

## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2023

### In this issue:

- Making a Greater Difference
- TEASA Consultation 2023
- Beeke Seminar: Reformed Piety and Preaching
- Security and Power Challenges
- Both Preaching and Teaching
- Honours and Masters Courses

### Making a Greater Difference

Mukhanyo has reached its 30th year of training Christian leaders to be witnesses of Christ. There are now thousands of alumni across South Africa and in Southern Africa.

“Do we make a difference?” “Is our time, efforts and money well spent?” These questions were asked at our recent Annual General Meeting on 22 April, in Pretoria. The answer was a wholehearted “Yes!”. The annual report, presented by our director, Dr Brian DeVries, confirmed this by sharing the following information:

- A record-breaking number of 166 students received their certificates at the recent graduation ceremony, surpassing last year’s figure of 111.
- The number of registered students for various programmes this year exceeded 1 100, equivalent to about 525 full-time students. They are spread across more than a hundred locations: 98 active local learning sites as well as Mukhanyo’s five main campuses and centres.
- The unique model of training enables students and staff to make a social impact in many local communities and churches. This is accomplished through various means, such as conferences, workshops, mentoring youth, Christian counselling, and more.



- Plans for the upcoming year include maintaining and developing excellence in all of Mukhanyo’s operations. Additionally, Mukhanyo intends to expand its marketing and communication efforts, taking advantage of the increased capacity of our facilities, which can now accommodate double the number of our current students.
- Thousands of alumni are actively spreading the gospel and strengthening churches to become more biblical.
- Mukhanyo’s ministry serves a wide network of faithful churches and communities. We trust that God will continue to sustain and bless Mukhanyo in its mission to make Christ known.

Despite the challenging economic conditions in our country, Mukhanyo was able to carry out its running operations at a cost of R13.5 million in 2022. While local donations fell short of the hoped-for 50%, international donations provided around 60% of the total income. We are deeply grateful for each of these donations, as they make this ministry possible.

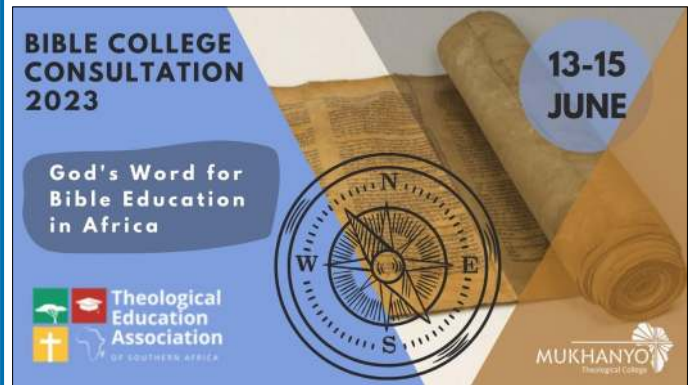


Class of 2022

[Continued on page 2](#)

### Did you know . . .

- Mukhanyo's Pretoria campus now offers an accredited Bachelors Honours degree program.
- Throughout 2022, the five centres delivered a total of 206 courses with an 84% success rate, while the local learning sites presented 426 courses with a 90% success rate.
- The libraries at Mukhanyo's five campuses currently house 33 000 titles, with another 15 000 books to be added soon, courtesy of various North American publishers.
- A new and improved computer system was recently introduced corporate-wide, which seamlessly integrates various systems such as student information, learning management, finance, attendance and payroll, library, and more.
- Mukhanyo is subsidising students with bursaries amounting to R800 000 annually, in addition to the already low tuition fees.



## TEASA Consultation 2023

There is still room to register for the annual Bible College Consultation. This year's theme is "God's Word for Bible Education in Africa: Rightly Handling the Word of Truth". This annual event is the ideal place for Bible educators to fellowship and network with other leaders. Keynote speakers, topics, and workshop themes can be found at [www.teasa.co.za](http://www.teasa.co.za). Register online at [TEASA 2023](http://www.teasa.co.za).

