

# ***CHRIST THE HOPE FOR AFRICA***

***– THE NEXT 20 YEARS –***



**WINTER SCHOOL  
10–12 June 2014**



FAKULTEIT TEOLOGIE  
FACULTY of THEOLOGY  
*sol iustitiae illustra nos*

presented by the  
Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University  
in collaboration with  
Communitas, Ekklesia and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology

# PROGRAMME

## Tuesday 10 June

- 08:00 Registration
- 09:00 Welcoming
- 09:15 Spirituality session: Bishop Margaret Vertue
- 09:45 Keynote speaker: Dr. Mvume Dandala
- 10:45 Tea
- 11:15 Morning parallel sessions (Day 1)
- 12:30 Lunch (delegates' own responsibility)
- 14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions (tea/coffee will be served)
- 16:30 Spit-braai at Hofmeyr Hall, Church Street

## Wednesday 11 June

- 09:00 Spirituality session: Revds. Peter Langerman and John van de Laar
- 09:30 Keynote speaker: Ms. Marlene le Roux
- 10:30 Tea
- 11:00 Morning parallel sessions (Day 2)
- 12:30 Lunch (delegates' own responsibility)
- 14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions (tea/coffee will be served)
- 16:00 Departure

## Thursday 12 June

- 09:00 Spirituality session: Rev. Lucas Plaatjie
- 09:30 Morning parallel sessions (Day 3)
- 11:00 Tea
- 11:30 Keynote speaker: Dr. Dion Forster
- 12:30 Evaluation and Closing

# WINTER SCHOOL 2014

## CHRIST THE HOPE FOR AFRICA – THE NEXT 20 YEARS –

Church pastors, students, academics from schools of religion and the general public are invited to a Winter School entitled ***Christ the hope for Africa – the next 20 years*** which will be presented by the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with Communitas, the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology and Ekklesia from Tuesday 10 June to Thursday 12 June 2014 at the Faculty of Theology, 171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.

### The vision of the Winter School is

- Continuing theological education and formation of pastors and other spiritual leaders;
- Strengthening of the relationships between the Faculty and different churches, and between the churches, and
- Discussion of relevant theological, congregational and public issues.

## THEME

### ***Christ the hope for Africa – the next 20 years***

During 2014 we celebrate 20 years of democracy in South Africa. We will reflect upon the past two decades from the perspective of Christian faith. We shall infer lessons from the past that will inform our reflection upon our joint journey as an ecumenical family into the future.

- + We will reflect in the context of celebrating twenty years of constitutional democracy in South Africa.
- + We will reflect in the context of the awareness that churches remain the institutions that enjoy the highest levels of trust amongst South Africans.
- + We will reflect in the context of the awareness that Christian faith enjoys its highest growth on the continent of Africa.
- + We will reflect in the context of future-orientness, asking what type of societies we want to leave for the next generations.
- + We will reflect in the context of our quest to be faithful disciples and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the Hope of Africa, the Hope of the world.
- + We will reflect in the context of our hunger for realistic hope, for resilient hope, for responsive hope.

# KEYNOTE SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

## Day 1

---

The church in South Africa cannot survive on its own. We have a calling to be a faithful church and therefore to be a relevant church in Africa. Amidst evidence of Afro-pessimism, Christians believe that there is hope for and from Africa. The aim is to share these stories of hope.

- **Dr. Mvume Dandala** (*President of Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg; Former president of the South African Council of Churches; Former general secretary of the All Africa Council of Churches*).

## Day 2

---

We focus on the question: What are the vital things for us to do in the next twenty years? The aim is more clarity on the agenda of the church for the next two decades.

- **Ms. Marlene le Roux** (*Director of Audience Development and Education at Artscape Theatre Centre; Member of the Commission of Culture, Religion and Linguistic communities; Author of the book "Look at Me" on women with disabilities*).

