

**Minutes**  
**NetACT Workshop**  
**Justo Mwale Theological College, Lusaka, Zambia**  
**18 - 25 April 2001**

**18 April 2001.**

**1. Present:**

1. Dekker Prof. G., Free University of Amsterdam, [Holland](#)
2. Ekitala Rev. A, Reformed Institute for Theological Training, [Kenya](#)
3. Erasmus Dr. J, Stellenbosch, [RSA](#)
4. Hartgerink Dr. R, Elmer E Hartgerink Trust, [Michigan, USA](#)
5. Hendriks Prof. H J, Faculty- Theology Univ Stellenbosch, [RSA](#)
6. Kasambala Rev. A E, Justo Mwale Theological College, [Zambia](#)
7. Lim Rev., [Rev. J K, NIFCOTT, Malawi](#)
8. Mostert Rev. N., DRC Lusaka/JMTC, [Zambia](#)
9. Msangaambe Rev. C, NIFCOTT, [Malawi](#)
10. Murray Rev H W, Murray Theological College, [Zimbabwe](#)
11. Mwananandi Dr. D S, Zomba Theological College, [Malawi](#)
12. Nyirenda Dr. S M, Zomba Theological College, [Malawi](#)
13. Pauw Prof. M, Secretary Mission, DRC Western Cape Synod, [RSA](#)
14. Pienaar Rev. Z, Namibia
15. Rutoro Rev. R., Murray Theological College, [Zimbabwe](#)
16. [Van den Ham Rev. E, Reformed Institute for Theological Training, Kenya](#)
17. [Van Deventer Dr. H, NIFCOTT, Malawi](#)
18. [Van Wyk Dr. J J, Justo Mwale Theological College, Zambia](#)

**2. Opening Prayers.**

Prof. Hendriks led the Bible Study from Ex. 3:1-17.

**19 April 2001**

**3. Opening Prayers**

Prof. M. Pauw led in prayers from Ezekiel 1:28 – 2, 3:10. Firstly, it begins with a vision of the glory of God. Secondly, when this awareness happens it is possible to hear God speak, and speak His words. Thirdly no guarantee that Ezekiel will be successful with his message.

**4. Introduction**

For practical reasons it was decided that Dr. Hartgerink shall act as facilitator in order to allow Prof. Hendriks to participate in discussions.

**4.1. Chairperson's Report**

Origin: vision at University of Stellenbosch : DRC was trying to rediscover its identity in Africa. 4 faculty members visited 37 faculties in Southern Africa in order to try and understand what was going on in Africa. Report indicated that the churches in Southern Africa need to work together. There are little resources in Southern Africa for good academic research. AIDS was already rampant and disrupting. On curriculum

development, the clear need was for practical theology with emphasis on congregational studies. JH then taught a short course on congregational studies. US found that there were many points of contact through alumni of US. JH on his visits to faculties, taught for 3 months on congregational studies, and came to the understanding that his own insight into this topic is limited to his DRC insights. He felt that if all can work together, such a book will be better.

During a 3 month stint at Western Seminary in the US, JH became convinced that the current methodology for doing theology is irrelevant. He had to ask anew: What is theology, and how to teach it to students to empower them to deal scripturally with our problems in our society in Africa? He wrote a 94 page document "What is Theology?" This is being taught at US as introduction to their whole course.

The first tentative plans for forming a network were laid before some delegates in Kenya in 2000 during NEGST.

***Since Kenya 2000, the following happened:***

- ◆ In Amsterdam a meeting was held of Reformed theologians about our Reformed identity. Was decided that a June 2000 meeting be held in SA in order to allow Developing World Reformed Christians to participate. NetACT played a crucial role, and 10 of the 20 papers contained in the book of this meeting, came from developing world theologians.
- ◆ In 2000 JH visited USA in order to find resources to start off NetACT. The congregational studies working group in USA is strong, respected and influential group, and was met by JH. They volunteered their help, their published materials etc. The aim is to develop a congregational theology, enabling the church in Africa to define and understand congregations.
- ◆ JH again went to Western Seminary – a strong Reformed institution. The Gospel and our Culture is one of their well-known publications. They work much on the concept of the missional church. There is a difference between a church that does missionary work and a missional church. Western Seminary identified that the first approach is negating the church a scriptural existence. Whilst a missional church realises that its actual existence is missional.
- ◆ JH met Dr R Hartgerink, and from this meeting flowed commitment to assist NetACT. Also went to Netherlands, met Prof. G Dekker and through him went to the Free University where much support came for the NetACT project. Prof Dekker facilitated funding (US\$7,000) through Samen op Weg, and US\$3,000 from another donor.
- ◆ In all the above discussions by JH, he indicated that NetACT's goals as formulated in the agenda for this workshop, are tentative and not final. US's fund-raisers are eager to get involved and raise funds for NetACT. The key word for fund-raising is AIDS, according to the fund-raisers. We need to determine how to approach the matter of AIDS.
- ◆ Accommodation at Stellenbosch for further studies for students from Africa was always a problem. The Cape Mission Office bought a house with 7 beds, and another house has just been bought with a grant from the USA. Now ten beds are available there. This will fit in well also for exchange visits.
- ◆ Communication is another problem between centres. A firm commitment to fund a communication network has been obtained, hopefully within this year. US is giving its full support as well.
- ◆ Structure: great need to get clarity on how NetACT should structure itself, the way to handle funding is another crucial point.

***On funding:***

- ◆ If you do not know who you are, you will not obtain funding. Unless there is a dedicated commitment, no funding.
- ◆ Lot of scepticism in donor community due to bad experiences.
- ◆ When donors were told about NetACT, its connection with US - who has a high credibility overseas- the resistance lessened, especially when they were told that the US will have a direct control over the NetACT finances. Donors in USA can donate to NetACT through US and receive tax relief.
- ◆ Funding proposal by all NetACT members to be finalised here.

#### **4.2 DISCUSSION OF CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

- ◆ Define clearly what NetACT understands with “Practical Theology” That is what we are here for: to understand that Theology is not 6 disciplines but one.
- ◆ This is a dream and vision of JH and he worked hard to develop and share the ideas. NetACT has been conceived, but not born yet. JH was initiator and facilitator, and we now need to decide on the network, that US should initially be the fund conduit, how the institutions are to be networked etc. The baby needs to be adopted by as many as possible. The modalities etc. need to be worked out here.
- ◆ AIDS: should it be the bait for funding? Only one of the many different problems faced by the church.
- ◆ We need to structure NetACT in a way that will give some substance so that participating institutions will feel free to join and know what the aims are.
- ◆ Meeting should now first look at a provisional Mission Statement before it embarks on working out the detail.
- ◆ Dekker: History of International of study of Reformed Communities. Thesis: Religion will be different in different contexts. Study reformed communities all over the world. Notion that reformed belief will develop itself in a different way in a different context. This is also contextual theology. In the first two meetings the question was raised of reformed spirituality in the context of secularisation in the first world. A 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was confronted with the context of Africa – big difference between secularised atmosphere in Europe and the religious atmosphere in Africa. Dekker impressed that we do not know how to make the bridge between the Western situation and that in Africa. Missions were important. A new approach is the participation in the Missio Dei. This participation of Africa is important to understand that culture and situation does influence theology. The structuring of congregations in Africa will be unique, and therefore a book needs to be written for the needs in Africa. Dekker feels that the West cannot help on their own in Africa, and therefore need to listen to Africa.

