

Marturia

Newsletter of the Christian Reformed Theological Seminary

SUMMER
EDITION

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The CRTS wishes its' students, staff and supporters, a Wonderful Christ-filled festive season and New Year!

Student focus

The impact made by our students over two decades

In this edition of the Marturia, we are briefly focussing on testimonies of students who have studied with the Christian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS). The CRTS has been privileged to train numerous men and women for the ministry and the missionfield, over the last 20 years. Many of them became involved with some familiar ministries and mission organisations. Therefore, we look back with thanksgiving and praise to God, in what He has accomplished through the CRTS in the lives of its former students. It still is the heart and calling of the CRTS to equip the labourers of the Lord's harvest.

THE IMPACT OF FORMER STUDENTS OF THE CRTS



Gideon Jacobs:

He is a farmer from the Free State who came to know the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord used Him as evangelist, preaching on farms and he also worked as developer and manager of a mission ministry, similar to Kwasiza Bantu.

Martin Prinsloo:

Martin was a Magistrate, in Durban, Kwazulu Natal. He did evangelism amongst the seafarers in the port of Durban and also recruited a few students for the CRTS. These students were Marietjie Beukes, Yvonne Pelser, Sonja Gouws and Fritz Fenske. All of whom ministered to the seafarers who visited Durban's harbour. However, Fritz Fenske has been involved in the youth and music ministry for 12 years and became a lecturer at the CRTS. Fritz is still involved in valuable youth work in Bronkhorstspuit.

Philip Mashiye:

When Philip Mashiye started studying at the CRTS, he was already a travelling evangelist and co-worker of Eden Congregation's Andreas Outreach Ministry. Not only was Philip an outstanding student,

but he also developed material to train disciples during weekend seminars. Philip recruited numerous students for the CRTS in this way. Some of Philip's students also completed the B.Th while he utilised them as evangelists, churchplanters and ministers.

Rev. Buks de Bruin and Johan Deetlefs:

Buks de Bruin and Johan Deetlefs both studied at the Andrew Murray Bible School (CRTS). Rev Buks planted a church in Excelsior, Free State and Johan Deetlefs is current busy completing his doctorate in Systematic Theology.

These are but a few of the names that the CRTS had the privilege to train. Today they are still preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr Tommy Jooste. More recently, another graduant of the CRTS, shared with us what value his studies added to his ministry. Dr Jooste is a psychologist and counsellor. *"Although I came from a Pentecostal background and studied at a Reformed institution, I have gained much value from the high standard study material and course presentation. The balanced interaction with the Bible and the utmost integrity of my then lecturer Rev (Bennie) du Toit and fellow lecturers, as well as a healthy perspective in theology, laid a firm foundation in my life. This course in Pastoral Theology also enabled me to complete studies through the University of South Africa (UNISA) and in particular, gain five more degrees a few years later, including a doctorate. I wish to thank the Andrew Murray Bible College (CRTS), who opened the door for me, to enter the academic world and I pray the richest blessing over this institution and the wonderful Kingdom work that they are involved in. I can certainly confidently, recommend their courses as study options towards ministry."* - Dr Tommy Jooste.

Leon and Hannelie Swanepoel:

How their paths led back to the CRTS. Hannelie writes: *"It all began back in 1990 when the Seminary was still based in Benoni, when I started studying Missiology with Rev Sakkie Weber, Shan Naidoo and later Rev Cois Bodenstein. A few years later, I was also involved at Bellville South, Christian Reformed Church. I also studied Christian Education and was involved in missions. In spite of many travels and involvement in missions in Africa and China, we never lost contact with the Seminary. After living in the desert of Namibia, we returned to South Africa on our 20th wedding anniversary. During our temporary stay at a holiday resort near Pretoria, we prayed with a spiritual leader and friend about what the next step for us was. After staying in contact with friends at the Seminary and Eden Congregation, we were invited to join the Seminary and congregation. We are currently assisting lecturers in assessment, program revision, marketing and social media. It is just another reminder how important contact with fellow believers are to follow God's plan for our lives, that includes missions."* -Hannelie Swanepoel.

