

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2022

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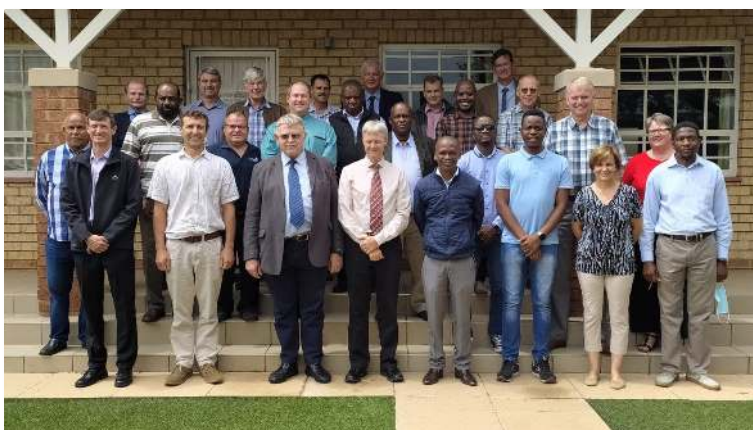
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Academic Opening Ceremony

This year's Opening Ceremony took place 17 January 2022 at the KwaMhlanga Campus where Dr Anton Knoetze, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church of Secunda, addressed the entire Mukhanyo staff. He emphasised the need to *"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching"* (2 Timothy 4:2).

Now more than ever is the time, said Dr Knoetze, to preach and teach the Word of God. Mukhanyo should once again be doing this in 2022 because the Word is the tool God gave the Church to change the world: "Never underestimate the power of God's Word!"

Dr Brian DeVries, our Principal, also addressed the staff. He welcomed everyone back from holiday and reported on stable finances that enabled modest salary increases for 2022, the appointment of a few new part-time and full-time staff members, and our plans for continued growth in the quality of our study material.



Mukhanyo's Academic Team

MUKHANYO MILESTONES

Examination Results

The pass rate after the 2021 year-end examinations was as follows:

- Higher Certificate Church Ministry: 84%
- Higher Certificate Bible Teaching: 74%
- Degree in Theology: 86%

Rev. Isaac Maleke, our Dean of Students, told the meeting that many students come with very little knowledge of the Bible, are often still strongly influenced by traditional religion, and thus need biblical counselling and patient mentoring by our lecturers.

During the Opening Ceremony, the lecturers and other leading staff members signed Mukhanyo's Statement of Faith, publically affirming the Reformed Solas and their confessional tradition of either the Three Forms of Unity, or the Westminster Standards, or the London 1689 Confession of Faith.

Mukhanyo is humbled and thankful to God that the ministry can continue in the new year, while also being fully aware of growing challenges in our society.

We know that 2022 will not be without challenges, but we trust the Lord to provide for every need of the college. We were reminded again of this fact on 4 February when an enormous rainstorm flooded the surrounding area, resulting in Mukhanyo's low-laying offices and the boardroom being flooded. Damage was limited but the offices with carpeting needed complete cleaning and did not smell nice for a few days.

Plans Coming Together

God willing, 2022 will be a year when several initiatives at Mukhanyo come to fruition. After two years with many challenges, we hope this will be a year of ministry maturity:

- All normal activities have resumed with Covid-19 hopefully ending soon. A good indication of this is the moderate-to-strong increase in the number of new students who have registered in the past months.
- Distance is also growing with 91 active learning groups at present compared to just over 80 a year ago. More are expected to be established this year, especially when new initiatives start with the appointment of several regional distance coordinators.
- The publication of quality study guides continues to make good progress, and it will need to continue for more years. The task has proved to be far more

New Vacancies at Mukhanyo

Mukhanyo is searching for an ICT administrator and a few other committed Christians to fill several open positions at the college.

- **ICT Administrator:** Mukhanyo needs an ICT Administrator, based in Pretoria and KwaMhlanga, who can lead all information and communications technology (ICT) developments at the college. Has the Lord given you these gifts and do you want to invest your skills in Christ's kingdom? Do you know anyone looking for an exciting and fulfilling 3-5 year assignment in which to learn and grow spiritually? If so, then please contact the [Principal](#) for further discussion about Mukhanyo's growing ministry.
- **Distance Regional Coordinators and Tutors:** The college is seeking experienced, skilled, and motivated church leaders to support the Distance Manager in training, support, networking, recruiting, marketing and administration of Distance Learning Support Centres in various regions of southern Africa. Mukhanyo also urgently needs many new tutors to serve at learning support centres across southern Africa. Experienced church leaders are encouraged to apply to become a volunteer tutor at a local centre in their area.
- **Programme Manager:** This paid faculty position will teach degree and post-degree level modules at the Pretoria Campus, and also mentor students in the postgraduate programmes at Mukhanyo. The applicant must unreservedly affirm Mukhanyo's

time-consuming than when the project started. Now no less than seven part-time editors and video recorders continue to work on this project.

