

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2022

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Spreading Wings for Gospel Witness

Within South Africa, there is a great majority who claim to be Christian, but very few understand what this means. Therefore, in the past few years, Mukhanyo has intensified its campaign to help more people learn what it means to be a Christian and understand more about the Bible.

Mukhanyo has spread its wings by opening several new campuses and full-time study centres, now five in total, as well as over a hundred Distance Learning Support Centres. With more than 1 000 students at present, Mukhanyo now has the capacity through its facilities and programmes to accommodate far more students in locations across Southern Africa.

Telling the Mukhanyo story has become an important activity, and it is now being approached more professionally. This includes the use of Whatsapp, Facebook adverts, monthly articles in the widely-circulated Joy Magazine and other publications, public outreach by spreading flyers as well as broadcasts on Christian radio. Additionally, in the next few months, the Mukhanyo team will visit schools, churches and pastors' fraternals in and around KwaMhlanga to share about the work of Mukhanyo in its several regions.

As far as new programmes are concerned, the new Focus course has been introduced successfully. Though not accredited, it is accessible to anyone without any entry conditions. It is especially aimed at members of churches and church leaders who still know very little about the Bible.

Mukhanyo's Higher Certificates (accredited diploma-level qualifications) now also include modules on Christian teaching as an option. This enables students to prepare for entering a Bachelor of Education degree to become qualified school teachers, while also gaining more Bible knowledge and Christian values.

All this is over and above Mukhanyo's ongoing efforts to improve quality in all aspects of the organisation, including the production of quality content (recorded lectures and professional study guides), technology and systems upgrades, library/media services, student registration and support services, and much more.

It is a matter of much prayer and hard work, and by God's grace, it seems to be paying off. Spreading wings for gospel witness in these ways are slowly bearing fruit. The number of students has been growing by about 15% annually, which is something to be thankful for, especially in the present difficult times. May our faithful Father continue to bless all these activities for His glory!

MTC's Contribution
to the September
Edition of Joy!
Magazine



Seminars on Reformed Theology

Two seminars, presented by Prof Stephen Myers from PRTS, will be hosted this month at the Pretoria campus: **Covenant Theology** and **Reformed Spirituality**. These subjects are the heart of Reformed theology.

Ministers and all church members are invited to audit these two masters-level modules; they must register in advance with the Pretoria office.

Pretoria Campus: 012 004 1215

Education Leaders: Farewell and Welcome

Dr Gerrit Heino who served on Mukhanyo's team for nearly six years, has now retired and plans to return to the Netherlands. He was sent to Mukhanyo by the Dutch Gereformeerde Zendings Bond as well as his church and Driestar Christian University for Teacher Education. His term was supposed to be for four years but was extended to six, during which time he developed study guides for four Christian Teacher modules.

Over and above authoring these modules, Gerrit also lectured in theology at the diploma and degree levels, served at the Pretoria Campus, and was the programme manager of Mukhanyo's School of Education. Back home with his wife, Gerrit hopes to remain involved with some of Mukhanyo's education programmes, including the development of more education modules.

Mr Japie Venter, has been employed to fill Gerrit's place. Japie, now 59 years old, retired at the end of 2021 as headmaster of the Jopie Fourie Primary School in Pretoria. His qualifications include a BA and BEd (Biblical Studies and Education) as well as a Diploma in Education. He has been a teacher for 33 years, with the last 23 years as headmaster.



Dr Gerrit Heino and Japie Venter

Japie will assist the Academic Dean with the coordination and development of Mukhanyo's lecturing staff. He will also lecture Christian Education for second-year students, be responsible for liaison with North-West University for the facilitated education qualification, and be involved with the marketing of Mukhanyo in general.

As we say goodbye to Gerrit Heino, we thank the Lord for his faithful years of service on the Mukhanyo team. We also welcome Japie Venter to the team grateful to God for the gifts He continues to bring into the Mukhanyo family.

A New Creation Who Died with Christ

Does sticking nuts to a tree make it a nut tree? Or does tying lemons to its branches make it a lemon tree? In the same way, practising good moral habits doesn't make one a Christian. It has to come from within – from the heart of a person who can truly testify that he belongs to Christ and becomes a new creation.

This is how lecturer Jacques Malan of Mukhanyo started the teaching on Saturday 20 August at a seminar held at the KwaMhlanga campus. This seminar was the second entitled: Christian Character. It was based on one of the modules of Mukhanyo's FOCUS programme. The second speaker was Rev. Paul Mahlangu, also a Mukhanyo lecturer.