Shai and Elreza Mulder

This couple had put their own dreams aside in order to join in missions with SAAWE (the South African Action for World Evangelization). Thereafter they both enrolled at the CRTS as students. By the time they completed their studies with the CRTS, they were appointed as head and registrar at Back to the Bible College, one of the largest disciple schools in the country. Although they are passed retirement age by a decade or so, they are still continuing their calling to equip servants of the Lord, especially internationally. The couple also testify of numerous incidents of God's provision for them, enabling them to equip people who have a hunger for training, at a minimal cost.

Wiets and Ina Reynecke

Twenty five years ago, Mr Wiets and Mrs Ina Reynecke gave up their business to study at the CRTS, fulltime. After completing their studies, Ina was appointed as manager of World Thrust's office in South Africa. This position entailed the organizing of mission training weekends across the country. World Thrust's ministry is to mobilize congregations across the country to actively take part in missions involvement. In the meantime, Wiets did some Missions research about a certain unreached people group in Guatemala, Central America. Ina soon identified with her husband's vision and this brave couple, aged about 50 years old, found themselves on foot, travelling toward this unreached people, to establish themselves among this people for missionary work.

This particular people group was a marginalized and almost "forgotten" group and their area contained no roads, clinics, businesses, schools nor houses.

After working amongst these people for a few years, and having done much to address the needs of the people, Wiets and Ina had to return to South Africa due to ill health. After resting for a brief period, the couple took on a new challenge, to go and work in a remote area in Swaziland. This time, Ina was involved in childrens' ministry and Wiets was involved in training semi-schooled local pastors.

THE IMPACT OF OUR CURRENT STUDENTS:

Henk Vorster:

Henk is one of our degree students and he shares the following with us, about his ministry and work: *"On Sunday mornings, I visit the local shopping center where various car guards are working. On a Sunday morning at 08:00, I visit them and read from the Scriptures to*

them and share a message of encouragement with them. After the message I pray with them and then I focus on supplying in their needs. Elsewhere, I am also involved in cricket in coaching and helping the children who do not have good hand and eye co-ordination. This takes place every Friday and continues in January, as the cricket season has concluded for the year. Furthermore I am also part of a prayer ministry, called Crossroads where people send in prayer requests and they in turn are sent to us. We then pray over these requests and encourage those who sent them, with Scripture verses that applies to their situations. Everything we do for the Lord, we do anonymously and we do it on a basis of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing."

Antoinette Mnguni:

Antoinette is a police official with the task of focusing on genderbased violence and victim empowerment. She is also involved in children's ministry. In spite of challenging circumstances, Antoinette is a very committed and keen student of the Bible and her academic work testifies to it.

Cor Engelbrecht:

Another of our degree students, Cor Engelbrecht, enrolled with us to study Theology because he is convinced of his calling to serve the Lord as minister. He has also received numerous Scriptures confirming his calling by the Lord, to ministry. We are convinced that we are still to provide training today, for people like Cor.

INVITATION:

If someone is reading this newsletter and they feel called to the ministry, but also for theological training for the ministry, please contact the CRTS office. We would like to hear from you !

**The harvest is great, but the Labourers are few.
We challenge you to equip yourself as a labourer!**

Contact the CRTS

Formal studies

Diploma in Pastoral Theology, with major subjects in
Pastoral Ministry • Missions • Pastoral Counseling

BTh Degree (3-year)
with major subjects in
Pastoral Ministry • Missions

as well as

Informal equipment

Complete modules in a series of short courses, such as:

Christian Doctrine • Christian Disciplines • Bible study skills
Leadership and planning • Experiencing God • Discover your Gifts
The work of the Holy Spirit • Missions and Evangelism

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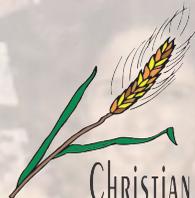
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