

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2022

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Regional Coordinators Appointed

Several months ago, five regional coordinators were appointed to further promote the expansion and development of distance learning centres. Next year, Mukhanyo plans to appoint five more coordinators in others regions.

These coordinators serve to advance the training and developing of local tutors, manage regional marketing and networking, promote quality control, and guide the establishment of additional centres. Mukhanyo is thankful for the regional coordinator team:

- Rev. Alfred Masimula, regional coordinator for the Gauteng South region and tutor of the Tsakane distance learning support centre.
- Rev. Oageng Moncho, coordinator for the Southern North-West region and tutor at the Potchefstroom centre.
- Pastor Sechaba Legoete, coordinator for the Lowveld region and tutor at the Barberton centre.
- Victor Correia, coordinator for the Upper Karoo region and tutor of the centre in Orania.
- Bishop Jacob Dithipe, coordinator for the Platinum region and tutor at the Mahikeng centre.

Mukhanyo's decentralised learning model is a unique approach through which Bible students come together for facilitated learning. Mukhanyo provides quality study material with DVD lectures, while local tutors mentor students both within and outside the classroom. This approach has proved to be very successful in Africa over the past 13 years. The distance programme currently offers three Mukhanyo qualifications: a church-based Focus programme and two accredited Higher Certificates, one in Bible

Teaching and the other in Church Ministry.

There is enormous potential for many more facilitated distance learning support centres because Mukhanyo has a quality product and the systems to double the number of centres across southern Africa. Though many people claim to be Christian, the majority of these people don't really know what it means to be a true follower of Christ. This approach is an effective way to promote faithful Bible knowledge within many communities across Africa.



Left to Right: Rev. Alfred Masimula, Rev. Sechaba Legoete, Rev. Oageng Moncho

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ICT Software Systems Expansion

With over a thousand students, five regional campuses/centres, and more than a hundred distance learning support centres, it is absolutely essential that Mukhanyo has strong ICT strategy, structures and systems. Robust systems are also needed to support hoped-for growth in the next five to ten years. If everything goes according to plan, a significantly upgraded system will start to be functional in January.

For the past decade, Mukhanyo's ICT services were often hindered by unreliable internet quality in KwaMhlanga and at several other locations. Robust comprehensive software solutions with the required functionality and efficiency is also very expensive to implement and maintain.

But now strategic upgrades and expansions are coming! Mukhanyo is thankful for the expert services of ITUS, an IT consulting service with a missional heart. Jannie Sander of ITUS is serving on Mukhanyo's team to manage the coordinated implementation of several integrated software systems. Jannie, whose brother also leads a distance learning support centre, is in many ways a gift from God to Mukhanyo. With 25 years of experience, he has assessed Mukhanyo's

existing systems and future needs. He now expertly leads the whole team to install the best possible system solutions for the next decade and longer.

What does this mean in practice? The internet service in KwaMhlanga was recently upgraded; it is now consistently reliably for all high-speed connectivity needs. The managed service provision has been optimised, and a well-integrated software solution, clustered around the Open Collab platform, is being installed.

This important step forward also means much staff training is taking place during this time. The final solution will include a more robust integrated student information system, an expanded learning management system, an integrated library management system, a financial system with human resource and payroll systems, back office and productivity systems, and other related functionality.



Mukhanyo's Sustainability by Donors

Over the years, Mukhanyo has been blessed with a large donor base consisting of hundreds of churches and thousands of individuals in South Africa, North America and Europe. But are these donors satisfied with Mukhanyo's performance?

Recently, Heidi Pronk and Karen VanderSloot, representatives of Word & Deed, visited Mukhanyo's campus in KwaMhlanga to inspect the projects they are sponsoring. Word & Deed is an NGO in North America that provides some \$8 million (R140 million) contributions from about 300 churches and a few thousand individuals to about 55 projects in 14 different countries. To their own surprise, support from their donors did not decrease at all during the COVID years; actually it increased, a development which they hope will continue with God's blessing.

