

HOPE BEYOND HOPELESSNESS – A NARRATIVE READING OF ROMANS 8

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ABSTRACT

This article utilises a narrative approach to reflect on the formulation of spirituality in times of hopelessness. It draws from Scripture, specifically Romans 8, to appreciate God's presence in the lives of his children during times of destitute. It also rediscovers how times of brokenness and increased fragility contributes to a lived spirituality of God's presence in congregations. Finally, it explores the development of some practices of hope that bring together God's children as witnesses of his presence in this world. The article aims to contribute to the development of a theology of hope as missional practice in sorrow.

INTRODUCTION

- A personal reflection of sorrow brought on by the COVID pandemic and how this provided the backdrop for a re-alignment of spirituality

A NEW APPRECIATION FOR ROMANS 8 DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

- A narrative-critical reading of Romans 8

EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE MIDST OF HOPELESSNESS

- Formulating a spirituality of hope for congregations - drawing on systematic theology and missional ecclesiology
- Developing practices of hope – practical theology as lived religion

CONCLUSION: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE ME FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Back to a personal reflection on sorrow: God is always in our midst

BIBLIOGRAPHY



hugenate kollege

Waar Christenwees grondvat in opleiding

Call for papers

South African Spiritualities: Experiencing God in Nothingness and in Everything

24-26 November 2021

Hybrid conference (virtual and physical attendance)

Wellington, South Africa

COVID-19 has changed the way in which we view the world. The lingering and long-term impacts of the pandemic, whether these be social, economic, political, remain unclear at the present time. This also includes our spiritualities. In South Africa, what is meant by "spirituality" comes all the more to the fore as the historical legacy of apartheid, corruption, poverty, and various systemic problems continue to cripple a country in which the population predominantly and increasingly identifies as Christian.

With this conference, **we hope to explore** new avenues of thinking about God in difficult circumstances in which ideologies of hope and prosperity are reshaped.

We invite theologians from all disciplines to contribute to the theme:

South African Spiritualities: Experiencing God in Nothingness and in Everything

Topics of particular interest for the conference (and the planned conference volume) will be

- spirituality and poverty
- spirituality and sustainability
- hope in nothingness
- spirituality and prosperity preaching?
- Online spirituality?

Please submit a one-page, double-spaced description/abstract of the material to be presented. Include a cover sheet that contains the title, author's name(s), professional credentials, phone number, and email address. Proposals for paper presentations can be submitted to Dr. Annette Potgieter: stbl@hugenate.com

Closing date: 8 October 2021