## Day 3

---

The socio-economic development of Africa is of crucial importance. As we strive to address these almost overwhelming challenges in partnership with various role-players, we confess that Jesus Christ is our hope. We, therefore, believe that the church can play a vital and indispensable role as bearers of hope in Africa. The aim is to revive and

strengthen the calling of churches to be nurturers and bearers of hope on our continent.

- **Dr. Dion Forster** (*Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology, SU; Senior researcher at the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology; Chairperson of EXPOSED*).



## PROGRAMME

The conference will consist of plenary and parallel sessions with ample time for discussion. The plenary presentations will be primarily in English, and the parallel sessions in the speaker's language of preference (Afrikaans or English).

### Participants will:

- choose **one of the themes** for the morning parallel sessions presented **over three days**;
- choose **one** of the Tuesday afternoon parallel sessions; and
- choose **one** of the Wednesday afternoon parallel sessions

### MORNING PARALLEL SESSIONS (P)

The morning parallel sessions will focus on the following:

**P1** ~ Hope in the midst of Despair: Exploring hope in the Old and New Testament

**P2** ~ Activism or/and Advocacy?

**P3** ~ An engaged spirituality for the next 20 years – three perspectives

**P4** ~ The church – part of Africa and part of a global world

**P5** ~ What happened to reconciliation – the first 20 years and the next 20 years

**(choose one theme presented over three days)**

## P1 Hope in the midst of Despair: Exploring hope in the Old and New Testament

---

This session will explore the theme of hope in the Old and New Testament, which can often be considered to be a case of hoping against hope.

Day 1: Attention will be given to the way the promise of land and offspring is portrayed in the OT which is particularly significant in a contemporary context in which land has become a contested issue.

Day 2: The focus will be on how biblical prophets like Jeremiah could preach hope even though Israel was hurled into chaos during the Babylonian Exile.

Day 3: We shall explore how Paul articulated the ultimate Christian hope – the resurrection of the dead and the recreation of creation.

### Presenters:

- *Prof. Hendrik Bosman (Old and New Testament, SU)*
- *Dr. Ntozakhe Cezula (Old and New Testament, SU)*
- *Prof. Juliana Claassens (Old and New Testament, SU)*
- *Dr. Marius Nel (Old and New Testament, SU)*

## P2 Activism or/and Advocacy?

---

Advocacy and activism are terms people use when they speak about social justice. Activism is defined as the theory or practice of assertive action. Advocacy is defined as the act of actively supporting, that is, pleading or arguing in favour of something. What is the role of the church in our society today? Must we be activists or advocates or both? Does the Bible give us any clues when it speaks about priests, prophets and kings?

### Presenters:

- *Prof. Nico Koopman (Dean of the Faculty of Theology, SU; Director of the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology)*
- *Mr. Craig Stewart (Director of The Warehouse, Cape Town - serving the church in its response to poverty, injustice and division; National Coordinator for "Micah Challenge South Africa")*
- *Dr. Pieter Grove (Vice-Moderator of URCSA Cape Synod; Pastor of Sarepta congregation)*

## P3 An engaged spirituality for the next 20 years – three perspectives

---

Spirituality is the heartbeat of the church. Many Christians will define spirituality as "living in the presence of God." The question is: What does it mean for different Christians from different ecclesiastical backgrounds? In the next 20 years we cannot struggle on our own. We need one another and can learn from the different church traditions. Three speakers from different ecclesiastical backgrounds will give their own perspectives on the theme.

### Presenters:

- *Dr. Mags Blackie (Senior lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science, SU; Research associate to the Faculty*

*of Theology, SU; Spiritual director and author of "Rooted in Love: Integrating Ignatian spirituality into daily life"; Member of the Roman Catholic Church)*

- *Dr. Breda Ludik (Pastor of DRC Helderberg, Somerset West; Part-time lecturer in Practical Theology, SU)*
- *Dr. Spiwo Xapile (Senior pastor of JL Zwane Memorial Church in Guguletu and Director of the JL Zwane Centre; Member of the Boards of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and Institute for Healing of Memories; Minister of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa)*

## **P4 The church – part of Africa and part of a global world**

---

The church in South Africa does not exist in a vacuum. We are part of the African continent and also part of a global world. This session will illuminate the theme from three perspectives: (1) Theological perspective; (2) Economic and development perspective; (3) Independent Pentecostal churches in Africa perspective.

