

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024

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Expansion in the Western Cape

Mukhanyo is growing, now with plans to establish a campus in Cape Town! Several more local learning sites will be set up in 2024 across the Western Cape, especially in the greater Cape Town area. Then next year, Mukhanyo plans to launch an advanced learning centre in the region.

Rev. Neil Henry has joined the Mukhanyo team to provide leadership in Cape Town and beyond. He has been appointed to serve as Senior Lecturer and Regional Coordinator in the Western Cape. Rev Henry comes to Mukhanyo with many years of experience in church leadership and theological education. His first task will be to work with key role players in the region to set up a network of local learning sites and to begin the process of establishing a Mukhanyo campus in Cape Town.

The new local learning sites in Cape Town will further expand Mukhanyo's network of sites across southern Africa. This strategic programme has a long track record of success: accredited qualifications are facilitated within local churches by local leaders, making quality Bible education accessible and affordable for local students. Mukhanyo is thankful to finally be able to answer the requests of many people for this programme to be based also in the Western Cape.

The envisioned Cape Town campus will be centrally located to serve the many diverse church communities across the entire region. Mukhanyo plans at

first to offer two accredited qualifications: the Higher Certificate in Bible Teaching and the Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree. Please pray with us for this exciting new development, and stay tuned for more information later this year.



Rev. Neil Henry

Mukhanyo's leadership has worked for several years to carefully explore various options for expansion in the Western Cape. Mukhanyo will continue to establish partnerships with faithful churches and like-minded institutions to equip Christian leaders for ministry in the greater Cape Town region.



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Planning for an Exciting Year

The 2024 academic year started on 15 January when the chairman of the board, Rev Maarten van Helden, gave the keynote address at the annual opening ceremony. The principal, Dr Brian DeVries, then spoke about the importance of integrity in all areas of life. Following this, all lecturers publically signed the Mukhanyo Statement of Faith.

The principal also made a few important announcements, which implies another significant step forward in the continuous development of the Mukhanyo ministry. Significant plans for 2024 include the following:

- Recognising two new management appointments.
- Establishing more local learning sites in the Western Cape.
- Opening another campus location, this time in Cape Town.
- Replacing NWU's teachers' education qualifications.
- Appointing additional Senior Lecturers in several regions.
- Ongoing operational development projects.

New appointments: Two key staff members were promoted from the beginning of 2024. Dr Bar-end Hefer is now serving as the Johannesburg Campus Manager, leading the lecturers and staff in that location. He also continues to serve as a Senior Lecturer, teaching in Johannesburg and Pretoria at the degree and honours levels.

Rev. Tebogo Rakgalakane was also promoted to serve on the Local Learning management team. He will continue to teach at the KwaMlanga campus, but most of his time will be focused on leading the growing number of Regional Coordinators serving in local learning across southern Africa. Rev Tebogo has been serving Mukhanyo in various capacities for the past two decades.

More lecturers: As of the beginning of 2024, several new part-time lecturers will be presenting modules: Rev. Pieter le Roux of the GK Wonderboompoort, Rev. Lourens Venter of the GK Centurion, both at the Pretoria Campus; Rev. Thomas Dreyer of the Cross-Cultural Reformed Church at the Johannesburg Campus; and Brendon Stamper at the Durban Centre.



Dr Japie Malan addressing the faculty and staff at the Faculty Forum

At present, Mukhanyo has more than 35 full-time and part-time lecturers, serving at the five established campuses. But Mukhanyo needs several more lecturers, ideally, ministers with considerable experience holding a Master's or PhD degree. These vacancies will be advertised soon.

NWU replaced: For more than a decade, the teachers' education programmes of North-West University (NWU) have been facilitated at Mukhanyo. This relationship since 2010 has allowed Mukhanyo to assist thousands of school teachers at public schools to underline the necessity to approach teaching the Christian way.

In the past six years, however, Mukhanyo has been developing its own Christian teaching modules. This development will now be accelerated at all levels: higher certificate, degree, and beyond.

Once a student has completed both a BTh degree at Mukhanyo with specified electives and a post-graduate certificate in education (PGCE), he or she will be able to teach at public schools. Students who become pastors will be able to serve their congregation and also be part-time teachers, receiving a state salary. This makes it possible for poor congregations to have a pastor who earns a salary on the side.

Better facilities: The operations team is busy with many projects this year, including the following:

- Further development of the computer systems, which is already hugely helpful.
- A new solar power system at the KwaMhlanga campus to improve reliability and reduce costs.
- Improved security systems at various campuses, as the funds allow.
- Expansion of facilities at the Pretoria campus with more offices and a board room.

Vacant Positions at Mukhanyo

There will be several important job openings at Mukhanyo this year. This month the college started searching for two key positions, and additional positions will be advertised in the next few months.

Presently, the college needs a Marketing Coordinator as well as another Senior Lecturer to strengthen the postgraduate programmes based in the Pretoria Campus. Watch this page for further information: <https://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/vacancies.html>.

