



"The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness will be preached in his name to all nations..."

Luke 24:46,47

This document provides a quick overview of the mission and related work around Pretoria and Cape Town by the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa

## Short overview of mission work in South Africa by the FRCSA.

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Date

## **1. Introduction**

This document provides a short summary of the mission work of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa (FRCSA). This work has come a long way and started already in the 1950's, just after the first FRCSA congregation was instituted. This mission work has been supported from the early days till now by the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (liberated), although the form of this support has changed over time. Currently responsibility for all mission work is vested within the FRCSA, while the churches in the Netherlands provide support.

The mission work by the FRCSA is driven by the following mission:

"To establish a network of living churches across the Republic that will instill the unity of the Kingdom of God amongst a multi-cultural and multi lingual nation"

The method to achieve the above mission is contained in a strategic plan of which some highlights are:

- The purpose of mission work is the planting of churches.
- A phased approach to mission work is followed, comprising:
  - i. Phase 1: Planting
  - ii. Phase 2: Care
  - iii. Phase 3: Completion
  - iv. Phase 4: After care

Our approach towards achieving this has generally been based on:

- a) Identifying an area for expansion.
- b) Calling of a missionary for this specific area.
- c) Monitoring the development and progress of the mission work.

In the last 2 years all the planned expansion has been blessed by the Lord in providing the men to send out and spread the Gospel.

## **1. Location of Churches and Mission posts.**

All number of members mentioned for each congregation in this sections are as per 31 Dec 2011.

### **1.1 FRCSA Mission work in South Africa.**

All mission work by the FRCSA in South Africa takes place around Pretoria and Cape Town about 1400 km apart from each other. See next map.



## 1.2 Pretoria

In Pretoria there are two FRCSA congregations having their origins in emigrants arriving in South Africa in the 1950's and later. Both congregations are located in 'die Moot' which is a residential area of Pretoria about 6–8km from the city centre. See map below. The 'die Moot' area is about 8km wide in west–east direction. The Pretoria congregation ('Pta' on the map) is the older one of the two with 425 members. 4km east is the Maranata congregation ('Mar' on the map) with 311 members.

Maranata is the church with the direct responsibility for all the mission work in the Pretoria area and hence this work is controlled by the Maranata Church Council, who has appointed a Mission Board in order to do the day to day managing of everything involved.

Both Pretoria and Maranata are Afrikaans speaking congregations.

The mission points and newly instituted churches will now be listed:



*Pretoria Centre with Mamelodi in the East and Akasia in the (North)-West.*

- 1) Mamelodi at location 12 on the map above. This is an instituted church with its own minister, Rev KT Mogale. This is a Sotho speaking congregation. There are 175 members.
- 2) Nelmapius at location 13 on the map above is a mission point resorting under Mamelodi. Rev GF Mnisi works here as a missionary together with a student. This is a Sotho speaking congregation.
- 3) Akasia at location 9 on the maps above and below. This is a new mission point where Rev DM Boersma works. Akasia is a mixed black/white environment and the intention is to plant a church representing this mixture and using English medium.
- 4) XX at location 7 on the map below is a mission point, north of Akasia. Rev PG Boon works here as a missionary. This is a Sotho speaking congregation.
- 5) WW at location 6 on the map below is a mission point, north of XX. Rev J Mhlanga works here as a missionary. This is a Sotho speaking congregation.
- 6) Central (or normally known as CC) at location 4 on the map below is a mission point and Rev T de Boer works here as a missionary. This is a Sotho speaking congregation. CC has already come a long way and growth over the years has been problematic. During 2011 a decision will be taken about the future of CC, continue or not.

- 7) GG at location 2 on the map below is an instituted congregation where Rev BA Matlaela is its minister. This is a Sotho speaking congregation with 161 members.
- 8) F4 at location 1 on the map below is a new mission point in a very poor area, with rev MP Magagula as missionary. This is a Sotho speaking congregation.

The other numbers on the maps, like 3,5,8 and 11 are not applicable to the mission work.

GG is about 40 Km from the Maranata congregation.



