

Mission Deputies of the Free Reformed Churches in SA Report to Synod 2021

Date 23 Dec 2020
V2.04



Dear Brothers

Attached you find the report of the mission Deputies, appointed by Synod 2017.

Not all relevant information is included in this report, like minutes of MDSA meetings and reports of workshops and conferences. This information is available on request from the secretary.

In this report you can read various details but there were 2 major changes since previous synod (2017) that stand out.

1. ZAM announced that it would gradually cut contributions to 50% of the budget, reaching the 50% in 2026. This is to address the dependency and not a lack of funds.
2. ZAM requested a more structured approach (projects) to the mission work in planning as well as reporting.

Both these requirements had quite an impact on mission work and Mission Committees, but MDSA is of the opinion that at the end these requirements worked out for the good. More information can be found in this report.

We pray that you as synod delegates may receive strength and wisdom in order to have positive discussions and that God may bless all wise decisions made.

With sisterly and brotherly greetings, for MDSA:

Br. H Pouwels
Chairman

Sr. T Bijker
Secretary

1. Mandate 2017 and execution thereof (short)

We start the report with the 2017 Synod mandate and a short response to each point:

- 2.1. To sustain and enhance the contacts between the mission churches of the FRCSA, the supporting churches abroad and the local supporting churches.
This was achieved by meetings with mission church councils where needed, via regular contact with ZAM and reminding Mission Committees about their local PR duties.
- 2.2. To send a letter to ZAM/DVN in which a clearer and more transparent definition of mission in the new Agreement of Co-operation is requested.
ZAM and VN share the same vision and definition of Mission work. See <https://verreinaasten.nl/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Meerjarenbeleidsplan-2017-2021.pdf> This is all in Dutch and the translation of the Mission/Vision part can be found in in the block below. Although this is a much wider definition of mission work than what was agreed on FRCSA Synod 2014, the difference has no impact on our mission work in RSA.

The **vision** of the GKv mission work is:

God makes himself known in the Bible as God who is looks at the world in love. He even sent His Son Jesus to save the world. Mission may go in the wake of Jesus, who looks at people in love and delivers them from evil, now and later. Driven by Jesus' command and our desire to share the faith we may, as His followers, declare God's love in word and deed and help build God's Kingdom on earth. So that people in the world acknowledge God and want to follow Him.

The **mission** of the GKv mission work is:

Working with and on behalf of local churches in the Netherlands we help spread the gospel worldwide.

To this end, we maintain relationships with churches and Christian organizations who share the faith in word and deed in their direct environment. That's how we want, as brothers and sisters in God's worldwide church, move forward together in faith and in being a church and proclaiming God's plan of salvation. With the goal of mutual support, inspiration and encouragement and all this to honor of God.

In short "sharing faith worldwide".

- 2.3. To act in accordance with the “Agreement of Co-operation between MDSA and ZAM/DVN1”, and the “Agreement of Cooperation regarding the mission between the FRCSA churches2”.

Especially with ZAM, actions were in accordance with the agreement.

- 2.4. To execute the “FRCSA policy for supported mission projects” for all supporting projects.
The policy was executed/upheld.
 - 2.5. To approve or reject proposals for possible new mission projects. Approved projects have to be related to the spreading of the gospel, have to have as ultimate goal the conversion of sinners and the gathering of Christ’s church and must be proven to be sustainable and executable.
There were no real new projects.
 - 2.6. To assess the different congregations according to the newly adopted differentiated contribution model.
Done
 - 2.7. To submit an interim report to the Indaba to be organised in 2019.
Done
 - 2.8. To report to the next synod according to the Rules of Synod as adopted by Synod 2017.
Via this report.
3. To Approve proposed “FRCSA policy for supported mission projects” (Appendix 1)
This was MDSA’s request to previous Synod. Synod has approved.
 4. To Approve AND SIGN the new “Akkoord van Samenwerking” with ZAM (Appendix 4), but the one to be signed will be sent separately.
This was MDSA’s request to previous Synod. Synod has signed.
 5. For any new project, funding should first be sought from the FRCA and/or CanCR .
No need for this so far.
 6. To update the “Agreement of co-operation between local churches”, according to the new situation. (Appendix 2)
 7. ***This was MDSA’s request to previous Synod. Synod has approved the update.***

2. Should MDSA exist?

In the past 3 years the idea came forward to do away with MDSA so that every project could approach ZAM (or other sponsors) directly. This idea was called unbundling but was rejected by all project owners, so in line with our mandate and sentiments by the project owners we continued as normal.