#### **4.3 WORK ON PROVISIONAL STATEMENT:**

- ◆ Mission: how to do what we want to do
- ◆ Vision: if we accomplish our mission, what will be the outcome:
- ◆ Order of Process: Mission, Vision, Values, Strategies, Objectives

##### **4.3.1 MISSION STATEMENT**

- ◆ NetACT **means:**  
Network for African Congregational Theology
- ◆ NetACT **is:**  
a network of theological institutions in the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition in sub-Saharan Africa.

- ◆ **NetACT aim:**
  - ◆ to enable participating institutions to develop contextual congregational theology through leadership development
  - ◆ by facilitating upgraded academic standards, developing research capabilities, and establishing continuing theological education centres,
  - ◆ in order to empower the congregations to be faithful to the Word of God, so as to be able to reduce the multiple sufferings and problems of the people, of which HIV/AIDS and the abuse of power are now the most crucial ones.

### 4.3.2 VALUES

Values of NetACT and participating theological institutions are:

- ◆ We believe that congregations are instrumental in God's redemptive mission in this world.
- ◆ We believe that theology should be lived and practised by everyone in the congregation.
- ◆ We believe that we are always in a continuing process of discerning and obeying God's will.
- ◆ We believe and uphold the sanctity of human life as God-given.
- ◆ We believe that God grants power and authority to people to be used to the honour and glory of God and to the benefit of all people and creation.
- ◆ We believe that we are all one in Christ:
  - ◆ we acknowledge that our cultural, racial and ethnic differences have created much division in the past,
  - ◆ but that our greatest asset is the richness of our different cultures,
  - ◆ and that our unity in Christ is the deciding value.

*Commentary:*

*The diversity in culture and race within the network is acknowledged, as are the mistakes of the past. This diversity, though, is regarded as an asset, and needs to be managed in such a way that our unity in Christ is demonstrated to be the decisive value - a testimony to the reconciliation Christ brought about.*

*Ephesians 3:17b-19*

- ◆ *We commit ourselves to listen to one another, respect and trust one another, to be honest and sensitive towards each other and accept the integrity of each other.*
- ◆ *We commit ourselves to remain humble and teachable and not allow our diversity to inhibit our communication on our journey of healing and growth.*
- ◆ We believe that the resources available to NetACT is coming from God, belongs to Him and are to be shared and implemented to His glory in an open and honest way in fulfilling the goals of NetACT.

### 4.3.3 VISION

**Five years from now:**

- ◆ We will have helped institutions to train leadership that have faithfully and effectively engaged the challenges of sub-Saharan Africa.
- ◆ We will have successfully upgraded infrastructure at all participating institutions with regard to computers, communications facilities, Internet access, etc.
- ◆ We will have taken major steps toward accreditation of all participating institutions.
- ◆ We will have worked together with all participating institutions to establish adequate programs for:

lay training,  
 women training,  
 youth education and  
 continued theological education

- ◆ We will have started the process whereby institutions are working together in comparing and restructuring curricula to face the challenges of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ◆ We will have started a process by which we are producing theological handbooks to be used by the participating institutions.
- ◆ We will have published a congregational studies handbook for use in theological institutions in Southern Africa.
- ◆ We will have developed a congregational-based theology and a practical theological ecclesiology.
- ◆ We will have developed adequate courses for institutions to deal effectively with HIV/AIDS awareness and sustainable family values.
- ◆ We will have enabled church members to minister to HIV/AIDS victims and their families.
- ◆ We will have introduced/developed and implemented a course for pastors serving currently in congregations in HIV/AIDS prevention and care.
- ◆ We will have set up a co-ordinating office and field personnel to manage the affairs of NetACT, liaise with institutions and to effectively research how to serve the church/congregations more effectively in their needs.

## **5. Closing Prayers**

This was led by Rev. Kassamba reading from Psalm 134.

## **20 April 2001**

### **6. Opening.**

Rev. Rutoro led in prayers reading from Luke 24:13-35. Christ draws near to people discussing Him *and* who talk to Him.

### **7. Introduction of new arrivals .**

Revds. Kruger du Preez, Samuel Bessitale and Wilson Kassamba from HEBSIBA Centro de Trainamento Crista, and Fernando Cuboia from Volta a Biblia, arrived safely last night and were welcomed this morning. Volta a Biblia is a satellite campus of HEFSIBA, situated at Macia in the Gaza Province of Mocambique.

Arrangements for the day. Programme 2:30 – 4:30, then visit to local market and one hour work after dinner.

### **8.1 Strategy and Action Steps**

Level A. Priority High

Level B. Priority Medium

Level C. Priority Low.

The costs in terms of human resources and funding.

### **8.2 Infra-structural Development**

#### *8.2.1 Communications Infra-Structure*

Nairobi meeting emphasised communications improvement (which is now one aspect of the Vision) US IT will be willing to develop a system of linking institutions in terms of e-mail and internet. Discussions with companies with regard to capable systems took place. Funding is available. Good printers and good printers will be made available to participating institutions. Difficulties with regard to telephone access present a great challenge to most institutions. The one system works with satellite (some Medical Organisation) and seems to be the most applicable under the present circumstances. Many technical problems involved. (If we become research centres of Stellenbosch we enjoy licensing advantages.)

Who: Stellenbosch, Evert van den Ham and P Traut

When: Technical feasibility, know how, costs – Piet Albertyn will take this up. The installation of hardware and software can be done this year by probably October 1 2001.

Linking may be possible: Receiving links can be ready by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Costing: SAR 263,000 hardware (US\$ 35 000.00 for hardware and software) linking costs still unknown.

