



NETACT ANNUAL (ADMINISTRATIVE) REPORT 1-4 AUGUST 2005 HEFSIBA, MOZAMBIQUE

1 INTRODUCTION: CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

As with our previous meeting this report follows the sequence of the agenda. It incorporates the issues discussed in the minutes of the previous AGM as well as the interim Executive Committee Meetings which in turn addressed the issues raised and tasks given by July 2004 Annual Meeting in Zomba. Since there is a sequence in the EC meetings they will only be referred to by EC & number between 41 (10 Nov 2004) and 87 (4 May 2005).

The objectives set by the 2001 NetACT meeting, to be achieved by 2007, form part of this report as a way of helping us to see to what extent we are achieving our goals.

It was once again a good year for NetACT. Progress was made with regards to the objectives set by the previous meetings. Highlights of this year were undoubtedly the success of our Publications project, extensive negotiations with the University on the administration of the Weidenhof Street Houses as well as some good news about Scholarships.

Congratulations to our chairperson on receiving his Ph D at the University of the Free State at the end of 2004 on New Testament Interpretation (EC 61). We are really proud and thankful that we can congratulate Hefsiba on receiving accreditation from the Mozambican government to confer bachelor's degrees. Hefsiba had a tragic loss with the death of its principal, Rev Fernando Cuboia. NetACT was represented at the funeral by our secretary, Dr Hennie van Deventer.

News from our institutions: Like the previous year we should spend some time to listen to one another and as such request each institution to have a short report on developments at their institution. Do we have to congratulate staff members for receiving degrees or other distinctions? Are there urgent needs? Share anything to get us informed on what is happening at each institution. This applies to co-opted Board members too: please tell us where you are and what has happened in your life and work since our previous meeting.

2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES & REPORTS; VACANCIES

2.1 Executive Committee

The Chairperson's term is 2005-2007. Our secretary's term is 2003-2005 since he was elected in Aug 2002 in Lilongwe. We need to elect a new secretary for a next term (2006-8. From the constitution: 4.9.2 A Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the NetACT Board of Governors can be re-elected once only in the same position) Our Vice-Chairperson was elected at the Stellenbosch meeting and will serve for a 2004-2006 term. The EC proposes that we ask nominations for the vacancies on Tuesday morning and that we elect the new Executive Committee member early on Wednesday.

2.2 Executive Director

The ED is retiring as professor at SU at the end of March 2007 (at SU the retirement age is 60). It may be possible that the Board of Governors, due to financial constraints, won't have an Annual Meeting in 2006. The present ED is willing to be available to serve in a fulltime and paid position in the NetACT office after his retirement. If this be the case, he will then handle all the work done by the present Program Manager and Weidenhof-house administrator. It is important for the Board to discuss this.

3 FINANCES

Audited financial statements for the year Jan Dec 2004 has been sent to all members. We will have preliminary statements for the period Jan-June 2005 at the meeting. 2004 NB 99, 101, 104, EC 62, 63, 76,

NetACT has the following accounts: Administration, Weidenhof house, Computers, HIV/AIDS Project, Annual & EC Meetings, Travels & Meetings, Lecturer Exchange, Scholarships, Publications, Curriculum and Ambassador.

Budget: We should ask Dr Hartgerink to prepare a budget to be approved at the end of the meeting

Contributions from July 2004 till June 2005 = R224,653.35. It came from the following sources:

- Elmer E Hartgerink Trust R 126 885,16 (\$ 20 000 USD)
- Eleanor Hartgerink R 8840,74 (\$ 1500 USD) (specifically donated towards the Weidenhof House fund)
- Friends of the University Foundation R 20 726,29 (deposited into the Weidenhof House fund)
- Publication donations from DRC: R47,080.87
- Publication donation from Reformed Mission Board: R19,320.29
- Donation Princeton Student: R1,800.00

2006 FUNDING: The Board need to be reminded that funds from the Hartgerink Trust terminate at the end of 2005. We cannot expect income from that source from 2006 onwards. The implication is that we will have to find ways to secure an income for the running costs of NetACT. Fundraising is becoming a major priority for NetACT.

Fundraising was addressed at various meetings (EC 68, 79, 84). As a result of this planning, the Chair and ED will be visiting the USA between Oct. 15 and Nov 6, amongst others, to raise funds for NetACT. Dr Hartgerink will be coordinating this outreach in the USA.