With MDSA around or not, Christ’s commandment to the church to spread the Gospel stands, irrespective of an abundance or shortage in funding.

3. Relationship with ZAM.

MDSA’s relation with ZAM is good and based on open communications. The differences in theology and the possible change in interchurch relations were openly discussed. ZAM do not see a problem supporting the mission work in South Africa should the FRCSA break the relation with the Dutch Reformed churches liberated (DRCL). Impacts like pulpit exchange was discussed and accepted that Dutch ministers could be withheld from leading services in FRCSA congregations.

We have to remember that ZAM (which in essence still represent the northern region of the Netherlands) have supported us since 1992 when we became responsible for the mission work in SA. Not only money was donated but also advice and prayers to bless the work in SA. The mission work in SA is still a part of the Dutch congregations of those who started the mission work in 1964.

An example of the ZAM and the Dutch support is the ±R300 000 which was donated for Corona Related Relief projects in 2020. This is highly appreciated.

4. Impact of ZAM requirements.

ZAM has adopted the DVN principle of supporting local projects up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost of the project. That also means that if we were to cut the total budget of the SA mission to 50% of the current budget, ZAM would fund us up to 50% of that *adjusted* budget.

To be able to reach this target in a sustainable way it is not enough to look only at cost savings and reduction in planned costs. New sources of funds need to be identified, in our bond of churches, as well as overseas.

Another principle that ZAM has adopted is that all project plans and operations must be using SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based. This approach is widely used in business, but initially ran into resistance from the mission committees and missionaries (“Can we plan the work of the Spirit?”). Fortunately, since this approach was started, the mission boards and missionaries have come on board, and currently we are happy to report that all mission point plans are being planned using SMART goals. This not only facilitates reporting to our sponsors but will be a great help in the search for new funders.

5. What changes were there in supported projects?

Since the previous Synod in 2017 there were quite a few changes in mission projects. A summary of all projects follows:

- i. Soshanguve XX (Rev Matlaela), Soshanguve WW (Rev Kgatle) and Nellmapius (Rev Mnisi) have not changed and are still working towards institution.
- ii. Soshanguve F4 lost its pastor Rev Magagula who was called home by the Lord. The congregation is still working towards institution and Rev Boersma is co-ordinating there.
- iii. The training project of Rev Breytenbach came to an end. Rev Boersma is now involved with this.
- iv. The Living Hope mission point was closed.
- v. Wesbank congregation became independent. Rev van Wyk is gradually finishing his work there.
- vi. There is no change re Belhar/Leiden. (Rev Abrahams)
- vii. Fisantekraal is a new mission point (Rev v Wyk)
- viii. The churches in Cape Town started a new project, preparing Lerende Ouderlinge (Teaching Elders). Preparation takes place during 3 years of part time training. (Rev v Wyk and many volunteers)
- ix. The RSC project is unchanged as far as MDSA is concerned.
- x. There was a short project sponsored by ZAM for Covid-19 relief.

6. Expected future size of FRC mission efforts.

Currently Pretoria-Maranata is responsible for four mission projects, and a project around training, development, and support:

- Soshanguve WW, planning to institute the offices December 2021
- Soshanguve XX, planning to institute offices in 2023
- Nellmapius, planning to institute offices December 2023
- Soshanguve F4: since the passing of Rev Magagula the four missionaries have been assisting the congregation to grow towards institution, which is planned for July 2021.

Pretoria-Maranata's is planning to reduce the number of missionaries from 4 in 2020 to 2 in 2025, the expectation is that two of the missionaries will receive callings from the newly instituted churches.

There are plans that the Pretoria congregation will be involved after the institution of the offices, to assist the newly independent churches with mentorship and other support that may be required.

The GSK (Bellville and Belhar mission committee) working on the Cape Flats is responsible for 4 projects:

- Training of 9 teaching elders. This has already started and is planned to be completed December 2023.
- Assistance for FRC Wesbank: Since institution of Wesbank, the missionary has been assisting the congregation and elders, the percentage of time that is being utilized is diminishing and is planned to come to an end beginning 2025.
- Fisantekraal mission point: institution of the offices is planned for 2025.
- Expansion of Leiden mission point to a multi-preaching point in the surroundings of Delft (Leiden, The Hague, Symphony). Institution of the Delft congregation is planned for 2025.

The Cape flats mission projects currently have one fulltime missionary, and one 50% missionary. There are no plans for further reduction or expansion in the years ahead.

7. Funding, local and abroad.

As explained the funding will reduce. The plans are that the number of missionaries will come down.

