RAPPORT AAN KERKE

1 AGTERGROND

In Mei 1869 het veertien Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika saam in hul vierde Algemene Sinode besluit om met ŉ eie teologiese opleiding te begin. Net meer as 150 jaar later - op 11 Junie 2019 - het die kuratore wat verantwoordelikheid dra vir hierdie predikantsopleiding vergader.

Die voorsitter van die kuratore, ds. Piet Venter, het vanuit Jesaja 6:1-8 die kuratore opnuut bewus laat word hoe heilig en groots die Here is en hoe klein ons as mense. Vanuit die versoening deur ons Here Jesus kan elke kind van die Here egter leef en hul roeping uitleef.

2 PERSONEEL EN STUDENTE VAN TEOLOGIESE SKOOL

Die kuratore fokus in hul dienswerk in die eerste plek op die welstand van die personeel en studente van die Teologiese Skool. Ten opsigte van die personeel word gekyk na ŉ basiese oorsig van die werk wat hulle doen, hul versorging asook hul lewe en werk in al ons kerke.

Vanjaar is daar 55 broers wat as bedienaars van die Woord voorberei word. Deur die Gees se werk het agt jongmanne hierdie jaar vir die eerste keer by die Teologiese Skool begin studeer. Hulle word nie net akademies gevorm nie, maar ook begelei om in hul hele lewe konkreet saam met en vanuit die genadekrag van die Here te leef. Gedurende 2019 is agt studente besig om hulle finaal voor te berei om – as die Here dit gee – aan die einde van die jaar by die onderskeie Streeksinodes aan te meld om beroepbaar gestel te word.

Die kuratore poog om met verskillende geleenthede tydens studente se studiejare persoonlik met hulle te praat. Daar word aandag gegee aan hul persoonlike verhouding met die Here, hul vordering in hul studiewerk asook hul persoonlike lewe. Daarmee saam probeer elke Streeksinode se kuratore ook persoonlik ŉ pad te stap met die studente uit die betrokke Streeksinode.

Die studente het gedurende die eerste vyf maande van 2019 op verskeie vlakke praktiese werk gedoen. Positiewe terugvoer is van die gemeentes ontvang waarbinne die studente gewerk het, met selfs versoeke dat van die praktiese werk uitgebrei word. Die derde-jaar-studente het spesifiek interkulturele blootstelling gekry waartydens hulle in ŉ gemeente uit ŉ ander kultuur as waarin hulle self opgegroei het, werksaam was. Hierdie studente het opgemerk dat hulle hiermee ŉ goeie insig verkry het in die lewe van medegelowiges wat soms wesenlik anders is as hul eie lewe.

3 VERHOUDING MET NWU EN ANDER OPLEIDINGSINSTANSIES

Die kuratore is tans besig om op deurlopende basis aandag te gee aan die verhouding van die GKSA en die Noordwes Universiteit. Daarmee saam word uitvoering gegee aan die opdrag van Sinode 2018 om te let op verskillende behoeftes in kerke ten opsigte van die opleiding van bedienaars van die Woord asook die toerusting van ampsdraers en kerke. Gesprekke binne hierdie konteks is in die afgelope tyd onder andere gevoer met Mukhanyo Theological College, Dumisani Theological Institute, AROS asook Docenda.

4 TEOLOGIESE SKOOL 150 JAAR OUD

Waar die Teologiese Skool vanjaar 150 jaar oud is, word saam met die studente verskeie treë terug in die verlede gegee. Nie net het die finale jaar studente se kerkgeskiedenistoer rigting Burgersdorp gegaan nie, maar ook het die Teologiese Studentevereniging ŉ bustoer na die Burgersdorp-omgewing vir alle belangstellendes gereël. Daarmee saam het ŉ klompie studente onder leiding van proff. Chris van der Walt en Albert Coetsee ook ŉ fietstoer vanaf Burgersdorp tot in Potchefstroom onderneem. Waar Burgersdorp die eerste tuiste was van die Teologiese Skool (vanaf 1869 tot 1903), is die studente op hierdie wyse geleentheid gegee om begrip te ontwikkel vir die ontstaansgeskiedenis van die GKSA en veral die Teologiese Skool.

Vir die res van die jaar word 'n akademiese konferensie beplan vir 18-20 September 2019 te Potchefstroom met die tema: ***Die impak van Gereformeerde Teologie***. Almal in kerkverband word uitgenooi om hieraan deel te neem (met inligting wat verkry kan word by prof Francois Viljoen (viljoen.francois@nwu.ac.za) en prof Albert Coetsee (albert.coetsee@nwu.ac.za)). Verder word kerke en klasses ook aangemoedig om self inisiatief te neem om hierdie genadedaad van die Here (150 jaar gereformeerde teologiese opleiding) te vier.