Specific funding projects / proposals:

1. PEPFAR proposals: The ED had consistently been in contact with Mr John Chettle, official fundraiser of SU in the USA and Mr Jerome Slamant of SU in pursuit of raising PEPFAR funds. We visited (amongst others) Dan Mullins of CARE, John Crowley of USAID, and Bishop David Beetge of the Anglican Church (which received R105 million for AIDS work from the USA and UK). At this stage we are of opinion that NetACT has to decide on what its "core business" should be. It is possible to get big money from this

source, but it will realign our time and efforts into dealing mainly with the AIDS pandemic. It takes considerable effort and administration to secure and use these funds.

2. We prepared a proposal for the Church of Scotland to fund our “Preaching on Aids in Africa” book project. The proposal passed the initial phase and is now in the final round of the selection committee. We have not heard what the final decision was.
3. We had a very productive meeting with Dr Arrie van der Poel of the Gereformeerde Zending Bond (Reformed Mission Board). He was well briefed about NetACT by Prof Martin Pauw and several NetACT board members. The RMB was presented with a proposal to fund our Publications. R19,320.29 was committed and sent to NetACT for translating *Studying Congregations in Africa* in Portuguese. The same amount (2500 Euro), was promised for our “Preaching on AIDS in Africa” project.
4. The ED asked a number of South African congregations (300) to help funding *Studying Congregations in Africa*. We have received R47,080.87 from 40 DRC congregations. This money put us in a position to provide all institutions with the number of books they requested. We think we can raise enough money in this way to subsidize all our publications for the students of our institutions as well as to help other theological schools in Africa.

Discussion and proposals:

4 NETACT OFFICE

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- An adequately staffed coordinating office for NetACT has been established.

Pieter van Santen was appointed by the EC as Project Manager for a three year period. The appointment is annually renewed and dependent on funds being available (2003 EC 16) from December 2003. The AGM confirmed the appointment (2003 NB 39). Further discussions and arrangements by EC 69.

We reported at the 2003 (NB 39) and 2004 meetings (NB 83) that the workload is heavy and that Mr van Santen has to spend more time on his D Th research. In consultation with the EC, the workload was divided between Mr van Santen and Rev Uma Onwunta from Nigeria who is in charge of the Weidenhof Street house. Due to the detailed help needed by students from Africa, the NetACT office became a refuge for students to help them with a wide variety of problems. We believe that this is a very fundamental function of NetACT and part of its core business.

The expenses (salaries, telephone, etc) of the NetACT office for the last three years was:

2002:	R56,629.30 (Salaries: R36,476.04)
2003:	R98,946.39 (Salaries R84,678.00)
2004:	R100,531.30 (Salaries R83,803.98)
2005 (expected)	R ? (Salaries (R77,000))

5 NETACT HOUSE

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- a program for upgrading and further theological training of lecturers at the participating institutions as well as other pastors has been established;

The NetACT house provided the necessary infrastructure to play an important role in realizing this goal. We quote from the 2004 Annual Report (#5):

Strictly speaking the house is a project of Stellenbosch University (SU). However, the NetACT office runs the house with the support of the International Office of SU. The Board visited the house during the 2003 meeting and made several decisions on house rules (Minutes 2003 NB 40& 72). It took considerable time and energy to implement these. It became clear that handling reservations through the International Office was not working efficiently. We therefore installed a good computer with an e-mail network point in the house for the Head Student to have hands-on communication with all parties concerned. We believe that the administration system is now shaping up well and that we will have fewer problems in future.

See also NB 72 84, EC 44, 70.

See **Addendum 1**, the 2005 report on the Weidenhof House as well as **Addendum 2 (2.4)**.

Proposal:

- a) **The Board reformulates its policy with regard to occupancy of the house.**
- b) **The Board decides in principle that the income / fees from the house should cover the administration costs of the house and raise the rent accordingly.**

6 COMPUTERS & COMMUNICATION

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- Participating institutions have computer-facilities and are linked through e-mail and internet.

Communication is a constant hassle. We have, however, made progress.

RITT: is now reachable through the cell phone of the Principal, Rev Ariko Ekitala.

HEFSIBA: also have cell phone e-mail facilities.

MTC: (EC 45) The ED had intensive discussions with the Moderamen of the RCZ and the staff of MTC. At present there are only two ways of reaching MTC via e-mail: through the personal cell phone of Rev Henry Murray and through the RCZ church office at Masvingo. The best way to reach them is by using the cell phone of Rev Murray. The RCZ is trying as hard as it can to get a permanent line to the College. Under present conditions this is very difficult.

ANGOLA: We have budgeted money to help the Angolans but none of it was used. We were expecting an official delegation from Huambo to visit Stellenbosch in July. More detail will be available at the Annual Meeting since we were up to this point not able to get them to respond to our invitation to propose someone to attend the 2005 Annual Meeting. At the time of writing this report the overseas telephone cable to Angola did not function and we cannot communicate with them.