Level of Priority A(1)

### 8.2.2 Library

Action:

1. All Libraries must go through process of Self-Evaluation
2. Costs: US\$3000.

Who: Each Seminary

When: October 1

Priority: Level A

### 8.2.3 Accommodation for visiting lecturers - Infrastructure:

(Long term: one academic year; Medium term: one academic term, Short term: 4 wks)

Report given by all 6 institutions:

1. US: 10 beds available as from May 2001.
2. RITT: accommodation available for long term.
3. JMTC: Adequate facilities available.
4. MTC: Adequate facilities available – self-catering guest-house OK for 4 weeks
- 4.1 Construction of accommodation: When: April 2003, US\$15,000
5. NIFCOTT: Adequate facilities available – self-catering guest-house OK for 4 weeks
- 5.1 Construction of accommodation: When: April 2003, US\$15,000
6. Hefsiba: Adequate facilities available – self-catering guest-house OK for 4 weeks
- 6.1 Construction of accommodation: When: April 2003, US\$15,000
7. Zomba: nothing available at the moment
- 7.1 Construction of accommodation: When: April 2002, US\$12,000

Priority: B

Lecturer exchange: each institute to determine need for visiting lecturers and plan programme well ahead of time.

When:

### 8.2.4 Administrative assistance: see later

### 8.2.5 *ACTEA Accreditation*

When JH visited 1997 the 35 schools, it was evident that standards varied widely. US agreed with tertiary institutions that they will only accept post-graduate students. Became clear that it will be good that theol inst. in Southern Africa upgrade their academic standards. ACTEA's standards are widely accepted, and it will be to the advantage of all schools to upgrade to at least ACTEA standards.

ACTEA = Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa. Only body of its kind in Africa, has credibility.

JMTC confirms the great advantages of accreditation with ACTEA. Also gives credibility.

NetACT to attempt finding funding in connection with the process of accreditation.

Current Status re ACTEA:

- ◆ Accredited: JTMC, US (by virtue of being a registered university)
- ◆ Participant: RITT, Zomba
- ◆ Not started: NIFFCOTT, MTC, HEFSIBA
- ◆ Jurie van Wyk ACTEA representative for NetACT

Actions:

1. Pay transportation
2. Miscellaneous cost
3. Require report to NetACT
4. NetACT to develop report format & send out to participating institutions.
5. Reports submitted to NetACT by next meeting in 2002
6. US to supply to participating institutions additional requirements for post-graduate studies at US.

Resolution: All NetACT Institutions strive for ACTEA accreditation or other forms of external accreditation of equivalent standards.

When: Begin a.s.a.p.

Costs: \$15,000

Correspondence: \$32 pa

Self-evaluation: \$200 pa plus fixed fee per student

Visitation: \$800 per 5 years

Provide food & accommodation

Priority: A / B

### 8.2.6 *NetACT to support a Lecture Exchange Programme:*

- ◆ Joint research teams a future possibility.
- ◆ Free University: Need contact with universities in Southern Africa, preferably via NetACT. Does have ability to provide lecturers, and also to accommodate lecturers from Africa. Is willing to develop relationship with NetACT. Free University: Prof G Dekker enquires about the need to contact with universities in Southern Africa, possibly via NetACT. He thinks that the FU has the ability to provide lecturers, and also to accommodate lecturers from Africa. Is probably willing to develop relationship with NetACT.
- ◆
- ◆ NetACT can also become a clearing-house for facilitating the exchange lecturers.

- ◆ NetACT can secure the funds for these different exercises (transportation, food lodging, teaching materials).
- ◆ Purposeful rotation of faculty - initiated by institutions and facilitated by NetACT.
- ◆ Costs (for one academic term of 3 months at one exchange per year per institution):
  - ◆ Travelling \$1,000 for lecturer only.
  - ◆ \$10 per day per person for incidental expenses (food, local transport etc.) and \$15 per day when spouse comes along.
  - ◆ Spouses may accompany lecturers at own travelling costs.
  - ◆ Three 90 day exchange visits pa and 7 14 day exchange visits pa: \$17,000 pa total cost.
- ◆ Africa has a vital contribution to make to the church outside of Africa, and this programme can contribute towards it.

Action Needed:

8.2.6.1 Administrator

8.2.6.2 Develop Funding

### 8.2.7 Scholarships

#### Scholarship Category 1

Option 1: To Europe or USA +/- US\$23000 per year

Option 2: Whole family to SA cheaper.

Option 3: Studies via travelling

Costs for Option 3: (FIGURES IN US \$)

	<u>FIRST YEAR</u>		<u>SECOND YEAR</u>		<u>THIRD YR</u>
	MTh	DTh	MTh	DTh	DTh
Tuition	1000	1000	200	1000	200
Travelling	700	700	700	700	700
Living exp	200	200	200	200	200
Accomm	150	150	150	150	150
Books	<u>600</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	2650	2250	1250	2050	1250

ADDITIONAL FOR DTh (PER CANDIDATE):

Medical insurance	450
Living exp 5m extra	500
Study permit	450
Misc	100
TOTAL	1500

BREAKDOWN PER YEAR

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
M 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 2650	x4=10600	x3=7950	x5=13250	x5=13250	x5=13520
M 2 <sup>nd</sup> @ 1250	x4=5000	x4=5000	x3=3750	x5=6250	x5=6250
D 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 2250	x1=2250	x3=6750	x2=4500	x3=6750	x3=6750
D 2 <sup>nd</sup> @ 2050	x0=0000	x1=2050	x3=6150	x2=4100	x4=8200

D 3 <sup>rd</sup> @1250	x2=2500	x0=0000	x1=1250	x3=6150	x2=2500
<u>TOTALS</u>	20350	21750	28900	34100	30200
					\$135200
PLUS: Additional for DTh	1500x8				12000
Ad hoc:	Typing theses 8 D @ 500; 20 M @ 150				7000
	Research expenses 8 D @ 1000				8000
	Medical incidentals short termers				<u>9800</u>
TOTAL					172000
Women's program					<u>100000</u>
					<u>\$272000</u>

Priority Level Masters and Doctoral = A

*Conditions:*

*The student must be recommended by both the initial training institution and endorsed by the Synod*

*First priority of upgrade of teaching staff.*

*Second priority others with research interest in studies linked to NetACT aims.*

*Normal duration of scholarships: MTh: 2 yrs; DTh 3 yrs. One extra year only may be added at the recommendation of study leader*

#### PROPOSED NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS PER YEAR PER PROGRAM

	<u>2002</u>			<u>2003</u>			<u>2004</u>			<u>2005</u>			<u>2006</u>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Malawi MTh	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	1	2	-
DTh				1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Scholarships			3			3			4			6			6
Zambia MTh	2			1	2		2	1		1	2		2	1	
DTh				1			1	1		1	1		1	1	1
Scholarships			2			4			5			6			6
Zimb MTh	2			1			1			2				2	
DTh				1			1					1	1		
Scholarships			4			2			2			3			3
Moz MTh							1			1			1		
DTh													1		
Scholarships			0			0			1			1			2
Kenya MTh	1			1			1			1			1		
DTh	1			1					1	1				1	
Scholarships			2			2			2			2			2

#### **Scholarship Category 2**

Scholarships for Women x 10

Help each school with three scholarships for women for studies on undergraduate level preferably in the institution of their own country.

