

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2022

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Rustenburg Centre: Surprisingly High Interest in Daytime Classes

Mukhanyo's Rustenburg Advanced Learning Centre has experienced a good start to the year. There has been a surprisingly high intake of daytime students. A year ago, there were only a few daytime students, but this year there are nine new Higher Certificate students. We thank the Lord for this development.

This increased number of daytime students has had a marked effect on the atmosphere during the day classes, and also on the learning experience of students.

The centre's schedule caters to both daytime and evening classes to ensure that those who are working also have an opportunity to study through Mukhanyo Theological College. This has required a good number of lecturers – six lecturers, in fact – to be able to handle such a workload.

The lecturing and mentoring staff consist of Dr Juan Mienie,

Dr Danie de Kock, Rev. Karabo Msiza, Rev. Arthur Pringle, Dr John Span, and Mrs Anne Span. Other staff include Dr Eben le Roux (management) and Mrs Annah Moemise (library and administrative support).

The demand for evening classes has remained constant with seven Higher Certificate students and four Focus programme students. There are also four more Focus students on Wednesday evenings as distance students. Due to the low cost and accessibility through local

church partners, we are hoping that the Focus distance initiative will be able to attract more students in the future.

Four students graduated with Higher Certificates at the graduation ceremony in March 2022. Additionally, a pastors' conference was held on January 22, attended by many pastors and friends from the Rustenburg area, with presentations by Rev. Tebogo Mogale, Dr Brian DeVries and Rev. Francois Mookisi. Rev. Isaac Maleke,

Mukhanyo's Dean of Students, visited in March to support students.

Overall, the picture at the Rustenburg Centre seems to be positive, and we thank the Lord for His mercy. Now that the foundation has been laid, we are planning for further growth both in student numbers and additional programmes.



Some New Rustenburg Students with Lecturers



Rev. Isaac Maleke Addressing the Students

Why New Students Come to Mukhanyo

Why study at Mukhanyo? South Africa has over fifty unaccredited Bible colleges. Add to this the colleges and seminaries linked to specific denominations, church study groups, as well as several public universities with theological faculties. There are many opportunities in South Africa to study the Bible, and we thank God for the religious freedom we enjoy.

So why do students come to Mukhanyo? The short answer is that Mukhanyo is a Word-based, Christ-centred theological institution, with high standards, which is highly recommended by many pastors and church leaders.

Recently we asked several new students the "why Mukhanyo" question. There were various answers to our simple survey:

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More than 25 new students replied that “we want to know more about the Bible and how to understand the Bible.” Mukhanyo is trusted by many students to teach the whole Bible and the historical Reformed doctrines.

More specifically, there were many remarks such as wanting to learn the correct doctrine of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, how to properly interpret the Scriptures, and the need for assistance in understanding God’s Word.

Several students added that they want to learn how to teach and preach the Word. Others expressed their wish to become pastors or be involved in church planting, while some stated their need for spiritual growth.



Some of our new students
Top: Johannesburg
Bottom: Pretoria



Of course, there were more practical reasons as well: Mukhanyo’s five centres and its 90+ distance learning support centres are close to home for many, students are able to study in the evening, reasonable fees, accreditation by the authorities, identifying Mukhanyo online through googling, or through Mukhanyo’s marketing efforts, etc.

Whatever the reason, Mukhanyo is thankful to be the one college where the Bible is taught faithfully according to the historical Reformed confessions with the contextual application for ministry in Africa. Mukhanyo is an academic institution with a missional heart. We help students know God better, to think His thoughts after Him, and to practice His covenant love.

Our 11th Bible College Consultation

Registration is now open for the annual Theological Education Association of Southern Africa (TEASA) consultation on 14–16 June 2022. This year’s theme is “Serving the Church in Bible Education” with many valuable keynote topics and workshops.

Visit www.teasa.co.za to register. The theme this year is based on feedback from previous years. We are excited about the excellent roster of experienced speakers!

Here is a list of the keynote sessions for 2022, in addition to ten breakout workshops:

- *Theological Education in Service of the African Church* - Dr Brian DeVries
- *Promoting Church Reformation Through Bible Education* - Prof. Joseph Mutei
- *The History of Bible Education and the African Church* - Prof. Hoffie Hofmeyr
- *Developing Servant Leaders Through Formal Education* - Dr Charlie Rampfumedzi
- *Assessment: Are We Training Faithful Church Leaders?* - Dr Richard Seed
- *Equipping Future Leaders for Gospel Witness in Society* - Dr James Krohn
- *Mentoring Godly Men for Leadership in Church & Education* - Pst. Ronald Kalifungwa
- *Defending the Church as an “Essential Service” in Society* - Dr Anton Knoetze
- *The Urgency of Theological Education for Church and Society* - Prof. Joseph Mutei

Each Bible education institution from southern Africa that registers before 31 May will be given space for a display table and will be invited to give a presentation about their ministry.



