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SUMMARY

Amongst the numerous immigrants that became ministers of religion in the reformed churches of South Africa, only one originates from Hungary. He is the Reverend Kálmán Papp, minister of the *Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika* since 1951 and progenitor of the Papp family in South Africa. Papp derives from a country with a touching national and church-history and descends from a family with a rich clerical tradition which was carried on in South Africa. The historical backgrounds of this clerical family are discussed in this study.

The study consists of two parts. The first part deals with the history of the Hungarian Reformed Church and the second with that of the ancestors. Since the histories of church and forefathers are inseparably linked to that of the people, this study simultaneously becomes a summarised description of Hungarian history.

The first part consists of eight chapters. The genesis of the Hungarian nation, their primeval beliefs and the establishment of a principality are dealt with in chapter one. The second chapter describes Hungary's conversion to Christianity at the end of the 10th century and the establishment of a monarchy. Chapter three deals with the development of Hungarian Christianity during the Middle Ages, the origination of a feudal system and the transition to a capitalist system. The fourth chapter describes the Reformation in Hungary and birth of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Chapters five and six respectively recount the difficult years during the Counter Reformation of the 17th century and Protestantism's struggle for the right of existence in the 18th century. The Hungarian Reformed Church's transformation to a peoples-church and the continued struggle for freedom of religion during the 18th century is discussed in chapter seven and the tragic wars and revolutions of the first two decades of the 20th century and their influence on the church is dealt with in chapter eight.

The second part of this study, consisting of three chapters, deals with the Reverend Papp's paternal and maternal ancestors, with specific reference to the ministers of religion.