

## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2022

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### New Durban Centre: Acquired... Despite Disasters

We are almost there. The purchase of a much better facility for the Durban Advanced Learning Centre is being finalised, despite two regional disasters in the past year. But the move to the heart of Pinetown will still take a few months to finalise due to various formalities, including the normal delays by local authorities.

After looking for a larger facility for the past two years, and after two disasters in the Durban metropolitan area, nearly everything is now organised. Only the final 7% of the purchase price must still be received from South African donors. Mukhanyo is grateful for the 78% given by international donors, and for the rest of the money raised with the help of a generous matching funds donation from a South African donor. The new campus building has more offices, ample space for the library and classrooms, with transport and shopping facilities nearby. The centre should be sufficient for at least the next ten years, even with the expected accelerated growth in the number of students. Mukhanyo's name is now being established in the coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The two recent disasters have proved that now, more than ever, the Durban region needs quality biblical education. Thus the importance of training ministers, especially in times of disaster, to provide spiritual leadership and faithful instruction.

By God's grace, the centre was able to open and continue



functioning through difficult times in the past two and a half years, with only some minor setbacks and delays. Dr Brian DeVries, Mukhanyo's principal, remains optimistic that the centre's progress will continue with steady growth each year.

In July last year, there was widespread politically-inspired unrest around Durban and the surrounding region, home to four million people. Hundreds of people were killed, thousands of shops were ransacked, and many local businesses and other properties were destroyed. Most people have become poorer as a result.

While still recovering from this disaster, the region was hit in April this year by rainfall on an unprecedented scale. Roads, bridges, the port, and other infrastructure were damaged. Containers drifted away and blocked roads. An estimated 600 school buildings were damaged and approximately 13 000 houses and shacks were damaged or destroyed. The provision of water and electricity was interrupted. Tragically, the death toll is over 400 and the total damage is expected to run into the tens of billions.

Once again, Mukhanyo's campus was only marginally affected: some leaks in the (old) centre and no water or power for only a few days, according to the campus manager Rev. Antonio Coppola. A few students couldn't reach the centre due to damaged roads but have since returned unharmed. The floods took place during the Easter break, so classes were not running at the time, but have now resumed.

But the region was again shaken by the second disaster. Many of Mukhanyo's lecturers and students are serving

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communities that are experiencing much greater suffering as a result. There are so many needs, both short-term and longer-term.

Through this all, Mukhanyo's vision remains the same: to equip pastors and other Christians with biblical knowledge and the ability to minister in local churches and communities across Africa. The Durban campus is built on the Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ, and we seek to assist many faithful men and women to build their ministries on this Rock. It is this solid foundation that will withstand all challenges, both present and future.

## Master's Program Makes Good Progress

Prof. Dolf Britz facilitated two modules in April: the Theology of John Calvin and Research Methodology. The Master of Theology degree (ThM) has been facilitated at Mukhanyo since last year, starting with nine students. The programme has made good progress to date, now with four modules completed and five more planned in the next twelve months.



Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary offers this ThM program, facilitated at Mukhanyo. The ThM is a 1-year post-graduate degree qualification, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools in North America, the highest accrediting body for theological schools in North America.

Prof. Britz is the retired director of the former Jonathan Edwards Centre on Theology of the University of the Free State, and he is a well-known Reformed theologian. Over and above facilitation via block lectures, students also do self-study and assignments according to the American seminary's curriculum.

In September, Dr Stephen Myers plans to facilitate two more modules: Reformed Spirituality and Covenant Theology. Students with a credible Honours or Master's degree in theology are welcome to apply before the end of July by contacting Mukhanyo's Registrar, Dr Greg Phillips, at [greg.phillips@mtc.ac.za](mailto:greg.phillips@mtc.ac.za).

## Serving the Church in Bible Education

Registration will close very soon for the TEASA Bible College Consultation on 14–16 June 2022. We are thankful for the strong interest and registrations this year! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, each participant will receive several free books, and all Bible colleges in attendance will receive a stack of additional library resources. Pray with us for another wonderful year of fellowship and mutual learning.

Register online at [www.teasa.co.za/register.html](http://www.teasa.co.za/register.html)

## Annual Report 2021: Steady Growth in Difficult Times

For more than 28 years, the Lord has blessed and guided Mukhanyo Theological College! Therefore Mukhanyo's 2021 annual report (just released) starts by thanking the Lord for enabling the College to continue mentoring church leaders and other Christians for faithful ministry in southern Africa and enabling a continuation and even an acceleration of its growth trajectory.

Challenges include the recent pandemic, disruptions in the Durban region, and a marginal decrease in donations. But Mukhanyo was still able to show significant progress in several fields:

- The academic team is stronger and the quality of teaching has improved. There are now some 35 full- and part-time lecturers in the five regional centres.
- Continued development of study material at all levels. Of the material for more than 90 modules, at least 20 study guides with DVDs are ready for final publication.
- The number of graduates in the past year was a record 115 in total.
- The physical collection in the five libraries now exceeds 33,000 with more books on the way. Staff and students now also have access to a large and growing collection of digital resources.

