

## **Dr. Jacob Mokhutso – Biography**

**Dr. Jacob Mokhutso** is a distinguished academic and ordained minister, currently serving as a lecturer in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of the Free State, South Africa. Born in 1981, Dr. Mokhutso has dedicated his career to the study and teaching of religion, with a particular focus on the intersection of Christianity, African Traditional Religion (ATR), and African philosophy of Ubuntu.

Dr. Mokhutso's academic journey began with a Bachelor of Theology degree from the Theological Education By Extension College in 2008. He furthered his studies with an Honors degree in Christian Spirituality from the University of South Africa in 2012. His passion for understanding the complexities of African religious practices led him to pursue a Master of Theology degree, where he researched African Traditional Bereavement Rituals among Methodist Church members in Mamelodi, Pretoria, under the supervision of Prof. Luvuyo Ntombana. He completed his PhD in Religion Studies at the University of the Free State in December 2023, with a dissertation titled "The African traditional philosophy of community as the enabler or disabler of the Christian faith," supervised by Prof. Joel Mokhoathi.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mokhutso has held various academic and ministerial positions. He has been a lecturer at the University of the Free State since January 2021 – 2025 (March), where he teaches and conducts research in Biblical and Religious Studies. His previous roles include serving as the Methodist Student Minister's Internship Service Training Convener and School of Vocation Coordinator for the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. He has been an ordained minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa since 2004 and continues to serve actively in this capacity.

Dr. Mokhutso is proficient in multiple languages, including Tswana, English, Northern-Sotho, Southern-Sotho, Xhosa, Zulu, and Swati. His research interests encompass Religion Studies, focusing on the dynamics between Christianity, ATR, and African philosophy within South African predominantly Black Mainline Churches. Dr. Mokhutso is actively involved in various academic committees and editorial boards, including the UFS Theological Explorations, Pharos Journal of Theology, and Global Journal of Cultural Studies. He is also a member of several national and international theological societies, such as the Theological Society of South Africa and the American Academy of Religion. In addition to his academic and ministerial duties, Dr. Mokhutso has presented papers at numerous conferences and workshops, addressing topics ranging from African bereavement rituals to the role of Ubuntu in promoting African self-determination. Dr. Jacob Mokhutso's dedication to his field, combined with his extensive research and teaching experience, makes him a prominent figure in the study of religion and theology in South Africa.