7 LECTURER EXCHANGE

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- An effective system of mutual consultation, lecturer-exchange and networking among the participating institutions is in place.

According to our 2005 budget we were in a position to help the following institutions with on average R8000 each:

Hefsiba: Visiting lecturer: dr Marilda de Oliviera of the Presbyterian Church in Brazil (she has been appointed on the Nifcott staff recently).

MTC: Stellenbosch sent Prof Jurgens Hendriks to teach a module in July 2005. See the full report on this venture: Attachment 1. Section 2 needs to be discussed.

NIFCOTT: Prof Bosman (OT professor from SU) visited Nifcott.

JMTC: Rev Christoff Pauw from SU visited JMTC.

Angola: No request was made thus far.

After the 2004 Annual Meeting (NB 86, 97d, 98b, we took initiative in this regard and initiated an exchange in which Prof Pauw of the DRC Mission Office organised that Prof Chris Greyling visit most of our institutions to teach on Islam during the last part of 2004. The reports from the institutions that he visited were very positive. See EC discussions and reports on lecture exchange at EC 57, 58, 83.

Several people volunteered to help. Amongst others (may we add to this list at the meeting);

* Mr Rodney Tshaka and Christoff Pauw, both young and bright doctoral student in Systematic Theology at SU (contact the NetACT office).

* Dr Cas Wepener, Homiletics & Liturgy at SU would also be glad to assist wherever he may be needed. He is available in the winter of 2006 for a whole month. His CV is available at the NetACT office.

* Rev dr Roger Tucker, Presbyterian Minister in Cape Town, tuckers@xsinet.co.za Practical Theology.

* Dr Christo Thesnaar, Huguenot College, Wellington and specialist in Youth Work has a sabbatical in 2006 and is available to teach in the second semester of 2006.

Discuss from the MTC report (See **Addendum 2: Report of ED's visit to MTC and the RCZim section 2:**

- **Study leave periods for doctoral candidates.**
- **Possibilities for longer period lecturer exchange.**

Discuss lecture exchange needs for 2006.

8 SCHOLARSHIPS

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- A program for upgrading and further theological training of lecturers at the participating institutions as well as other pastors has been established.

The administration of scholarships was done according to the approved guidelines (NB 88, and the “Decisions about Scholarships: 2002-2004” compiled by the Secretary). See EC 71, 80. The visit to the NetACT office of Rev John Took of the Mustard Seed Foundation (MSF) opened new possibilities for NetACT, see EC 47, 48, 82.

Rev Onwunta reports: “Rev John Took is the SA representative of the Mustard Seed Foundation (MSF). As we hinted, our meeting with him was mutually informative and beneficial: Mustard Seed Foundation is currently participating with more than 40 theological institutions around the world and the Foundation is delighted in and encouraged by NetACT institutions’ role in teaching future church leaders throughout our region of the world. We used the occasion to reaffirm that “NetACT’s mission is to assist the participating institutions to develop congregational theology and leadership...by means of: developing continuous education programs...”

Following the above discussion and the encouragement from Mr Took, we were asked to apply to the MSF for some scholarship funds in the sum of US\$30,000. We have written the proposal and are in communication with the MSF in this direction. It is hoped that when approved, the fund will be in our account before the end of the year. We urge you to join us and pray for the MSF as they seek to extend a hand of fellowship to us in this noble but demanding work for the kingdom of God.”

A draft proposal to the MSF will be at the AGM. We need some information from the members.

Proposal:

- a) The ED / PM coordinate the information needed for the proposal and NetACT Institutions promptly supply the necessary information before the end of this meeting to the PM.**
- b) If we secure scholarship funds from the MSF we allocate, where possible, MSF funds to present four NetACT scholarship-holders putting us in a position to use the NetACT funds thus freed for the administration of NetACT.**

9 HIV/AIDS PROJECT

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- 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.

With Amon Kasambala being fully occupied by the “Focus on the Family” project and **Janet Brown** being very sick fighting cancer in the USA, nothing has happened in this regard. See EC 43, 53, 63, 64, 65, 74, 85.

- We should enquire from the institutions to which extent addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic is still part of their curriculum. This should be considered as a requirement for NetACT membership.
- We should address the issue to what extent we want to stay involved in HIV/AIDS work in and through our institutions and to what extent it is going to stay part of our strategic plan.