Scholarships averaged at US\$2000 per year

Priority Level A/B

## **9. Closing**

Closing prayers were led by Rev. Chatha Msangaambwe with readings from Rev. 2:1-6; 8-11; 12-17; 18-29; 3:1-6; 7-13; 14-22. We must “write” to the churches. In each of the churches there is a specific problem. For the same Christ has gathered us to address the problems of the churches today. Followed by prayers.

## **21 April 2001**

### **10. Opening**

Opening prayers were led by Rev. Zach Pienaar reading from Joh 10:1-10. “I have come so that you have life.” The church must develop to its full capacity possible in Christ. Christ is the “eagle” showing us to be what we should be. This is especially a message for NetACT

### **11. Household arrangements**

14h00 leaving for Game trip. Today still Scholarships rest of week Aids/Edit of work Wednesday revisit Mission and planning for the next meeting and other organisational issues. Committee to edit Mission Statement members to be Rev. Samuel Bessitale, Dr. SM Nyirenda, Rev. Ariko Ekitala and Dr. van Wyk as secretary

### **12. Masters and Doctors’s Scholarship over five year programme changes**

The revised programme proposed by Prof Pauw that will graduate 20 M students and 8 Doctoral students will require US\$130,000. For women scholars it will also mean 10 scholarships at US\$2000 total available over five years US\$100,000.00

Prepare: ‘specs’ sheet on scholarship by May 2002.

### **13. Exchange Students**

Dekker: undergraduate students should not go to the Netherlands, but post graduate students. Two way exchange of students are important. Prof. J. Hendriks must follow-up the issue with Prof. Brinkman of the Free University. We agree that the NetACT infrastructure be used to facilitate such student exchange.

### **14. Africa Independent Churches.**

NetACT should investigate and take initiative in training of leaders of African Independent Churches.

### **15. HIV/AIDS**

15.1 Training of Congregations to fight HIV/AIDS

15.1.1 Link HIV/AIDS to Curriculum of existing participating institutions

15.1.2 Link to Medical, Government and NGO programmes

15.1.3 Train the Trainer

- a. 2 Conferences per year per country
- b. Pastors, elders, youth leaders, Women’s Guild
- c. Project Team/Director

15.2 HIV/AIDS the purpose of all intentions with upgrading and networking.

15.3 Claim: If we want to address the issue of HIV/AIDS effectively and faithfully we will have to move from denial to truth-telling: Responses:

- a. (Ariko Ekitala) Truth is that we have to confess that in many instances we have not admitted the reality of HIV/AIDS in our churches, at most lip-service has been given. A holistic approach is necessary. From theological perspective, in our churches, nothing has been done to deal with the issue. A far more rigorous response is necessary. Even Medical personnel and families deny that death may be result of HIV/AIDS. Yet, there is a slow process of realising and families try to deal with it but has no knowledge how to. Wife-inheritance, circumcision, witchcraft are sought in differing ways for addressing the issue.
- b. (Zach Pienaar) Counselling a person stating that he is HIV/AIDS positive because of a lifestyle choice. What is missing in all HIV/AIDS awareness programmes of government and NGO's is that people on grassroots level do not talk about it. We must come to a point where we acknowledge that HIV/AIDS is a result of a life-style choice, only then can something can be done. A further problem is that only women would discuss such issues but men not.
- c. (Dr. Mwanandi) For Malawi the truth had been accepted. HIV/AIDS exist in the country. Government and churches are involved in awareness campaigns. Some churches like CCAP Nkhoma and Livingstonia have full-time Awareness Co-ordinators. In addition there are organisations of people suffering from HIV/AIDS. Reaction against certain public measures advertised to prevent HIV/AIDS rejected by churches. The church has to function on a different level than that of condom use promotion. Yet, people are still reluctant to acknowledge HIV/AIDS. The major question is how to find a solution.
- d. (Rev. Rutoro) The situation is much the same as that in Malawi with regard to public awareness campaigns. People accept that HIV/AIDS exists, but, so is active the syndrome of denial. Again lifestyle choices are involved. This is a major struggle. The pulpit has not done much to address the issue. Although churches may invite professionals, like doctors to talk about the issue the issue is never addressed by the church on a theological, ethical and moral level. Witch doctors go around the country for cleansing of HIV/AIDS in blood-letting and -sucking manners thus increasing risk of infection. Once again it is mentioned that the life style of people are not addressed or changed.
- e. (Nico Mostert) The situation in Zambia much the same as above. In addition there is the exploitation of children for so-called "safe" sex and as "payment" for good results. Most issues around sex a taboo to talk about it, e.g. cleansing practices (brother to have sex with widow once her husband has died to "cleanse" her). NetACT is coming late into the issue but a very crucial time to enter into the issue. NetACT must not try to re-invent the wheel again but utilise what is already done by others. Our focus of should be the cause if HIV/AIDS. Counselling for this who have it and for those who do not have it re life styles. Consequences is that all funds are spent on funerals and children are suffering in two ways, either inheriting HIV/AIDS or have access to education. This leads to a fatalistic approach to life. We need to link

- up and network with other existing organisations to make a contribution in dealing with the issue.
- f. (Rev. Bessitale) In Moçambique the issue is becoming bad and churches feel it is not their task to deal with the issue. This issue should be addressed. There is also the issue of denial.
  - g. (Johannes Erasmus) In South Africa, especially the DRC live in a process of denial. Difficult to get implement awareness programmes. The difficulty is also the viewpoint of the SA President, which makes people believe that HIV/AIDS is not crucial.
  - h. Open discussion now follows with different viewpoints, reflections and questions.
    - ◆ Denial of death
    - ◆ AIDS is ruthless, no forgiveness
    - ◆ Connecting point between ministry & AIDS:
      - ◆ Need for care
      - ◆ Need to live truthfully and faithfully
    - ◆ Modernism

#### 15.4 Remarks by JH:

- ◆ In Ezekiel the Lord warns that if we remain quiet, the Lord will claim the blood of the people from our hands
- ◆ If we do not address the HIV/AIDS pandemic faithfully and effectively, it will in time completely lose its integrity and reliability it would forsake Jesus Christ.
- ◆ While so many of the people in the churches are dying of AIDS, we are silent, abetting the denial.

