

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2022

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### New Servants Awaiting Exciting Times

On Saturday, 12 March 2022, Mukhanyo held its annual graduation ceremony, attended by over sixty students and their guests.

Rev. Shadrack Khumalo gave the formal address, preaching from 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. He emphasised two key phrases: “servants of Christ” and “stewards of the mysteries of God”, reminding us that pastors and other church leaders are servants of God, not captains of a

ship or employees of the church. Jesus Christ has called them as He called the apostles, and He will judge them. Yet important and exciting times await them.

In total, 115 students completed their studies successfully, the majority of whom were able to attend the ceremony in KwaMhlanga. Six students graduated with a Bachelor of Theology Honours (BTh Hons degree), and another six graduated with the Bachelor of Theology (BTh degree). All twelve completed their studies at the KwaMhlanga, Pretoria or Johannesburg campuses. Additional-

ly, 37 distance students received their Diploma in Theology and another 53 students their Higher Certificates in Bible Teaching or Church Ministry.

Rev. France Mookisi, who completed the BTh Honours, spoke on behalf of the graduating class this year. He referred to Mukhanyo as “unique and privileged among the institutions which are offering theological studies” and pleaded to students to “study to show yourself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15).

It was another great day in the history of Mukhanyo, the largest graduation to date. More than a thousand students have completed their theological studies at Mukhanyo in the past fifteen years, either full-time at one of the five regional centres or through facilitated learning at one of the many distance centres.



Congratulations to the Class of 2021

## Preparing for Growth in Durban

Mukhanyo's centre in Durban urgently needs more space to grow. The present facilities are too small, with only two classrooms and limited space for offices and the library.

The Durban Centre was established two years ago, located in the small hall of the Reformed Church Pinetown. Though still young, this centre has made a very promising beginning, despite limitations during the pandemic.

There are now three full-time lecturers and several part-time visiting lecturers. A secretary is needed by the end of 2022 as well as more lecturers in the next five years. Mukhanyo's management team expects the student body to increase gradually by a total of six to eight students each year for the next four to six years. But overall growth will be limited by the physical space available. Therefore, we need a new building as soon as possible, ideally before July 2022.

### A Great Building in the Ideal Location

Thankfully, after almost two years of searching, we have found the perfect property, in the centre of Pinetown, the crossroads of the entire greater Durban area. More importantly, it is also the place where all the various social groupings in the region can meet together. The building already has everything in place for the next few years, with space to expand to accommodate projected growth for at least the next 10 years.

Long term, buying is better than renting since an owned property is an investment for the future. We have looked at several rental options in the area, but something suitable will cost at least R35,000 per month (thus R2.4 million after 5 years with inflation). Renting is also less settled since the lease could be terminated and making costly renovations to a rented property is not wise. So while less expensive in the short to medium term, renting is not the best option for our Durban Centre.

### Most Funding Already Received

We thank the Lord that more than three-quarters of the required funds have already been donated. The total cost of the purchase and transfer will be R3.9 million.



An international donor has already given R2.9 million for the purchase of the property, and a South African donor has promised to match all donations up to R500 000. Therefore, we only need to raise a further R500 000.

It is a difficult time economically here in South Africa. But

there are many South Africans who want to make a difference by investing in a successful ministry that is busy training the next generation of spiritual leaders. So please prayerfully consider donating to "top-up" the funds that have already been given.



### Plans for the Future in Durban

Mukhanyo is planning for the continued sustainable growth of the Durban Centre if the Lord wills since the projected need in this area is very great. There are no other accredited Bible schools in the entire greater Durban region. Yet there are thousands of churches in the region that need properly trained church leaders, most of whom do not have access to any other quality Bible training programme. Furthermore, the recent riots in Durban are proof of the urgent need in the immediate communities for properly trained Christians and spiritual leaders.

At present, the Durban Centre offers two qualifications, with a mix of day and evening classes: (1) the Higher Certificate in Bible Teaching, a one-year programme that is introductory to tertiary theological education; and (2) the Bachelor's Degree in Theology, a four-year programme that gives a comprehensive foundation for pastors and other Christian workers. Demand for these fully-

accredited programmes is strong everywhere in South Africa, and Mukhanyo has become known as a trusted provider of quality Bible education for all social groups in the greater Durban areas.

