

PO Box 681
King William's Town, 5600
South Africa

Phone: +27 (0) 43-642-4737
Fax: +27 (0) 86-530-5179
E-mail: admin.dumisani@gmail.com
Web: www.dumisani.org

Serving the South African church

New buildings

The Dumisani Board of Governors has recently made significant decisions regarding plans to develop new premises for Dumisani. More news soon. Please pray for this project.

Please help us.

1. Please pray for committed and gifted students to enter our courses in 2010. Please pray for every aspect of the admissions process.
2. Please pray that the Lord will provide for our needs through the 30th Anniversary Challenge, or however he chooses—and help if you can.
3. Please pray for new developments such as the Sunday School Project Worker and the plans for new buildings.
4. Please make our work known to others whom you know who might be interested to hear about, pray for and

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

Prisoners find freedom

We have many prisoners throughout South Africa studying our correspondence courses. Through the four courses, “Know Your Bible”, “Know about God and his Salvation”, “Know How to Live the Christian Life” and “Know Paul’s Letter to the Romans”, many prisoners are coming to understand the liberating Gospel. Recently, we have been encouraged by a man who works in the prison in East London who has recruited some 25-35 prisoners to study the course in the last few months. Pray for fruit from these studies.

support Dumisani. Is there a copy of *Dumisani News* on your church notice board? Please pass this newsletter on to your minister or your Missions Board or Committee and ask them to consider

Wilsonson in the UK

Please pray for the visit of the Wilson family to the UK during December 2009 and January 2010. We will make a list of planned meetings available on the Dumisani website soon. Please join Alis-tair and Jenny at one of these meetings if you are able to do so.

Dumisani News

September 2009

New logo—same commitments



Thanks to the generous work of Mr Paul Linnell, Lecturer in Graphic Design at De Montfort University, Leices-ter, UK, we are able to unveil the new Dumisani logo. Some of you will be familiar with the previous logo of the open Bible with a sunburst behind it and the motto “vakalisa iliswi”. The new logo preserves the essential fea-tures of that familiar image, while bringing a fresh new design and some significant developments. We wish to introduce this logo to you in the hope that it will help to illustrate priorities in Dumisani’s ministry

The Bible at the Centre: At the heart of our logo lies an open Bible. Dumisani is committed to the authority of Scripture as the breathed-out Word of God. A closed Bible is of no use to anyone and we, staff and students alike, seek to submit our-selves to the Word of God through regular and careful study of the Scriptures in both academic and devotional contexts.

The Proclamation of the Good News: the arc above the open Bible (rays of the African sun? or the Word going forth?) is now composed of the words of 2 Timothy 4:2 in isiXhosa, English and Afrikaans. Thus Dumisani declares itself to be com-mitted to the mission of the church: to look beyond itself and reach out to a world in need with the Gospel. The Xhosa phrase has now been conformed to the precise form found in the Xhosa Bible. The addition of the other two languages illustrates the diversity of the Church of Jesus Christ in South Africa as well as representing the heritage of the churches which cooperated in the formation of the Institute. It is also a declaration that we wish to serve the South African church in all its forms.

Sunday School Project Worker

Thanks to fundraising efforts of young people in the Free Church of Scotland, we plan to appoint a Sunday School Project Worker for two years from the beginning of 2010. The aim of this appointment is to develop further the growing Sunday School work. Dumisani has run regular workshops for many years now, but recently the frequency of these has been increased slightly and there have also been opportunities to present workshops in other locations. A recent development has been that the material from various workshops has been incorporated and developed into a stand-alone correspondence course which Sunday School teachers can use either as a complement to attendance at the regular workshops, or as an alternative way of learning—especially in remote areas which make attendance at the workshops difficult. There are numerous opportunities for a Xhosa-speaking project worker to take this work on. We have identified a very suitable candidate and we hope to have more news on this appointment very soon.



Recent academic activities

The Principal attended the IRTI conference on John Calvin in Aix-en-Provence in July. This was an excellent event, in terms of both the academic papers and the opportunities to build relations with international colleagues. He also combined this event with preaching in several churches in London and some meetings in the Netherlands. Thanks to all who received him so warmly. Dr Wilson has also recently had an article entitled "The Compassion of the Christ" published in J. A. Grant and D. A. Hughes (eds), *Transforming the World?* (Leicester: Apollos, 2009).

Dr John Ross recently gave a presentation on the life of Rev Tiyo Soga, the first black minister in South Africa, in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King William's Town, as part of a celebration of Soga's life, which drew together members of the Soga family and academics, as well as many interested local people. Dr Ross also presented the material at a seminar in the Bible Institute East-ern Cape. This was well received and it is planned to publish the material.

John and Elizabeth Ross, and Deon and Shelley Lombard will represent Dumisani at the North-West University "PanTheol" event in Potchefstroom.

Journals on CD-ROM

One of the challenges which faces a relatively young theological college such as Dumisani is how to gather theological journals which older institutions gather over many decades, not least because many of these publications are no longer in print. A possible answer is found in a CD-ROM produced by Galaxie Software (see <http://store.galaxie.com/product.asp?ProductID=87>) which offers many complete series of important theological journals in a searchable format. They claim "\$15000 worth of theological journals for \$400" - but now on sale for \$340. Can any of our supporters help us by purchasing this resource for our Library?

Giving thanks for 30 years

On Sunday 13 September, approximately 180-200 people gathered together in Bethany Emmanuel Baptist Church to give thanks to the Lord for his grace and faithfulness towards the staff and students of Dumisani Theological Institute over three decades. Dumisani's 30th anniversary had already been marked in various ways throughout the year, but every-



Some young people attending the thanksgiving service

one was agreed that a service of worship and thanksgiving was an essential aspect of our celebrations. It was a deeply encouraging service. The congregation was welcomed by Mr Tinus Jacobsz, the recently appointed Chair of the Dumisani Board of Governors and Mr Toyo Mnqaba, the previous Chair of the Board led the gathering in prayer in Xhosa. Dr John Ross narrated an audio-visual presentation of the history of Dumisani and the Principal interviewed three students, past and present: uMfu (Rev) Patrick Diniso, a BTh graduate who is now a chaplain with the SA National Defence Force and has gone on to complete several postgraduate courses at South African universities; uMfu Webster Tshoni, a BTh graduate who is now a local pastor and is also continuing his studies at Dumisani; and Mr Wayne Grätz, currently completing his second year of his BTh degree. Rev Deon Lombard preached from Psalm 103, urging the congregation to recall all that the Lord had done for us in grace and powerfully presenting a growing fanfare of praise as the Psalm progresses. Fellowship over a light lunch and some cake brought and end to a memorable event. We look to the Lord now for the days that lie ahead.