

	<h1>ANDREAS ABRAHAMSE</h1> <p>~ God Bless His Soul ~</p> <h2>Cape-Orange Diocese (ELCSA)</h2> <p>www.elcsacod.co.za</p>	<p>[Insert Facial Picture]</p>
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Full Names	ANDREAS JOHANNES ABRAHAMSE
Date of Birth & Place	
Date of Baptism	
Date of Confirmation	
Date of Ordination	1940 (Searle Street; Cape Town)
Date of Death & Place	??? (Place?)
Gift of Earthly Life	?? years ?? months ?? days

Hero Description: ???

Education: ???

Church Activities: Andreas Johannes Abrahamse started his service in the then Lutheran Berlin Mission Church in 1930 in Cape Town. A summary of his work follows.

- 1930-1932 He was a Sunday School Teacher
- 1933-1936 He studied in service training as an Evangelist under Rev.C.G. Kohl.
- 1936-1939 In January (1936), he was transferred to Calitzdorp where he ministered for 3¼ years. During these years he had built a school in Kraaldoorns, as well as a house for the teacher. His services extended further to Groenfontein where an old stone building was used for services on Sundays, as well as for midweek services. He was transferred back to Cape Town (Searle Street) and also laboured in Eureka.
- 1940-1942 In this year – during a meeting of the Synod in Mossel Bay – he did his oral examination, and passed it with honours. He was ordained in 1940 in Searle Street, Cape Town. Soon after that, he obtained an extensive Marriage License after the examination by the Magistrate in Cape Town.
- 1943-1947 In this year, he was transferred to Haarlem where he laboured until 1947. As could be seen from the statistics addendum he ministered in Haarlem, Misgund, Grootplaas, Avontuur and started the congregation in Port Elizabeth where the first 4 baptisms took place on 30 January 1944. He had a church built in Korsten. The church was consecrated on 16 December 1945 and two baptisms took place that day. From Haarlem, he went to Port Elizabeth every 2nd or 3rd weekend to gather and establish the congregation there.
- 1947 He was transferred to Laingsburg where he laboured for 26 years, until he went on pension. He ministered along the railway line from Laingsburg to the North as far as Deelfontein beyond Drie Susters. At every station he conducted services and established

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congregations. He often had to travel by night and arrived home at night. At Koup station he started a school for the farm and railway line workers' children. At Dwyka services were first held in a house until a wood and iron building was erected, and people came from very far to attend services. In Beaufort West he established the congregation from members that were transferred by the then South African Railways from Drie Susters and Kromrivier. Here he also bought a plot to erect a church building, but due to ill health it was not granted to him to complete this ideal.

To the south and the west he served as far as Matjiesfontein, Touwsrivier, Matroosberg, Worcester, Anysberg and Floorskraal. At Touwsrivier he had a big church built. At Matroosberg a smaller church and school was built from wood that was bought from Elgin and Grabouw. At Matjiesfontein he had built a two class room school. At Floorskraal he had also built a two class room school.

He was the school manager at Laingsburg and when the school became too small, he first extended it with four class rooms and later on with another three classrooms. Yet this was not enough and one room next to the church had also to be used. Later on the Government took over the school. It was now a Government school and the school of the 'Whites' (Blankes) was now given to the so-called Coloured community (Nie-Blankes). The population increased so much that the former white school became too small. The Education Department then hired seven class rooms from our church. Laingsburg remained the main parish from where all the congregations mentioned above were served. He was an activist against the Group Areas Act when Laingsburg was rezoned.

During his stay in Laingsburg, he was also a member of the Council of Churches on Lutheran Foundation. He often had to travel to Johannesburg and Durban for meetings. He played an important role in the formation of the Regional Lutheran Churches. He was the first President of the Cape-Orange Diocese. He was also a founder member of the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa in 1966.

In 1955, he was a delegate to the All African Lutheran Churches in Tanganjika (now Tanzania). In 1958, he was a delegate to the All African Lutheran Churches meeting in Madagascar. Here he was the guest preacher and he preached on Psalm 121.

He was also an activist and played an important role in the relocation of the Lutheran Theological

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Seminary from Rorkes Drift to Umpumulo. In all his labours, his wife Cathleen supported him faithfully, not only as fundraiser but also spiritual co-worker and moral supporter.

The above resume of the years in service of Pastor A.J.Abrahamse was compiled mostly by his wife Cathleen. In a letter to her daughter Eunice (dated 24th October 1983), she said she hope it would not be published as she has not got all the details, especially about the beginning of his ministry. Some of the statistics, especially as far as Cape Town is concerned, got lost. She never mentioned her name or her efforts though she was a leader of the Women's League on Diocesan-, Circuit- and Parish levels.

Supportive Archived Statistics:

Cape Town:	Baptisms	82
	Confirmations	4
	Marriages	15
Haarlem:	Baptisms	97
	Confirmations	49
	Marriages	22
Misgund:	Baptisms	32
	Confirmations	30
Grootplaas:	Baptisms	4
	Confirmations	4
Avontuur:	Baptisms	18
	Confirmations	6
	Marriages	1
Port Elizabeth:	Baptisms	14
	Confirmations	2
	Marriages	6
Laingsburg:	Baptisms	1,314



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[Insert Facial Picture]

Confirmations	878
Marriages	264
Funerals	384

Summary Totals:	Baptisms	1,561
	Confirmations	973
	Marriages	308
	Funerals	384

A special word of thanks is extended to Pastors Chris.Hendricks, Fred C. Bell and W.L. Willemse who diligently researched the records for the statistics. A special word of thanks is also extended to Eunice Van Der Westhuizen – the daughter of Pastor & Juffrou Abrahamse – who kept the letter and the history of Pastor Abrahamse safe for many years.