Thanks to the generosity of several donors, each consultation participant will once again receive several free books, and all Bible colleges in attendance will be given a stack of additional library resources. A large selection of quality books – both new and used – will be available for purchase at reasonable prices.

There are also some funds available to partially assist with the fees for participants from schools with financial constraints.

As many will know this event is usually attended each year by representatives from many theological institutions and Bible colleges across southern Africa. Last year we had to cap attendance at only 100 participants, but now there are no limits so we expect many more this year.

Many people are now zoomed-out and tired of online conferences; they want in-person discussion and fellowship. So we will follow protocols and continue with this event. Pray with us for another wonderful year of fellowship and mutual learning. Please forward this email to all your contacts who are involved in Bible education in Africa .

Biblical Womanhood

Mukhanyo is “An academic institution with a missional heart!” For this reason, we also host day conferences to serve the spiritual needs of people in local churches and the community at large.

On Saturday 26 March 2022, a ladies’ conference was held at KwaMhlanga campus with the theme “Biblical Womanhood”. Corné Loots from *Revive our Hearts South Africa* was the main speaker. She spoke about “A woman’s identity in God”.

The audience was challenged to be cautious with whom or with what they identify themselves. Corné acknowledged that we all come from different backgrounds and language groups. In Old Testament history, Ruth identified herself with Naomi and the God of Naomi. Our identity should also be in God and we should make sure that we draw closer to Him by studying His Word.



During the discussion it became clear there is an enormous need among ladies for good Biblical teaching and counselling. Some explained their marital problems; a widow expressed her feeling of loneliness

and sense of rejection; another lady shared that she is currently going through a divorce – she is a believer, but her husband is not. A young girl expressed her feelings of bitterness and her unforgiving spirit towards her father as he was not involved in her upbringing.

Tears flowed and some time was used to pray for one another.

The final session of the day was by Wynie Malan from Mukhanyo. She spoke on “A wise woman’s building project” from Proverbs 14:1: “The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.” Ladies were reminded that they should ensure they belong to Christ and are wise in Him. In this way, they can be building up their homes, husband, and children, as well as their church-family and the community, and not be tearing them down.

May the Lord give lasting fruit from the teaching! May He give guidance on how Mukhanyo can improve this important ministry!



Corné Loots with Interpreter

Carl Pohl’s Story

More than ten years ago, a good friend told me that their church was going to host the distance learning programme of Mukhanyo Theological College. I was interested in studying theology, but up until then I could not pursue it: I am middle-aged, and as a husband and father of five children I have many responsibilities. So studying with Mukhanyo was the ideal opportunity to pursue, especially with classes on Saturday mornings close to my home.

My experience with the studies was very positive. It broadened my knowledge and laid a strong foundation in theology. I learned many things, including many differences between my Western way of looking at the world and the African way, leading to a better Bible understanding for which I am very thankful. The fellowship with the other students was out of this world; some friendships continue to this day as we work together in outreach programmes.

As a husband and father, my studies helped me to teach my wife and children many principles in the Word of God. We come together daily to read the Scriptures and to pray.

As the shepherd in my household, I must guide my family on the right path and keep out the wolves (bad influences), bringing our children up in the fear of the Lord, teaching them the Gospel truths, and making them aware that God is with us every step of the way.

As a church elder, I now have more insight into the Word and biblical doctrines. In most cases, it is easy to help people with questions about theology. The course in counselling helped me to listen better and to understand many issues with more insight. The studies also enabled me to better evaluate preaching.

As a Sunday School teacher, it gave me Bible knowledge and experience to teach the children the simple principles of the Bible. I am able to answer most questions easily. Many children these days come from broken homes and have questions about life and about God.

Every Sunday morning, I now help with one of the programmes at the Centurion Reformed Church. We reach out to a nearby squatter community, people mostly from Lesotho. We share the Word and bring the Gospel to the people. We now have more insight into the African worldview. There is still a lot of work to be done in African communities and there are many possibilities to reach out.

For me personally, Mukhanyo’s distance learning program was most definitely a life-changing experience. Many principles I use daily, especially the way I pray and the way I listen to the Word of God.

