinterpretation of the Book of Exodus in Africa (HL Bosman)
- A research group working on research on prophets in the African context (HL Bosman)
- Fundamentalism and religious conservatism (HL Bosman)

COMMUNICATION AND APPROPRIATION

- The New Testament and Cultural Studies (J Punt)

An Addendum with full descriptions of these academic projects, as well as the planning for 2007, is available on request from the Director (lcj@sun.ac.za).

4. Research Output: Conferences, workshops and seminars

During the year under review the staff of the Centre and the associated co-workers were involved with the following conferences, workshops and seminars (either by arranging and presenting them, or by delivering papers):

4.1 Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) Conference on Bible Translation (Horsely's Green, England)

Prof. Ernst-August Gutt presented a series of lectures at this conference. Seeing that aspects of his Bible translation model form one of the pillars of the theoretical foundation of the new Afrikaans translation of the Bible, the Bible Society of South Africa delegated Prof. Van der Merwe to attend the conference.

Papers delivered:

- Translating metaphors in a source language-oriented translation of the Hebrew Bible in Afrikaans (CHJ van der Merwe)
- Unpeeling the Onion: Frames of contextual significance in Bible translation – With special reference to John's vision of the heavenly throne room (Rev. 4-5) (E Wendland)

4.2 Training seminars for Afrikaans Bible translation (ABV) (Pretoria and Stellenbosch)

Training seminars were presented for the more than 100 co-workers on the Afrikaans Bible translation in Pretoria (February) and Stellenbosch (April). Members of the Centre delivered lectures on both occasions. The Centre was also responsible for arranging the seminar at Stellenbosch, which was attended by more than 60 people. [The first samples for this project were submitted at the end of September. Members of the Centre act as evaluators of these samples.]

4.3 Workshop on new training manual (Stellenbosch)

Prof. Wendland presented a week-long workshop at Stellenbosch. This workshop was attended by members of the Centre as well as postgraduate students Department of Old and New Testament and the Department of Ancient Studies. On this occasion a new training manual for Bible translation was worked through systematically and discussed critically.

4.4 United Bible Societies (UBS) Triennial Translation Workshop (Mombasa)

As a member of the UBS's policy-making committee "The Committee for Translation Policy", Prof. Van der Merwe was invited to attend this triennial workshop in Mombasa, Kenya. The workshop was held during 12-24 June.

Paper delivered:

- Ten mistaken notions about producing a 'study Bible': Some things I have learned along the way (E Wendland)

4.5 Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) Seminar (Nairobi)

E Wendland was invited to present a seminar to doctoral students and staff of the Department of Biblical and Translation Studies, NEGST, Nairobi.

Paper delivered:

- Towards a Literary Translation of the Scriptures In African Languages: With special reference to Psalm 73 (E Wendland)

4.6 World Seminary Conference: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (Mequon, Wisconsin, USA)

Paper delivered:

- Luther's Insight into Language as it relates to Translation, Mission, and Leadership Training (E Wendland)

4.7 Annual Congress of the Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTWSA) (Pretoria)

Paper delivered:

- What is humankind? Both king and slave: Job 7:17-19 as ironic parody of human identity in Psalm 8: 4-6 (HL Bosman)
- Communicating the beauty of a wise and 'worthy wife' (Prov 31:10-31): From Hebrew acrostic hymn to a Tonga traditional praise poem (E Wendland)

4.8 Annual Congress of the Southern African Society of Near Eastern Studies (SASNES) (Pretoria)

Paper delivered:

- The particle הַהֵא: the literature from a cognitive linguistic perspective (CHJ van der Merwe)

4.9 Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting (Washington, USA)

Papers delivered:

- Discourse particles in a Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar. The case of הַא and הַהֵא (CHJ van der Merwe)
- Refocusing the stories of the kings: Identity formation in the Books of Chronicles (LC Jonker)
- Popularising a prophet (Isaiah) in parliament: The Bible in post-Apartheid, South African public discourse (J Punt)
- Sarah's presence in the New Testament: Comparing Galatians 4 and 1 Peter 3 (J Punt)
- Wisdom in the Wisdom of Solomon and Cleanthes' Hymn (JC Thom)

4.10 Theology in Southern Africa: Research in Progress (Lusaka, Zambia)

In March 2006 Hendrik Bosman and Ernst Wendland were invited by Justo Mwale Theological Seminary, Lusaka, Zambia to address the NETACT conference of 12 participating theological colleges seminaries on research and the compilation of research proposals.

