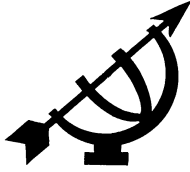


## Resensies / Reviews

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## Resensies / Reviews

### B.J. van der Walt, a missionary of a different kind

**Bishop, S., ed. 2011. Like the first gleam of the dawn: reformational studies – a Bennie van der Walt reader.**  
Potchefstroom: Institute for Contemporary Christianity in Africa.  
588 p. Price: R200,00. ISBN: 978-1-86822-607-8.

**Reviewer:** T. van der Walt  
School of Philosophy  
Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University

Bennie van der Walt characterises himself as a philosophical missionary. This description is instructive with regards to both the selection of topics included in the reader, as well as the intended audience. What is meant by “philosophical missionary”? Someone completely unfamiliar with reformational philosophy might imagine it to refer to the substitution of the good news of the gospels with the cunning “wisdom” of men. Such an interpretation assumes that philosophy and Christian religion are mutually exclusive.

One must, however, realise that Van der Walt works in a special kind of philosophical tradition. It is a tradition in which the central relevance of the good news is acknowledged in all areas of life. It serves to honour the full scope of Christ’s claim on our life and our world. Steve Bishop, the editor of the book, explains:

Like Kuyper before him, Van der Walt ... wants to see a bold, robust and involved Christianity; one that is able to transform and shape society, and one that avoids an escapist, dualistic ... Christianity.

*Like the first gleam of dawn* reflects something of Van der Walt’s career as a philosophical missionary. Missionaries reach out to those who are unfamiliar with the message of God they wish to share. Not surprisingly, Van der Walt has many publications aimed

at making reformational philosophy more accessible to the uninitiated. This compilation was clearly put together with this aim in mind and can therefore be described as popular-scientific reading material. Similarly, the breadth of topics included in the reader reflects something of the message itself, namely the relevance of the Christian religion in all areas and issues of life.

The book is divided into five main parts, with each part having its own theme. The theme of part 1 is the sixteenth-century Reformation. Part 2 contains essays grouped around the theme of a reformational worldview and a reformational philosophy. Included are also some of Van der Walt's essays on central reformational figures such as Abraham Kuyper, Antheunis Janse, and D.H. Th. Vollenhoven. The people of Africa are one of Van der Walt's life-long concerns. It is therefore fitting that part 3 is dedicated to essays on Africa. The theme of part 4 is Christian scholarship and part 5 contains applications of reformational thought to concrete social issues. A total of 27 essays are thus thematically grouped into these five main parts.

As the essays were previously published, either in the form of a chapter in a book or as an article in a journal, each essay forms a more or less independent unit in the book. This fact makes the overview of the five main parts given in the introduction of the book indispensable. Those interested in further reading will also find the list of Van der Walt's English publications at the end of the book very useful.

In summary: The book is well suited as an introduction to the religious impetus behind reformational philosophy and can be recommended to anyone longing for a more "bold, robust and involved Christianity". Those very familiar with Van der Walt's publications must keep in mind that the book does not contain any new material that were not previously published in some other form. Although there are a few editing oversights, it is of minor consequence and will probably only annoy the true perfectionist.

## Van die Kaap tot Gelderland

**Schoeman, K. 2011. Riviereland: twee besoeke aan Nederland.**  
 Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis. 396 p. Prys: R250,00.  
 ISBN: 978-1-86919-497-0.

**Resensent:** D.M. van der Merwe  
 Departement Historiese en Erfenisstudies  
 Universiteit van Pretoria

Karel Schoeman het nie alleen 'n besondere bydrae tot die Suid-Afrikaanse letterkunde gelewer nie, maar ook tot die Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedskrywing en spesifiek oor die tydperk van die VOC (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) aan die Kaap. Uit sy navorsing het werke soos die volgende gespruit: *Die Suidhoek van Afrika: geskryfte oor Suid-Afrika uit die Nederlandse tyd, 1652-1806*; *Early slavery at the Cape of Good Hope: 1652-1717*; *Patrisiërs en prinse: die Europese samelewing en die stigting van 'n kolonie aan die Kaap: 1619-1715*; en *Kolonie aan die Kaap: Jan van Riebeeck en die vestiging van die eerste blankes, 1652-1662*. *Riviereland: twee besoeke aan Nederland* is 'n unieke toevoeging tot hierdie versameling. In hierdie werk lewer Schoeman verslag oor twee navorsingsreise wat hy onderskeidelik in 1999 en 2003 deur Nederland onderneem het. Die leser kry as 't ware die geleentheid om die skrywer se verkenningswerk en navorsing mee te maak.

