

FOREWORD

This design which has emerged from my academic drawing-board, was inspired by my own personal quest for, and expression of, a relevant *theologia habitus* for everyday life. The spaces that have been mapped out were further facilitated by the collaboration of various persons and institutions, by means of various processes.

In my own search for accents with a view to a relevant description of a lived spirituality, the further studies that I carried out in the M Phil programme in Futures Studies at the School of Management of the University of Stellenbosch played an important role. The published research is a direct outcome of research that I undertook as part of the Master's-degree programme and, in particular, with a view to the completion of my thesis, in fulfilment of the requirements for this qualification. My study supervisor, Prof. André Roux (Director of the Institute for Futures Research), perceived the possibilities relating to the potential publication of this research, and opened the way for me to introduce the meaningful debate between practical theology and futures studies to a broader readership.

Quite some time ago already, Prof. Francois Tolmie, Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of the Free State, who was the editor of the *Acta Theologica* at the time, entered into discussions with me, and also encouraged me to seriously consider preparing a monograph for possible publication. The accomplishment of this task was further guided by Prof. Hermie van Zyl, the current editor of *Acta Theologica*, as well as by the executive editor, Dr Lyzette Hoffman. Ms Alice de Jager, as a professional translator, achieved the impossible by translating the initial Afrikaans manuscript, which was strongly informed by metaphorical and idiomatic language, in such a way that the nuances and meaning of the original text were retained. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of these persons.

A number of first readers were also closely involved in the initial reading of the manuscript. My sincere thanks to Profs Ruard Ganzevoort, Julian Müller, Kobus Schoeman, Rian Venter, as well as Dr Eben Smith and Rev. De La Harpe Le Roux, for their valuable inputs in this regard.

Part of the dialogue in the design revolves around the accent on the (auto) biographical character of the research. Various individuals played a distinctive role in this regard, thereby augmenting my own biography. Profs Piet Naude, Laetus Lategan, Bennie Anderson; Drs Eben Smith, Arnold Smit and Kulu Ferreira; Revs Danie Fourie, Johan Beukes, Ivan Katzke, Willem Fourie, Christo Spies, Nico Mostert; Messrs Hendri Viljoen, Johan Paulse, Neels

Grobbelaar, Das van Deventer and Johan Cloete, as well as Ms Rothea van Biljon, all made special contributions relating to this aspect.

As a professional architect, Mr Sandy Stevenson provided me with valuable guidance in terms of the facilitation and use of architectonic concepts that feature in the design.

To my wife, Jeannine, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the repeated rereading of the manuscript. Jeannine and our two daughters, Mandi and Mineé – as well as our parents – provided me with invaluable support in the finalisation of the design. Many, many thanks to each and every one of you!

May every reader feel at home in the exploration of the proposed design!

Soli Deo Gloria!