

Full to capacity!

The team leading the Sunday School Workshop in February were thrilled and challenged by a huge attendance—around 110 people packed the classroom. What a great problem!

Please help us.

1. Please pray for the Dumisani students, particularly those who have personal or financial problems.
2. Please continue to pray for a growing number of regular givers, especially in South Africa.
3. Please pray for Deon Lombard, Victor Nkatha, Ikho Magodla, Nomaphelo Kwikwi, and Lilitha Mshweshwe as they continue their studies.
4. Please consider making provision to leave a legacy on behalf of Dumisani Theological Institute. Mak-

“Dumisani uYehova!” (“Praise the Lord” - Psalm 148:1 in isiXhosa)

Moderator's Visit

We were delighted to welcome Rev Douglas MacKeddie and his wife Katie for a short visit in February. Douglas is the current Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. Both Douglas and Katie were involved in various aspects of the college life, including speaking at classes, leading college devotions, helping with Sunday School training and much more. Douglas also attended a meeting of the Northern Presbytery of the Free Church in Southern Africa and spoke at a local school.

ing such arrangements now could make a great difference to our work in the future.

5. Please consider encouraging someone you know to support Dumisani.

The Rosses in the UK

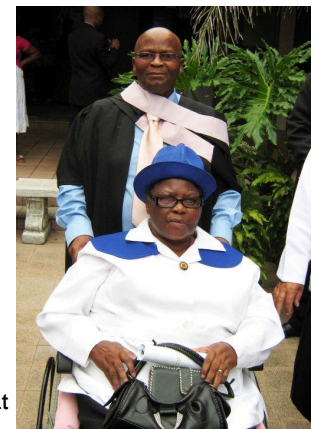
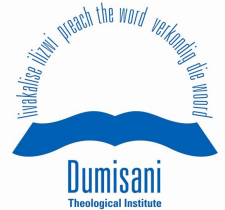
John and Elizabeth Ross are currently on their way to the UK and will be speaking at various meetings in Scotland and England. You can find details of their schedule on the Dumisani web site. Please do take an opportunity to hear them and to say hello if you can. Please pray for safety in travel and for a good visit.

Dumisani News

May 2010

Preparing for service

On Saturday 13 March 2010, around 100 friends from a variety of churches gathered to recognize the achievements of students who had completed a course of study at Dumisani at the annual Awards Ceremony. We were particularly delighted to welcome Professor I. Howard Marshall, Emeritus Professor of New Testament Exegesis at the University of Aberdeen as our guest speaker. The day began with Professor Marshall delivering the first of a series of public lectures on the Pastoral Epistles. The first lecture was an excellent presentation of the content of Paul's letter to Titus and it was followed by some useful questions and discussion. Following a short break, the formal Awards Ceremony took place, at which Professor Marshall also preached. We are grateful to the Lord for his goodness to Dumisani and we pray for the Lord's blessing on the various students who now move out of the college to begin new ministries.



Rev and Mrs Tshoni. Rev Tshoni gained his honours degree at the youthful age of 70 years! A true model of life-long learning!



Dumisani faculty (including honours graduate Victor Nkatha) with Professor I. Howard Marshall



Preach the Word

The command of Paul to 'preach the Word' (2 Timothy 4:2), which forms part of Dumisani's logo, is one which all at Dumisani take very seriously. One of the ways in which Dumisani can serve the South African church is to be involved in the preaching ministry of the local churches. The members of staff and students are regularly involved in preaching in many local churches: English-speaking, Xhosa-speaking and sometimes Afrikaans-speaking congregations. We are encouraged by these opportunities to proclaim God's word in a great variety of different contexts and particularly when biblical preaching is increasingly appreciated by congregations. In many congregations in the Eastern Cape, the minister will be responsible for perhaps six to eight preaching stations, so that much of the responsibility for preaching falls on elders, who frequently have little training. To help to improve biblical preaching in our country, we intend to develop preaching workshops which may be offered at Dumisani or in other locations where local churches request training in their area. Please pray for this development and contact us if you would be interested in taking part in a preaching workshop.

He is Risen!

Easter is a major event in South Africa. Many churches will hold conventions and people from all over the country will gather in large crowds to listen to preaching over the whole weekend. Many of the Dumisani staff and students were involved in such conventions or in other church services to remember and reflect on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In all our activities, it is wonderful to be reminded of this decisive event which changed everything for us. When Paul writes to the Corinthians about the resurrection, he declares that 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins' but then adds 'but in fact Christ has been raised from the dead' (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20 ESV). We take this opportunity to remind ourselves and all those who pray for us and support us that the reason for our ministry is God's astonishing act of grace in the person of his Son, Jesus. Because he is risen, we have come to experience the wonder of the Gospel and we now seek to share that message and to help others to do so. Please pray that the reality of the resurrection would influence everything we do in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus and that would also be true of all other ministries of the churches in South Africa.



Academic Activities

At Dumisani we are convinced that serious engagement with academic research and writing on the part of our academic staff, from the standpoint of committed, confessional, biblical Christianity, can have a constructive impact on the quality of the education offered by our college. So we are committed to encouraging and, whenever possible, enabling such academic activity. Recently, Rev Deon Lombard passed an oral exam with North-West University which means that he has completed 25% of the required credits for his master's degree. We congratulate him on this progress, and particularly on his excellent grade of 80%. Victor Nkatha has applied to begin a master's degree, focusing on Systematic Theology. Please pray for these men as they study. Please pray for other staff members who are studying: for Ikho Magodla, who has just begun theological studies at Dumisani, for Nomaphelo Kwikwi, who hopes to complete a final module of her Library course, and Lilita Mshweshwe who is also completing an office administration course.

Financial help!

As indicated in the December 2009 *Dumisani News* the current strength of the Rand is having a very negative impact on our finances, since such a large proportion of our financial support comes from outside South Africa. We wish to bring this need before you, confident in the truth of Paul's words expressed to the Philippians, 'my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:19, ESV), yet also aware that God normally supplies our needs through Christian brothers and sisters.

In particular, we would like to say three things regarding our current situation:

1. We are deeply grateful to all those who support us by praying for us and, where possible, making a gift. The Lord truly is providing for us through you.
 2. We appreciate that many friends who support us from outside South Africa are giving as much or more than in previous years, and yet the value to us is decreased by the strength of the Rand. Thank you for your kindness and please pray with us that the Lord will provide the shortfall in other ways.
 3. We are thankful for individual Christians and congregations in South Africa who support us financially. Please pray for a growing support base in South Africa so that we are not so affected by fluctuation in the exchange rate.
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