Papers delivered:

- Still in search of a second naivety in a Third World – theological reflection on the Bible in Africa (HL Bosman)
- Bible translation and Christian mission in Africa: How firm a foundation? (E Wendland)

4.11 Nigerian Association of Biblical Studies (NABIS) conference (Ekpoma, Nigeria)

In July 2006 Hendrik Bosman was asked to deliver a paper at the 19th Annual Congress of NABIS at the Ambrose Alli Universiteit at Ekpoma in Nigeria on the broad theme: "The Bible and corruption in Africa".

Paper delivered:

- "You shall not covet..." Interpreting the tenth commandment in view of corruption in Africa (HL Bosman)

4.12 ProPent (Pretoria)

Hendrik Bosman was once again invited to participate in an international research project on the Pentateuch (*PROPENT*) arranged in August by UP and the University of Munch.

Paper delivered:

- The Decalogue between written and oral tradition: some hermeneutical perspectives (HL Bosman)

4.13 Workshop on fundamentalism and religious conservatism (UWC)

On 20 October 2006 Hendrik Bosman and Douglas Lawrie (UWC) conducted a workshop at UWC on the theme "Defining religious fundamentalism and religious conservatism in the Western Cape", involving 12 academics from 5 universities. About 70 participants from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith communities attended this multidisciplinary and inter-religious workshop in order to establish the level of interest in a more comprehensive research project on this topic. EFSA made a generous financial contribution towards making this workshop possible.

Paper delivered:

- Defining religious conservatism in the Western Cape from a multi-faith perspective (HL Bosman)

4.14 Symposium held during the inauguration of the Du Plessis statue (Stellenbosch)

Paper delivered:

- Professor Johannes du Plessis as Bybelwetenskaplike (HL Bosman)

4.15 Conference of the Synodal Commission for Doctrinal and Topical Affairs of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa / Beyers Naudé Centre (Wellington)

Paper delivered:

- The sun of righteousness has healing in its wings (Malachi 4:2) – aspects of justice and healing in the Old Testament (HL Bosman)

4.16 International conference on "Exegesis and Actualization in Africa and Europe: A Dialogue" (Stellenbosch)

The conference was arranged by Louis Jonker at the invitation of the Protestantse Kerken in Nederland [Protestant Churches in the Netherlands] (PKN), which also financed the whole conference. It was arranged in collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and the Ujamaa Centre (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Papers delivered:

- Living in different worlds simultaneously, or: A plea for contextual integrity (LC Jonker)
- Hermeneutics, liminality, and actualisation in South African biblical interpretation (J Punt)

4.17 Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) International Meeting (Edinburgh, UK)

Papers delivered:

- The Chronicler's Reinterpretation of Asa's Reign: A Secondary Audience in Chronicles? (LC Jonker)
- Connections in Queer and Postcolonial theory and biblical interpretation (J Punt)
- Invited panellist for a discussion on S Moore and FF Segovia's *Postcolonial Biblical criticism: Interdisciplinary intersections* (J Punt)

4.18 Lectures to postgraduate students at the Misjonshogskolen, Stavanger (Stavanger, Norway)

Louis Jonker was invited to deliver a number of lectures to postgraduate students at the Misjonshogskolen in Stavanger.

Lectures delivered:

- Reading with one eye closed? Or: What you miss when you do not read biblical texts multidimensionally (LC Jonker)
- 'Contextuality' in (South) African exegesis: Reflections on the communality of our exegetical methodologies (LC Jonker)

4.19 Societas Homiletica International Conference (Pretoria)

Paper delivered:

- Transmitting hope in the New Testament (AEJ Mouton)

4.20 Research seminar of the Department of Religion, University of Umeå, (Umeå, Sweden)

Paper delivered:

- The Bible's continuing role in South African society: Hermeneutics, actualisation, and marginality (J Punt)

4.21 European Association of Biblical Studies (Budapest, Hungary)

Papers delivered:

- The Prodigal Son and *Blade Runner*. Fathers and sons, and animosity (J Punt)
- The 'biblicisation' of politics in post-Apartheid South Africa: The Bible's presence in ecclesial and public politics (J Punt)

