



Preface

It is not often that a book is dedicated to the life and work of a certain individual. It is therefore exceptional that several books, from all over the globe, have been dedicated to one individual in a single year. During 2009, five hundred years after John Calvin's birth, this is exactly what has happened. Many publications have appeared which contributed to our understanding of John Calvin's life, theology and influence on society.

The impact Calvin had in his lifetime, as well as on the following five centuries, can hardly be overestimated. As an ardent student of Holy Scripture, classical texts and law he was able to reform church and society. He made an important and fundamental contribution in reshaping European society (and subsequently many other parts of the world) in terms of religion, political systems, economic development, his views on art, human relations and education.

The Conventus of Reformational Churches in Southern Africa would like to present this publication as a modest contribution (by South African scholars) to the extensive list of publications that saw the light in recent times. It reflects on some aspects of Calvin's work, showing that his contribution is still relevant in present times.

The Conventus expresses its sincere appreciation to *In die Skriflig*. The Editorial Board and personnel of the journal took great care of the publication, even though it appears as an independent contribution of the Conventus under the scientific accreditation of *In die Skriflig*.

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