The plan is also to apply with the necessary authorities for "campus" status as soon as this permanent location is secured. No major alterations will be needed to these facilities (at least for the first few years) so the campus application can be made immediately upon purchase.

With the Lord's blessing, the future Durban Campus will be a great blessing to local churches and church leaders in the entire region – from Jozini in the North, to Pietermaritzburg in the West, and to Port Shepstone in the south. We must be faithful now with the resources God has provided, even while we continue to pray for His gracious blessings.

### Partner With Us

Are you able to partner with us in gospel ministry by donating towards the purchase of this building? We welcome donations of any size.

Please make a tax-free donation to Mukhanyo's cheque account: 1553033205 (Nedbank 155345). You can also donate online at [www.mukhanyo.ac.za/support.html](http://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/support.html).

## Join the 11<sup>th</sup> Bible College Consultation

The Theological Education Association of Southern Africa, in conjunction with Mukhanyo Theological College, will host the 11th annual consultation on 14 - 16 June 2022 at the Woord in Aksie Kampterrein just north of Pretoria.

The theme this year will be “Serving the Church in Bible Education” with many valuable keynote topics and workshops. Registration will open in April. To preregister or for more information, visit [www.teasa.co.za/](http://www.teasa.co.za/).

### Background

The first consultation was held in 2011, and has been held every year since excluding 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. A wide variety of themes have been discussed (see the [TEASA Previous Events](#) page for further resources), all centred around equipping institutions of theological education to bring God’s Word effectively to more people in Africa.



More than a hundred church leaders attend the consultations each year, coming from various countries in Southern Africa, representing a few dozen colleges and other educational ministries. The event has proven to be an ideal opportunity to exchange views and network with like-minded leaders. This annual event has often resulted in much needed personal encouragement and lasting kingdom synergies.

In recent years, all the delegates have been fortunate to return home with theological books distributed free of charge. Delegates have also found it worthwhile to renew contacts not only at the consultation, but also elsewhere in the region.

## Milestone Event at Mukhanyo’s Libraries

In Mukhanyo’s five libraries with roughly around 30 000 titles, the first collection audit was completed during the winter of 2021. Wasn’t it an adventure! And the year 2022 promises to be even more exciting.

Tienie de Klerk, Mukhanyo’s librarian, reports that inventory control – or, as it is called at the Mukhanyo libraries, “collection audit” – is a common procedure within the general library context. It might happen wholly, or in part, to a library’s collection when the status of the collection is placed under the magnifying glass. The aim is mainly replacement, or deselection, of resources.

However, since the EMC library management system was just implemented, the collection audit provided an opportunity to align the resources on the shelves with the records in the system. According to Tienie, a simultaneous check on the system’s data quality was further possible. Other benefits include the re-arrangement of resources on the shelves, calculating the number of stacks and book-ends needed for collection expansion, and a general cleaning-up of resources and shelves.

Eventually, the schedule to count all the books was set for five days which were “without disturbance filled with excitement and anxiety”. Not only was the new system put to the test, but a strict procedural deadline was set. Complicating the 2021-plan-of-action were a coronavirus case, installing EMC and the relevant bar code scanners in-time, timeous training to take place on the unfamiliar sys-



tem and collection audit procedure, unrest and resignations . . .

Fortunately, at the main campus in KwaMhlanga, “even the Internet was working very fast”. Staff shortages were counter-acted by student assistance. From the Durban centre, it was reported that participating in a collection audit “is by far the best way to get to know the shelves and

their content and the arrangement of the whole library”. And, observed at Rustenburg, “we have experienced scanning every single book that helped us to know how many books we have and how many books are missing, also how many resources are no longer useful on our shelves”.

The focused and dedicated library team “had a wonderful experience of fulfilling and worthwhile work”. This first - and certainly memorable - audit was a success and a lot of lessons were learnt, summarised Lewis from the Johannesburg campus. Several characteristics of Mukhanyo’s collection of information resources were revealed, and issues to address before the next collection audit – coming closer now - were identified.

Having a peek at the accompanying pictures, Tienie applauds the library team - Mamusa, Yvette, Annah, Anneke, Lewis and their helpers - for their effort. A big THANK YOU is also expressed towards all Mukhanyo’s managers and staff – especially ICT staff - supporting the team during its first collection audit adventure!