

Mukhanyo Theological College

Newsletter November 2009



Mukhanyo Theological College gives glory to God by serving Christian churches and communities in Africa through equipping church leaders on a variety of levels



(Association incorporated under
Section 21)
Reg. No.:2003/014401/08

PO Box 594
KwaMhlanga
1022

Telefax
+27 13 947 2179

E-mail:
briand@mwf.net

Website:
www.mukhanyo.co.za

New Principal has exciting plans for MTC

"My vision for Mukhanyo Theological College is to build on the foundation that has been laid in the past sixteen years, but also to extend our reach and to refine our courses in order to better equip godly church leaders. We are now ready to spread the Word throughout South Africa by means of Mukhanyo Distance."

Training school teachers is also on the list of new programmes for 2010. "The need here opens so many opportunities to serve the Lord," he says. Once final approvals are obtained from North West University, Mukhanyo will also become a study centre for continued teachers education.

The new Principal of MTC, **Dr Brian de Vries**, took over the reins from Dr Flip Buys in July 2009. He has been working in South Africa since 2005.

"I attended a presentation of Dr Buys in 2000, when he visited the seminary where I was a student. I was deeply moved by the need for training church leaders in Africa."

Dr De Vries attended a conference led by Dr Roger Greenway at the Rietvallei Reformed Church, Pretoria, in March 2005. He also visited Mukhanyo at that time.

"I fell in love with the place and in May I returned to start the English congregation at Rietvallei and to teach at Mukhanyo. I returned to America several times since then to finish my doctoral studies and then I came back. South Africa is now my home."

Dr de Vries grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, His ancestors came from the Netherlands around 1900 to settle in America.



Dr Brian and his fiancée, Lanae, in Central Park, Manhattan.

“Grand Rapids is still of Dutch origin, but the Dutch language has been forgotten by most, “ he adds.

Dr De Vries says the joys of working in South Africa is to work with a multi ethnic team of leaders united in Christ to build His church. The sorrows are not only the challenges of poverty and AIDS, but also the unbiblical response of church leaders to the problems.

Dr de Vries is getting married to in April 2010 to **Lanae van der Boon**, a registered nurse. She has done ministry work in South Africa twice before. They will probably settle in Sunnyside, Pretoria, where he is leading the Sunnyside Reformed Church Plant.

Deputy Principal ready for challenging Future

“I see myself in this fast-growing Theological College working closely with colleagues in Zambia and Sudan in the field of training pastors.”

Pastor Isaac Maleke started as a first year BTh student at Mukhanyo Theological College in 2001. In the second semester of his third year, he became assistant lecturer and student advisor. He completed his honors degree in 2008 and was lecturing ever since. He was appointed Deputy Principal in September 2009.

“I want to see MTC growing in all areas and all resources until the impact of Mukhanyo will be felt all over South Africa, especially in the black communities.

We have to convey a sound knowledge of the Bible to African people to prevent serious mistakes. If our pastors know what God tells us in His Word, the church of God will become strong in South Africa,” he says.





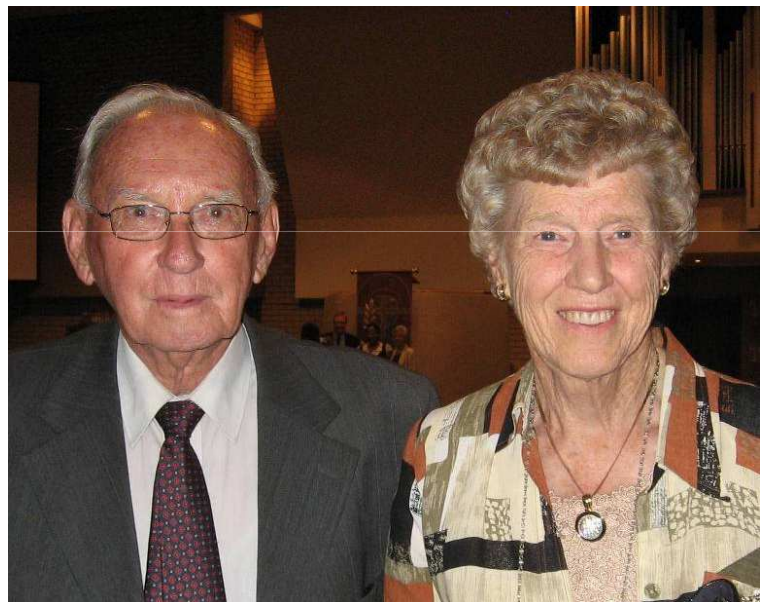
SRC for 2010

The new Student Representative Council for 2010 was chosen in October. They are from left (front): Benjamine Zulu (President), Samaria Mokoena (Assistant Secretary), Enock Sikosana, David Makananise (Additional Members) and Thomas Mnguni (Secretary). Back: Patrick Mohlamunyane (Deputy President) and Godwin Ale (Treasurer).

The path of the just is as a shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.— Proverbs 4:18.

Dr Gerhard Oosthuizen is at the age of 85 the oldest lecturer at MTC. He is still filled with enthusiasm and zeal for his work, teaching the following courses: Study Skills, Church Administration, Practical English, and Christian Teaching. He was the first registrar at MTC, “but my job also included being secretary, kitchen manager, librarian and general handyman,” he said with a smile.

Old in years but young at heart



His wife, Rika, is his help and support through all the years. Especially now after he has had hip surgery and is not allowed to drive, she has to bring him to class, so he can still continue teaching.

“He is a ‘heart-and-soul’ person, she says. Students understand his explanations because he uses tangible examples. Like the day he brought to class canned food, but with all the labels removed. He asked the class what were in the cans. Perplexed they answered they can only know once the cans are opened. “The same with God,” he said. “You can only know Him by opening and reading the Bible.”

Apart from his classes at Mukhanyo once a week, he is also doing missionary work in Sunnyside. He guided two Muslims to Christianity and is now driving a venture to get a Chinese pastor to serve the Chinese Christian community of Pretoria.



Visiting Professors

Prof John Carson visited MTC in October 2009. He is a Doctor in Philosophy and he taught our students on Christian Doctrine and Theology. He is from North Carolina and has been part of the Mobile Theological Training Team since 2006.

“I like coming to Mukhanyo because of the holistic approach they have to teaching. It is not only Theology – the whole spectrum of education comes together in one picture here. Then also everybody’s compassion with AIDS and poverty is really heart-warming,” he says.

Prof Leo Douma from Australia visited MTC for quite a while in September, lecturing at the college, preaching in surrounding churches and helping at a MDCDC workshop on capacity building and mentoring. Here he is seen giving some inputs at a group discussion at the workshop.



New Office Manager

Piet Buys is not only a singer and evangelist at heart. He has also been a student at Mukhanyo for the last two years. As of the end of November, though, he is no longer a student. He has just been appointed as the new Office Manager at Mukhanyo

Bank details:

Mukhanyo Theological College
Nedbank-Montana
Account: 1553 033 205
Branch 155345