#### 15.5 Report by different institutions:

Following is to help institutions to have in place a program as part of the academic curriculum, and how to train leadership in congregations

- 15.5.1 NIFFCOTT No direct programs at NIFFCOTT. Synod has an AIDS programme: not effective yet. Goals to create coping mechanisms against the impact of AIDS. Need to define the unique contribution that the Church can make. (See rest in the printed documents available from NIFFCOTT.) Family-centred approach is essential. Generally felt that such a programme as this one needs to get immediate support as a way of getting the wider NetACT programme moving. Livingstonia and Blantyre Synods have similar programmes moving. Part of NIFFCOTT programme is equipping students for pastoral care of AIDS victims.
- 15.5.2 RITT There is a church department that deals with AIDS. RITT invites this dept, at Ethics and Pastoral Care the matter is also addressed. In OT the matter of circumcision is discussed, and then AIDS is also discussed. But much denial still takes place. Quite a lot of printed material is available.
- 15.5.3 Uniting Reformed Church in Namibia: “Training of Trainees” programmes for those involved in AIDS training. Also programmes in the church to co-operate with community programmes. Some questionnaires are also sent out in order to enable church to engage meaningfully. URC also contracts volunteers to run programs. Orphanage programme. Written information is available .

- 15.5.4 MTC nothing on curriculum. Medical staff invited to classes to speak to students. Much is depended on the church's medical ministry. Printed material available.
- 15.5.5 HEFSIBA: The ACRIS organisation is involved nationally in health matters, church related, have a national AIDS awareness programme. Staff of ACRIS also teach at HEFSIBA. Also FLAEM organisation which concentrates on family living – is church-related.
- 15.5.6 JMTC Nothing. CARA Counselling (RC) specialists. Planning and Development Department of the RCZ deal with HIV/AIDS as part of primary health care.
- 15.5.7 DRC in South Africa – plans. One lady organises programmes in Pretoria. Hofmeyr Mission Centre will have an HIV/AIDS awareness programme from next year.
- 15.5.8 Other. Bruce Wilkenson's materials: Walk Thru the Bible
- 15.5.9 Group asked to consider over the weekend what NetACT can do in this regard. Important is that congregations are the key in the whole process. Question why do we fail to help people to change their behaviour?

## **16. Closing:**

Closing prayers were led by Dr. SM Nyirenda with readings by different persons from Hab 2:1-4; Rom 1:16-17; Gal 3:6-14; Hebr 10:35-39. Live by faith which is possible in Christ Jesus and this faith helps in trusting one another as believers. Thank God for putting us right with Him and with one another.

## **Sunday 22 April**

### **17. Group attended various services**

### **18. Closing.**

Rev. Ekitala and Rev. van den Ham led the evening praise from Gen. 26 With emphasis on the message Africa has to the world with regard to the visitor/stranger in our midst.

## **Monday 23 April**

### **19. Opening**

Morning prayers were led by Rev. Murray from Joh 21:1-14. Three questions were discussed by the group:

- 1) What does this portion tell us about God and about Jesus?
- 2) What does this portion tell us about the world and
- 3) What is our response?

### **20. Conclusion of discussion on AIDS issue**

Four steps are proposed and discussed. Certain changes are made to the proposed steps.

### **20.1 Develop a plan by middle to end of 2002 to provide a theological and moral basis as well as spiritual motivation for congregations to become engaged in fighting. AIDS**

Hendriks: Two pronged approach: Complete book on congregational theology. Will require a lot of work esp for speaker. Secondly to make an effort to attain tangible

results: eg.tackle the AIDS issue. Participative action and research – we will need a pivotal person to drive the process. Speaker will not be in a position to drive this.

Are there alternatives? Hendriks and Erasmus can take care of the book and administrative part of NetACT. But we need a full-time Director for the AIDS effort.

NetACT to develop training materials for institutions and supply training materials for training groups that go to congregations

Developing curriculum at institutions in close liaison with work at congregational level. Institutions are the key to bring the programs to the pastors and congregations. Otherwise NetACT just becomes another NGO.

Churches already have programs and co-ordinators in place. We should ask about our role as institutions: Develop curriculum and material for use in institutions. The churches can find their own funding. Funds are readily available for AIDS issues.

The role of NetACT/institutions in training the trainers by providing the stated basis and motivation.

**20.2 By end of May determine whether there are ways for NetACT to re-enforce existing congregational AIDS efforts/programs**

Obtain info from Zomba about existing programs in churches they are related to in Malawi in view of providing/strengthening the theological and moral basis as well as spiritual motivation necessary for such programs and/or for initiating further programs

Other institutions to provide feedback as soon as possible about what is happening in their countries and in order to determine the role to be played by NetACT in terms of its mission statement.

**20.3 By end May select candidates: part time Administrator to co-ordinate NetACT work and full-time Director to co-ordinate AIDS program**

The latter will require a theologian with medical insights, conversant with the AIDS scenario and with administrative abilities. Suggest to approach R Catholics for a profile of such a person

Financial implications for setting up and running the AIDS program for the first year:

Setting up the project	\$35 000
Salary, incl housing, etc	\$60 000
Running expenses – traveling	\$15 000
Workshops etc ???	\$20 000

Alternatively: Out source this part of the work to organisations already in the field.

Possibility: Link to University of Stellenbosch (US). Advantages: infrastructure, administration etc at disposal of NetACT, donations tax deductible. Disadvantages: becomes a mere employee in a dept of Faculty, administrative red tape, A link with Stellenbosch (i.e. South Africa) may create a problem for some who do not feel close ties with South Africa.

Various other alternatives are discussed.

Hendriks explains about the process, and his involvement, in the development of the idea of NetACT. Crucial to everything is financing. But donors require an acceptable entity to receive, administer and distribute funds. AIDS project outside of his abilities. Funds need to be channelled either through an existing infrastructure or else create a new independent infra structure which will be costly, use manpower and duplicate what already exists. If existing infrastructure is used, that infrastructure will only be the channel through which funds are applied to work of NetACT and its employees.

The question of what the implications will be for NetACT if US becomes the administrator is discussed at some length. Hendriks explains that the US allows for independent institutes etc to be formed under its auspices, and use the infrastructure of the US, but function independently. But that will ensure accountability. This will take a great load off the shoulders of NetACT. US acts as the channel for funding. It is important that NetACT will retain its independence and not become directly part of US.

Van Deventer is still uncomfortable about a Director just for the AIDS project. Overall Director for NetACT may be better with administrative staff under him/her.

Hartgerink: What is important at this stage that the institutions of NetACT are comfortable with such a process while it must be clearly understood and agreed that the location of such a co-ordinator does not need to be Stellenbosch.

**Conclusion: We are not ready to profile the post of Director and to proceed with an appointment. Nevertheless we should proceed with fund raising. This requires a clear picture to present to our fund raisers overseas. Proceed with writing up a proposal. Hendriks can start that, but at a certain point more details will be necessary.**

#### **20.4 Can we support the 'A B C' approach to fighting AIDS? Or can we at least be silent or not oppose 'C'?**

Mwakanandi: Support A and B but remain silent on C.