4.22 SA Missiological Society Conference (Stellenbosch)

Paper delivered:

- Bible (Acts), culture and the resurrection of Christ in religious dialogue: A response to J du Plessis (J Punt)

4.23 University of Stellenbosch and Theological University of Kampen consultation (Stellenbosch)

Paper delivered:

- The dignity of human sexuality: Compromised sexual selves and violated orientations (J Punt)

4.24 Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (Aberdeen, Scotland)

Paper delivered:

- The *New Wettstein* and a holistic reading of ancient texts (JC Thom)

5. Research output: Publications

(All publications marked with * appeared in fully or partially accredited publications.)

- 1 *BOSMAN, HL 2006. "Die interpretasiegeskiedenis van Ou-Testamentiese tekste wat met homoseksualiteit in verband gebring word." *Scriptura* 93. [An interpretation history of Old Testament texts as related to homosexuality.]
- 2 *FOSTER S. 2006. A prototypical definition of *bryt* "covenant" in Biblical Hebrew. *Old Testament Essays (new Series): Journal of the Old Testament of South Africa* 19(1), 35-46.
- 3 *JONKER, LC. 2006. "'Contextuality' in (South) African exegesis: Reflections on the communality of our exegetical methodologies." *Old Testament Essays* 19/1 (2006), 58-76.
- 4 *JONKER, LC. 2006. "From Multiculturality to Interculturality: Can Intercultural Biblical Hermeneutics be of any assistance?" *Scriptura* 91: 19–28.
- 5 *JONKER, LC. 2006. "Ou-Testamentiese tekste in die gesprek oor homoseksualiteit", *Scriptura* 93 [Old Testament texts in the discussions on homosexuality.]
- 6 *JONKER, LC. 2006. "The Cushites in the Chronicler's version of Asa's Reign: A Secondary Audience in Chronicles?", *Old Testament Essays* 19/3 (2006), 863-881.
- 7 *MOUTON, E. 2006. "Interpreting the New Testament in Africa: Bernard Lategan on the threshold of diverse theological discourses," in Breytenbach, JC & Thom, J (eds), *The New Testament Interpreted*. Leiden: Brill, 177 – 198.
- 8 *MOUTON, E. 2006. "The reorienting potential of Biblical narrative for Christian ethos, with special reference to Luke 7: 36-50", in Brawley, R (ed), *Character ethics and the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox.
- 9 *MOUTON, E. 2006. *Christian theology at the university: on the threshold or in the margin? (Kamper Oraties 30)*. Kampen: Theologische Universiteit van de Protestantse Kerk in Nederland.
- 10 *MOUTON, E. 2006. "The pathos of New Testament Studies". *Theologia Viatorum: Journal of Theology and Religion in Africa*, 1 - 23.
- 11 PUNT, J 2006. "Queer Theory intersecting with Postcolonial Theory in Biblical Interpretation." *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion (CSSR) Bulletin* 35(2): 30-34. (précis of an article appearing in *Biblical Interpretation* 2006)
- 12 *PUNT, J 2006. "Revealing rereading. Part 1: Pauline allegory in Gal 4:21-5:1". *Neotestamentica* 40(1): 87-100.
- 13 *PUNT, J 2006. "Revealing rereading. Part 2: Paul and the wives of the father of faith in Galatians 4:21-5:1." *Neotestamentica* 40(1): 101-118.
- 14 *PUNT, J 2006. "Men, males and masculinity in (Southern) Africa: A response." *Journal of Constructive Theology. Gender, religion and theology in Africa* 12(1): 105-117.
- 15 *PUNT, J 2006. "Postcolonial feminist interpretation of the Bible". *Scriptura* 92: 280ff.
- 16 *PUNT, J 2006. "Why not postcolonial biblical criticism in Southern Africa: Stating the obvious or looking for the impossible?" *Scriptura* 91: 63 – 82.

