

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2021

In this issue:

- Many Reasons to Say THANK YOU
- Church Leaders Say: Wake Up and Start Working!
- Milestone Event at Mukhanyo's Libraries
- Some Very Special Students

Many Reasons to Say THANK YOU

At the end of another great year, this is a good opportunity to look back and see how our Lord has blessed Mukhanyo for over 28 years.

The years were full of activity, ups and downs, but more importantly, years in which our Almighty Father in heaven made it possible to not only survive but to grow the ministry above all expectations. Just read the following.

In March 1994 the Mukhanyo Board of Control met officially for the first time and decided that the Bible school should start with Rev. Flip Buys as principal. Lectures started in July of that year at the Reformed Church Thembulethu, not far from KwaMhlanga where Mukhanyo's main campus is today.

There were five students, a few wooden huts to accommodate them, a library and an office. Initial finances came from the Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (CGKN) and local donations. There was not yet a fixed curriculum, accreditation or funds for future plans, but through the years our Lord made innumerable things possible.

At first, the number of students increased slowly. A large site was bought in KwaMhlanga, the Bible

school ministry was named Mukhanyo Theological College, a large building was erected with a hall for 250 people, offices, kitchen, library, etc. In 1998 there were nine new students making a total of 27 students. In 2001, a double floor dormitory for 36 students was added.



Rev. Flip Buys

Through the years the facilities were extended to what it is now. Mukhanyo started local ministry initiatives that served for many years in the greater KwaMhlanga region under the umbrella organisation called Masibambisane Community Development Corporation (MCDC). In 2010, Mukhanyo was instrumental in establishing of a Christian primary school, the Musawenkosi Christian Academy (MCA) on Mukhanyo's KwaMhlanga premises.

By God's grace, Mukhanyo kept growing in the second and third decades, not only in the number of students served but also in the number of lecturers, programmes and national reach. After 16 fruitful years of labour, Rev. Flip Buys stepped down as principal and Rev. Brian deVries took over. We thank the Lord for the wonderful beginning that made many further developments possible.

In 2009 the first distance Bible study group was established with 12 students. In 2010, the teacher's training programme, as well as the Johannesburg satellite learning centre, came about. In 2012, there were 22 distance groups; today there are more than 85!



KwaMhlanga Campus

[Continued on page 2](#)

Continued from page 1 - Many Reasons to Say THANK YOU

Today, after nearly two years of a pandemic and many restrictions, Mukhanyo has well over a thousand students, most of them part-time, and a complete range of qualifications, from the unaccredited Focus programme to several accredited higher certificates and degrees, including the Bachelor Honours in Theology which started several years ago, and the Masters in Theology of the Puritan Reformed Seminary in America. There are now three campuses (KwaMhlanga, Johannesburg, and Pretoria) and two advanced learning centres (Rustenburg and Durban). The ministry continues with a dedicated staff of more than 65 full-time and part-time people, about half of them lecturers.

Yes, there were difficult times when the Lord tested Mukhanyo. Funds came when hope was running out. Accreditation from the authorities came at the last possible moment. But time and again it has been proven: Never think small of our almighty Father in heaven! He makes possible what his children think impossible.



Church Leaders Say: Wake Up and Start Working!

To wake up and start working was the clarion call to some 80 church leaders at the end of Mukhanyo's very successful church leadership conference at the KwaMhlanga campus on Saturday, 6 November. As one delegate stated: "We are going home revived!"

The two main topics were how to revive a lukewarm church (by Rev. France Mookisi) and how to lead a marginalised church in a society that views the church as non-essential (by Dr Brian deVries, Principal of Mukhanyo).

The fact of the matter is that, since South Africa's lock-down began, some 20 months ago, many churches have suffered, churchgoers have drifted away and many regular ministries have been unable to restart. The important point made by both speakers was that church leaders – pastors, elders, deacons and also a few theological students – should no longer accept the situation but use all opportunities for renewal.

The audience came from a variety of denominations and many African Independent Churches, all eager to hear what God's Word can teach them. Afterwards, they went home with the question put to them: "What will I do to implement what I have learned?."

Rev. Mookisi put it straightforwardly: "Church leaders have to stay true to what they are called to be



and to do. The place and vision of who the Almighty God is, has to be maintained".

According to Dr deVries, it is the church's confession that God's church is essential in every society. She is also called to be a role model of social morality (Matthew 5:13-16), to be a prophet of God to social leaders (Isaiah 1:16-17), as well as to bring a message of hope to all nations (Philippians 2:14-16).

"Today we urgently need true prophets who faithfully proclaim the Word of the Lord against the tragic public sins of society". What should church leaders do today? Firstly, with humility, we admit that God's children have allowed this to happen. Secondly, we pray for Spirit-worked revival and spiritual reformation. Next, we proclaim God's message of hope. And we remind social leaders of God's truth and demonstrate biblical justice in society.

Some Very Special Students

It's not often that a college like Mukhanyo has a married couple who study together. Even more extraordinary is to have two such couples, with all four of them graduating this year. Who are they, why did they come to Mukhanyo and what are they going to do? Here are their stories:

The Moloji Couple

Baatile and Paulos Moloji met at a missions festival in Pretoria and married in 2015. They are active members of the Revival Christian Outreach Ministries in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria. Baatile is part of the musician group and teaches the Bible to youth. Paulos is serving as a deacon, leading the youth department, and tutoring in the Bible school, as well as recording daily devotions – and also preaching in the absence of the pastor.