RITT cannot support an absolute rejection of condoms

Pauw: Recognise that under certain circumstances there is a place for the use of condoms but that we emphasise A and B as the moral aspects which we as Christians need to promote.

Kasambala: Our problem is the way in which the use of condoms is promoted as the only and the absolute way of countering AIDS.

**Conclusion: We need more time to think and discuss the matter.**

#### **21. Distributing the work for this evening**

Various persons to attend to formulation of mission and vision statement

Four group leaders to prepare well for the analysis group sessions

All to read the definition on p 9,10 about ch 2. Type of theology that we are doing.

Read the minutes. Pass any suggestions and corrections to Henry Murray  
Someone to type out the tables and calculations for the scholarships – Hennie van Deventer

### **23. Report back from country groups on how to write ch 4 of handbook**

Typology of congregations in various parts of Sub Saharan Africa.

Note various sources of information, eg World Christian Encyclopedia (Barrett) and Handbook on member churches (WARC), information concerning member churches on REC website

#### **23.1 South Africa**

Use national census data; demographic typology of churches; sizes of congregations; style of ministry – follow historical line; word view (Amor & Browning); value mapping typology; specific characteristics (individualism, mission activities, shift to fellowship churches, small rural churches in survival struggle.

Key person: J Erasmus

#### **23.2 Namibia**

Joined the SA group for part of discussion: follow similar lines. Info from NCC; look in particular to poverty in URCSA in Namibia; note demographic and other differences between churches in the south and in the north of Namibia

Key person Z Pienaar

#### **23.3 Zimbabwe**

Characteristics of identity, size and geography; rural, urban, growth point areas identified by govt.; commercial farms, mission stations, servant churches; pillar churches; prayer house system prevalent

Key person H Murray

#### **23.4 Zambia**

Define all the umbrella organisations (CCZ, EFZ, Episcopal conference, Indep churches); various denominational groupings (systems of government); various types of congregational structures: rural/urban settings; variety of functionaries and sections; multicultural groupings, ethnic groupings; forms of ministry; arrangement of services (vernacular/English)

Key person N Mostert

#### **23.5 Mozambique**

Various types of churches; e.g. Reformed Church: differs in rural/urban areas; prayer house system; pastoral role of elder, pastor only for sacraments; forms of worship vary; gender representation in membership; youth involvement (in majority); role of headman resulting in entire village joining the church; elders are sent to such newly converted villages; AIC groups joining IRM; self supporting congregations; absentee pastors; embryo churches in under evangelised areas (eg Muslim dominated parts)

Key person Kdu Preez.

#### **23.6 Malawi**

Mainline congregations do not differ very much, e.g. church buildings; (AICs not); use variety of symbols, eg cruciform buildings; sizes (large, medium, small); urban/semi-urban/rural differences; ethnic factors, language factors (English/indigenous in urban

areas, monolingual in rural areas; sense of identity and belonging a factor in membership; factor of life force; charismatic influence growing; less differentiation between spiritual and secular world – easy to adopt forms of so called syncretism; metaphors of church identity (central pole churches playing a pivotal role in society, prophetic role during times where the need arises, survivor churches, diaconal church: servant role to serve others); congregational structures: prayer houses/communion centres: up to 67 prayer houses in one congregation; different categories of world views i.t.o. African world view – has the church sufficiently taken that into account?

Key person C Msangaambe

### **23.7 Kenya**

Statistics still forthcoming; large variety of denominations; congregations similar to what other have reported; unique nomadic congregations (Turkana) often with no permanent buildings or boundaries – see themselves as a community, rather than church with overbearing ethnic identity: several unique characteristics; also refugee congregations in camps (Somalis, Sudanese, Ugandans); casual labourer congregations – usually very small move where there are jobs, members of RCEA would meet together for prayers; expatriate churches with foreign loyalty and no need of pastors; congregations amongst peasant farm communities – form small parishes, numbers seasonally affected; dominant rural congregations – established farmers and business people, attract the villagers; peri or suburban congregations (no real urban congregations) – villagers working in town with loyalty to home congregation, gradually increasing loyalty to new congregation, attract yuppies and more intellectual types, more sophisticated congregational structures

Key person A Ekitala

Key persons to give feedback asap; include brief history of country/church (appr 1000 words)

### **24 Closing: Evening prayers led by Dr Mwakanandi**

Reading from Job 3. One of our aims has been to empower our congregations so as to be faithful to the Word of God and be able to reduce suffering and problems of the people. Poverty is a difficult thing to deal with. As God looks at what is happening in our countries how does he feel, who is this God? How do we feel about the sufferings we see around us? Where is God? Who is this God? In spite of all what we see and are going through God is involved, he has not left us alone. Jesus Christ is a sign that He is involved.

### **Tuesday 24 April 2001**

**25 Morning worship** led by Rev Bessitale: Reading from Mark 15:1-5 and Phil 2:5-11. “Humbleness and Humility”. Our Lord Jesus was in a critical and difficult situation. He was falsely accused, undermined and despoised. In all of this He was quiet and humble. We are put to shame as we fail to live lives of humility. We should have the attitude that was in Jesus Christ. Because of his humility, he was honoured and highly exalted by the Father. Humility is the way to a glorious life.

26 [Working groups editing “Studying Congregations”:](#)

- 26.1 **Ecology:** Mostert Rev. N. (convenor), Dekker Prof. G., Nyirenda Dr. S.M, Rutoro Rev. R
- 26.2 **Identity:** Pauw Prof. M (convenor), Ekitala Rev. A, Kassamba Rev W, Mwakanandi Dr. D. S.
- 26.3 **Process:** Erasmus Dr. Johannes (convenor), Cuboia Rev F, Kasambala Rev. A. E., Van Deventer Dr. H
- 26.4 **Resources & Profile:** Pienaar Rev. Zach (convenor), Du Preez, Rev K, Msangaambe Rev C, Van den Ham Rev. E, Van Wyk Dr. J.J.
- 26.5 **Leadership & Strategic Planning:** Hartgerink Dr. R (convenor), Bessitale Rev S, Lim Rev. J.K., Murray Rev H
- 27 **Closing Worship:** Rev JK Lim: Reads from Luke 21: 37-38 & 22:39-40  
Coming to the end of the conference, we need to spend some time in prayer. Jesus was extremely busy with ministries: Preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, casting out demons etc. And often withdrew himself to a lonely place to pray. We have been very busy to do all NetACT business since we arrive. Now its time to call to the Lord and seek His great and unsearchable wisdom (Jer 37:3).

