

**Die Universiteit van Pretoria se
eeufeesviering in 2008:
Woorde van gelukwense deur die
Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van
Afrika**

Die Kerkhervorming van die ses-
tiende eeu was 'n belangrike stimulus
vir akademies-universitêre opleiding
van predikante. Die ontstaan van die
oudste universiteite in Europa is ten
nouste verweef met teologiese fakul-
teite. In sommige gevalle het universi-
teite gegroei vanuit 'n aanvanklike
teologiese fakulteit. Die honderd jaar
se geskiedenis van die Universiteit
van Pretoria (UP) reflekteer ook iets
van die verbondenheid van teologiese
opleiding met UP. Van die honderd
jaar was die Nederduitsch Hervormde
Kerk van Afrika (NHKA), vanaf die
vestiging van 'n teologiese fakulteit in
1917, verbonde aan die Universiteit
van Pretoria.

Die NHKA is dankbaar vir die
geleentheid en ruimte wat UP reeds
vir een en negentig jaar aan ons bied
om ons predikante hier te mag oplei.
Vir die Hervormde Kerk was en is teo-
logiese opleiding aan 'n universiteit
nog altyd 'n ononderhandelbare saak.
Naas die skoling in kritiese teologie-
beoefening aan 'n teologiese fakulteit,
is die blootstelling aan 'n breër akade-
miese milieu onontbeerlik vir die
vorming van predikante. Ons is dank-
baar en trots om te kan sê dat al die
diensdoende predikante van die
NHKA hulle opleiding aan UP ont-
vang het.

Die Universiteit van Pretoria
het nog altyd, plaaslik en internasio-
naal, vir akademiese uitnemendheid

**The University of Pretoria's
centenary celebration in 2008:
A message of congratulation
from the Netherdutch Reformed
Church of Africa**

The Church Reformation of the
sixteenth century provided an im-
portant stimulus to the academic
training of ministers at universities.
The origin of some of Europe's old-
est universities is closely associat-
ed with faculties of theology. In
some instances universities grew
from the early beginnings of a
theological faculty. The past hun-
dred years of history of the
University of Pretoria (UP) also re-
flects something of this close part-
nership between theological train-
ing and a university. The Nether-
dutch Reformed Church of Africa
(NHKA) has been part of UP ever
since the establishment of a faculty
of theology at this university in
1917.

The NHKA is extremely grate-
ful to UP for the opportunities and
space it has offered us and which
enabled us to train our ministers for
the past ninety one years. Theolog-
ical training at a university has
been and will always be a non
negotiable for the NHKA. Apart
from the training in the practice of
critical theology which an university
faculty offers, the exposure to a
broader academic milieu is indis-
pensable in the formation of minis-
ters. It is with pride and gratitude
that we can state that all the
ministers who are currently serving
the Netherdutch Reformed Church

bekendgestaan. Die Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika is juis daarom bevoorreg dat die teologiese opleiding van ons voornemende predikante aan UP mag plaasvind. Gedurende die afgelope honderd jaar het die kundigheid van UP se alumni 'n ontsaglike bydrae gelewer in die ontwikkeling van Suid-Afrika. Die NHKA se teologiese kundigheid het ook gebaat deur aan UP gebind te wees. Krities-wetenskaplike denke en navorsing is die bron van kundigheid wat essensieel is vir die uitdagings van die toekoms. Net so is wetenskaplike teologiebeoefening aan 'n Universiteit 'n *sine qua non* vir die relevansie van die kerk in die toekoms. Die Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika wens die Universiteit van Pretoria geluk met 'n trotse geskiedenis en talle uitnemende akademiese prestasies gedurende hierdie honderd jaar. Met hierdie feesbundel van *HTS Teologiese Studies* wil ons 'n bydrae tot die Jubileum lewer. Ons is dankbaar dat ons vir een en negentig jaar deel kon wees van hierdie trotse tradisie van die Universiteit. Ons hoop en bid dat hierdie verbintenis nog lank sal kan voortduur.

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Prof dr T FJ Dreyer, Voorsitter van Kommissie van die Algemene Kerkvergadering van die Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika.

of Africa have undergone their training at UP.

The University of Pretoria has always been and still is renowned for its academic excellence, both locally and internationally. The NHKA is indeed privileged that the theological training of its candidate ministers can take place at this university. For the past hundred years UP, through the expertise of its alumni, has made a tremendous contribution to the development of South Africa. The NHKA too benefited from its association with UP. Critical-scientific thinking and research form the source for the expertise that is essential in facing the challenges of the future. Similarly, the academic practising of theology at a university is a *sine qua non* as far as the church's future relevance is concerned. The Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa congratulates the University of Pretoria on its proud history and its numerous academic achievements of the highest order over the past hundred years. With this commemorative edition of *HTS Theological Studies* we wish to make a contribution to UP's centenary celebrations. We are thankful that we could be part of the proud tradition of the university for the past ninety one years. It is our hope and our prayer that this association may last for many years.

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Prof Dr T F J Dreyer, Moderator of the Commission of the General Synod of the Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa.