

PREFACE

“Prompte et sincere” — “Willing and sincere”

Calvin's emblem of an outstretched hand holding a heart is reasonably well-known in South Africa — along with its symbolic meaning: “I offer my heart”. Less familiar, however, is the complete expression, which could be regarded as Calvin's life motto: “COR MEUM TIBI OFFERO DOMINO PROMPTE ET SINCERE”¹ — “Lord, I offer my heart to you, willing and sincere”. This serves as the inspiration for this congress volume.

Something of this “willingness and sincerity” for the gospel in Calvin's exposition of the Word is reflected in the wide spectrum of papers read — and in the variety of discussions engendered — at the *Seventh South African Congress on Calvin Research* at Stellenbosch in Spring 2004. The congress created the expectation of increased momentum in Calvin research, especially with regard to primary sources. The host on this occasion, as per rotation, was the Faculty of Theology at the University of Stellenbosch. At the conclusion of the congress, the organisers, Prof. Pieter Coertzen and Dr. Victor d'Assonville — with the administrative help and support of Ms. Wilma Riekert and other members of Prof. Coertzen's staff — were able to look back with gratitude at a successful and productive event. It is appropriate here to express warm thanks to Prof. Pieter Coertzen and his personnel for their highly competent organisation and administration of the congress.

Held every four years, the South African Congress on Calvin Research at Stellenbosch in 2004 was the 7th consecutive event since the inaugural congress in 1980 at the University of Pretoria, which was itself the direct outcome of the International Congress on Calvin Research in Amsterdam in 1978. The subsequent South African Calvin Research Congresses took place as follows: In 1984 at Potchefstroom, in 1988 at Stellenbosch, in 1992 at Bloemfontein, in 1996 at Pretoria, in 2000 at Potchefstroom and then in 2004 at Stellenbosch.

Continuing the tradition of international involvement established at the previous congresses, Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Wilhelm H. Neuser DD. (Germany) and Dr. Erik A. de Boer (Netherlands), both Calvin researchers of international renown, and no strangers to the South African congresses, participated in 2004. This volume gives an account of such participation because

1 For “prompte et sincere”, cf. CO 5, XIV; CO 12, 9. Sometimes “prompte et sincere” is also translated as “eager and earnestly”.

the inclusion of international researchers at the South African congresses represents a considerable contribution to vigorous and meaningful academic research, in that the dangers of academic “inbreeding” are thereby prevented. Neuser and De Boer’s contributions with regards to, respectively, Calvin’s exposition of the “Our Father” and his exposition of the Law (Harmony of the Law Commentary on Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) showcase the correct and responsible use of primary sources, and are worthy of imitation for any up-coming young South African Calvin researcher.

Other familiar figures at the South African Calvin Congresses, who have read papers on previous occasions, and whose papers are published here, include Prof. Ludi Schulze (with an outstanding study on Calvin and Bach), Prof. Pieter Potgieter (with his study on Calvin and non-Christian religions — a highly relevant topic, especially in South Africa), and Rev. Eric Kayayan (who combines literary-hermeneutic insights with theological issues in his study). Further contributions, which serve to emphasise the broad spectrum of topics addressed at the congress, and which appear here, are those of Prof. Dolf Britz (dealing with the concept of “poverty” in Calvin’s *Institutes*), and Prof. Callie Coetzee (addressing the phenomenon of demonology in Calvin’s work). The relevance of both within the current African context are self-evident. For the purpose of securing exposure before a wider audience, the research findings arising from Dr. S.J. Han’s (Korea) recent dissertation on Calvin and Augustine, completed at Stellenbosch, are included here too. Papers that were read at the Stellenbosch congress, but which for various reasons have already appeared in other publications, or will do so in the future, are those of Prof. Pieter Coertzen on the “Ordination of Ministers of the Word according to Calvin”, Dr. Gert Kruger on “Oberammergau and Jesus films: Calvin on the Second Commandment”, and Dr. Victor d’Assonville on “Calvin — *Justificatio*, *sanctificatio* and church music”.

With the groundswell in recent South African Calvin research, this volume is situated within a series of South African Calvin Congress publications — to which frequent reference is made within international research circles.² This forms part of a broad spectrum of new initiatives and scien-

2 Papers read during the first six Congresses on Calvin Research are published in the following volumes:

B.J. van der Walt, ed., 1982. *Calvinus Reformer: His contribution to theology, church and society*. Potchefstroom: PU for CHE. [Papers read during the first South African Congress on Calvin Research in Pretoria, 1980.]

B.J. van der Walt, ed., 1986. *John Calvin’s Institutes, his Opus Magnum. Proceedings of the Second South African Congress for Calvin Research, July 31-August 3, 1984*. Potchefstroom: PU for CHE.

tific endeavours within the larger field of Reformation research that has taken place in South Africa over the past two decades. Of special importance is the project, undertaken by Prof. S. (Fanus) Postma in Potchefstroom, to translate Calvin's commentaries into Afrikaans (published by the *Institute for Classical and Reformation Studies* in Bloemfontein). This project, underway for almost a decade, builds on the foundations laid by the late Prof. H.W. Simpson. Simpson's Afrikaans translations of, amongst others, the 1536 and 1559 editions of Calvin's *Institutes*, the 1545 Catechism of Genève, and other shorter works provided the foundational impetus for new and original Calvin research in South Africa. In addition to this, and for the purpose of emphasising the necessity of striving to attain and maintain international standards, it is important to note the increase in South African involvement with international projects such as the *Calvini Opera Recognita* (a long-term project to republish text-critical revisions of Calvin's original texts) and the international Calvin textbook (publication in four languages imminent).

We express our appreciation to Prof. Francois Tolmie, as Editor of *Acta Theologica*, for his willingness to include this volume as a Supplementum of *Acta Theologica*, and to Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Murray for her orthographic preparation and layout of the volume. The costs associated with the publication have been subsidised by a generous donation, and heartfelt thanks go to Prof. Adriaan Pont for his role in this regard.

May "Prompte et sincere" achieve the distinction, also in the scientific-theoretical sense, of displaying something of Calvin's character: willing and sincere.

Victor d'Assonville

Dolf Britz

Summer 2007

A.D. Pont, ed., 1990. *Calvin - France - South Africa: Papers read at the Third South African Congress on Calvin Research*, Stellenbosch, 26-29 July 1988. Pretoria: Kital.

In die Skriflig, 27(4), 1993. [Papers read during the Fourth South African Congress on Calvin Research in Bloemfontein, 1992.]

Hervormde Teologiese Studies, 54(1&2), 1998. [Papers read during the Fifth South African Congress on Calvin Research in Pretoria, 1996.]

Koers, 66(1&2), 2001. [Papers read during the Sixth South African Congress on Calvin Research in Potchefstroom, 2000.]

VOORWOORD

“Prompte et sincere” — “Bereidwillig en opreg”

Iets wat bekendstaan as Calvyn se embleem, ’n uitgestrekte hand met ’n hart daarop, is in Suid-Afrika geredelik bekend, só ook die oordragtelike betekenis daarvan met die simboliek: “Ek offer my hart”. Minder bekend miskien is die volledige uitspraak, wat as lyfspreuk van Calvyn sou kon deurgaang: “COR MEUM TIBI OFFERO DOMINO PROMPTE ET SINCERE”¹ — “Here, aan U offer ek my hart, bereidwillig en opreg”. Vandaar die titel van hierdie kongresband met referate.

Iets van hierdie “bereidwilligheid en opregtheid” vir die evangelie in die uitleg van die Woord het weerklank gevind in die wye spektrum van referate wat gelewer is en diskussies wat plaasgevind het tydens die *Sewende Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsingskongres* wat in die lente van 2004 in Stellenbosch plaasgevind het. Verwagtinge is geskep van verdere stimulasie van Calvynnavorsing in Suid-Afrika, veral wat die primêre bronne betref. Volgens rotasie was die gasheerfakulteit dié slag die Fakulteit Teologie van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch. Die organiseerders, Prof. Pieter Coertzen en Dr. Victor d’Assonville, met die administratiewe hulp en ondersteuning van Me. Wilma Riekert en ander personeel van Prof. Coertzen, kon ná die tyd met dankbaarheid terugkyk op ’n geslaagde kongres. Met hierdie publikasie is dit van pas om spesifiek ’n dankwoord te rig aan Prof. Pieter Coertzen en sy personeel vir bekwame werk met die organisasie en administrasie daarvan.

Stellenbosch 2004 was die sewende opeenvolgende vierjaarlikse Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsingskongres sedert die eerste in 1980 by die Universiteit van Pretoria plaasgevind het — destyds as direkte uitvloeisel van die Internasionale Calvynnavorsingskongres van Amsterdam in 1978. In reëlmatige opvolging het die daaropvolgende Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynkongresse plaasgevind: 1984 in Potchefstroom, 1988 in Stellenbosch, 1992 in Bloemfontein, 1996 in Pretoria, 2000 in Potchefstroom en toe 2004 in Stellenbosch.

Soos by die vorige kongresse, sou internasionaal-erkende Calvynnavorsers ook in 2004 daaraan deelneem. Met Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Wilhelm H. Neuser DD. (Duitsland) en Dr. Erik A. de Boer (Nederland) — ou bekendes by die Suid-Afrikaanse kongres — is die tradisie van internasionale betrokkenheid voortgesit. Hierdie publikasie gee rekenskap daarvan, want in ’n sekere sin lewer buitelandse navorsers ’n groot bydrae deur op die Suid-Afrikaanse kongresse die gevaar van akademiese “interteel” te help verhinder. Neuser en De Boer se bydraes oor onderskeidelik Calvyn se “Onse Vader”-uitleg en sy

1 Vir “prompte et sincere”, vgl. CO 5, XIV; CO 12, 9.

uitleg van die Wet (Harmoniekommentaar op Exodus, Levitikus, Numeri en Deuteronomium) is toonbeelde van die hantering van die primêre bronne — navolgingswaardig vir enige voornemende jong Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsers.