### **Presenters:**

- *Prof. Tersur Aben (Rector: Theological College of Northern Nigeria)*
- *Dr. Grant Hatch (Economic and Development Consultant; Former Head of Strategy and Operations with Accenture, South Africa)*
- *Past. Xola Skosana (Way of Life Church, Khayelitsha)*

## **P5 What happened to reconciliation – the first 20 years and the next 20 years**

---

The church played a major role in South Africa's reconciliation process. A few questions may be posed: What happened to reconciliation during the past 20 years? Did the church do enough? What is our role in the future? This session will provide a few possible answers to the above-mentioned questions.

### **Presenters:**

- *Prof. Piet Meiring (Emeritus Professor in Missiology, UP; former Member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)*
- *Dr. Franklin Sonn (Former Rector of Peninsula Technikon; Former Ambassador to the USA)*

## **AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSIONS (PS)**

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON ~ 10 JUNE 2014 (PS)**

**(choose one session)**

## **PS1 Challenges for congregations in the next 20 years**

---

Our country faces many challenges as part of Africa and the global world. The same can be said about every local congregation. The question is: Are we ready to face the challenges or do we simply ignore them? This session will focus on three aspects: (1) How do we start a new movement? (2) How do we access the core capacity needed for pastors? (3) The mixed economy as a challenge for mainline denominations.

### **Presenters:**

- *Rev. Gielie Loubser (DRC Task Team for Youth and Family Ministry)*
- *Dr. Philip Botha (The Community Church, Sunningdale; DRC Task Team for New Church Development)*
- *Rev. Andrew Esterhuizen (URCSA Task Team for the Guidance of Pastors; URCSA Kraaifontein)*
- *Dr Pierre Goosen (DRC Task Team for the Guidance of Pastors)*

## PS2 Sacraments and life

---

Sacraments are an integral part of our worship services on a Sunday. However, we can pose a few questions: Do the sacraments make a difference in our everyday life? During this session we discuss the insights from two influential publications by Prof. Paul Galbreath “Leading from the Table” (2008) and “Leading through the Water” (2011).

### Presenter:

- *Rev. Keith Griffiths (Emeritus Anglican Priest and currently Secretary General of the Church Unity Commission and active in liturgical development in an ecumenical environment)*

## PS3 The role of music in the church for the next 20 years

---

Music helps us to worship God. Unfortunately music was also a matter of dispute in many congregations in the past. This session will help us to use music in a practical manner, to value the role of music in our different contexts, and to help us experience the presence of God.

### Presenter:

- *Rev. John van de Laar (Methodist minister; Founder of Sacredise, a publishing, resourcing and training ministry)*

## PS4 Preaching in the next 20 years

---

Preaching was an integral part of most worship services 20 years ago. We must acknowledge that in some congregations the content and style of preaching stayed exactly the same. Is preaching still relevant for people living in world with diverse styles of communication and an overload of information? What must the content and style of our preaching be in the next 20 years?

### Presenter:

- *Dr. Andries Cilliers (Pastor of DRC Sonstraal, Durbanville)*

## PS5 Intercultural churches – the next 20 years

---

We live in a diverse country with various different cultures, but unfortunately many congregations do not reflect this diversity. We must acknowledge that in some instances nothing has changed in the last 20 years. This session will help us to embrace diversity in our congregations and experience the rich value thereof.

### Presenter:

- *Dr. Bruce Theron (Pastor of United Congregational Church Kuilsrivier; Programme manager of Ekklesia)*



# WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ~ 11 JUNE 2014 (PS)

(choose one session)

## PS6 How do you see the role of the church in the next 20 years? Three young voices

---

Most often the church is run by older male leaders. In this session we ask three young church leaders to share their vision and insights about the church for the next 20 years. We must listen to these young voices from different ecclesiastical backgrounds, otherwise we will stagnate as a church.

