

NEWS RELEASE

Master's research by UP theology graduate holds promise of promoting restorative justice



Fredolene Manganye graduated with a master's degree from the Faculty of Theology.

PRETORIA - A University of Pretoria (UP) theology graduate has made a significant contribution to the field of correctional dynamics with her research on the complex relationships between correctional officials and inmates. In her study, Fredolene Manganye, who graduated with a master's degree from the [Faculty of Theology and Religion](#) during UP's autumn graduation season, identified areas of tension and potential solutions, shedding light on the importance of positive relationships in rehabilitation.

"My research has shown that despite many incarcerated people believing that there is tension between them and correctional officials, some have been treated with dignity and respect by officials," Manganye says. "This highlights the need for a more nuanced approach to rehabilitation, one that prioritises empathy and understanding in correctional settings."

The research highlighted the emotional and psychological impact that the behaviour of officials has on inmates, with some experiencing emotional bullying and feelings of anxiety around correctional officials. Her study also revealed unexpected insights, including the fear and insecurity felt by incarcerated people, particularly when they become whistleblowers.

“We need to create an environment where incarcerated individuals feel safe to report incidents without fear of retaliation,” Manganye says. “By fostering positive relationships and promoting restorative justice, we can create a more rehabilitative approach to justice.”

Her research has implications for policy, practice and future studies in corrections and theology. She hopes to inspire further research into the dynamics between officials and inmates, leading to training programmes for both parties and increased conflict resolution training for spiritual caregivers.

“I’m passionate about creating positive change in correctional settings,” Manganye says. “I believe that by working together, we can create a more just and compassionate society.”

For Manganye, who hails from Paarl in the Western Cape, her academic journey is more than just about research – graduating from UP is a testament to her perseverance and determination.

“UP is a centre of excellence, and it’s an honour to be an alumna of this esteemed institution,” she says. “This milestone is proof to me that I can do anything I put my mind to, despite the obstacles I had to face.”

During her studies, Manganye suffered the loss of her husband, who died in a car accident in November 2022. Despite the immense grief, she persevered, relying on the support of her family, friends and her supervisor, [Prof Maake Masango](#). There were highlights too, she says.

“These include overcoming COVID-19 limitations and being able to soldier on,” Manganye says. “I made it with the help of God, the continued guidance and prayers of my supervisor, and the support of my family and friends.”

As for what’s next, Manganye hopes to honour her husband’s memory by obtaining a PhD in [Practical Theology](#), which she’s already registered for, as he always believed she would become a reverend doctor one day.

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the [Gordon Institute of Business Science](#) (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a [Faculty of Veterinary Science](#), which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than

56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2025 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of [Accounting](#) and [Finance](#); [Architecture](#); [Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#); Law; Sport Science; and Veterinary Science. UP's Faculty of Law has been ranked as the top law school in Africa for a remarkable eighth consecutive year.

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their [2024 World University Rankings \(WUR\)](#). UP was the only South African university featured in the [2023 World University Rankings for Innovation \(WURI\)](#), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

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