Marketing Coordinator: As the college continues to grow, the need for professional communication and marketing also continues to grow. The college urgently needs a dedicated person to coordinate all marketing and communication – someone who can work with everyone across the various teams and locations. This important position requires a gifted person, based in Gauteng, with experience and passion to serve the Lord in Christian ministry.

Senior Lecturer: Another full-time lecturer is needed by July 2024 or January 2025 to serve

Mukhanyo's growing student body in KwaMhlanga, Pretoria, and/or Johannesburg. This person will teach at graduate and postgraduate levels, based at our Pretoria Centre. The ideal candidate will have academic experience in at least one of the following areas: Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, or Biblical Studies. The applicant must affirm the statement of faith and share our organisational values. Mukhanyo also welcomes partnerships with local and international churches/agencies that can send and support a Senior Lecturer to serve at one of Mukhanyo's campuses.

Local Learning Site Tutors: Mukhanyo urgently needs qualified Christian men to lead local learning support sites across southern Africa. Experienced church leaders are encouraged to apply to become a volunteer tutor and/or lead a local site.

Mukhanyo's local learning programme offers quality theological education through the medium of asynchronous facilitated learning in partnership with faithful local churches.

Stories from Mukhanyo Students

This month we bring you the stories of two students: Mqondisi Abedinego Mbambo and B.C. Sikobi. They both share how Mukhanyo has blessed them greatly and assisted them in their journey and ministry.

My journey and story at Mukhanyo: My name is Mqondisi Abedinego Mbambo. I live in the uMthwalume Makhoso area. I am a born-again child of God, I received Jesus Christ as the Lord and saviour of my life in 2002. My church is the Holiness Union Church and my pastor is Pastor M.D. Mchunu.

After many years of working as a servant and being submissive in the church, I started to have a desire to learn and understand the things of God. I remember that in 2008 when I was employed as a correctional officer, I decided to study theology because of the nature of the work I was doing and also the passion I had for Christ. So I enrolled at Mukhanyo.

I started to notice there was a great improvement in my theological understanding. In 2010 I opened a cell group in the prison where we used to fellowship. I saw many offenders receiving Jesus Christ



Rev. Mbambo and some folk from the Holiness Union Church

and also there was peace in the centre.

I opened another movement in our location at Mthwalume through the help of my local church, my pastor and Mukhanyo. The movement is called Dili-zudonga Christian Movement where all denominations come together and fellowship every Wednesday. I am the leader and the pastor of the movement.

In 2022, after I completed my diploma in theology, the Lord led me to open a branch of the church where I live. I am the pastor and the founder of this branch. We are only a few weeks old but already we have seen the grace of God in our branch.

Five ways BC Sikobi was blessed: The theological courses I did at Mukhanyo have upgraded my understanding of the Bible in several ways:

- I now understand many concepts in the Bible.
- The courses and assignments have pinned me

down to intensive study. It has paid dividends, especially concerning my work as a preacher.

- I was avoiding the Old Testament most of the time. But through the prescribed work I have been able to go deep in the Old Testament and gain a lot of understanding.
- I can preach with confidence because of the knowledge I have gained.
- The content of the New Testament has been exposed in a better way and I believe I shall not preach out of context as a result of the courses.

God's Covenants Explored



Rev. Antonio Coppola, manager of Mukhanyo's Durban campus and pastor of the Covenant Waterfall Presbyterian Church, has published an introduction to covenant theology entitled

Faithful God: An Introduction to Covenant Theology. The book of 114 pages exposes a seriously underexposed leitmotif of God's covenant with his people.

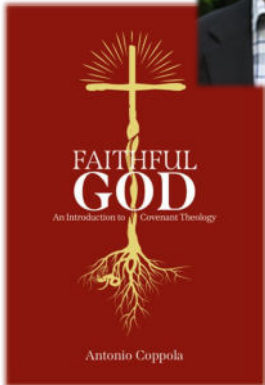
Although references in the Bible about God's unilateral covenant with his people run right through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, the emphasis is often placed on God's relation to individuals, not with his church, his people. But the many references (at least 170 times) again and again show why and how God relates to his people in general: His promises and his commands.

In the Old Testament, God's covenant is with his chosen people, the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, after Christ was crucified for the sins of his people, the covenant is renewed and expanded to believers from among every nation, Jew and Gentile, his church. God chooses his covenant people not by any merit of our own, but purely because of his underserved grace in Christ. While we are obligated to respond to God's covenant through faith and repentance, we are not saved by our covenan-

tal obedience. Instead we are saved by Christ's obedience to the covenant on our behalf and his payment for our sins through his death and resurrection. It is this gift – the gospel, which lies at the heart of God's covenants with man - which we receive by faith in Christ.

Coppola explains how God relates to his people, enriching our faith in Christ deepening our grasp of the gospel. It is the grand overarching story which unfolds in the Scriptures, and points to the way how to worship the faithful God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who always keeps his promises.

The book is available from Coppola (antonio.coppola@mtc.ac.za), the publishers, DBU (dbu.boeke@gmail.com) or through Christian Book Discounters (www.christianbooks.co.za) . The price is R130 (postage excluded).



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Scan the QR code to visit the Mukhanyo donations page.