At present, Word & Deed is partly funding Mukhanyo's large curriculum development project. They also contributed significantly towards the purchase of new facilities for the Durban Centre.

Twice a year Mukhanyo sends progress reports to Word & Deed (and other large supporters), enabling them to inform all their donors about each project's

progress as well as the quality of Mukhanyo's management, administration and financial controls. Understandably, they need to know if the money of the donors is well invested for kingdom advantage. Asked if the visitors were satisfied with the effectiveness and impact of their assistance, the reply was an enthusiastic "YES".

Each year, about half of Mukhanyo's income comes from South Africa with the other half coming from international donors. About 75% of all income comes from thousands of small, medium, and large donors – God puts it in their hearts to contribute some of their income to Mukhanyo.

Mukhanyo is grateful to God for Word & Deed and for all the many other generous donors, both from South Africa and internationally, who make the educational ministry possible. God continues to sustain the Mukhanyo ministry each year by means of faithful Christians around the world.

Profile Rev. Sechaba Legoete: Alumnus and Regional Coordinator

“The greatest need in Africa is the faithful and effective preaching of the Gospel and the building of healthy and thriving Biblical churches through sound and Biblical reformed theology such as offered at Mukhanyo,” says Rev. Sechaba Legoete.



“Every graduate who learns Biblical theology is one more pulpit that will make a change.”

Rev. Sechaba has been the pastor of the Barberton Community Baptist Church for the past ten years. He is a Mukhanyo alumnus and now also a regional coordinator in the Lowveld of the Mpumalanga province in the north-east of South Africa. “My desire is to see more long-distance Bible study centres so that we can elevate and deepen the appreciation of Biblical theology in our churches. Because the level of understanding the true gospel leaves much to be desired.”

“Sunday after Sunday worshipers are fed meagre spiritual rations, not the sufficient staple food meant to make believers and the churches strong and healthy and, unable to impact and transform the lives and surroundings of its members with the gospel.”

Rev. Sechaba says he had the rare privilege of being born into a Christian family and receiving a good Christian upbringing. After completing school he started studying at Mukhanyo, obtaining a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree in 2008. He later did a pastoral internship at Lusaka Baptist Church in Zambia. Rev. Sechaba calls himself a Baptist Reformed Christian. His passion is to spread Biblical theology and make it available to church leaders and other Christians, raising the level of theological education to address the weakness of African churches.

We pray that the Lord will bless the ministry of Rev. Sechaba and the other regional coordinators so that they all will be empowered to spread Biblical theology effectively and widely.

The Value of Focus Proven Once Again

After four years of weekly studies, thirty isiZulu-speaking students completed the Zulu-language version of the Focus programme and had their own graduation ceremony at KwaMhlanga on Thursday, 15 September.

The Focus programme is not formally accredited, but is a practical and very accessible training course to equip Christians to play an influential role in their churches. These students, who have now received their certificates, belong to various syncretistic Pentecostal and Zionist churches. Their newfound knowledge of the Bible enables them to be a Biblical influence for reformation within their own church communities.

According to Rev. Paul Mahlangu, lecturer at Mukhanyo Theological College who leads these groups, many of the students started the Focus programme while believing in the powerful role their ancestors had in their lives. But now their theology is grounded in Scripture and their views are different, which results in friction with the leaders and other members of their churches.

The students belonged to four different study groups, one each in Kwaggafontein, Kameelrivier, Phumula, and Phola Park, all in the wider KwaMhlanga region. More groups are being formed; at present there are thirty more students as well as three other groups taking the Focus programme in isiZulu. In addition there are many other distance groups who are doing the programme in English.

The Focus programme consists of more than twenty-five modules in three different tracks. Each track of study requires a unique choice of at least seven modules. These modules cover Bible knowledge and Biblical foundations as well as modules about church growth, church leadership, church life, and related subjects.