Both have full-time jobs, he as a quality auditor at an insurance group, and she as an administrator in a private company. They have two children. Both have completed their BTh degree in the past year and are continuing their theological studies.

Why are they doing it, already with a busy life as it is?

An important reason for them is that many church leaders “don't have the necessary theological skills and knowledge. Consequently, there is much abuse and manipulation of Scripture in churches. The result is that pastors speak about social, psychological and political problems, not the gospel of Jesus Christ”.

Paulos says: “growing up as a Christian I had the desire to teach and preach the Word of God. But I knew that I did not have sufficient knowledge... I struggled with concepts such as ‘free will and sovereignty of God’, ‘predestination and free will’, ‘the problem of evil’, etc.”

After serving as a technical facilitator at a Mukhanyo distance study group, he and Baatile decided to study for the BTh degree at Mukhanyo's Pretoria campus – degrees which they completed in three years and six months.

Why at Mukhanyo? Baatile and Paulos list the reasons: The degree is completely Bible-based, including Hebrew and Greek. Lecturers are highly qualified but still humble and patient with students – and approachable. The fees are very affordable, especially with both receiving partial bursaries. Also important to them is the fact that

Mukhanyo's programmes are officially accredited.

What now are their plans? The BTh is a foundation for their post-graduate studies. Baatile is studying practical theology with a focus on worship. Paulos is studying systematic theology with a focus on apologetics. They are preparing themselves for missions and evangelism. Paulos says “in the work of evangelism, there is a need to give an answer to those who oppose the Bible and the Person of Jesus Christ”. Paulos also wants to be involved in lecturing theology. “The next generation of pastors must be theologically qualified and should not replace the gospel with sociology, psychology and politics”.

The Sebuthoma Couple

Pastor Buti and Josephine Sebuthoma started as lay preachers, planted the Powerhouse Baptist Church in Mamelodi, east of Pretoria, in 2009, and then decided to start studying at Mukhanyo in 2018. In 2021 both completed the Diploma in Theology.

For both, it was and still is a matter of preaching repentance, revival and redemption by Jesus Christ to anyone who wants to listen – in the open air, at funerals, fellowship at their home or today in a large church with space for some 300 people.

Mukhanyo equipped them to do all this with a much better understanding of the Bible, sermon preparation, and an ability “to preach and live the Word of God”. And that is why they want to continue studying theology, now by registering for the BTh degree.

Both Buti and Josephine were brought up in Pentecostal homes. But only later as young adults, they believed in Christ alone as their Saviour and were confirmed in a Baptist church. Pastor Buti was a messenger for a pathologist. Josephine started studying law and working for the SA Revenue Services. Today she still works for SARS and he for the SARS Commission. They enjoy busy lives with this full-time



From the left:
Paulos & Baatile Moloji and Josephine and Buti Sebuthoma

work, three children, all the church work, as well as their studies.

Do they lose heart sometimes and want to give up? "Yes, but that is the advantage to study as man and wife: the one encouraging the other". The same is true for their church ministry: working together as man and wife to arrange things, approaching people, open-air proclaiming, etc.

Hopefully, in due course, they will be able to become full-time involved in preaching and teaching God's Word. For now, being middle-aged, they have to continue what they are doing. Their church work does not provide an income. And at present, with the pandemic and all its restrictions, it is not easy to draw people to the Sunday services and the prayer evenings. They hope things will return to normal as of 2022.

Yes, there are many challenges. Churches are losing the youth who, with their parents, must be approached on a large scale. And the covid restrictions proved to be not good for the church.

How did they find Mukhanyo? "The late Rev. L H M Mungi of Pottershouse Faith Mission in Mamelodi gave us the contacts of Rev. Tebogo Mogale, a Mukhanyo lecturer, for more information. And it proved to be a good choice. They learned to understand the Bible far better, how to be shepherds, to love people, how to conduct a service, to deny one's self, etc."

They recommend Mukhanyo for theological studies: "Mukhanyo has good lecturers and accredited qualifications."



Applications Still Open for 2022

Full-Time Studies

Applications are still open for full-time studies at one of our five main centres.

To apply for the 2022 academic year, phone or email the coordinator at one of the following campuses/advanced learning centres, or e-mail study@mukhanyo.ac.za:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| • KwaMhlanga Campus | 013 947 2179 or 074 137 7050 | study@mukhanyo.ac.za |
| • Johannesburg Campus | 011 339 1223 | lewis.sibanda@mtc.ac.za |
| • Durban Centre: | 067 256 6332 | antonio.coppola@mtc.ac.za |
| • Pretoria Centre | 012 004 1215 | adele.loubser@mtc.ac.za |
| • Rustenburg Centre | 067 822 3442 | eben.leroux@mtc.ac.za |

Information on each learning centre is explained at <https://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/learningcentres.html>.

Distance Study

Applications for the 2022 second term distance study are open. To find a distance learning support centre in your area, visit <https://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/distancecentres.html>.

To apply or submit an enquiry for distance study, visit <https://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/distanceenquiry.html> or e-mail distance@mukhanyo.ac.za.

Theological Qualifications

For information about Mukhanyo's accredited theological qualifications, visit <https://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/programmes.html>.