**Presenters:**

- *Rev. Lundi Joko (Anglican Church Westridge, Mitchells Plain)*
- *Rev. Carika Hanekom (DRC Sonstraal, Durbanville)*
- *Ms. Shantelle Weber (Lecturer in Youth Ministry, SU; Common Ground Church, Rondebosch)*

## PS7 Reflections on Pentecost – from different perspectives

---

All churches celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. However, we know that churches have different perspectives on the role of the Holy Spirit. In this session we discuss two perspectives from different ecclesiastical traditions in order to learn from one another.

**Preenters:**

- *Dr. Coenie Burger (Director of Ekklesia; DRC pastor).*
- *Past. Costa Mitchell (National Director of the Association of Vineyard Churches in South Africa).*

## PS8 “Fresh expressions” for the next 20 years

---

We know that there are things that will stay the same in the church. However, we also know that not everything can remain the same as it was 20 years ago. Some churches struggle to embrace new ways of being church in a changing environment. This session will look at the biblical basis and practical shaping of fresh expressions of the church in different contexts.

**Presenters:**

- *Rev. Gordon Crowther (Church of the Holy Spirit, Kirstenhof; Leader of “Fresh expressions” team in Anglican Church)*
- *Dr. Philip Botha (The Community Church, Sunningdale; DRC Task Team for New Church Development)*



## PS9 Children's ministry – the next 20 years

---

In the past church leaders made the remark "We must look after our children well, since they are the church of the future." Every church leader knows that a dynamic children's ministry is essential for the future of the church. But we also know that children are already the church of today. Children's ministry must be an integrated part of every congregation.

### Presenter:

- *Ms. Karla van Biljon (Youth worker specializing in children's ministry, DRC Kenridge)*

## PS10 Discipleship – the real deal revolution

---

Discipleship was an integral part of Jesus' ministry on earth. During the past years there were many models of discipleship in the church. This session tries to provide answers to the question: Is it not time for us to re-look the way we view discipleship?

### Presenter:

- *Dr. John Fischer (New Life Vineyard, Pinelands)*
- *Past. Clive Garton (Grapevine Christian Fellowship)*



## REGISTRATION

- The registration fee for the conference is R350. URCSA and DRC pastors from the Cape/Western Cape Synod will be subsidised by their local Synods and will pay R150. There are also a few bursaries available for the Winter School (contact Wilma le Roux for more information).
- Lunch is not included in the programme - there are, however, many restaurants within walking distance of the Faculty of Theology. Participants are invited to a spit-braai on Tuesday evening 10 June 2014 (16:30 – 19:00); the cost is included in the registration fee.
- Please complete the attached registration form and return it to Wilma le Roux, E-mail [wler@sun.ac.za](mailto:wler@sun.ac.za) or fax 086 563 7128 before **Friday 30 May 2014**.



## ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. A list of guest houses within walking distance of the faculty is available from Wilma le Roux, E-mail [wler@sun.ac.za](mailto:wler@sun.ac.za)

## ENQUIRIES

### **Faculty of Theology**

Helette van der Westhuizen  
Tel: 021 808 9560  
E-mail: [hvdwest@sun.ac.za](mailto:hvdwest@sun.ac.za)

### **Communitas**

Wilma le Roux  
Tel: 021 808 3624  
E-mail: [wler@sun.ac.za](mailto:wler@sun.ac.za)

### **Ekklesia**

Chrisna van der Merwe  
Tel: 021 808 4269  
E-mail: [cmer@sun.ac.za](mailto:cmer@sun.ac.za)

### **Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology**

Helette van der Westhuizen  
Tel: 021 808 9560  
E-mail: [hvdwest@sun.ac.za](mailto:hvdwest@sun.ac.za)

**Presented by the  
Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University,  
171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch  
in collaboration with  
Communitas, Ekklesia and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology**

