

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2023

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Many Reasons for Thanksgiving

Mukhanyo is grateful for the many new student registrations at the start of the 2023 academic year. In a time like the present with increasing poverty, prospective students and their sponsors find it difficult to study at a private, unsubsidised college such as Mukhanyo, compared to students registering at public tertiary institutions where they are heavily assisted with state funding.

Altogether 28 new Bachelor of Theology (BTh) students registered this year, bringing the total number of contact BTh students to almost 100. As far as the Higher Certificates are concerned, there were 23 new student registrations across the five locations where contact classes are offered.

In addition, we are thankful for new students in the other academic programmes, including several new Honours students in Pretoria and a large intake of new teacher education students in KwaMhlanga.

These numbers exclude the students at Mukhanyo's 100 local learning sites with some 750 active students all over the country and beyond. Also excluded are students in Mukhanyo's several unaccredited programmes, as well as students facilitated at Mukhanyo in other programmes: the teacher's education students of North-West University and the Masters of Theology (ThM) students of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in North America.

Mukhanyo is also grateful for the 2022 academic results. The past year's academic results for contact students are as follows:

- Number of campus students: 180
- Student withdrawals through the year: 10
- Number of modules passed: 887
- Average module mark: 64%
- Success rate (including withdrawals): 84%

New Lecturers and Visiting Professors

Mukhanyo is blessed again this year with a roster of highly qualified visiting professors. We also welcome several more lecturers, both full-time and part-time, to the Mukhanyo team.

Intensive Modules

For two weeks in January, Prof. David van Drunen from the Westminster Theological Seminary in California lectured in Pretoria to post-graduate students who are enrolled in the Masters of Theology (ThM) at the Puritan Reformed

Theological Seminary (PRTS). During this time he presented two block modules: Anthropology and Christology. He also visited Mukhanyo's Durban Centre to present four talks on "The Kingdom of Christ and the Ministry of the Church".

Dr James Krohn presented an intensive module in Pretoria during the opening weeks of the academic year. He taught BST3 Theology Proper and Anthro-



Prof. David van Drunen (back left) with ThM students

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pology to our Bachelor of Theology (BTh) students.

Mukhanyo will host several more visiting professors later this year. These include Dr Joel Beeke, who will lead a seminar on 21-22 June in Pretoria about Reformed Experiential Preaching, and Dr Bruce Baugus of PRTS who will present two intensive modules in September at the Pretoria Campus for post-graduate students.

New lecturers

Mukhanyo is thankful for its team of highly-qualified lecturers! We all were together at the start of the year for the Opening Ceremony on Monday 16 January. At this time, we all reaffirmed our commitment to the Reformed doctrines of sovereign grace and again publicly signed Mukhanyo's Statement of Faith.



New part-time and full-time lecturers at Mukhanyo:
Back row: Rev. France Mookisi, Mr Lorato Mogorosi and Rev. Henning Dafel
Front row: Dr Sophia van Helden, Dr Barend Hefer, Dr Patrick Nanthambwe and Rev. Stephan Strydom.

We also welcomed several new lecturers to the team: Dr Barend Hefer and Dr Patrick Nanthambwe as full-time lecturers and several other lecturers who teach various modules on a part-time basis.

TEASA Consultation 2023

Plans for the TEASA Consultation 2023 are now being finalized. Each year, Mukhanyo works with the Theological Education Association of Southern Africa to host this annual gathering of leaders and lectures within African Bible education.

The main theme this year is "God's Word for Bible Education in Africa: Rightly Handling the Word of Truth". It will be hosted on 13-15 June 2023, at a venue just north of Pretoria. Please visit the [TEASA website](#) for an outline of keynote addresses and afternoon workshops. Further details will be posted online very soon. Registration will be open before the end of March.



