

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

In celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bible Society in South Africa, as well as a preview for the launch of the new Afrikaans Bible translation *Die Bybel: 'n Direkte Vertaling* in November 2020, the Theological School Potchefstroom is organizing an academic conference in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology of the NWU . We would like to invite you to present a conference paper on this occasion.

**Theme:** The impact of the Bible on our society: past, present and future

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Venue:** Buildings of the Faculty of Theology and the Theological School Potchefstroom

In keeping with the overall theme, the following sub-themes are discussed:

### 1. Bible translation in South Africa and / or Africa

To translate texts written between 2000 and 3000 years ago requires specialist expertise. Various issues are raised, e.g. which source texts to use; translation equivalents between source and target languages; translation types; time- and culture-oriented aspects of the ancient source texts versus the contemporary cultures of the target readers or listeners; translation methodology; and the production of translations in a variety of media. Therefore, the theory, methodology and practice of Bible translation deserve ongoing reflection.

### 2. Bible interpretation in the South African context

There have been many shifts in the area of biblical hermeneutics over the past few decades. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, more text-oriented principles of interpretation were the order of the day (e.g., the grammatical-historical methodology). In the post-modern and post-colonial era, hermeneutic principles became more reader-oriented (e.g., liberation theology, feminist criticism, post-colonial criticism). Although the effect of these shifts only later became evident in South Africa, it calls for continued reflection.

### 3. The impact of the Bible on societal structures (e.g. arts, science, literature, politics, teaching, etc.) and faith communities

The Bible affects every facet of human activity – it provides themes for scientists, poets, writers, filmmakers, artists and musicians, and it is a powerful factor in the moral development of man. It is cited more than any other literature and has more influence on our languages, culture and laws than any other book. Elucidation of this on South African soil deserves ongoing research.

The aim is to publish these conference contributions in a special issue of "In die Skriflig / In Luce Verbi".

Persons planning to read papers are requested to send the title of the presentation and an abstract of approximately 250 words by 31 March 2020 to [albert.coetsee@nwu.ac.za](mailto:albert.coetsee@nwu.ac.za) and [viljoen.francois@nwu.ac.za](mailto:viljoen.francois@nwu.ac.za)

The planned schedule:

March 31, 2020	Submission of title and summary of presentation
April 15, 2020	Confirmation of accepted presentations
July 23, 2020	Conference
November 30, 2020	Submission of articles for selection
2021	Publication of articles

We trust that this conference and subsequent publication will strengthen ties with local and international institutions that are also part of the Reformed Tradition.

Linked to this conference are the following activities:

1. Conference Dinner – July 23
2. Elucidation session by the editorial team of *Die Bybel: 'n Direkte Vertaling* – July 24
3. Bicycle ride and elucidation: From the Totiushuis to Krugerskaal – 25 July

For further inquiries please contact [albert.coetsee@nwu.ac.za](mailto:albert.coetsee@nwu.ac.za) or [viljoen.francois@nwu.ac.za](mailto:viljoen.francois@nwu.ac.za)