



Dr. Tsotetsi David Keta

HULDIGING / HOMAGE: DR. TSOTETSI DAVID KETA

It is both easy and difficult to write a few words at the retirement of Dr. Tsotetsi David Keta.

Let's begin with the easy part. David Keta joined the Faculty of Theology in 1997. This was when the Theological School at Witsieshoek in Qwaqwa, where the theological training of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (DRCA) took place, closed its doors, and when the DRCA had just decided the previous year that their students in future would undergo training at the University of the Orange Free State, as the latter was called at the time. David was then recruited for the Faculty — as its first permanent black lecturer — in the department of Biblical Studies, and what a blessing for us it turned out to be! David was not only lecturer, but also served in the capacity as rector of the Stoffberg Memorial School. The latter in former years offered training to students for the ministry in the DRCA, and the name was retained for the training at Witsieshoek and the University of the Free State.

Dit kon nie vir David maklik gewees het om die skuif van Witsieshoek na Bloemfontein te maak nie, maar gegewe die mens wat hy is, het hy met grasie by die Fakulteit ingeskakel asof hy maar altyd deel daarvan was. En so het hy oor die jare op sy stil maar soliede manier verrig om studente van die NGKA hier te laat tuisvoel en aan hulle kerklike begeleiding te verskaf. Hy was die simpatieke vaderfiguur na wie hulle opgesien het om raad en leiding, en vir wie hulle altyd om praktiese bystand kon nader. David het altyd maniere gevind om in groot nood te help. Maar juis omdat hy hulle omstandighede so goed geken het, kon hy ook dissipline uitoefen wanneer dit nodig was.

Twee dinge bly my altyd by van David. Eerstens, die gemaklike manier waarop hy tussen ten minste drie tale kon beweeg — of dit nou Sesotho (sy moedertaal), Engels of Afrikaans was. En tweedens sy onkreukbaarheid, as mens en as teoloog. David kan gou deur valsheid sien — wanneer mense kanse probeer vat, met hom of met die teologie. Studente het geweet dat hulle nie met “stories” by Dr. Keta kan aankom nie. Hy het gou dwarsdeur hulle gekyk. En as teoloog, gebonde aan die gereformeerde teologie, het dit hom altyd ontstel as predikante en die Kerk nie erns maak met die prediking en 'n optrede wat gegrond is op die Woord nie.

Daarom, David, ontvang hierdie uitgawe van *Acta Theologica* as 'n blyk van ons hoë waardering vir die besondere bydrae wat jy as gereformeerde teoloog in hierdie Fakulteit gelewer het. Mag jy veel vreugde uit hierdie bundel put.

The difficult part is that we now have to say goodbye to a beloved and respected colleague. It is sad to think that we will have to make do in the Faculty without him being around, and without the ambiance of friendliness, reliability

and stability that he always has radiated. But healthwise things have not been easy for David in recent years. And if this was not enough, he has also been under immense pressure in the Church, since people looked up to him for guidance and expected so much of him. And being the man that he is, it was very difficult for him to say “no” to invitations and responsibilities — to such an extent that the Church leadership at one stage had to intervene by friendly “forcing” him to take leave, for his own sake.

It is therefore with the conviction of a task well executed that we sincerely pray that he and his good wife, Selina, will make good use in future of the slower pace now granted to them. We wish them many years of fulfillment and enjoyment together.

May the Lord bless and keep them. May the Lord make his face shine upon them and be gracious to them. May the Lord turn his face toward them and give them peace.

Tsamaya hantle, David.

Hermie van Zyl

Dean: Faculty of Theology