10 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT & ACTEA

The EC regard this aspect of NetACT's work as absolutely vital. "Upgrading academic standards and institutional capacity building" is central to our mission statement. In our vision statement we said: **NetACT** wants to have realized the following goals by 2007:

- All institutions (as far as applicable) have taken measurable steps towards accreditation by upgrading academic standards and institutional capacity-building.

2004 NB 87, 96, EC 43, 46, 52, 73. Dr Saindi Chipangwi will report on the developments of this desk and the progress made by Rev Kruger du Preez who will be doing his doctoral research on this topic (NetACT budgeted R20,000 to address this issue in the 2005 budget year). They requested time for a discussion on the topic.

MTC is applying for ACTEA accreditation and is requesting financial assistance to launch the process. The following is a translation from a letter sent by Rev Henry Murray, Academic Dean at MTC:

"ACTEA notified us that they are considering our application for registration. This will put MTC in a position to actively engage in upgrading its academic standards and curriculum. Will it be possible for NetACT to help us with funds? In our present situation in Zimbabwe it is impossible to even consider raising the funds locally. The basic cost for registration, fees for the first year, as well as travel costs for an assessor will be about \$1500."

Discussion and proposals should follow.

11 PUBLICATIONS

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- A Handbook on African Congregational Theology has been produced and is used at the participating institutions.

11.1 Studying Congregations in Africa

It is important to read the 2003 (NB 59) & 2004 (NB 90, 91) Annual Report and Minutes (NB 59) on this issue as well as EC 50, 51, 72, 81.

We raised R66,401.16 for this book (see above at Finances). The first English edition (1500 books) is sold out and we asked the publishers for another 500 books. This will be ready by August 12, 2005.

We are budgeting to print 800 copies in Portuguese at a total cost of R19 860.40. Depending on rising costs and how much we will have to pay for the final editing, the total cost will be about R30,000 – R35,000. As such the book will be considerably cheaper at about R40-45 per book. We expect the Portuguese translation to be ready by ??? (Rev Du Preez should please inform us on the progress thus far).

This project took a considerable amount of time from the ED and the administration desk – but to our mind was a worthwhile endeavour.

Discussion: Institutions should indicate, after considering the overall financial position of this cost point, how many books are required by institutions for 2006.

11.2 Other publications

The urgency to proceed with the planning and writing of textbooks that address the contextual situation in Africa in all fields of theology needs to be pursued as a priority.

- The book-projects “Preaching on Aids in Africa” and “Ethics in Africa” is a priority. We appointed Dr J Cilliers and Prof Nico Koopman as convenors for the book projects (Minutes 2002 point 14; 2003 NB75). The “Preaching on Aids in Africa” (preliminary title) proposal is attached to this report. We have a promise of 2500 Euro from the Reformed Mission Board which we will receive once they received and approved our proposal. The Board gave permission to make use of expertise from other African institutions that are acknowledged leaders in their fields to work with the NetACT members to produce these books (2004 NB 91). This book will now be a priority.

Addendum 3: Proposal of Dr. J Cilliers on “Preaching on Aids in Africa.”

12 NEW MEMBERS

Namibia: For the background of our efforts to get them on board see the 2004 Administrative Report #13 and NB 89, EC 49. Rev Zach Pienaar kept the contact alive after the communication with the NRI (Namibian Research Institute, a joint venture between NETS and Paulinum) faded. We are really glad that Dr George du Toit, principal of Paulinum will attend this year’s meeting. We quote from our 2004 (NB 89) minutes:

The Board votes in favour of allowing them to become members, on the condition that they will provide a confirmation in writing that they accept NetACT’s identity, vision, mission and values as stipulated in the constitution.

We asked the Namibian Institutions to confirm this in writing when they are ready to do so.

The ED was approached by the following institutions to become members of NetACT (EC 59)

- Rev Dr James J Lee, director of the African Center for the Great Commission, from Nairobi Kenya.
- Juliet Kawuba, Registrar, Reformed Theological College, Kampala, Uganda.

The EC felt that our financial situation makes it impossible for us to accept new members.

13 ANNUAL MEETING

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- An effective system of mutual consultation, lecturer-exchange and networking among the participating institutions is in place.

The cost involved holding the last couple of meetings were:

- 2001 Lusaka: All travelling expenses were in one cost point.
- 2002 Lilongwe R82,869
- 2003 Stellenbosch R75,117
- 2004 Zomba R77,307

We would like to have one of the remaining institutions that have not yet hosted a meeting invite us for the next Annual Meeting. It seems that we will have to leave it to the EC to see whether there will be money available to hold a meeting in 2006.