### 1.3 Cape Town

In Cape Town there is one FRCSA congregation which also was instituted by emigrants from the Netherlands in the 1950's. This is the Belville congregation with 411 members, see map below. Belville is about 30Km's from Cape Town city centre. Mission work has been undertaken over the years under the Cape Coloured population, which is Afrikaans speaking.



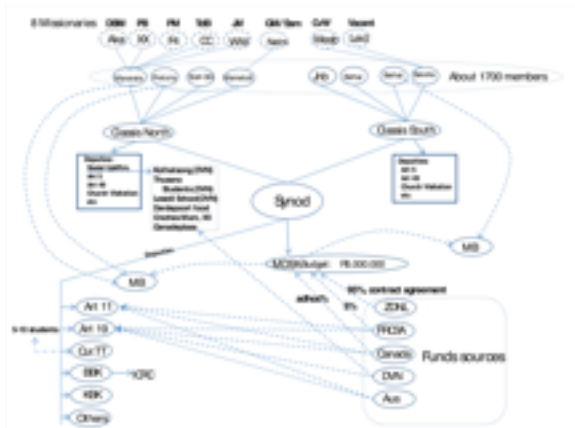
The mission points and newly instituted churches will now be listed:

- 1) Belhar is the oldest of the mission points and became an instituted church only recently with Rev P Abrahams as their minister. This congregation has 68 members.
- 2) Wesbank is a mission point with Rev C van Wyk as missionary.
- 3) Leiden is also a mission point and has no missionary allocated at the moment. Care for this congregation is given by Belhar and Belville. Belville is looking at filling the vacancy and is preparing a profile for a missionary for calling, with a view to fill the vacancy by 2012.

Afrikaans is being used in all congregations around Cape Town.

## 2. Structure.

The structure of the mission and related work will be explained using diagram below:



At the top we have the churches and mission points already mentioned in the previous section, plus the other congregations not involved directly in mission, like Johannesburg (95 members) and Bethal (54 members)

There are two **Mission Boards**, one in Pretoria and one in Cape Town (MB in sketch above). The MB in Pretoria reports to the Maranata church council. The MB in Cape Town reports to the Belville church council.

The MB's handle the day to day operation of the mission activities and also do the long term planning, which results in short term and long term financial budgets.

**Mission Deputies South Africa** (MDSA) are deputies appointed by Synod. They are responsible for a fair distribution of funds between all the mission activities in the country and coordinate various activities of mutual interest. MDSA and MB's come together once a year in order to come to an attainable joined budget.

As far as **funding** is concerned, most of the funds come from the Netherlands based on a fixed contribution per member in the co-operating churches over there. There is a contract with ZDNL, the responsible body in the Netherlands, with regards to the structure of this support. ZDNL represents a group of Reformed churches (liberated) in the north of the Netherlands. Donations are also received from some Canadian Reformed Churches and the Free Reformed churches in Australia, although these donations are not based on a fixed agreement.

**DVN** stands for "De Verre Naaste" and is financially involved with various relief projects, but these projects do not fall under the MBs or MDSA.

### **3. Challenges.**

The mission activities and the results thereof come with quite a few challenges:

- 1) It is a big program for a small bond of churches which needs quite a lot of manpower to run and oversee it all.
- 2) All mission work takes place in poor areas and under mostly poor people. This results in needy churches and needy students. For that reason Art 11 and 19 CO Deputies are also shown in above sketch. For the same reason, Classis North of the FRCSA has appointed Deputies Social upliftment, whose mandate it is to co-ordinate social and economic upliftment in the Pretoria area.
- 3) The FRCSA do not have its own theological training and catering for students from at least three languages is no easy task.
- 4) As can be seen in the above sketch, most of the funds ( $\pm 95\%$ ) for the mission program comes from overseas and is Euro based. Our local currency, the Rand, is quite volatile and exchange rates can change drastically over time, creating serious concerns from time to time about the long term sustainability.

### **4. Conclusion.**

The mission program by the FRCSA is an extensive program by a small bond of churches, but it is seen as a privilege to spread the gospel according to our Lord's instructions. He has provided in the past, in Him we trust for the future.