Ou bekendes op die SA Calvynkongres wat ook al by vorige geleenthede referate gelewer het en van wie weer referate hier gepubliseer word, sluit in Professore Ludi Schulze (met 'n uitsonderlike studie oor Calvyn en Bach), Pieter Potgieter (met sy aktuele onderwerp, veral vir Suid-Afrika, oor Calvyn en nie-Christelike godsdienste) sowel as Ds. Eric Kayayan (wat in sy bydrae literêr-hermeneutiese insigte met teologiese vraagstukke kombineer). Verdere bydraes wat die wye spektrum van onderwerpe gelewer by die kongres onderstreep, en wat hier verskyn, is dié van Professore Dolf Britz (oor die begrip “armoede” in Calvyn se *Institusie*) en Callie Coetzee (oor die verskynsel demonologie by Calvyn) — die aktualiteit daarvan in die huidige tydsgewrig en binne die konteks van Afrika spreek vanself. Met die bydrae van Dr. S.J. Han uit Korea vind van sy navorsingsresultate uit sy onlangse proefskrif by Stellenbosch (oor Calvyn en Augustinus) ook blootstelling aan 'n breër gehoor. Referate wat by die Stellenboschkongres gelewer is, maar weens bepaalde redes reeds elders verskyn het of nog gaan verskyn, is dié van Prof. Pieter Coertzen oor die “Ordinerings/bevestiging van dienaars van die Woord by Calvyn”, Dr. Gert Kruger oor “Oberammergau and Jesus films: Calvin on the Second Commandment” en Dr. Victor d'Assonville oor “Calvyn — *Justificatio, sanctificatio* en die kerklied”.

Hierdie volume met die neerslag van resente Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsing vind sy staanplek in 'n ry van Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynkongrespublikasies, waarna daar redelik gereeld ook binne die internasionale navorsingskringe verwys word.² Dit maak deel uit van 'n wyer spektrum van

2 Referate wat gelewer is tydens die eerste ses Calvyn navorsingskongresse, is in die volgende volumes gepubliseer:

B.J. van der Walt, ed., 1982. *Calvinus Reformator: His contribution to theology, church and society*. Potchefstroom: PU vir CHO. [Referate gelewer tydens die Eerste Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsingskongres in Pretoria, 1980.]

B.J. van der Walt, ed., 1986. *John Calvin's Institutes, his Opus Magnum. Proceedings of the Second South African Congress for Calvin Research*, July 31-August 3, 1984. Potchefstroom: PU vir CHO.

A.D. Pont, ed., 1990. *Calvin - France - South Africa: Papers read at the Third South African Congress on Calvin Research*, Stellenbosch, 26-29 July 1988. Pretoria: Kital.

In die Skriflig, 27(4), Des. 1993. [Referate gelewer tydens die Vierde Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsingskongres in Bloemfontein, 1992.]

Hervormde Teologiese Studies, 54 (1&2), Mrt. en Jun. 1998. [Referate gelewer tydens die Vyfde Suid-Afrikaanse Calvynnavorsingskongres in Pretoria, 1996.]

nuwe inisiatiewe en wetenskaplike werk binne die breër veld van Reformasienavorsing wat die afgelope dekade of twee in Suid-Afrika plaasvind. Veral die projek om Calvin se kommentare in Afrikaans te vertaal, met Prof. S. (Fanus) Postma van Potchefstroom wat al byna 'n dekade daarmee besig is (dit word gepubliseer in Bloemfontein deur die *Instituut vir Klassieke en Reformatoriese Studies*), is belangrik as voortbou op die fundamente wat deur wyle Prof. H.W. Simpson gelê is. Simpson se reusebydraes deur Afrikaanse vertalings van onder meer die 1536- en 1559-*Institusie* van Calvin, die 1545 Kategismus van Genève en ook ander korter werke het die grondslag gelê vir die belangrike stimulasie van nuwe en oorspronklike Calvinnavorsing in Suid-Afrika. Daarby kan die toenemende Suid-Afrikaanse betrokkenheid by internasionale projekte soos die *Calvini Opera Recognita* (langtermyn projek om die oorspronklike tekste van Calvin tekskrities te versorg en weer uit te gee) en die internasionale Calvin Handboek (wat eersdaags in vier tale gaan verskyn) vermeld word, om die noodsaak van plaaslike strewe tot internasionale gehalte te onderstreep.

Ons waardering word betuig aan Prof. Francois Tolmie as Redakteur van *Acta Theologica* vir sy bereidwilligheid dat die band as Supplementum van *Acta Theologica* opgeneem word en aan Mev. Marie-Thérèse Murray vir haar tegniese versorging van die band. Die koste van hierdie band word gesubsidieer deur 'n onbaatsugtige skenking. Prof. Adriaan Pont word hartlik bedank vir sy bemiddeling in hierdie verband.

Mag "Prompte et sincere" 'n bydrae lewer om, ook in die wetenskaplik-teoretiese besinning, iets te laat blyk van die karakter van Calvin: "Bereidwillig en opreg".

Victor E. d'Assonville

Dolf Britz

Somer 2007

Koers, 66(1&2), 2001. [Referate gelewer tydens die Sesde Suid-Afrikaanse Calvinnavorsingskongres in Potchefstroom, 2000.]