

## Dumisani Theological Institute

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**Serving the South African church**

## Wedding Bells!

In November 2010, our colleague, Hombakazi Tshandu married one of our students, Fezile Mathiso. Following Xhosa custom, she is now named Hlalanathi Mathiso.

## Please help us.

1. Our pressing need at present is that the Lord will make provision for Dumisani in a way that enables us to carry out our ministry in a sustainable way. Please consider how you can help us by: (a) praying with us that the Lord will provide what we require in his time and by his chosen means; (b) making our needs known to those who might be in a position to help us; (c) making a financial contribution, if you are in a position to do so.
2. Please pray that the staff and students of Dumisani will be able to continue their work effectively as they

**“Dumisani uYehova!”**

**(“Praise the Lord” - Psalm  
148:1 in isiXhosa)**

## Welcome Visitors

It is always good to have visitors. We currently have Jon Linnell with us for a year providing some IT help. In early February, we had a visit from Dr Steve Hardy of SIM and the Langham Partnership, with his wife LeAnne. A little later in February we welcomed Adam and Dita de Jong from the UK as Adam was helping us with a review of our finances. And during March, we have had Noel and Kirsten Due from Australia with us. We are grateful to all our visitors for their contributions.

look to the Lord for his provision.

3. Give thanks for the many visitors we have had, and pray for ongoing blessings from their visits.

## Congratulations!

We offer our warm congratulations to our colleague Nomaphelo Kwikwi who has just completed a Diploma in Library and Information Science. She hopes to continue her studies to degree level in due course. We also congratulate Lilitha Mshweshwe on completing her studies in Human Resource Management.

# Dumisani News

*March 2011*

## Joys and Sorrows

It has been a long time since the last *Dumisani News* in April 2010. That is not because nothing has been happening. It is rather because it has been hard to know what to say. The year 2010 was one of great encouragements combined with great challenges and sadness. Following our 30th anniversary celebrations in 2009, Dumisani began 2010 with a sense of anticipation as we set out on the next steps of the journey. We were particularly encouraged to welcome Rev Victor Nkatha onto the team as Sunday School Project Worker and Junior Lecturer on a 2-year appointment. We enjoyed an encouraging Awards Ceremony in March (see details in the last newsletter), with a visit from Professor I. Howard Marshall. Talks which Howard gave also provided an opportunity to establish relationships with some local churches which proved a real encouragement to us. Another major development during the year was the production of plans and a digital model for a possible new building for Dumisani. This had been a matter of discussion and investigation for many years and the whole Dumisani team were greatly encouraged to see an excellent proposal presented which would open up new opportunities for Dumisani's ministry. Throughout the year, the various classes, workshops and production of literature went on, making a contribution to the life of the church in our province and beyond. We have much for which to be thankful to the Lord.

But we have also faced serious challenges. During the past two years, we have indicated in our newsletters how the international financial circumstances have had a serious negative effect on the value of our donation income. During the last few months of 2010, it became clear that our income had not increased sufficiently and that drastic action was necessary. So, sadly, we had to cut two of our administrative positions and so “retrench” two of our colleagues, Mr Ikho Magodla and Mrs Lilitha Mshweshwe. This was a heartbreaking, but unavoidable, step. Yet still we face a significant financial challenge which affects the viability of Dumisani.

We now wish to bring our situation before our friends and supporters, seeking your prayer and, where you are able, your help. We remain positive but we are very aware of our need. Please join with us as we look to the Lord for his provision.





## Lausanne via King William's Town!

This heading may seem like a rather roundabout itinerary, so perhaps I should clarify that I am referring to the 3rd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization which took place in Cape Town in October 2010. Dumisani benefitted from this event in that two friends who were delegates to the Congress fitted a visit to Dumisani into their travel plans. Our first visitor was Dr Jamie Grant, Vice-principal and Tutor in Biblical Studies at Highland Theological College, Scotland. Jamie was a teaching colleague of Alistair Wilson, Dumisani's principal, for several years and it was a real pleasure to welcome him to Dumisani. Dr Grant gave a series of lectures on the Psalms which were attended by Dumisani's staff and students, as well as by a number of friends from the wider community. Jamie's engaging and clear presentations were greatly appreciated by all who heard them. Our second visitor was Rev. David Meredith, minister of Smithton-Culloden Free Church, also in Scotland. We were delighted to welcome David as a friend of several of the Dumisani staff, but also as Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland. We deeply appreciate our friends taking a detour to visit us at Dumisani.

## Staff Changes

This year we expect to have to say goodbye to both Norman and Angela Reid and John and Elizabeth Ross. We have expected Norman and Angela to return to Ireland around July of this year for some time. John and Elizabeth's departure will be a little earlier than anticipated due to an issue relating to Elizabeth's health. Both of these couples have made a very significant contribution to both the academic life and the community life of Dumisani and it will be a significant blow to the institution and to each of the team as individuals to see them go. Yet, comings and goings are a natural part of ministry and we recognize that as the Lord takes Norman and Angela and John and Elizabeth on to the next stage of their Christian service, so he will provide others to carry the work on. Please pray that the Lord will lead new colleagues to us in due course, whether from South Africa or from overseas. Another very sudden departure which has come upon us even since I began writing this item is that of our Librarian, Nomaphelo Kwikwi. Elsewhere, we have congratulated Nomaphelo on completing a course of studies. We were all shocked to learn that she was required to do an internship for a year at a local police station in order to gain her diploma. Please pray for Nomaphelo during this period.



## Awards Ceremony

Several students have completed courses during 2010 and, on Saturday 12 March 2011, we rejoiced in recognizing that achievement at our Awards Ceremony. The guest speaker was Rev Dr Noel Due, of whom a little more in the item below. It is always exciting to see our students complete their courses and move onto the next stage of preparation or ministry. At this Awards Ceremony, although the number of students receiving awards was comparatively small, students from the whole range of the various levels of study had their achievements recognised. Allow me to mention just a few. Ikho Magodla gained his BMS award. The speaker on behalf of the students, Mr Mason Nkwelo, challenged Ikho to work towards his PhD, which may have come as a shock! One of our part-time students, Mr Fele, who always has a stimulating question in class, gained his AMS award. Gaining BTh degrees from North-West University were Mr Wayne Grätz and Mrs Masabalala. Wayne completed with outstanding grades and is now working on his honours degree. Mrs Masabalala is the first of our part-time students to gain her BTh, after a total of some eight years at Dumisani—a magnificent achievement and an encouragement to several present who are completing their degree in the same way. Finally, Rev Buntu Mtishe, a minister of the Free Church in Southern Africa, was awarded a BA Honours degree, also achieved part-time while carrying out his ministry near Mthatha. Everyone present was greatly encouraged by these and the other students who received awards. Please pray for them as they serve the Lord further.

## Visit of Noel and Kirsten Due

The Dumisani community has been enjoying the visit of Drs Noel and Kirsten Due. Noel taught at HTC with the Dumisani principal for almost ten years before he returned to Australia and Alistair moved to South Africa, so it has been a joy to renew fellowship, and the rest of the Dumisani community have welcomed Noel and Kirsten warmly. Noel has been teaching some scheduled classes as well as presenting several special public lectures. He has also been speaking in a number of local churches. He is in the final stages of completing a book on the theme of *God Our Shepherd* and several of his talks have been on that theme. Noel's wife, Kirsten, has also been sharing her diverse gifts in the wider community (she is a medical doctor and also an author of a book for children). Their visit has been a great blessing to Dumisani and to the local churches.