For MDSA to find different sponsors, a few preconditions had to be met by the Sending Churches.

- Are there any reserves that can be used to fund the deficits of the Mission budget? One cannot request support abroad if one has reserves not allocated for a specific purpose.
- Can we as local churches contribute more to mission? We have to be confident to contribute to our ability before we approach foreign churches to support.

We are pleased with the response we got from our SA congregations:

Bellville donated the full reserves of the Jan Hulzer fund to mission to be used over a period of 8 years. (About R2mill.) They also committed to an additional 2.5% of their Tithes to mission work. In addition, Fisantekraal was always a congregational project and was also fully supported by volunteers from the Churches in the Western Cape.

Maranata requested additional Mission contributions from their members to address the deficits.

A heritage was also received. In addition to this Maranata also requested all the other churches in Classis North to contribute additionally to Mission. Maranata also has a reserve fund (Stratos) which is destined to assist Missionaries and Ministers in case of retirement or early retirement: the retirement provisions are not fully up to date yet.

Johannesburg did not see their way open to contribute additionally. One has to remember that this small congregation is responsible for 50% of their missionary income, indeed a huge contribution already.

Congregation Pretoria committed a certain amount per year.

All the mission points together also committed a specific amount.

The expected income amounts of all above contributions can be found in Section 10.

As a last point we can also comment that a couple of hundred thousand rand was donated by the FRCSA for Covid-19 related projects: mainly food parcels and Checkers coupons for the mission congregations and young instituted churches. (ZAM also contributed in the second and third phase)

From the response to the request for additional mission support, one can conclude that mission work is really supported by the South African churches: Despite economical difficult times members want to support the formal mission work: to see that God's commandment of spreading the gospel is executed.

After re-planning, the 3 sending churches are reducing the mission projects: From 9 missionaries in 2018 to 7.5 in 2020 to 4.5 in 2025.

MDSA had contact with Deputies Theological Training (Curators) and decided that different deputies should not request financial support from the same church federation. As a gentleman agreement it was agreed that Curators will request the FRCA (Australia) for support and MDSA in Canada (CANCR).

Canada has reacted positively to an invite from MDSA to come for a fact finding visit after they showed their intent to become a supporter. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this will hopefully take place during the first half of 2021. Still we do not have any indication of the level of support.

During Synod 2017 the reduced support from ZAM was not yet known. Due to sufficient money, the request to increase the synodic quota was not a requirement. However, as explained in the above, we can only request sponsors if we as FRCSA contribute to our ability. Secondly, we should in theory contribute more per member in the church federation for our mission work than our sponsors. This was also a principle that was used with the Dutch Mission Deputies (before ZAM took over). It is with this that we request that the synodic contribution be increased as per budget.

8. PR and Reporting.

There are 5 areas of reporting and information dissemination, here a short overview of each.

1. Local PR. Bellville and Maranata take turns. One year Bellville followed by two years of Maranata. We get the impressions that it is difficult for Bellville to cover all congregations in the North.

2. Overseas PR via written information. Each Mission Project is supposed to provide 4 pieces of information/year via ZAM to the co-operating churches. This takes place via social media for Maranata and RSC. ZAM has confirmed this to be in order with them. Bellville sends in one piece per month.
3. A missionary visiting the Netherlands once or twice a year, depending on the needs and capacity of the co-operating churches. This did not always go smooth because a missionary is not always available, especially from Cape Town. For the last three years:
 - a. 2017 Autumn Rev Boersma
 - b. 2018 Spring sr Christien Agema
 - c. 2018 Autumn Rev Magagula
 - d. 2019 Spring Rev van 't Foort
 - e. 2019 Autumn Rev Mnisi and family
 - f. 2020 Spring Rev Kgatle, for a conference, cancelled due to Covid-19
 - g. 2020 Autumn Rev Matlaela, cancelled due to Covid-19

Early 2021 we will take this up with ZAM again in order to see what can be planned for 2021.

4. Each mission project has to submit a progress report to ZAM twice a year, based on what was planned at the beginning of this period. We are very pleased to see that these reports come in timely.
5. MDSA also has to submit a report to ZAM twice a year outlining what was planned and the results at the end.

9. The elephant in the room.

As MDSA we would like to share an observation. Maybe Synod is not to right place to raise this but somewhere it must be raised. The point in question is the remuneration of missionaries compared to ministers. The difference between the two makes movement between the two offices complicated. We have no solution for this but are of the opinion that the current remuneration structure is not sustainable. It is a sensitive issue, and not unimportant . Money, wealth, poverty, property and associated matters feature strongly in Scriptures; it even seems to be the topic in Scripture getting more attention than any other topic. It is not easy for a poor congregation to exist among rich congregations and equally true, it is not easy for a rich congregation to exist among poor congregations.