### Wednesday 25 April 2001

28 **Morning prayers** Prayers led by Rev K du Preez from 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. We are honoured in many ways which places great responsibility from us and requires humbleness. The name Jabesh means "Pain" Many HIV/AIDS people are suffering because of their classification. We have the duty to give them hope for the future. Part of Jabesh'prayer was that the Lord should enlarge his territory. We can pray that God should bless us to be a blessing to others and to extend our ministries so that more people would be able to benefit from it. The same is true of NetAct. Like Jabesh we can ask God's guiding hand in everything and pray that God will keep us, our families and our congregations from harm which we can interpret also as protecting us from AIDS.

29 **Working groups:** Continue working up to lunch. M

30 **Sub-Committee on Mission Statement** reporting.

30.1 Presents draft statement: IDENTITY & DEFINITION. After discussion, the following document is accepted.

30.2 Identity & Definition:

**etACT** is the *Network for African Congregational Theology*, a network of theological institutions in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Congregational Theology** is theology as practiced in the Christian Congregation as the body of Christ, discerning the will of God in the process of interpreting the Scriptures and its own specific context, empowering the Congregation to address its multiple problems, challenges and sufferings, in Sub-Saharan Africa manifest in the pandemic of HIV/AIDS, abuse of power, corruption and economic injustice (among others).

### Mission

**N**etACT aims at assisting the participating institutions to develop congregational theology and leadership. It seeks to achieve this aim through:

- contextual relevant training of congregational leadership
- upgrading of academic standards and institutional capacity-building
- developing research programmes at the participating institutions
- developing continuous education programmes
- lecturer-exchange between its participating institutions
- conferences and publications in the field of theology in Africa
- addressing the HIV/Aids problem, especially by providing the theological, moral and spiritual undergirding to curb this pandemic.

### **Values**

**N**etACT accepts as the foundation of its values and activities the revelation of God as contained in the Old- and New Testaments.

**N**etACT believes that Christian congregations are instruments of God's mission in this world, a royal priesthood, called to be a sign and foretaste of the Kingdom of God by:

- demonstrating our unity and koinonia in Christ
- declaring the praises of Him who called us out of the darkness into his wonderful light and proclaiming this good news to all;
- practicing and promoting love and forgiveness, justice and peace;
- serving the needs of the world by reaching out to all who suffer in any way;
- upholding the sanctity of all human life and respecting the integrity of creation;
- urging those in authority to use the power given to them to the honour and glory of God and to the benefit of those entrusted to their care;
- interceding for all mankind and the whole of creation.

**W**hile acknowledging that our cultural, racial and ethnic differences have created much division and suffering, **NetACT** believes that we are united in Christ, the head of the church, his body; **NetACT** believes that He has transformed our diversity from a cause of division and suffering into a source of creativity and one of our richest resources.

**N**etACT respects the autonomy of all participating institutions, acknowledges the contributions of each and cherishes mutual respect, understanding, assistance, humility and openness in the interaction between its participating institutions.

**I**n view of the unprecedented occurrence of diseases and loss of human life related to the spread of HIV/Aids and its devastating effects on all dimensions of community-life in Sub-Saharan Africa, **NetACT** commits itself to prioritise the identification, development and distribution of programmes, directed to reducing the spread of HIV/Aids and to supporting the direct and indirect victims of HIV/Aids within the mandate of its mission.

**N**etACT seeks co-operation with organisations, agencies and institutions which are active in similar fields of research and programme-development.

**N**etACT is committed to utilise all resources as entrusted to it in a transparent and accountable way in full agreement with its aims and mission.

## **Vision**

NetACT wants to have realised the following goals by 2007:

(for part of the list below with the condition: *funds being available...*)

- at least one programme/curriculum for training of congregational leadership in African Congregational Theology has been developed, has been distributed and is in a process of being implemented in a substantial number of congregations linked with the participating institutions;
- church-leaders at all levels, including women- and youth leaders, are targeted and included in the continuous training programmes;
- a programme for upgrading and further theological training of lecturers at the participating institutions as well as other pastors has been established;
- handbooks on African Congregational Theology have been produced and are used at the participating institutions;
- participating institutions have computer-facilities and are linked through e-mail and internet;
- an effective system of mutual consultation, lecturer-exchange and networking among the participating institutions is in place;
- all institutions (as far as applicable) have taken measurable steps towards accreditation by upgrading academic standards and institutional capacity-building;
- at least one course on curbing the spread and the effects of HIV/Aids has been identified and/or developed, distributed and taught, and is in the process of being used in a substantial number of congregations linked with the participating institutions;
- an adequately staffed co-ordinating office for NetACT has been established.

31 **OBJECTIVE SCHEDULE** is discussed and accepted as below

### 31.1 Period Five years

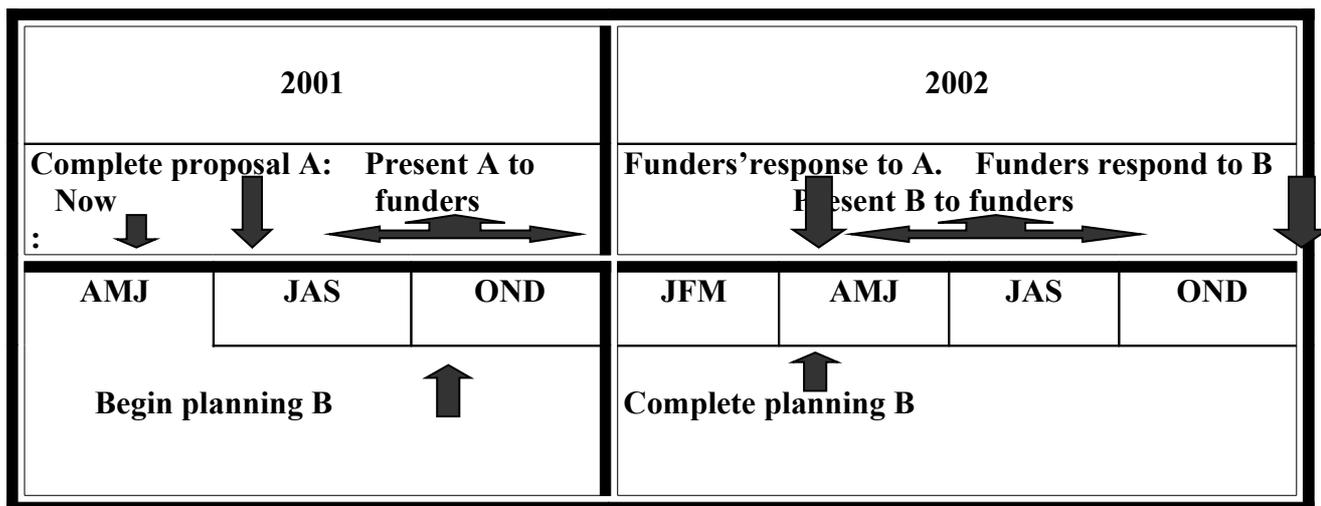
Priorities: High = Level A; Medium = Level B; Low = Level C