- 17 *PUNT, J 2006. "Queer theory, Postcolonial theory, and biblical interpretation. A preliminary exploration of some intersections." *Biblical Interpretation* (accepted for publication, forthcoming)
- 18 *PUNT, J 2006. Using the Bible in post-Apartheid South Africa: Its influence and impact amidst the gay debate. *Hervormde Teologiese Studies* 62(3) (accepted for publication, forthcoming)
- 19 *PUNT, J 2006. "On articulating marginalisation and marginality". Reviewing *Postcolonial biblical criticism: Interdisciplinary intersections*. *JSNT* (accepted for publication, forthcoming)
- 20 *PUNT, J 2006. "Decolonising and recolonising New Testament theology: A postcolonial perspective from Africa". In *Moving beyond New Testament theology? Essays in conversation with Heikki Räsänen* (edited by T Penner and C van der Stichele). Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Rupprecht, 133 – 160.
- 21 *PUNT, J 2006. "The exhortation to the Hebrews. Faith as diasporic living". In *Postcolonial Commentary on the NT*, edited by RS Sugirtharajah, forthcoming (Orbis).
- 22 PUNT, J 2006. "Paul and the Others: Insiders, outsiders and animosity." (for a collection of essays edited by F Janse van Rensburg and H van Rooy on "*The Bible, animosity and us*").
- 23 *PUNT, J 2006. "A politics of difference in the New Testament: Identity and the Others in Paul", in Breytenbach, JC, Thom, JC & Punt, J (eds), *The New Testament Interpreted*. Leiden: Brill, 199-225.
- 24 *THOM, JC 2006. "Dyads, triads and other compositional beasts in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)", in Breytenbach, JC, Thom, J & Punt J (eds), *The New Testament Interpreted*. Leiden: Brill, 291-308.
- 25 *RUNGE SE. 2006. Pragmatic effects of semantically redundant anchoring expressions in Biblical Hebrew narrative. *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 32(2) : 85-102.
- 26 *THOMPSON J. 2006. Towards a more theoretical understanding of Biblical Hebrew vocabulary. *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages*; 32(1) : 97-111.
- 27 *VAN DER MERWE CHJ, HENDRIKS E. 2006. Translating metaphors into Afrikaans in a source language-orientated translation of the Hebrew Bible. *Spil Plus* 33 : 43-68.
- 28 *VAN DER MERWE CHJ. 2006. Lexical meaning in Biblical Hebrew and cognitive semantics: a case study. *Biblica* 87(1) : 85-95.
- 29 VAN DER MERWE CHJ. 2006. *Biblical exegesis, cognitive linguistics and hypertext*. 18th Congress of the International Organisation for the Study of the Old Testament, Leiden, Netherlands, Brill, 255-280.
- 30 VAN DER MERWE CHJ. 2006. Biblical Hebrew lexicology: a cognitive linguistic perspective. *Kleine Untersuchungen zur Sprache des Alten Testaments und seiner Umwelt* 6, 87-112.
- 31 *VAN STEENBERGEN GJ. 2006. World view theory and Bible translation. *Old Testament Essays (new Series): Journal of the Old Testament of South Africa* 19(1), 216-236.
- 32 VAN STEENBERGEN, GJ 2006. *Semantics, world view and Bible translation*. Stellenbosch: SUN Press.
- 33 *WENDLAND ER. 2006. The structure, style, sense and significance of Haggai's prophecy concerning the "House of the LORD" - with special reference to Bible interpretation and translation in Africa (Part II). *Old Testament Essays (new Series): Journal of the Old Testament of South Africa* 19(1) : 281-306.

- 34 *WENDLAND ER. 2006. "The structure, style, sense, and significance of Haggai's prophecy concerning the 'house of the LORD'— with special reference to Bible interpretation and translation in Africa" (Part Two). *Old Testament Essays* 19/1:283-308.
- 35 WENDLAND ER. 2006. "Translator training in Africa: Is there a better way of teaching and learning?" *The Bible Translator* (Practical Series) 57/2: 58-65.
- 36 *WENDLAND ER. 2006. *A sociolinguistic framework for intercultural communication— As applied to confessional Lutheran mission strategy, translation technique, and leadership training*. Milwaukee, WI: Board for World Missions *Theoled* website— Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (pp. 1-230).
- 37 WENDLAND ER. 2006. "Aspects of quality and quality control in Bible translation" (paper and power-point presentation). *International conference—2005: Quality in Bible translation*, CD media publication. Dallas: SIL International.
- 38 WENDLAND ER. 2006. "From the eyes of a girl to the eyes of a goat" Julius Chongo's visualization of dramatic narrative for an invisible radio audience." *Research in African Literatures* 37:2, 98-123.
- 39 WENDLAND ER. 2006. "Theology and ministry in Africa through Bible translation: 'How firm a foundation'?" *The Bible Translator* 57:4, 206-216.
- 40 WENDLAND ER. 2006. *LiFE-style translating: A workbook for Bible translators* (SIL Publications in Translation and Textlinguistics 2). Dallas: SIL International.
- 41 *WENDLAND ER. 2006. "Communicating the Beauty of a Wise and 'Worthy Wife' (Proverbs 31:10-31): From Hebrew Acrostic Hymn to a Tonga Traditional Praise Poem." *Old Testament Essays* 19/3, 1239-1274.