14 STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET

From the 2004 Administrative Report (14.2) “It is important to think in terms of NetACT’s future. Donors and possible partners will be willing to cooperate if there is consistency, integrity and reliable resources associated with the network.”

In the 2004 report this issue was regarded as a priority and it was continually on the agenda of interim EC meetings (EC 67, 78). We should use a substantial amount of time and energy to revisit our strategic plan, decide on what our “core business” is and work on a way of telling or selling the NetACT story. This is necessary in order to focus on priorities and to use our existing resources productively. It is also important for raising funds and addressing possible donors. We do not have any certainty about funding in 2006.

Our Budget should be approved according to priorities set in our strategic plan

15 GENERAL

15.1 Reaching congregations and congregational leaders:

NetACT wants to realize the following goal by 2007:

- at least one program/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 programs.

The 2003 EC minutes (26.1) should be read with this section.

There do not seem to be any new developments in this field. The ED, however, is aware that the RCZim has a full-time coordinator / office to address these issues (Rev E Chomutiri) and that Nifcott is basically the arm of the CCAP that deals with this challenge.

15.2 Approval of Annual Meeting minutes

As with previous meetings the EC requests the Annual Meeting to grant it the authority to approve the minutes of the annual meeting (NB 107, EC 14, 41). The Annual Meeting approves its minutes on a day-by-day basis but is unable to approve the work done on the last day.

It was a privilege to serve in and through NetACT.

Jurgens Hendriks
Devison Banda
Pieter van Santen
20-07-2005

Addenda:

- 1 Weidenhof House Report
- 2 Zimbabwe-Murray Theological College Report
- 3 "Preaching on Aids in Africa" proposal.

Weidenhofhouse report

By: Uma Onwunta, Administrator

I INTRODUCTION:

In submitting this year's report, I wish to reaffirm that "NetACT's mission is to assist the participating institutions to develop congregational theology and leadership...by means of: developing continuous education programs..." (Hendriks 2004:11)¹. In pursuit of this noble goal, Weidenhof House at a highly subsidized rate, has continued to serve as a home for the many leaders from Africa (and even beyond) who have been coming for further personal theological and intellectual development or other ecumenical assignments in Stellenbosch University. It is therefore my pleasure to report to the NetACT Board on how the Lord has been helping us through the task of house administration to achieve the vision and mission of Net ACT.

The report is submitted in the following lines:

II ACTIVITIES

a) **Fellowship of the brethren:** One of the great treasures of the life in Weidenhof House is the fellowship of the brethren which has continued to be a source of spiritual strength and support for all the generations of people using the accommodation. Through the involvement and participation of everybody, this house has become a place where every person is affirmed and appreciated as a gift from God and also made to feel important as an individual. We constantly stress in the daily devotions that what we experience in this house should translate into true hope and unity of which Africa and the whole world are in dire need.

b) **Improvement of facilities in the house:** Within the year under review, we have experienced some improvements regarding the facilities in the house. NetACT Office acquired and installed two new computers to assist the students in typing their works; six standing fans were also purchased for the six rooms upstairs to cushion the scorching heat of the summer season in Stellenbosch. These infrastructural advancements have been made possible by the financial gifts of The Eleanor Hartgerink Trust— our friends from the United States of America.

c) **Bookings/Reservations:** Following the Board's decision during August 2003 meeting, we adopted the new system of bookings and reservations. We have done our best to accommodate all those who indicated their willingness and were available to use the house. However, we need to point out again that we are still experiencing some difficulties with people who ask us to make reservations without taking them up. For some, it has partly been because they were denied visas and for others, it has been attributed to domestic developments which made them change their plans. We have lost much income because of this situation. So the Board may have to look into the situation where we are never informed about the reason for declining the offer so that we would minimize the losses resulting from this type of situation. In addition, members should please obtain and circulate within their institutions, copies of the abstract from the relevant NetACT Board Minutes (NB 40 and 72) of August 2003 regarding the house and permanent residence in the house.

¹ This reference and another one in this report came from the NetACT Vision Statement published by: Hendriks, H.J. 2004. Studying Congregations in Africa. Wellington: Lux Verbi, BM

d) Our comparative Income Flow: From the University Finance, we have obtained the records which put our financial income as follows:

2003	2004	2005 (1 Jan – 29 May)
R114,505.80	R42,465.50	R23,144.00

Although we are yet to verify these figures, we have observed the wide income gap between 2003 and 2004. We have also recalled that in 2003, five of the single rooms were fully occupied for the whole year. And those who needed the double rooms were allowed to use them longer than three months. The result of these measures is the year's income level shown above. But our new policy (“... that nobody should be allowed to stay in the house longer than three months ...” **See NB 72b**) which came into full effect in January 2004 has resulted into many of the rooms not being used in many months of the year. We can see the attendant loss of income as 2004 record shows. Understandably, this drop in income does not go down well with the University Finance Department and it behoves us to revisit our policy before they act in a way that will adversely affect the administration of the house.

