

Report: Introduction CBS to

CWM (@Porterville)

25 February 2023



FACILITATORS: - *Prop Aidan Windvogel*
- *Prop Rachel Linderoth*

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Introduction

On Saturday, 25 February 2023, Contextual Bible Study (CBS) was introduced to the Christian Women Ministries (CWM) of three presbyteries of the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa (URCSA) at Porterville Primary. This introduction is part of a roll-out of CBS that was initiated by Rev Stephen Pedro, Manager of Congregational Witness. Rev Pedro, some proponents of URCSA Southern Cape Synod Region, and the management of the Christian Women Ministries worked out a calendar to introduce CBS to all the presbyteries in the Southern Cape Synod Region.

Ms Lynette Roelfse was the person to organize venues, representatives, snacks, food and beverages for the 18 different presbyteries in the Western- and Northern Cape regions. She worked in collaboration with the proponents and the scribes and convenors of the various Womens' ministry groups.

Venue

The CWM of the Presbytery of Porterville was the host of the Introduction of CBR to the Presbyteries of Wellington, Porterville, Malmesbury and Tulbagh. Ms Hilary Maarman, scribe of URCSA Porterville and member of the CWM, booked the church hall for this event. Due to a funeral that was to take place at the church hall, the CBS-session had to move. Ms Maarman made alternative arrangements with the local primary school and the session could proceed at the school. The local CWM, as host congregation, took the responsibility to provide beverages, snacks and lunch.

Attendance

The introduction to CBS, that was arranged for four presbyteries, was attended by 14 representatives of three of the four presbyteries. The Presbytery of Malmesbury did not send a representative. The Presbytery of Wellington was represented by one (1) member. The Presbytery of Porterville was represented by three (3) members, and ms Maarman apologized for her absence as she was attending the funeral at URC Porterville. The Presbytery of Tulbagh had ten (10) members present at the session. An attendance list is added at the end of this report.

Contextual Bible Study

The session started with the facilitators who introduced themselves to the group of representatives. The introduction of the members to the facilitators and fellow-members was relayed to the first session of CBS, namely the SEE-part. The proponents explained the importance of the Popia-Act and the group agreed to the sharing of their photos.

Prop Aidan Windvogel then did 'Dwelling in the Word' with the group, which set the right tone for the challenges that women face in the community, at home, at church, in the CWM and individually. Prop Windvogel also let the representatives understand that there is no wrong or right answer.

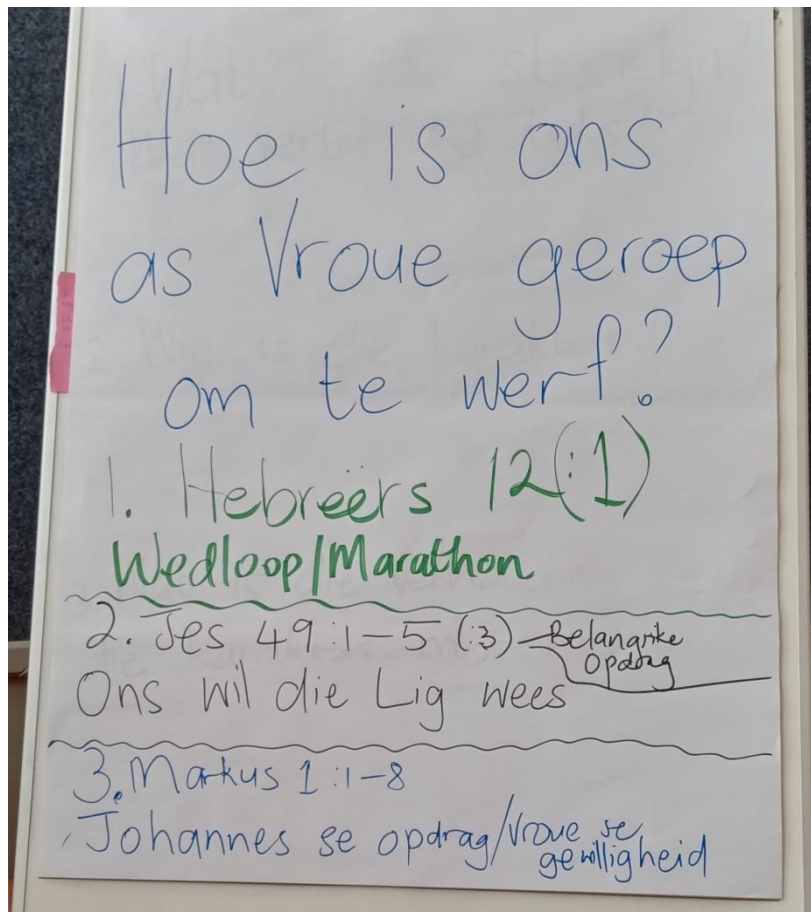
See

Proponent Rachel Linderoth facilitated the SEE-part. Each attendant introduced themselves and told the group about challenges they face in church, at home, in the community and in the CWM. They also talked about which challenges they think are the most challenging for the CWM. Prop Linderoth asked the attendants to please treat the platform as a safe and confidential space as some people might leave their comfort space to let their emotions go freely. This is a session where the group worked as individuals. Every challenge was written on a piece of paper and glued to the white board, and the challenge that featured mostly, was chosen as the challenge that will be discussed. The challenge they chose was 'How are we as Women chosen to Recruit others?'.



Discern

The next session (DISCERN/ JUDGE) was facilitated by Prop Windvogel. The representatives was clustered in two groups of five (5) and one group of four (4). They did some groupwork when searching for a Bible text, and Prop Windvogel facilitated them into choosing one of the three pericopes that they groups have decided on, and which are most fitting to the challenge. The pericope chosen was Mark 1:1 – 8.



Act

The groups worked together to formulate an action plan as to find ways to recruit younger women to the Christian Women Ministries. One of the action plans that came up is the fact that the CWM can organize prayer meetings and visits at the homes of younger women.

The session was closed with a vote of thanks to Congregational Witness and the proponents, and a prayer by 'Aunt Meisie', one of the representatives of the Presbytery of Porterville.

Comments¹

- A very interesting session. Very instructive and edifying.
- Very good ideas were swopped, we could learn from one another.
- The CBS gave me an new perspective on how to be a convenor of the CWM.
- This was a WOW-day! The women were generous with their inputs and plans. We appreciate the effort and time of the facilitators.

Attendance List

	SURNAME AND NAME	PRESBYTERY	CELL NO
1	Abrahams, Christiana	Wellington (Bergrivier)	0768568216
2	Baron, Pearl	Tulbagh (Gouda)	0738904029
3	Booyesen, Francina	Tulbagh (Tulbagh)	0634576831
4	Conradie, Cornelia	Tulbagh (Saron)	0663533016
5	Farao, Emelie	Porterville (Porterville)	0728597699
6	Fredericks, Shelly	Tulbagh (Tulbagh)	0734309282
7	Frieslaar, Michaeline	Tulbagh (Saron)	0784517934
8	Guidoth, Maria	Tulbagh (Tulbagh)	0784218360
9	Jaftha, Sibina	Tulbagh (Saron)	0724241920
10	Moses, Lilly	Porterville (Piketberg)	0823493155
11	Mouton, Thelma	Tulbagh (Gouda)	0738904029
12	September, Elizabeth	Tulbagh (Gouda)	0610268019
13	Stevens, Aletta	Tulbagh (Gouda)	0725494293
14	Van Schalkwyk, Isabel	Porterville (Porterville)	0837427716

¹ The comments were originally written in Afrikaans, and translated to English by the compiler.