Task	Objective	Who	Costs	When	Priority
<b>Institutional Upgrading</b>					
Sustainable Institutions	To facilitate financially sustainable, upgraded and research capable participating institutions			Within five years	Level A
ACTEA Accreditation	All NetACT institution strive for ACTEA accreditation (other other forms of equivalent standard)	Each Institution (Present status: JMTC accredited RITT/Zomba Participant NIFCOTT/MTC/ Hefsiba not started) Action: Pay transport, Miscellaneous, costs	US\$ 15 000 (Correspondence US\$32 pa Self Evaluation US\$200 + fee per student Visitation US\$800)	Start ASAP report to NetACT meeting 2002 (NetACT to devise report form)	Level A/B
Libraries	Self-Evaluation according to given guidelines (ACTEA)	Each institution	US\$3 000	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2001	Level A
<b>Infra-Structural Development</b>					
Communications Improvement	To enable successful communication between	US, P Traut, E van den Ham. Technical	US\$35 000 (Hardware and	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2001	Level A(1)

	participating institutions by successfully upgrading computers, communications facilities, Internet Access, etc	feasibility studies Piet Albertyn US	software)	though complete linking maybe problematic in all cases.	
Accommodation for Visiting Lecturers: Long term – one academic year; Medium term – one term; Short Term	Institutions to provide accommodation for visiting lecturers	Hefsiba – adequate 4 weeks JMTC – adequate MTC -adequate for 4 weeks) NIFCOTT - Adequate 4 weeks RITT – accommodation for long term US 10 beds ZTC – nothing available	p. 4, 5, 6 pt. 8.2.3 of minutes	Hefsiba construction complete April 2003 MTC construction complete April 2003 NIFCOTT construction complete April 2003 ZTC- construction complete April 2002	Level B
<b>Academic</b>					
Lecturer exchange	To start process of lecturer exchange.	Each institution to determine needs. Spouses may come at own costs	US\$ 1,000 per lecturer pa. US\$10 per day incidentals (US\$15 if accompanied by spouse) 3x90 days exchange visit pa and 7 14 day exchange pa US\$17 000	Action: Administrator to be appointed. Develop funding	Level B
Scholarships	1. To provide scholarship for non-residential studies a) teaching staff upgrading, b) those with research interest in studies linked to NetACT Aims 2. Women	Student must be approved by church and participating training institution	1. a) 20 M's over 5 years and, b) 8 D's over 5 years US\$172,000 to complete studies. Costs inclusive of MedAid, transport, accommodation at US, books etc. travelling 2. US\$2000 per year under-graduate (women) preferably at institution of own country=\$100,000	'Specs' sheet on scholarships to be completed by May 2002	1 For M and D studies Level A 2 Women A/B
Exchange Students	Two way exchange excluding undergraduates with Free University	Hendriks to follow up with Brinkman. NetACT infra-structure to be used for such exchange programme			
Training Programmes	Establish adequate training programmes for congregational studies for lay training, women, youth and continued theological education			To be completed within five years	
Leadership Training	To help train leaders that have faithfully and effectively engaged in the challenges of sub-Saharan Africa			Annually for 5 year	
Curricula	Institutions to compare and restructure curricula to face challenges of Africa			Within five years	
HIV/AIDS	To have developed adequate courses for institutions to deal effectively with HIV/AIDS awareness and sustainable family values			Within five years	
HIV/AIDS	To introduce/develop Training Courses for pastors currently serving in congregation in			Five years	

	HIV/AIDS prevention and care				
HIV/AIDS	Training Congregations to fight and deal with HIV/AIDS (Link up with NGO's Government and Medicals) 2 conferences per year per country Target pastors, elders, youth leaders, Women's Guild			Annually	
Text Books	To start a process of producing theological handbooks for use in participating institutions			Within five years	
Congregational Studies handbook	To have published a congregational studies handbook for use by participating institutions			Within five years	
Congregational Theology and practical theological ecclesiology	To have developed a congregational-based theology and a practical theological ecclesiology			Within five years	
African Independent Churches	To provide training	NetACT to investigate and take initiative			
<b>Administrative Assistance</b>		Deal with it later			
Co-ordinating Office	To have set up a co-ordinating office to manage the affairs of NetACT, liaise with institutions and to effectively research how to serve the church/congregations more effectively in their needs				

31.2 Strengthen Seminaries (A) to Reduce African Suffering (B)



32 FORMATION OF NETACT BOARD

32.1 Meeting mandates that an interim Board for NetACT needs to be named at this meeting. To comprise of one representative from each of the institutions with voting rights, rotation determined by constitution. This interim Board to name

two executive directors: the one running the AIDS programme (Plan B at 26.4.2) and the other running the programme for strengthening the institutions (Plan A at 26.4.2).

32.2 Each Institution's choice for interim Board Members:

32.2.1	Kenya, RITT	Van den Ham
32.2.2	Malawi, NIFFCOTT	Van Deventer
32.2.3	Malawi, Zomba	Makwanandi
32.2.4	Mocambique, HEFSIBA	Rev K du Preez
32.2.5	South Africa, Stellenbosch	Hendriks
32.2.6	Zambia, JMTC	Kasambala
32.2.7	Zimbabwe, MTC	Rutoro

33 Meeting adjourns so that the above may go ahead to act on the mandate given to them. Board's minutes of these proceedings will be circulated separately.

34 Minutes of this meeting to be circulated after completion. It will be tabled at the next meeting for acceptance.

35 **Next meeting:** 12-16 August 2002 at Chongoni, Malawi

36 **Closing:** Chairman, Rev Kasambala closes the meeting with Scripture reading from II Kings 7:1- Questions: Why is it that powerful people find it hard to believe simple news? Why do we meet resistance when we bring good news to people in high places, hindering progress? Maybe they feel insecure. The lepers found themselves in a situation of no choice. They simply did what they did because they were dying. Their attitude changed when they realized that they should share their find. What we should expect is that the news of our work here at NetACT, will not necessarily find acceptance everywhere. But we should be prepared to continue with what we believe, do our part as best as we can. Now that the vision is accepted by ourselves, we should not keep this to ourselves, there is need for this vision to be worked out, so that the people who suffer, can be helped. Sing together 308: Lord dismiss us.

37 Words of thanks by Prof Hendriks, expressing gratitude towards the Lord, each participant for work, fellowship. Thanks to Dr Pauw for all his inspiration from long ago. Thanks to all ladies who helped and served us. Thanks to Dr Ron Hartgerink for his hard work. Thanks to Dr Jurie van Wyk for all his hard work and attention to all small details that made our stay here so enjoyable.