Besides, the cost of running the house is increasing and there is also the need to subsidize NetACT administration therefore making the project self-sustaining. So, an upward review of the daily (room) rents and the occupation of some of the rooms by willing full-time students may be viable options worth considering.

e) Support from NetACT Office: Within this period under review, we have enjoyed enormous support from the Net ACT Executive Director, Professor H. J. Hendriks and the Project Manager, Mr Pieter van Santen. They both have been giving us a free hand to administer the house. But very importantly too, their timely interventions and encouragements at some sensitive points have gone a long way in making our assignment here a great pleasure.

III Recommendation

In view of the declining income of the house which resulted from our new residence policy, we wish to recommend that the Board considers, as matter of urgency,

1. That, at least, four out of the six rooms upstairs be occupied by interested full-time students from this second semester of 2005.
2. That, in view of the improved facilities in the house and the rising cost of maintenance, with effect from 1 September 2005, the rent be reviewed upwards as follows:

Single room	R30 per night
Double room	R25 per night.

IV Appreciation and Prayer

My wife and I deeply appreciate this opportunity given to us to serve God's people in this capacity. It is our prayer that the Lord would continue to bless all of us, the visionary work of NetACT and our corporate dream to cause laughter for many in Africa!

Sincerely submitted:
Rev. Uma A. Onwunta.
20-07-2005.

Addendum 2 REPORT OF LECTURER EXCHANGE PROGRAM VISIT TO MURRAY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, ZIMBABWE. June 10-24 2005.

Note: I am writing this report in English since it is a report to both the Faculty and NetACT. My visit was the official lecturer exchange between Stellenbosch and MTC. NetACT provided some of the funding. I also used some of my own research funding.

1 PROGRAM

10 June: Visited **Bishop David Beetge, Anglican Bishop** of the Highveld, in Brakpan with Mr Jerome Slammat of the Office of Corporate Affairs of the University regarding cooperation between the Anglican Church and the URDR and NetACT. Mr Slammat wrote a full report. Suffice to say that Bishop Beetge received R65 million over a 5 year period from the USA and R40 million from Britain for the AIDS program run by their church. They are however interested to work with us and guide us in our own proposal writing. The URDR was invited to be present at their next administrative meeting on July 27 in Cape Town to discuss ways to cooperate. 12:00.

I had a meeting with **Missionet**, a local interdenominational missionary minded group, at the Airport in order to conduct a workshop for them 23-25 August at Potchefstroom.

11-12 June: Present a **workshop and preached** at the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe in Chitungwiza, a large township that is part of Harare where more than a million people is staying. I stayed with Rev Christopher Munikwa, a doctoral student in Practical Theology & Missiology who is also vice moderator of the RCZ.

13-17 June: Presented a 3.5 credit **block course in Congregational Studies** at MTC to all the students (all year groups). 18 students and 2 ministers attended. I conducted the classes from 08:00-12:15. Afternoons & evenings were spent marking assignments & in preparation for the following day. The academic quality and maturity of the students are outstanding. Five of the 18 students are women. The RCZ expects to ordain its first female minister, Mrs N. Mubwandarikwa, this year.

18-19 June: Attended the 80th **birthday celebrations** of MTC and conveyed greetings on behalf of the Faculty of Theology, NetACT, the URCSA, DRC and Witness Commission. I also conducted the thanksgiving sermon on the Sunday.

20-23/4 June: "**House-visitation.**" I visited and stayed with the following ministers who are studying or was studying at the Faculty of Theology: Rev Menard Zvenyika (RCZ Pamushana), Rev Wilbert Runyowa (RCZ Zimuto) and Rev S Kundishora (RCZ Harare). It was a study of congregational life in the present difficult circumstances in Zimbabwe. The ministers and church are under considerable pressure to play a prophetic role. They cannot, however, refrain from working with the government on a number of issues since the mission stations are depending on subsidies for their educational and other functions.