5 DIE PAD VORENTOE

Met die vergadering van die kuratore aan die einde van 2018 het die kuratore gebid dat ons Here die Teologiese Opleiding in 2019 ook weer sal seën! Na die eerste vyf maande van 2019 beleef ons hoe die Here sy seën elke dag weer sprinkel én uitstort. Ons erken Hom as die Alfa en die Omega, die Bron en Fokus van ons hele teologiese opleiding, en bid dat Hy Sy geroepenes (professore, studente en ondersteuningspersoneel) met die krag van sy Gees en die genade van ons Here Jesus sal bly toerus!

U broers in Christus

Malan van Rhyn

Pieter Kurpershoek

REPORT TO THE CHURCHES

1 BACKGROUND

In May 1869, during the fourth General Synod, fourteen Reformed Churches in South Africa together decided to start their own theological training. Just over 150 years later - on June 11, 2019 - the curators who take responsibility for this ministerial training meet.

As he read from Isaiah 6: 1-8, the chairman of the curators, Rev. Piet Venter, once again made the curators aware of how holy and great the Lord is and how small we are as humans. However, from the reconciliation of our Lord Jesus, every child of the Lord can live and fulfil their calling.

2 STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

The curators focus in their service work primarily on the well-being of the staff and students of the Theological School. Regarding the staff, the curators look at a basic overview of the work they do, their care as well as their lives and work in all our churches.

This year there are 55 brothers who are being prepared as ministers of the Word. Through the Spirit's work, eight young men started studying for the first time at the Theological School. They are not only academically formed, but also guided to live concretely with and from the grace of the Lord throughout their lives. During 2019, eight students were finally preparing to sign up - if the Lord gave it - at the end of the year at the respective Regional Synods.

The curators try to talk to them personally at different opportunities during the students' years of study. Attention is paid to their personal relationship with the Lord, their progress in their study and their personal life. In addition, each Regional Synod's curators also try to make personal contact with the students from the relevant Regional Synod.

During the first five months of 2019, the students did practical work at various levels. Positive feedback was received from the congregations within which the students worked, with even requests that the practical work be expanded. The third-year students specifically received intercultural exposure during which they worked in a congregation from another culture than the culture in which they grew up. These students have noticed that they have gained a good insight into the lives of fellow believers who are sometimes substantially different from their own lives.

3 RELATIONSHIP WITH NWU AND OTHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

The curators are currently paying close attention to the relationship between the GKSA and the North-West University. In addition, in the executing of the commission of Synod 2018, attention is given to different needs in churches regarding the training of ministers of the Word as well as the equipment of office bearers and churches. Discussions within this context have recently been conducted with, among others, Mukhanyo Theological College, Dumisani Theological Institute, AROS as well as Docenda.

4 THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL 150 YEARS OLD

Where the Theological School is 150 years old this year, the students are giving several steps back in the past. Not only did the final year students go on the church history tour to Burgersdorp, but the Theological Student Association also arranged a bus trip to the Burgersdorp area for all interested parties. In addition, a number of students under the guidance of Profs. Chris van der Walt and Albert Coetsee also undertook a bicycle tour from Burgersdorp to Potchefstroom. Burgersdorp was the first home of the Theological School (from 1869 to 1903) and the students were thus given the opportunity to develop an understanding of the history of the origin of the GKSA and especially the Theological School.

For the rest of the year, an academic conference is planned for 18-20 September 2019 at Potchefstroom with the theme: ***The Impact of Reformed Theology***. All members of the denomination are invited to participate (information can be obtained from Prof Francois Viljoen (viljoen.francois@nwu.ac.za) and Prof Albert Coetsee (albert.coetsee@nwu.ac.za). Churches and classes are also encouraged to take initiative to celebrate the Lord's mercy (150 years of reformed theological training).

5 THE ROAD FORWARD

With the meeting of the curators at the end of 2018, the curators had prayed that our Lord would bless the Theological Training again in 2019! After the first five months of 2019, we experience how the Lord sprinkles and pours out his blessing every day. We acknowledge Him as the Alpha and the Omega, the Source and Focus of our entire theological training, and pray that He will continue to equip His called servants (professors, students and support staff) with the power of His Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus!

Your brothers in Christ

Malan van Rhyn

Pieter Kurpershoek