TEASA Consultation 2022 Attendees

Training for Preaching and Teaching

Mukhanyo continues to develop programmes to equip tent-making pastors and Christian teachers. At present, theological students have the opportunity to be both preachers and teachers – an effective form of tent-making ministry. In the past few years, four new education modules have been compiled, tested and refined, and made available to theological students.

This development is a logical one for ministers, especially those whose congregations are not able to support them financially. The principle is rooted in the Apostle Paul, who supported himself by being a tent-maker (Acts 18:3, see also 20:34), while preaching in the synagogue every Sabbath and throughout the week.

A faithful minister who is also qualified to teach in a local school has an ideal opportunity to bring the gospel to children during the week.

Students at Mukhanyo enrolled for the Higher Certificate in Bible Teaching can now also choose four modules entitled "Becoming a Christian Teacher" (CE01-CE04). Additionally, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is being developed. Students who have completed a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) will be able to enrol for the PGCE to become qualified school teachers in South Africa.

Qualified ministers, who are also employed by local schools as teachers, would earn a salary during the week from a school, enabling them to be "tentmakers" to continue ministering in local churches.

For the past number of years, several North-West University education programmes have been facilitated at Mukhanyo. These programmes include an Advanced Certificate in Teaching, an Advanced Diploma in Education, a Diploma in Grade R Teach-

ing, a Bachelor of Education degree and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. This has given Mukhanyo staff and lecturers a lot of experience in the field of teacher training. God willing, this experience will be used to continue developing teachers' education qualifications.

The fact of the matter is that South Africa has a large shortage of qualified teachers, especially well-qualified Christian teachers. It is also a fact that many churches cannot financially support their pastors. Therefore, the training of pastors to be qualified Christian teachers is a benefit for them, their families and churches, as well as the school children in the entire community.

From Every Nation and Tongue

"Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages..." (Rev. 7:9). We were reminded of these words on Tuesday 14 February when a group of ten Christians from South Korea came to visit the KwaMhlanga campus.

For many years, Mukhanyo has had close ties with a group of missionaries from South Korea that are ministering in South Africa. During that period they sent several students to be trained at Mukhanyo.

The visitors joined in one of the weekly devotions that are held for staff and students. Rev. Yongjoon Son, a senior pastor from Namchun Church in South Korea, gave the message from Revelation 5. He highlighted our need to love and be concerned for the church (John wept for the church) and our need to trust and



worship Jesus Christ (the Lamb-Lion who opened the seals in the vision).

Afterwards, the visitors blessed the Mukhanyo staff and students with lunch and refreshments as well as with a generous gift towards student bursaries.

We thank the Lord for blessing us with friends, supporters, intercessors and co-labourers from many different places in the world!

Christo April: Becoming Reformed



Starting in a Pentecostal association many years ago and slowly progressing towards Reformed theology. That is the story of Rev, Christo April in Cape Town. He is a student in the Masters of Theology (ThM) programme of the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in North America.

Two years ago, this ThM programme started to be facilitated in Pretoria. Christo read about this study opportunity in a newsletter and also learned more about Mukhanyo: "It felt like God finally answered my years of praying for and desiring the opportunity to study at a Reformed seminary."

Rev, Christo pastors the Montrose Park Bible Church in Mitchell's Plain, together with three fellow elders. He also serves at the Bible Institute of South Africa (BISA)

in Kalk Bay, working mainly in their Christian Leadership Programme, and teaches part-time for BISA's residential and distance BTh programmes.

His church loves the Westminster Standards, teaches its contents regularly, and bases its convictions and practices on its theology. Their public worship is shaped by the Westminster Directory. However, says Rev, Christo, "We are still a long way from embracing a confession or identifying as a Reformed church. For now, I'm just happy that I get to shepherd the Lord's people on the foundation of Reformed theology."

How does Rev, Christo evaluate his ThM studies? Christo replies "the academic level is suitably challenging and stimulating. The fees are affordable. The time I am required to travel for classes is not too demanding."

We wish Christo all the best with his studies and future ministry.