2 DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RCZ

2.1 2006 lecturer exchange: Candidate Rodney Tshaka will be lecturing at MTC in 2006 for the whole year. This exchange is in a way a joint venture. On the one hand he represents the Faculty as their exchange lecturer. On the other hand NetACT organised the venture and provided the funding from its own funds and with the help of the Witness

Commission. Candidate Tshaka has to visit MTC in August to do the necessary planning for 2006. The RCZ requested that he should be ordained. This was arranged with the URCSA. I received an official letter from Rev A Mandebvu, general secretary of the RCZ, acknowledging the above arrangements and requesting arrangements as to workpermits etc. The RCZ expressed its sincere appreciation for these arrangements.

- 2.2 D Th candidate Rev Muungani:** Rev Muungani is the outgoing principal of MTC. He has studied with Prof PF Theron as supervisor. There was uncertainty about whether he can continue his studies. A positive letter with clear instructions on how to proceed was received from Prof N Koopman. That was quite a relief to the staff at MTC. A fully revised manuscript is now on Prof. Koopman's desk.
- 2.3 MTC curriculum:** I had discussions with Principal Muungani and Vice-Principal Rutoro about the standard of theological training at MTC and the necessity to look at their curriculum and to start a process to get ACTEA accreditation. The Board of MTC and the RCZ is insisting that MTC gets this accreditation. As such we had a follow-up meeting about this with the Moderator and General Secretary on the 18th. Stellenbosch and NetACT were requested to assist MTC in this process. I will act as coordinator in this regard. The following actions are part of the process in making this possible.
- 2.4 Study leave periods for doctoral candidates:** We have at least four D Th candidates from Zimbabwe that registered in 1999 and whose work is not yet finished. One of the main reasons for this is the reality that once back home they have very little time available to study due to an overload of work. Having been at Morgenster on several occasions and understanding the local scenario I wish to state that we have to find ways to assist these people to be in a situation to come for longer periods of study –up to six months per year- to Stellenbosch. This, however, is not possible without getting temporary staff and a lecturer exchange program that assist their staff for longer periods. This proposal has the unanimous approval of the RCZ Moderamen as well as MTC. Rodney Tshaka will be the first person to actually implement this.
- 2.5 Possibilities for longer period lecturer exchange:** several possibilities are open and we have the written approval of the RCZ to see which avenues we can develop. It implies that we get funding for suitably qualified ministers or promising students who have completed at least a M Th degree to teach for longer periods at seminaries in Africa. By doing this it gives lecturing staff the opportunity to pursue their studies for longer periods. We have negotiations with the PCUSA and RCA in the USA to develop a similar lecturer exchange program between congregations in the USA and NetACT colleges. Dr Banda, the NetACT's chair and I will be meeting with the USA representatives in the USA to negotiate this in October 2005. We will also meet with possible donors and try to establish direct links between them and African theological colleges to support ventures like the one under discussion.
- 2.6 Mustard Seed Foundation scholarships.** I reported about the offer of the foundation to provide scholarships for African church leaders and the requirements of the foundation as well as the information that we need from the colleges.
- 2.7 Communication problems with MTC.** We had a detailed discussion on the inability of MTC to communicate on a daily basis via e-mail. For NetACT, the Faculty and MTC this is an extremely frustrating issue. A telephone substation was built at Morgenster but it was destroyed by lightning shortly after completion. We set action plans in motion to once again address this problem. The present situation in Zimbabwe makes it difficult to accomplish simple issues. At present the best way is to communicate through Rev Henry

Murray's private cell phone which do receive e-mail message which he downloads every evening (when he is at home).

HJ Hendriks
June 24, 2005.

ADDENDUM 3 – PROPOSAL: PREACHING ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

Project name: HIV/Aids: a contextual challenge to the preaching of the gospel in Africa

A. Project Contact Details

Contact person: Dr Johan Cilliers

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Institution contact person: Prof Jurgens Hendriks, University of Stellenbosch, Dorp Street 171, Stellenbosch, 7600, South Africa

Signed Dr JH Cilliers _____ Date: 20/07/ 2005

B. Background to the project

One of the greatest challenges facing the church and theology in Africa today is without a doubt the AIDS pandemic. It has become clear that this challenge must be grappled with on all fronts, in a concerted effort, a "total onslaught" from government, the medical sciences, economical strategies, welfare resources etc. – if there is any hope of turning the tide. Church and theology also has a role to play, an important one at that, and to my mind preaching forms an integral part of this focused effort of all humanity to battle and overcome the scourge of Aids. Preaching is important because it