6. Service

6.1 New Bible translation project

- Prof. CHJ van der Merwe contributed towards the project as a member of the supervisory committee.
- Prof. CHJ van der Merwe made a contribution at follow-up training workshops for co-workers on the new Bible in Afrikaans
- The following mother-tongue speakers and exegetes directly connected with the Centre are collaborating on this translation project: Professors HL Bosman, AEJ Mouton, JC Thom, CHJ van der Merwe, LC Jonker and J Punt en Ms Tiana Bosman. Professors P A Kruger, JCook, P de Villiers and Dr Alec Basson (as post-doc), who work at the University, have also been appointed as co-workers. Other postgraduate alumni of the Centre's participating departments who are participating in the project are Dr E Meyer and Dr JP Bosman.

6.2 Editors and editorial boards

- Prof. HL Bosman is a member of the editorial board of *Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif*
- Prof. HL Bosman is the co-editor of *Scriptura*
- Prof. HL Bosman serves on the "Abstracts" panel of *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*
- Prof. LC Jonker is on the editorial board of *Old Testament Essays*
- Prof. AEJ Mouton is the co-editor of *Scriptura*
- Prof. AEJ Mouton is on the editorial board of *Horizons in Biblical Theology*
- Prof. JC Thom is the executive editor of *Novum Testamentum*

- Prof. JC Thom is the co-editor of “SBL Writings from the Greco-Roman World” series
- Prof. JC Thom is a member of the editorial board of *Neotestamentica*
- Prof. JC Thom is a member of the editorial board of *New Testament Studies*
- Prof. CHJ van der Merwe is a member of the editorial board of UBS journal: *The Bible Translator*.
- Prof. CHJ van der Merwe is a member of the editorial board of UBS's dictionary project: “A Semantic Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew.”

6.3 Popular publications and presentations

Several co-workers made contributions to popular publications and presentations, sermons, Bible Study and discussion groups. During the year under review the following themes were addressed:

- The new Bible translation project
- The Gospel of Judas
- The Da Vinci Code
- Homosexuality

7. United Bible Societies and the Centre

At the Triennial Translations Workshop in Mombasa (see §4.4) discussions were held (at the request of the new head of the UBS's translation division, Dr Phil Towner) on the ways in which the relationship between the Centre and the UBS could be further formalised. It emerged from the discussions that the UBS needs to establish links with an institution where their almost 100 translation consultants (all of whom already have doctorates) can do research for 3 to 4 weeks per year on a regular basis. Stellenbosch would be able to meet all their needs in this respect. It was decided that Dr Towner would visit Stellenbosch in March 2007 to take this initiative further. On this occasion he would also hand the Centre a cheque for \$20 000 for a doctoral research project on a new Hebrew dictionary for Bible translators.

8. Centre's publication series

Gerrit van Steenberg's *Semantic, worldview and Bible translation* appeared early in 2006 as the first volume of the series. Eric Hermanson's *Metaphor in Zulu* appeared later in the year. Stuart Foster's *An experiment in Bible translation as transcultural communication: The translation of ברית 'Covenant' into Lomwe, with a focus on Leviticus 26* is currently in preparation.

9. Newsletter

The Centre's annual newsletter did not appear in 2006.

10. Finances

The Centre's short-term finances are sound. Details appear in the financial report (available on request from the Director lcj@sun.ac.za).

11. Acknowledgements

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



Prof. AE Feinauer
Chair: Management Committee

9 May 2007

Date



Prof. LC Jonker
Director

9 May 2007

Date