In the various sessions, different points were discussed. The fruit of the Spirit was explained as well as the importance of the cross of Christ and the effect on a Christian's life. The cross changes everything in the world; only this sacrifice of Christ can change lives!

In the Bible, Paul said he was teaching nothing else than Christ and Him crucified. We should do the same and not get tired of it. Christ's death on the cross not only saves, but it also changes the character of a person who is born again. Galatians 2:20 tells us that a

child of God should be crucified with Him which prompts us to a life of self-denial, thanksgiving and service that points others to our Saviour.

It was also emphasised that Christians don't automatically become spiritually mature at their salvation – their growth is an indication they have and still are experiencing God's power in their life.



Doubling of Distance Learning Support Centres

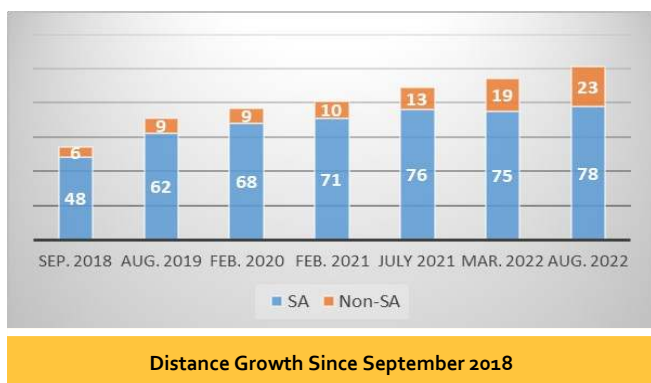
In four years, the number of Mukhanyo's Distance Learning Support Centres has doubled to 101. This year, four centres started in Kenya and seven in South Africa. Even faster growth is expected with the recent appointment of five regional distance coordinators.

The Kenyan centres in Bumala, Bumamu, Busia and Kisumu were established by Rev. Eric Mutumbi, in partnership with the North American funders Word & Deed. All of them are using Mukhanyo's Focus programme. The facilitators/tutors are pastors who have recently been trained, enabling them to manage and lead the groups.

Rev. Eric says the beginning was an evangelism programme he initiated. He found that Mukhanyo's Focus programme is what they need to further train untrained church leaders. But they can start with support from their friends. At present, there are about 140 students. The target is 250 students and several more centres in the next three years.

Seven new groups have been started in South Africa so far this year. Several groups concluded their cohorts, or were amalgamated, to improve overall quality. One group, also in South Africa, is preparing to offer Mukhanyo's Bachelor in Theology. If successful, other groups will also start offering this degree. Another group is offering the Focus programme in the Afrikaans language and simultaneously translating the programme into the language. It is expected that this will result in new Afrikaans groups being established, especially in areas of the Western Cape where Afrikaans is the main language. The Focus programme is also being used by some Zulu groups.

Regional coordinators are now being appointed to be responsible for further training and development of new facilitators/tutors, increased quality control, the establishment of new groups, and further networking in each region.



Passionate Lecturer, Pastor and Mentor

Rev. Paul Mahlangu is quiet and peaceful when you see and talk with him. But when lecturing, preaching or mentoring, Rev. Mahlangu changes into a passionate enthusiastic speaker driven by the Word of God.

Rev. Mahlangu is a lecturer at Mukhanyo's KwaMhlanga campus, this year teaching Biblical Worldview. On Sundays, he preaches at an independent church which he is busy planting in KwaMhlanga, where he has lived most of his life. During the week, he also mentors about 45 students at five distance groups in and around KwaMhlanga.



Born in 1963, Rev. Mahlangu became a lay preacher in the Church of Jesus Christ, without any theological training, like many pastors in that denomination. In 2004, a Mukhanyo student convinced him how important it was to know more about the Bible. So he started studying at Mukhanyo, eventually completing his BTh degree and BTh Honours degree. But the council of the denomination became jealous, opposed his studies, and threatened him until he decided to leave to plant his own church.

In the meantime, Rev. Mahlangu started lecturing at Mukhanyo. Through visiting churches, pastors and schools in the region, he got people interested in the Bible and was able to establish several distance learning support centres. At present, he mentors three groups in KwaMhlanga for the Higher Certificate (Bible Teaching and Church Ministry) in English as well as three Zulu groups for the Focus certificate. Some meetings are during the day while others are in the evening.

Rev. Mahlangu's wife, Mary, a school teacher earned her Bachelor of Education through the North West University programme facilitated by Mukhanyo. They have a grown-up son, Bhekithemba, and a daughter, Nelsiwe, and are living within walking distance from the Mukhanyo campus. KwaMhlanga is their home and Rev. Mahlangu hopes it will remain this way.