- Helps to break the silence. It is a known fact that people, and African people in particular, tend to carry the burden of their Aids in silence. There seems to be a widespread culture of silence concerning certain aspects of life, in particular sexuality. Preaching, which freely and openly articulates the problem of Aids, and does so in a pastoral manner, can help break down the barriers, and be instrumental in the verbalization of deep-seated emotions and pain. One thinks for example of the lamentations in the Psalms, which expresses the sorrow and brokenness of human life without holding back.
- Articulates the fact that the gospel is contextual in its very essence. Preaching which is not contextual could hardly be described as preaching. The reality of Aids challenges preachers and homiletics to leave the world of abstract truths behind us, and to listen to the Biblical text and the context of Africa with a new expectancy. The reality of Aids clears our eyes to read the Bible in a new light; it opens our ears to hear the Gospel here and now, in and for Africa. Aids forces us to ask other homiletical questions, questions which we would otherwise not have asked; it calls us to consider anew who and where God is, who we are and what we should be, what the church should be and how we should act – to name but a few. Aids pushes theology and preaching over the cliff, into the abyss; it pushes us into the crises, showers us with the culmination of a series of existential questions and hopes. It is to our advantage. True theology is born out of crises; true preaching responds to a cry - that of human beings, but also of God.
- Expresses the multifaceted gospel of Jesus Christ. Sermons offer different perspectives. This is exactly what is needed in our battle against Aids: the many voices of the church, stemming from different cultural backgrounds and religious histories, but uniting in its protest against this disease, and its search for Biblical answers.

A collection of sermons from the rich religious tapestry of our country and continent, will illustrate the different perspectives, the goal of contextualisation, and the freedom of speech for those in the bondage of silence. The aim is ultimately to publish a book containing these sermons and liturgies, as well as an appropriate theological analysis of the sermons, combined with homiletical guidelines for preaching on Aids in Africa.

C. Members partaking in the project

Dr Johan Cilliers (University of Stellenbosch)

Rev Christo Greyling (World Vision)

Rev. Dr. Amon Kasambala

Extraordinary Lecturer: The University of Stellenbosch (Faculty of Theology), and Executive Director: Focus on the Family, The Africa Office.

ABC:

Angola:

Nifcott:

MTC:

RITT:

ZTC:

Hefsiba:

Namibia:

[The NetACT Board Meeting have to propose a person who can be involved on behalf of each institution]

D. Aims and objectives

To empower congregations through transformational preaching to evaluate and combat Aids in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ministers will be challenged to face the issue of Aids, also in their sermons, and in doing so help to break the chain of silence.

Theological education may benefit if the envisaged book is published, as there exists virtually no literature in this particular regard. The goal here is twofold: Firstly, to reveal what is going on at present as regards preaching on Aids (e.g. what God-images are prevalent, what superstitions, traditions, etc. are operational, how the Bible is used, how the congregation is viewed, how the preacher functions). Secondly, to charter a way towards responsible preaching of the Gospel-for-Aids.

Congregations may be mobilized to expect, and nurture, preaching that truly addresses the context of their needs, in this case, Aids.

Theological students will be sensitized, as the aim is to use as many students as possible within the structures of NetACT to gather the sermons and liturgies.

Creating spaces (for example churches) where the trauma of Aids can be handled in a responsible (in this case, theological-pastoral) manner.

E. Who will benefit from the project?

The first target group would be theologians, theological students and ministers, educating them to integrate the reality of Aids into their theological, and in particular, homiletical and liturgical framework. The envisaged publication, but also the process of getting there, may prove to be helpful.

The second target group would be congregations, who would hopefully reap the benefits of such a transformed approach to preaching and liturgy.

The third target group would of course be the communities themselves, into which the congregations are incorporated.

The idea is also to make use of sermons preached by ministers living with Aids, with the provision that anonymity be respected, if so required. The ideal would be to truly hear the voices of those living with Aids in sermons and liturgies, and to acknowledge their own perspectives on their situations.

F. Project Timetable

Anticipated start date of project

1 January 2006

Anticipated completion date

December 2008

Timetable:

2006: Gathering as many sermons and liturgies as possible, with the provision that they address the issue of Aids in some way. Theological students within NetACT will do this under the supervision of Rev Amon Kasambala.

2007: Selection and evaluation of sermons and liturgies, done in close conjunction with the members of NetACT mentioned in C. Dr Johan Cilliers will assist in constructing the basic theological (homiletical and liturgical) framework.

2008: Formulation of guidelines for preaching on Aids in Africa. Dr Johan Cilliers will act as editor, under the auspices of NetACT. Completion of book that will hopefully be of use for theologians in training theological students.

G. Budget

3 annual meetings of 10 people, including travel, accommodation and meals to plan, write and round off the book

R150,000

Communication (telephone conferences, postage, etc.)

R5000

Publishing cost of the book (2000 copies at R100 per copy)

R 20,000

Total:

R175,000