10. Financial overview, past and future.

The past four years Deputies were able to financially support all the mission projects. The contributions from ZAM as well as the local contributions were sufficient to cover all costs.

Due to a new funding policy adopted by ZAM/Verre Naasten, ZAM has indicated that they, together with Verre Naasten, work towards a 50% funding model, meaning that they will fund 50% of the mission projects in the FRCSA as approved by the MDSA. The reason for this policy is to prevent projects to be too dependent on one sponsor. This is a very reasonable policy. ZAM is working towards this model over a period of eight years, so that we gradually receive less funding from ZAM, to enable us to find alternative funding from elsewhere.

We have been discussing this issue for the past two years, and the sending churches first put in an effort to increase our own contributions towards the mission work.

- The congregation of Cape Town committed to additional contributions by way of the Jan Hulzer fund as well as additional contributions via tithing.
- The two Pretoria congregations are also raising additional contributions, and we hope to reach an amount of R300 000 for 2020.
- These additional contributions will, God willing, be of a permanent nature.
- The churches in Canada, through Arjan de Visser, made contact with MDSA and expressed an interest in supporting the mission work of the FRCSA.
- Due to the Covid pandemic, no real progress has been made in this regard, but we invited them to come and visit us for a fact-finding mission, so that they will be able to evaluate the need and level for support.
- God willing this will open up new funding sources to continue with the mission work in South Africa.

As always, we have a very good relationship with ZAM, and their visits to South Africa are valuable, not only to enhance good relationships but also to receive their advice and inputs for the mission work in SA.

We thank our Lord and Saviour for His generous mercy and love shown to the mission work in our churches, and as always, He provided in people, skills and finances for the work to continue. We trust that the Lord will provide for the continuation of the mission work in the FRCSA.

Mission Deputies South Africa

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

Real	Real	Real	Real
2016	2017	2018	2019

INKOMSTE/INCOME	2 287 856	7 167 160	7 155 262	6 363 029
Bydrae ZAM/Contribution ZAM	2 054 894	6 916 331	6 900 000	5 920 000
SA - sinodale bydrae/SA Synod contribution	232 962	250 829	255 262	266 483
SA - addisionele bydrae/SA Additional contribution	-	-	-	176 546

Ander inkomste/Other income	93 862	40 625	91 100	72 763
Rente en beleggings inkomste Interest and investment income	27 992	40 625	91 100	72 763
Skenkings/Donations Canada	65 175	-	-	-
Skenkings/Donations Ander/Other	695	-	-	-

Totale inkomste/Total income	2 381 718	7 207 785	7 246 362	6 435 792
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UITGAWES/EXPENSES	6 503 348	8 073 836	7 227 582	6 608 645
Toekennings aan Maranata/Paid over to Maranata	3 452 188	3 681 666	4 306 278	4 329 228
Huur krediet – DMB/Rent Credit DMB	-	-	-	-165 000
Toekennings aan Bellville/Paid over to Bellville	2 058 758	2 148 878	2 298 676	1 716 871
Toekennings projek RSC/Paid over to RSC	350 428	379 946	420 000	448 000
Toekenning RSC Living Word/Paid over to Living Word	-	-	-	250 000
Toekenning projek JA Breytenbach Paid over to project Breytenbach	376 141	311 719	-	-
Toekenning projek Maatskaplike werker Paid to social worker	-	53 200	-	-
Toekenning - Nicholson emeriteringsfonds Paid to pension fund Nicholson	-	-	158 881	-
Algemene koste Nederland/General costs Netherlands	-	-	-	-
SDSA koste/MDSA costs	15 833	23 427	43 747	29 546
Kapitaalprojekte/Capital Projects	250 000	1 475 000	-	-

Surplus / -Tekort vir die jaar voor kapitaaltoekennings Surplus/ -Deficit for the year before capital allocations	-4 121 630	-866 051	18 780	-172 853
Verkoop van Pastorie Akasia/Sale mansion Akasia	-	-	-	1 033 087
Netto -tekort / surplus vir die jaar na oordragte Nett -deficit/surplus for the year after transfers	-4 121 630	-866 051	18 780	
Oordrag na Huur reserve DMB Transfer to rent reserve DMB	-	-	-	-1 033 087
Oordrag vanaf gebeurlikheidsreserwe Transfer from unforeseen events reserves	2 803 520	866 051	-	
Opgehoopde surplus begin van die jaar Accumulated surplus at start of the year	1 318 110	-	-	
Opgehoopde -tekort / surplus einde van die jaar Accumulated -deficit/surplus at end of the year	-	-	18 780	-172 853