Registration is now open for the second semester of 2022, with classes starting on 19 July 2022. The Principal, Dr Brian DeVries, expects further growth in student numbers in all centres and all programmes in the next year, with the pandemic and other recent challenges now mostly behind us. He is also guiding the team to realise continued improvement in academic quality and material development, as well as considerable growth in distance education and the expansion of technology for teaching and learning support systems.

Financially speaking, 2021 was a difficult year. Regardless of steps taken to economise, the audited figures of Mukhanyo's five campuses and centres showed a deficit of approximately R721 000. However, this was thankfully covered by the surplus from cost-cutting in 2020. The deficit was mainly due to an increase in remuneration to staff. Income decreased marginally, especially from Africa, so bursary assistance to needy students had to be cut from R894 000 in 2020 to R783 000 in 2021.

Do you want to partner with Mukhanyo by supporting one of the several areas of financial need? You can now give online at <https://www.mukhanyo.ac.za/donate.html>.

## Curriculum Development: Overhauling and Extending all Learning Material

It started some four years ago as a project to improve the modules on offer by Mukhanyo. But now it has developed into the largest project ever undertaken, as well as the beginning of a continuous cycle of updating and extending the programmes and their modules.

The good news is that this project is making excellent progress. The even better news is that the magnitude of this project has reached such dimensions that of the expected 200-plus study guides and supporting material, nearly half are in the development phase, in one way or another.

It is now obvious that this development process is far larger, extensive, and more complicated than originally thought. Additional modules and electives have been added, especially to the Degree and the Higher Certificates programmes, including a post-graduate certificate in Christian education (PGCE), as well as Higher Certificate elective tracks in Preaching, Christian Education, and Apologetics.

Mukhanyo now has seven highly qualified part-time editors and videographers who are busy editing and formatting the module study guides and videos. This procedure, based on Mukhanyo's vision and mission, includes the selection of modules, the assigning and tasking of authors, renewing module contents, editing and re-editing of drafts, peer reviewing and video editing, and finally production of the material.

Mukhanyo is thankful for donors who make this project possible and who will hopefully be able to keep on supporting the project. While the original expectation for the project's completion was by the end of 2022, we are now aiming at completion in 2025 or 2026.

Looking at the progress, all the people involved and the expected results, the project is certainly more than worthwhile. It will continue to raise the standard of Mukhanyo's programmes to a higher level. Mukhanyo continues to glorify our Father in heaven by giving students a better understanding of how unbelievably great and gracious He is.



## Profile: Dr Jacob Igba “Transforming Africa from a mission field to a mission force”

Dr Jacob Igba recently joined Mukhanyo's team as a Senior Lecturer. He has a personal sense of calling to contribute toward building and strengthening the kingdom of God in Africa through theology and missions.



He believes that leaders and churches, especially in Africa, need solid equipping in theology and missions to stem the tide of numerical growth. The majority of pastors have little to no theological training, leading to churches that have minimal engagement with taking the gospel to those who have yet to hear it.

This is why Dr Igba joined Mukhanyo, lecturing in Hermeneutics, Systematic Theology, and Biblical Studies at Mukhanyo's Pretoria and KwaMhlanga campuses.

Dr Igba grew up in Northern Nigeria and when he was a young minister in Nigeria, he came to realise the need to study theology. He started his theological studies at the Bible Institute of South Africa in 2008, where he later lectured part-time. He was also a course facilitator at the BISA Centre for Ministry to Muslims.

He completed the Honours in Theology at George Whitefield College and was a resident member of the evangelical research fellowship of the college during his Master's. He obtained his PhD at the North-West University, Potchefstroom, in 2019 and has since published articles in accredited theological journals.

Dr Igba is concerned that many churches in Africa are not mission-minded. He believes that if the situation changes, Africa could become a mission force instead of the mission field she has always been in: “If this does not happen, Christianity in Africa faces the danger of becoming something else but different from biblical Christianity.”

To contribute to this change, Dr Igba continues to maintain his involvement as a mission mobilizer with Africa Inland Mission International, along with his teaching role at Mukhanyo. He believes Mukhanyo is a great college with a theological curriculum that is sensitive to the needs of the church: “Students at Mukhanyo are enthusiastic to learn and I thoroughly enjoy the very contextualised classroom discussions that relate theology to life and ministry.”

## Make a Donation Online

Do you want to partner with Mukhanyo's education ministry for Africa? Considering making a long-term spiritual investment in equipping leaders for church communities in Africa.

Mukhanyo equips Christians for ministry in Africa. Help share God's truth and light by donating now.

[Donate now!](#)