- Upgrades are in progress to Mukhanyo's facilities at several centres: The Pretoria Campus is being enlarged with extra office space, a larger classroom, and more ablutions. The Durban Centre needs larger facilities, and routine maintenance upgrades are being done at the KwaMhlanga Campus.
- Student enrolment in the post-graduate qualifications was a bigger success than expected last year, and several Honours students are graduating. Overall enrolment of on-campus students in 2022 was again above 12% year-on-year.

MUKHANYO MILESTONES



Theology students in on-campus study at the beginning of 2021 and 2022:

Programme	2021	2022
Higher Certs.	41	55
BTh degree	77	86
Post-grad.	26	24

* Includes decrease due to a large 2021 graduating class and increase with the 2022 student intake.

[Statement of Faith](#) and share Mukhanyo's organisational values.

Look [online](#) for additional information about these and other vacancies. Please join us in praying for Mukhanyo's missional ministry. Pray that the Lord will call and send the right people to serve on the Mukhanyo team. Give thanks for the many gifted and passionate Christians who are serving at the college in so many important areas.

Biblical Worldview Course

An intensive Biblical Worldview module was presented at Mukhanyo's Pretoria Campus in early January by Dr Morné Diedericks, a lecturer at Aros. The focus of the module was on a Biblical worldview in relation to Western worldviews within the African context. The module compared a Biblical worldview with the five major worldviews namely theism, naturalism, polytheism, pantheism, and modernism.

One of the students highlighted the urgent need for an African Reformation, where men like Luther and Calvin from the African communities should rise up and preach *sola Scriptura* (only the Word of God) within their communities.

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Over and above the full-time Mukhanyo students from the Johannesburg and Pretoria campuses who attended, the largest group of visiting students consisted of employees of the Campus Outreach ministry. This international ministry does missionary work among students on university campuses in South Africa.

According to Dr Diedericks, the classes were very interactive and students shared their own experiences regarding different ways in which a Biblical worldview should be presented in relation to other worldviews.

The week also showed that the COVID-isolation caused a sense of longing for interaction with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. This fellowship in Christ formed part of the modules atmosphere, emphasising the importance of the contact mode of delivery.



Students with Dr Morné Diedericks at the Biblical Worldview Intensive Course at the Pretoria Campus

Student Deng Garang, Now Serving in South Sudan

One of the four South Sudanese students at Mukhanyo completed the BTh degree in theology last year and is now serving the Grace Reformed Church in Khor Williang, Juba. Deng Akol Garang studied for four years at Mukhanyo in KwaMhlanga, sponsored by the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Maryland, Washington.

Deng says that Mukhanyo taught both his head and heart to love God and His Word. He is thankful for Mukhanyo's quality education and spiritual formation. It reminds him of what Aristotle stated: "educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all".

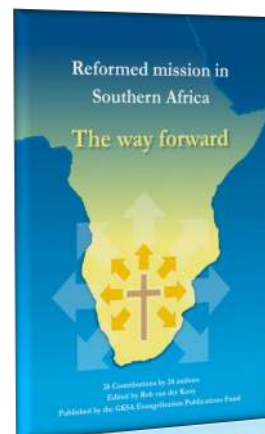
Deng is "thrilled asking the Almighty God to keep Mukhanyo ministry going". He is now able to preach God's Word with confidence, well prepared and exegetically sound, presently as an assistant pastor. He hopes to soon be ordained as a pastor and is also serving as the inspector of education and finance secretary at Juba Classic.

Deng Garang (right) with the flock in Juba, South Sudan



Publication by Mukhanyo Lecturers

No fewer than nine lecturers from with Mukhanyo family (past and present) contributed to a book published a few weeks ago, Reformed Mission in Southern Africa: The Way Forward". Their contributions form part of Mukhanyo's engagement with the latest thinking on mission in Africa.



Some of the contributions by Mukhanyo's lecturers include the following:

- How to do and not do mission, by Rev. Isaac Maleke
- A Bible translation project in Botswana, by Dr Eben le Roux
- Reformed church planting in Durban, by Rev. Antonio Coppola
- Engaging other world faiths, especially Islam, by Dr Victor Pillay
- The mission of theological education, by Dr Brian DeVries

Other relevant topics include the need to be a sound church, the role of the Holy Spirit, the history of mission work in various places, church planting, apologetics, cult evangelism, poverty alleviation, and how to assist a congregation in becoming enthusiastic about the Great Commission.