TOTAL BUDGET FOR MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA 2021-2025

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ZAR	ZAR	ZAR	ZAR	ZAR

Uitgawes - lopende kostes Expenses –Running costs	5 932 218	6 239 600	6 599 187	6 976 719	5 156 447
Deelbegroting Maranata Partial budget Maranata	3 767 520	3 913 672	4 069 634	4 237 733	2 201 342
Deelbegroting Bellville Partial budget Bellville	1 599 184	1 720 894	1 859 741	2 010 785	2 176 251
Johannesburg - RSC	531 688	568 502	630 358	685 591	732 835
Deelbegroting SDSA Parftial budget SDSA	33 826	36 532	39 454	42 611	46 019

Uitgawes – projekte Expenses Projects	350 000	-	-	-	-
Living word projek Living Word project	350 000				

TOTALE LOPENDE UITGAWES TOTAL RUNNING EXPENSES	6 282 218	6 239 600	6 599 187	6 976 719	5 156 447
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Inkomste/Income	1 065 643	1 219 059	1 313 182	1 455 107	1 497 319
Sinode Bydrae – VGKSA Synodal Contribution - FRCSA	400 000	424 000	449 440	476 406	504 991
Kaapstad- Jan Hulzer fonds CapeTown – Jan Hulzer Fund	192 763	286 835	364 509	443 154	443 154
Kaapstad - addisionele offergawes CapeTown additional offerings	54 560	58 925	61 871	64 965	68 213
Eksta bydraes VGK Gemeentes - klassis Noord Extra contributions Congregations Classis North	330 000	356 400	384 912	415 705	448 961
Bydraes Tshwane sendinggemeentes Contributions Tshwane mission congregations	76 320	80 899	40 450	42 877	20 000
Rente verdien/Interest earned	12 000	12 000	12 000	12 000	12 000

TOTAAL BENODIG - LOPENDE BEGROTING	5 216 575	5 020 541	5 286 005	5 521 612	3 659 128
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ZAM bydraes/ZAM contributions	5 600 000	5 040 000	4 544 000	4 096 000	3 686 400
Oorskot / Tekort- Surplus/Deficit	383 425	19 459	(742 005)	(1 425 612)	27 272

11. Deputies go, Deputies come

Synod 2017 appointed the following deputies:

Br. Harry Pouwels (convener), Pretoria-Maranata; Br. T. de Wit, Pretoria; Sr. T. Bijker, Pretoria-Maranata; Br. A. Bijker, Cape Town; Br L. Ijlst, Pretoria; Br. M. Boersema, Pretoria; Br. H. Snijder (treasurer), Pretoria

The co-operation within deputies was excellent and although a remote deputy (br Albert Byker) is not ideal, it did provide better contact with the mission work in Cape Town.

In meantime, Br M Boersma resigned and was not replaced, while Sr T Byker is no longer from Pretoria-Maranata but from Pretoria.

Four members are not available for a new term:

- Harry Pouwels (due to other obligations)
- Tjeerd de Wit (has exceeded max of 3 periods)
- Albert Bijker (due to other obligations)
- Harm Snijder (close to 30 years is considered enough now)

MDSA already has co-opted four new members to replace those four after Synod (so we ask Synod to approve these co-options), these four members are already attending meetings so that the transition can be smooth.

They are:

- Arnoud van den Bout, Pretoria-Maranata
- Iwan Agema, Pretoria
- Sietze Snijder, Pretoria (to replace Harm Snijder as treasurer)
- Marné de Vries as a Cape representative.

12. New mandate and suggestions.

1. To act in accordance with any Agreement of Co-operation between MDSA and any sponsor.
2. To act in accordance with the "Agreement of Cooperation regarding the mission between the FRCSA churches".
3. Wesbank to sign "Agreement of Cooperation regarding the mission between the FRCSA churches"
4. To act in accordance with the "FRCSA policy for supported mission projects", approved at synod 2017.
5. To assess the different congregations via the questor according to the adopted differentiated contribution model and the increased quota as per above budget and repeated here.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
400 000	424 000	449 440	476 406	504 991

6. To report to the next synod according to the Rules of Synod as adopted by Synod 2021.
7. To discharge current and appoint new deputies as indicated in this report,