## Beeke Seminar: Reformed Piety and Preaching

Mukhanyo is hosting a seminar on 21 and 22 June, featuring guest speaker Dr Joel Beeke. He will present six topics within the themes of Reformed Theology, Piety, and Experiential Preaching. Register online at [Mukhanyo Events](http://www.mukhanyo.co.za).

Some view theology as a waste of time since they only believe in what they can see and touch. However, theology introduces us to an unseen world that is far greater and longer lasting than the physical world, making it the most important task a person can undertake. As R.C. Sproul said, "Everyone's a theologian." We cannot escape theology. The question is whether our theology is true or false."

*"Experiential theology addresses how a Christian experiences the truth of Christian doctrine in his life." – Joel Beeke.*

Preaching that reaches only the head without the heart and vice versa misses the vital connection between truth and love which is found in Christ, the Head of the Church. Experiential preaching looks at how we can expound the Gospel as both head and heart knowledge.

*"Gospel truth has not reached its goal until it produces love. Love has no living roots without gospel truth. Therefore, the truth of Christ*

*must be brought home to the heart by the Holy Spirit to produce love. That's the kind of preaching we need." – Joel Beeke*

Developing truly Reformed thinking on an academic level requires an intellectual exchange of thinking and regular research. It is therefore something special when one of the foremost thinkers in this field will be visiting South Africa in June.

Dr Joel Beeke is president of the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, USA. He is a professor of systematic theology and homiletics, and pastor of the Heritage Reformed Congregation since 1986, as well as editor of the Puritan Reformed Journal and Banner of Sovereign Grace Truth. Beeke has written and co-authored over 120 books, edited another 100 books, and contributed more than 2,500 articles to Reformed books, journals, and other publications.

See page 4 for the full schedule.



---

## Security and Power Challenges

Although weak internet connectivity at each campus has been a longstanding challenge, it has now been resolved. However, new challenges have emerged, such as the need for improved security and a more reliable power supply.

### Power Supply Solutions

Mukhanyo has allocated around R750 000 (about US\$38 000 or 35 000 euros) to prepare for the anticipated increase in electricity blackouts in South Africa over the coming year. Winter is upon us, and electricity blackouts are likely to worsen.

Due to corruption, insufficient maintenance and poor management, the state-owned electricity supplier in South Africa, ESCOM, has become an insufficient and unreliable electricity provider. This has caused load shedding to occur countrywide, resulting in power outages for several hours each day. Consequently, numerous businesses, factories, and homes have had to devise solutions such as utilising diesel generators or solar systems with inverters and batteries.

To continue with uninterrupted teaching, Mukhanyo has started taking steps to generate power for its worst affected centre, the Johannesburg campus. We are now installing 16 solar panels, an inverter, and batteries at the cost of R240 000 – producing 8 kVA.

Next in line to receive a power upgrade is the Pretoria campus. We plan to start with a large UPS inverter battery system.

Rustenburg and Durban will have similar systems, and Mukhanyo's main campus in KwaMhlanga is currently in the fortunate position to be situated near the local hospital where load shedding is not applied. However, KwaMhlanga has another problem: increasing crime.

### Improved Security Measures

Although the level of crime has been relatively low in KwaMhlanga in recent years, it is currently on the rise.



Solar Panels at the Johannesburg Campus

On several occasions, the fence surrounding the Mukhanyo grounds has been cut and tunnelled in areas out of view of the security guard. Copper pipes have also been stolen, requiring their replacement with plastic pipes to prevent further theft.

To make matters worse, a female support staff member was recently abducted while waiting for a taxi near the front entrance. Thankfully, she was only robbed of her belongings and dropped off late at night at a cemetery.

To enhance security measures, Mukhanyo plans to install razor wire on the grounds' fences and implement access control systems with CCTV cameras in all campuses and centres to restrict unauthorised visitors. Robust burglar-proof bars will be installed to secure buildings like offices, libraries, and computer stations. In addition, the facilities manager in KwaMhlanga will carry a pepper gas pistol for his safety. Similar measures will be implemented in other study centres.