Die eerste, korter deel handel oor 'n besoek aan Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Delft, Haarlem en Leiden, stede wat 'n belangrike rol tydens die VOC-tydperk gespeel het. Verder beskryf Schoeman ook sy besoek aan die dorpie Meppel en Hattem, waar sy grootouers vandaan kom.

Met die tweede reis wat Schoeman onderneem het, het hy hoofsaaklik op die provinsie Gelderland gefokus. Alhoewel dit die grootste is, is dit een van die minder bekende Nederlandse provinsies en nie 'n gebied wat noodwendig deur toeriste besoek word nie. Weereens is die doel van sy besoek om navorsing oor die Kompanjiestydperk te doen, en spesifiek oor persone in diens van die Kompanjie wat bande met Gelderland gehad het. Naas hooggeplaasde amptenare soos Jan van Riebeeck, wat in Culemburg gebore is en baron Van Reede van Outdtshoorn, word daar ook op gewone werkslui soos die vryburger Jan van Herwerden en sy vrou Jannetje Boddijns gefokus. Die geskiedenis van hierdie persone saam met die politieke gebeure in Nederland en die Kaap, asook die onderlinge

verwantskappe tussen die verskeie VOC-amptenare word tot 'n groter geheel verweef.

Die skrywer beperk hom egter nie net tot die sewentiende eeu nie. Hy gee 'n volledige agtergrondsgeskiedenis van Gelderland as provinsie wat tot die Romeinse tydperk terugdateer. Hy beskryf ook die geografie van die area wat 'n eie besondere karakter ontleen aan die groot riviere wat daardeur vloei, die Ryn, Maas, Waal en IJssel. Die nabyheid van die Duitse en Belgiese grense speel ook 'n rol in die geskiedenis, argitektuur, godsdiensoefening en aard van die inwoners van die area.

Die skrywer se fyn waarneming van die moderne Nederlandse samelewing en die impak wat die reise op hom persoonlik het, verryk die boek.

Die werk is toegelig met twee kaarte, een van Nederland en een spesifiek van Gelderland, 'n uitgebreide bronnelys, asook 'n alfabetiese indeks wat hierdie werk meer as net 'n interessante reisbeskrywing maak – dit word 'n waardevolle naslaanbron.

## Language rights: the way forward

<p><b>Lubbe, J., Du Plessis, T., Truter, E. &amp; Wiegand, C. 2011. South African Language Rights Monitor 2001: first report on the South African Language Rights Monitor Project. Bloemfontein: Sun Press. 130 p. Price: R175,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-29-9.</b></p>
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**Reviewer:** A.N. Otto  
Department of Language and Literature  
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

The Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) commissioned the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment at the University of the Free State to assist with the creation of the South African Language Rights Monitor (SALRM). This came about to help foster PanSALB's intention of raising awareness of language rights issues in South Africa. It also attempts to cultivate a proactive language rights culture that can contribute toward the transformation of society by taking issue with linguistic discrimination. An important pro-active step in this regard is the dissemination of information on language rights in South Africa.

Since extensive information on the language rights situation in South Africa is not readily available, especially as regard the public at large, SALRM came into being as a coherent information dissemination instrument. Its task is to compile and make available to a larger readership an annual comprehensive report on language rights. SALRM 2002 is the first report in this regard and covers five focus areas considered to be of fundamental importance for the fostering of a language rights culture. The investigations in the five areas are preceded by a discussion of theoretical considerations concurrent with language rights issues. These concerns centre around linguistic rights as essentially basic human rights, what constitutes a minority language, in an international and national sense, guaranteeing linguistic rights with recourse to litigation, and the attitude toward language rights in Belgium, Canada, Paraguay and South Africa.

The first focus area considers media coverage on language issues in general. Media coverage is regarded as an important instrument of language rights activism, particularly the printed media, which is a valuable source of information for the public.

An analysis of language rights complaints in the printed media is undertaken in the second focus area in order to investigate which language rights incidents have received preferred representation and been lodged with PanSALB, and to determine the identity of the complainants. Disconcertingly it appears that the primary perpetrator of language rights violations is the State.

The third focus area covers an analysis of other instruments of language rights activism, as covered by the printed media. The language rights struggle is regarded as an important commitment to democracy and can be understood as a type of activism in which active role-players effect change in belief systems, social practices and structures concerned with language communities. The discussion is conducted under the headings of language rights complaint versus language rights activism, an analysis of language rights activism as reported in the printed media, and finally an analysis and interpretation of the data gleaned.

