

## REDAKSIONEEL

Bybelkunde en Bybelonderrig op skool is in die jongste tyd telkens in die nuus. Hierdie nuwe aktualiteit kan aan verskillende oorsake toegeskryf word, waarvan ons hier net twee uitlig: Eerstens 'n verblydende en groeiende besef van die belang van hierdie "waardevak" om 'n gesonde ewewig te bewaar in 'n tydvak waarin tegniese en beroepsgerigte onderwys al groter nadruk ontvang. Tweedens heers daar terselfdertyd wydverspreide kommer dat die vak, ten spyte van die beste beoelings, nog geensins tot sy reg kom in die onderwysopset nie.

Verskeie samesprekings en kongresse het rondom hierdie tema die afgelope paar jaar plaasgevind. In *Scriptura* 4 (1981) het ons uitvoerig berig oor 'n Bybelkundekongres wat in Mei 1981 aan die Universiteit van Pretoria gereël is, asook oor die "Second Conference on Religious Education in our Changing Society" wat in Julie 1981 by die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland plaasgevind het. In dieselfde uitgawe is verskeie referate gepubliseer wat by albei byeenkomste gelewer is.

By die UP-kongres is 'n aantal probleem-areas geïdentifiseer wat as studie-opdragte onder die deelnemende inrig-

## FROM THE EDITOR

Biblical Studies and Religious Education have been very much in the news lately. There are various reasons for this renewed interest. To mention only two: The growing awareness of the important place of a "value-oriented" subject in a situation where the trend is increasingly towards technical and vocational training. Secondly, there exists at the same time widespread concern that, despite the best intentions, the subject still does not occupy its rightful place in institutions of education.

During the past two years, various discussions and symposia were organized on this theme. *Scriptura* 4 (1981) carried reports of the congress on Biblical Studies at the University of Pretoria in May, 1981, and of the Second Conference on Religious Education in our Changing Society. In the same issue, papers were published which were read at both occasions.

At the Pretoria meeting, various problem areas were identified and allocated for further study amongst the participating institutions and representatives. The aim was to prepare position papers with specific recommendations to be considered at a later date. The follow-up congress took place at the

tings en instansies verdeel is. Die bedoeling was dat studiestukke met pertinente aanbevelings voorberei sou word vir oorweging by 'n volgende kongres. Hierdie opvolgkongres het op 16 April vanjaar aan die Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit plaasgevind.

In die pers het die byeenkoms wye dekking geniet en groot belangstelling gaande gemaak veral vanweë die bevindinge van 'n wetenskaplike ondersoek na die posisie van Bybelonderrig op skool (vgl die artikel van prof du Plessis in hierdie uitgawe). Hierdie ondersoek het 'n sorgwekkende toestand aan die lig gebring, wat die noodsaaklikheid van spoedige optrede onderstreep het. Die kongres was ook vir drie verdere redes van belang. Eerstens is oorgegaan tot die stigting van 'n *Suider-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir die Bevordering van Bybelkunde* (*Southern Africa Society for the Promotion of Biblical Studies*), waarvan ons die konstitusie in hierdie uitgawe publiseer. Tweedens was nie slegs verteenwoordigers van universiteite en kolleges, maar ook van verskeie onderwysdepartemente teenwoordig, wat veel vir toekomstige samewerking belowe. Derdens is op 'n spesifieke plan van aksie besluit wat hopelik spoedig tot positiewe resultate sal lei.

*Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit*  
on April 16th this year.

Via the media, this meeting attracted considerable attention. One of the main reasons was the results of a scientific investigation regarding the state of Religious Instruction in schools (cf the article by Prof P J du Plessis in this issue). The survey revealed a very disquieting picture and cause for grave concern. The meeting was important for three further reasons. Firstly, it witnessed the founding of the *Southern Africa Society for the Promotion of Biblical Studies* (cf p 58 for the constitution of the Society - an English translation is being prepared at the moment). Secondly, not only representatives of universities and colleges, but also of several departments of education, were present which augurs well for co-operation in the future. Thirdly, a specific plan of action was drawn up which will hopefully soon yield positive results.

When one compares the resolutions adopted by the 1982 R A U meeting with those of the 1981 U W C congress (cf *Scriptura* 4 (1981), 33-36 and p 63 in this issue), a large measure of common ground becomes apparent. The question arises: Is it wise to scatter the not-so-abundant

As die besluite van die RAU-kongres van 1982 met dié van die UWK-kongres van 1981 vergelyk word (vgl *Scriptura* 4 (1981), 33-36 en hierdie uitgawe p 63), val die groot mate van ooreenstemming dadelik op. Dit is daarom 'n ernstige vraag of die min kragte op hierdie gebied nie saamgesnoer en na die groots moontlike mate van samewerking gestreef moet word nie.

In hierdie uitgawe verskyn sommige van die referate wat op die RAU-kongres gelewer is. Die formaat van studiestukke is behou, met die spesifieke aanbevelings wat aan die vergadering voorgelê is. Vir die inligting van ons lesers, word onder die rubriek *Dokumentasie* die konstitusie van die nuwe vereniging asook die besluite van die kongres gepubliseer.

Die volgende kongres is vir 29 April 1983 aan die Univer-siteit van Suid-Afrika belê, waar, onder andere, die volgende sake aandag sal geniet:

- 'n Kernleerplan vir universiteite
- Die aanbieding van Bybelkunde vanaf standerd 6
- Bybelkunde in meer vakpakette vir Matriek
- Godsdiensonderrig op skool as verpligte eksamenvak
- Die moontlikheid van Bybelkunde-onderwysers vir Godsdiensonderrig op skool

resources in this field? Should it not be a matter of high priority to combine forces in a joint effort?

This issue contains a number of papers read at the 1982 R A U meeting. The format of position papers with specific recommendations as they were presented to congress, has been retained. For the interest of our readers, the constitution of the new society and the resolutions adopted by the meeting are published in a separate section.

The next congress is scheduled for 29 April 1983 at the University of South Africa. The following topics, amongst others, will be discussed:

- A basic syllabus for universities
- The teaching of Biblical Studies from Std 6 upwards
- Biblical Studies in more subject combinations for matric
- Religious instruction as an examination subject
- The use of teachers with qualifications in Biblical Studies for Religious Instruction

- Verslag van 'n ondersoek insake Godsdiensonderrig op skool
- Die bevordering van Bybelkunde by skole.

Verdere besonderhede is verkrygbaar by die Algemene Sekretaris by die volgende adres:

Prof W Vosloo  
SA Vereniging vir die Bevordering van Bybelkunde  
Univ van Pretoria  
Pretoria  
0083.

- Report of an investigation regarding Religious Instruction at schools
- The promotion of Biblical Studies in school.

Further details are obtainable from the General Secretary at the following address:

Prof W Vosloo  
SA Society for the Promotion of Biblical Studies  
Univ of Pretoria  
Pretoria  
0083.