Oliver Cromwell once advised his soldiers to pray to God and keep their gunpowder dry! Similarly, Mukhanyo is praying for divine protection whilst taking practical measures to continue its work. Please also remember Mukhanyo in your prayers, that God will grant us grace and strength to continue in our work.

---

## Both Preaching and Teaching

Most of the Mukhanyo staff are deeply committed to church and welfare work in addition to their full-time or part-time roles at Mukhanyo. Many lecturers are regularly preaching, incorporating what they are teaching their students on weekdays.

The teaching model of Mukhanyo is ideally suited for this approach, since most lectures run from Tuesdays to Thursdays, leaving weekends for study and church work.

Mukhanyo has a staff complement of over 60, with half of them serving as lecturers across its five centres, typically consisting of six lecturers per centre. In addition, there are some 160 theologically trained facilitators at the local learning centres throughout South Africa and beyond, with roughly 700 students. Additionally, four trained regional coordinators are working part-time.

This provides a clear indication of the significant number of Christians associated with Mukhanyo who are involved in church and welfare work.

The lecturing staff are highly engaged in various roles within their respective congregations, such as pastors, assistant preachers, church planters, emeriti, and lay preachers. Furthermore, some are involved in various church-related activities, such as helping with music and singing during services, assisting with church administration, and teaching Sunday school teachers. Additionally, some are engaged in welfare work, such as the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

An example of this is Dr Brian De Vries, Mukhanyo's principal. He, together with his wife, is busy planting another multi-ethnic church in Pretoria. He is also a

visiting professor at the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, USA.

Dr DeVries states that, in his experience, the combination of teaching at Mukhanyo while being practically involved in ministry work is an ideal model: both teaching and preaching. The Apostle Paul did the same, proclaiming the gospel while working as a tent-maker (Acts 18:3).



## Honours and Masters Courses

Mukhanyo frequently invites visiting professors to present intensive courses. Most undergraduate and post-graduate courses are taught during weekly classes for two semesters annually. However, in the second half of 2023, the following intensive courses are planned:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| • Dr John Child, BST2 Christian Ethics, BTh intensive | 22-23 June 2023  |
| • Prof. Adriaan Neele, ThM: Research Methodology      | 20-24 June 2023  |
| • Dr Barend Hefer, HRE1 Research Methodology          | Second semester  |
| • Dr Japie Malan, HST6 Issues in Christian Ethics     | Second semester  |
| • Dr Jacob Igba, HST3 Theology of Salvation           | Second semester  |
| • Prof. Bruce Baugus, ST849 Theology Proper           | 20-22 Sept. 2023 |
| • Prof. Bruce Baugus, CH882 Theology of Augustine     | 25-27 Sept. 2023 |

## Seminar Schedule

<b>21 June - Reformed Theology &amp; Piety</b> 08:00 - Registration & Coffee 08:30 - Opening 08:45 - <i>The Marrow of Reformed Theology</i> - Joel Beeke 10:00 - <i>The Solas of Reformed Theology</i> - Joel Beeke 11:10 - BREAK 11:45 - <i>The Heartbeat of Reformed Theology: A Case Study of Calvin's Piety</i> - Joel Beeke 13:00 - LUNCH 13:45 - Song & Book Launch Announcement 14:00 - MTC Information: Honours & ThM 14:10 - Q&A Session 14:50 - Book Launch & Interview with Joel Beeke - <i>Lig In Duisternis Publishers</i> 15:20 - Closing Words	<b>22 June - Reformed Experiential Preaching</b> 08:00 - Registration & Coffee 08:30 - Opening 08:45 - <i>What is it?</i> - Joel Beeke 10:00 - <i>How did Reformed and Puritan Preachers do it?</i> - Joel Beeke 11:10 - BREAK 11:45 - <i>How Should we do it Today</i> - Joel Beeke 13:00 - LUNCH 13:45 - Song & Book Recommendations 14:00 - MTC Info: Local Learning with Local Churches 14:10 - Q&A Session 15:20 - Closing Words
---	--