Linguistic rights litigation constitutes the fourth focus area of reportage. Litigation is seen as one of the most vital instruments of language activism which, unfortunately, in South Africa is not maximised to its potential. The matters touched upon here are the importance of litigation, language rights litigation in the context of an instrument of change, a review of linguistic rights litigation during the

periods 1994 to 2001 and 2002, and the role of PanSALB in the initiation of litigation.

The final focus area concerns an overview of research on linguistic rights in South Africa in which the following are identified: linguistic rights as a fundamental human right, the necessity of statutory provisions for linguistic rights, the spread of monolingualism and the decreased status of Afrikaans.

The compilers of the 2002 report present a number of recommendations regarding methodology and the role of PanSALB. Some of the conclusions drawn include the following:

- Linguistic human rights must be guaranteed as language rights by the state and not depend on the whims and largess of the authorities.
- Media coverage on language issues constitutes a vital contribution toward the cultivation of language rights activism.
- The largest number of complaints regarding language rights violations was lodged against state institutions and especially against the first level of government.
- PanSALB, as an official “language watchdog”, does not successfully resolve language rights problems lodged with it.
- Community mobilisation is an effective activist technique not adequately employed.
- The same applies to language litigation.
- By not respecting minority language rights the government is short-sighted and alienating a large portion of its citizens.
- What is urgently required to defuse language tensions is the establishment of an environment that encourages mutual respect, dialogue and proactive actions.

This publication can play an important role in the debate on language rights issues. Its collation of information, interpretation of data and conclusions are valuable for interested readers and defenders of minority language rights. The South African Language Rights Monitor constitutes a constructive contribution by academics to the struggle for language rights in particular, and to the broader socio-political rights of minorities in general.



## Evolution of language rights

**Lubbe, J., Truter, E. & Du Plessis, T. 2011. South African Language Rights Monitor 2003: second report on the South African Language Rights Monitor Project.** Bloemfontein: Sun Press. 172 p. Prys: R175,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-30-5.

**Reviewer:** A.N. Otto  
Department of Language and Literature  
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

The South African Language Rights Monitor (SALRM) of 2003 follows on its 2002 predecessor. This second report has as its objective the presentation of an annual in-depth report on South African language rights issues reported by the printed media. The format is largely similar to that of the previous report, but differs in that it is more comprehensive and introduces matters not previously addressed. It also covers themes regarded as fundamental to the establishment of a language rights culture in South Africa.

The function of SALRM 2003 is to help the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) in the execution of the latter's statutory mandate. The mandate includes, among others, to assist any person, community or institution with complaints regarding alleged language rights violations. SALRM does this by collating information on language rights matters into a comprehensive in-depth report which, as a publication, is made available to interested readers and parties. What is furthermore commented with the publication of this report is its contribution towards a tolerant language milieu that features dialogue and mutual respect among different linguistic groups. In addition, it can contribute towards international research on language rights and act as a direction indicator for the South African government to anticipate language tensions, to discover counter-measures for diffusing such tensions and to encourage constructive dialogue.

The investigation into language rights issues is introduced together with a discussion on theoretical considerations regarding linguistic rights. Themes reviewed during this investigation are the relationship between linguistic rights and basic human rights, the concept of a minority language, the realisation of linguistic rights, and exemplars of the attitude displayed towards language rights. A consideration which arises is that language rights as a human right

cannot be generated by legislation alone, but requires a commitment from the State to fulfil the legal obligations of linguistic rights.

The investigation into language rights is undertaken in five focus areas. The first of these is an analysis of printed media coverage (primarily newspapers) on language issues with reference to the spread of records on language-related subjects and language enhancement.

The second focus area concerns an analysis of language rights complaints and complainants in the printed media, a content analysis of language rights complaints, as well as an analysis of language rights complaints submitted to PanSALB. The latter is reviewed in a separate section under the headings of methodology, language rights complaints registered with PanSALB, outcomes of the lodged complaints, type of language rights complaints, and a comparison between the language rights complaints covered by the media and those that were lodged with PanSALB.

An analysis of other instruments of language rights activism as reported in the printed media is undertaken in the third focus area. In the sense that a commitment to struggle for language rights amounts to a commitment toward democracy, the themes covered are language rights complaints versus language rights activism and language rights activist media coverage.

In the fourth focus area cases of linguistic rights litigation are discussed. Three court cases that appeared in 2003 are referred to. They are Radio Pretoria, Kimberley Girls' High School and Danie Malan Primary School. The applicants lost the first two court cases, while a settlement was reached in the third. The comments and conclusion on these cases are enlightening.

