

14.3 REPORT 3: DEPUTIES BIBLE – BIBLE DISTRIBUTION (Art 93)

- A. Rev DJ Bakker tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

1. Mandate

(Acta 2009:98, 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.2.2)

- 1.1 Keep fundraising for Bible distribution and engagement with the Bible Society of South Africa maintained.
- 1.2 Provide the churches annually from the guideline for contributions in respect of their Bible distribution.

Decision: Points 1.1 and 1.2 noted.

2. Matters that the Synod take note of

- 2.1 Contributions by individuals and congregations of the Reformed Churches:
Included is the figures for 2012 and 2013 and part of 2014. (Complete figures for 2014 will be reflected in the Supplementary Report.)

	2014 **Jan tot Jun	2013 Jan tot Dec	2012 Jan tot Dec
Western Cape	107 961.31	198 314.73	148 024.72
KZN South	5 737.70	24 570.00	19 701.84
CAS	518 312.63	1 488 001.05	1 293 432.19
Bfn & North Cape	46 069.90	188 730.35	172 742.42
Eastern Cape	54 835.90	75 227.95	41 670.05
KZN North	1 127.00	7 829.00	4 755.00
TOTAL	R734 044.44	R1 982 673.08	R1 680 326.22

- 2.2 Br Hennie Dekker is still the *Deputy* of the GKSA and in the full-time service of the Bible Society of South Africa (BSSA). He still visits churches across the country on a rotational basis and try to visit them Classis areas. He encourages congregations to implement the *Sponsor a Bible* project as a means to collect funds for Bible distribution and give feedback on the work of the BSSA. Br Dekker thank assemblies for the warm welcome during his visits.
- 2.3 The Project is now the bases for fundraising and a lot of time is spent to help congregations with the introduction of the Project to their assemblies. Churches and Church Councils work together very well in this regard but there is still more than 80% of churches that did not implement this Project. However, it is heartening to see that in the first year after the implementation of this Project, the contributions have increased by 18% after the 15% slump in revenue during 2012.
- 2.4 The Deputy's instruction to update congregations every year regarding the Bible distribution guideline (1.2), is now automatically linked to the cost of the Standard Bible during the period of the Project.
- 2.5 As br Dekker is at the BSA full time, he has the opportunity to be involved in all internal matters and as representative of the GKSA he can put across the position of the Reformed Churches regarding certain matters.
- 2.6 The *Bible on cell phone* continues to play an important role in the distribution of the Bible and churches (especially youth) are still encouraged to download and use this Bible (translation of their choice).

- 2.7 The Bible Society has many resources available that are ideal for use at churches
TURNAROUND STRATEGY eg.:
- 2.7.1 The "Essential 100 Bible Reading Plan" is a bird's eye view of the Bible and is extremely valuable if read by the whole congregation simultaneously.
- 2.7.2 This literacy project through the booklets "*My first Bible do and learn*", is ideal for Congregations to reach out to Kindergarten/pre-primary schools as a Bible distribution project.
- 2.7.3 To encouragement and guide the Youth to use *the Bible on cellphone* by reading and sharing, especially on the social networks. This is an opportunity for them to implement the Great Command of Matt 28.
- 2.8 The GKSA is also represented in the other structures of the Bible Society by Regional representatives in each region of the BSSA and at the Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors (read 2.9 on the GKSA's representation in the BSA-Structures).
- 2.9 Representation of the Reformed Churches in the Bible Society was adjusted in its Memorandum of Association so that there is better opportunity for representation of Churches:
- 2.9.1 Two (2) Regional Representatives appointed by each GKSA Regional Synod to meet twice per year in their respective Regional Committee Meetings and then return and give feedback to the GKSA higher meetings.
- 2.9.2 A newly added benefit was the seats given for two representatives of the GKSA's "management structure" at the Annual General Meeting and prof Gert Jordaan and dr Wymie du Plessis was provisionally appointed by the Deputies Bible and they attended the first AGM March in 2014. All full members (membership churches more than R8000 per year contribution) of the BSSA have the opportunity to appoint representatives on a prorata basis to the AGM.
- 2.9.3 Representatives at the AGM may be elected by the AGM to serve on the Board (of Directors) and so the rev Rodney van Wyk was appointed as the Chairman for the next 3 years.

Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.9.3 noted.

3. Matters the Synod have to thankfully approve

- 3.1 The Synod expresses its sincere gratitude to br Hennie Dekker for his precious work performed within the BSA and GKSA.
- 3.2 The Synod expresses its sincere thanks to the BSSA for the essential work they do in supplying the Bible, spiritual reading and other valuable resource material that congregations can use to establish, promote and spread the Word. Over the past 3 years the BSSA has again distributed 1 million Bibles with the help of the Churches!

Decision: Points 3.1 and 3.2 approved.

4. Matters to approve

- 4.1 The Synod continues to support the *Sponsor a Bible* project and encourage congregations to actively establish the Project as a means to gather funds for Bible distribution. Congregations are thanked for the way they positively embarked on the Project.
- 4.2 The Synod approves the designation of the GKSA's representatives to the BSSA's AGM for the first three-year term, namely prof Gert Jordaan and dr Wymie du Plessis.

Decision: Points 4.1 and 4.2 approved.