The constitution of South Africa accords official status to eleven languages. Despite this, certain groups believe that English is the dominant language and the government campaigns actively in favour of this perception. Against this background research on linguistic rights is conducted in the fifth focus area in which the following themes are touched on: linguistic rights as a fundamental human right, the right to be educated in one's mother tongue, statutory provisions regarding linguistic rights, the deliberate decreasing of the status of Afrikaans, increasing English monolingualism, and the disempowerment of the masses.

Some of the conclusions arrived at in this report are:

- The linguistic rights of minorities may be regarded as a human right and as such requires active political protection from the State, and not persecution.
- The constitution provides a legal foundation for litigation to coerce a recalcitrant State into recognition of linguistic rights, and this needs to be actively pursued.
- The cultivation of language rights activism is greatly dependent upon media coverage on language issues.
- State institutions are responsible for the highest proportions of alleged language rights violations.
- A successful activist technique mostly used by the Afrikaans community is community mobilisation.
- The government ought to create a need for multilingual skills in all communities.

The SALRM report needs to be made widely and readily available. The issues surveyed are not only topical and interesting, but of vital importance in the struggle for linguistic rights and ultimately the recognition of minorities' human rights. Disconcerting is the fact that the government actively campaigns against its minorities.

## Caring for the chronically and terminally ill

**Daglid, W., Sliep, Y., Akintola, O. & Duckert, F. 2011. Responsibility in the era of AIDS: building social capital in community care and support.** Bloemfontein: Sun Media. 299 p. Price: R200,00. ISBN: 978-1-920383-14-5.

**Reviewer:** H. Strydom  
School of Psycho-Social Behavioural Sciences  
Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University

This book is appropriately divided into five sections, namely the introduction, broader community and system responses, home-based care and volunteering, other perspectives on responsibility to HIV and Aids, and conclusions and a vision. The text is based on the three constructs of social bonding, social bridging, and linking at individual, family, community and external/governmental levels. The authors also focused on creating dialogue between practitioners,

academics, researchers, trainers and facilitators in the field of HIV and Aids.

The cooperation of all relevant organisations in the community is addressed here, as well as the link and cooperation between community and governmental health care. The issue of care for the caregivers is also discussed. Caring for chronically and terminally-ill persons can be stressful and is associated with negative physical and emotional outcomes.

Volunteerism as another important issue is addressed. Volunteering provides crucial learning opportunities and leadership development for those who volunteer. The challenges placed on volunteers in the age of AIDS include issues such as secrecy, isolation, and their own emotional and financial problems. It was found that volunteers need a salary and other support such as transportation and material to perform their job well. They also need training, supervision and support from government. A chapter is devoted to those non-volunteer caregivers and the unacknowledged dimensions of care work.

For care workers to deal with people whom they care for deeply and respond to the additional tasks, creates additional stress. These informal care providers are vulnerable to burnout, infection and illness. Often they do not have access to basic amenities, do not receive much support themselves, and may be discriminated against due to the stigma attached to the epidemic. Often carers are themselves HIV infected and in need of care. They suffer economic costs and reduced food security, and furthermore face exacerbated levels of poverty as their care work detracts them from other productive activities. Generally they are restricted from opportunities for personal development, as they often have to be removed from school or employment. Social grants and ARVs, inadequate primary input from government, shame, misconceptions, mistrust, as well as emotional and instrumental support are also covered.

The section on the challenges experienced by researchers and field-workers made for interesting reading. Issues under discussion in this section are: not being properly introduced to the community, the presence of dangerous animals during fieldwork, poor infrastructure, lack of suitable locations for interviews, and illiteracy. The text also covered well-being, optimism, hope and resilience in HIV and Aids-infected persons. The issues surrounding home-based care were discussed under the headings of, for example, the Aids care economy and community empowerment and resources. The issues surrounding community care and support are discussed together with

the matter of groups and networks at bonding, bridging and linking levels. In the last chapter conclusions are provided and some excellent recommendations are made.

This publication focuses on a couple of important issues regarding the HIV and Aids pandemic such as community members' perceptions of and participation in the care and support activities regarding HIV and Aids, volunteer caregivers, caregivers without a choice (non-volunteer caregivers), untapped resources for HIV and Aids care as well as support and building social capital in community care and support. This publication is written for the indigenous African situation and should fill a space in the wealth of publications on this topic. Although most of the authors have a background in psychology, this publication should play an important part in establishing the field of HIV and Aids care in a multiprofessional context.

The integration of theory with practice can also be seen as a highlight of this publication. Each and every project reported on in this book has a linkage between the theory and practice of the specific topic. It should also be pointed out that various research methodologies were employed. In most cases mixed-methodology research was done using a variety of methods such as participatory action research, ethnography, focus groups and in-depth interviewing. Although many authors were involved in writing the various chapters, a holistic, multimethod approach was evident throughout the text.