

A Biography of Rev Sifiso Jali

Nominee for the position of the BU's Pastoral Support Developer

Sifiso was born in the rural areas of Ndwedwe, Thafamasi area. He grew up in Tongaat (oThongathi) in Hambanathi Township. Sifiso completed his primary education at Ndwedwe at Ezimpondweni B. C. School and thereafter moved to Tongaat (oThongathi) where he completed his high school education at Nkosibomvu High School.

He then embarked on a career in Human Resources, and in doing so he completed the following courses in preparing him for this field: he obtained two Human Resources Certificates at Technikon Natal (now Durban University of Technology); a Human Resources Diploma at Damelin College and other various short courses; he studied towards a Human Resources Diploma with the Institute of People Management and then also completed numerous In-House Human Resources Development Programs (Industrial Relations Management, Human Resources Management, and Human Resources Development).

Before entering full-time pastoral ministry Sifiso worked for several years, mainly in the sugar industry in KZN. Starting at Tongaat Hulett Sugar Ltd (Darnall) where he was a Training Instructor from 1985 to 1990. He then had a short stint in the textile industry at Romatex Floor Covering Ltd (Mobeni, Durban) as a Training Officer in 1991.

He returned to the sugar industry with Illovo Sugar Ltd (Stanger) as a Training Officer during 1992 to 1995. He relocated to Illovo Sugar at Riverview, Mtubatuba, as an Industrial Relations Officer in 1996, before becoming a Human Resources Development Manager from 1997 to 2001.

Upon being called into the pastoral ministry, Sifiso in preparation, obtained a Diploma in Theology (Dip. Th) from the Union Bible Institute, as well as a Bachelor of Theology (B. Th) through the University of Zululand. He rounded off his studies for Baptist recognition by completing the required modules on Baptist Principles, Baptist History, and Ethos through CTBS.

Sifiso was called by KwaMashu Baptist Church as a full-time time pastor, and he shepherded the church between 2007 and 2017. During this time, he assisted the church in extending the eighty-person capacity sanctuary to six hundred and fifty capacity that culminated in the 50th anniversary and dedication of the building during 2010.

Moving into church-planting, he planted a church in Inanda and dedicated it in 2011. During this time Sifiso was elected as KZNBA President in 2012, serving on the Associational executive between 2011 and 2013. He moved to church-planting on a part-time basis in 2018 where he planted Dube Village Baptist at Inanda (the church was constituted and accepted into KZNBN Membership in June 2023).

While working at Inanda, Sifiso was asked to moderate Newtown A Baptist Church (while at KwaMashu), Engonweni Baptist Church, and Ndwedwe Baptist Church. During this time, he was called to be the KZNBA Administrator on a part-time from 2019 to date. Since 2022 Sifiso was elected to represent KZNBA (now KZNBN) on the Baptist Union's National Leadership Council and will continue to do so until the transition from Association to Network has been completed.

Sifiso has a couple of life-verses that sustain him in ministry. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NLT) – “God, who calls you, is faithful; He will do this”. He also holds to Hebrews 13: 8 (NLT) looking to his Saviour and Lord – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”.

Reflecting on the blessings of his family Sifiso celebrates that God has blessed him with a beautiful wife Nozipho, they have been together for the past 36 years and have the three adult children: a son, Mholi (35); a daughter Londiwe (31) and a younger son Sandiswa (26). The blessings have grown with the addition of two grandchildren - Mholi Junior (11) and Mepho (2).

Sifiso's vision for the Pastoral Support Developer's role is to see every pastor growing to be a healthy and mature man and woman, joyfully preserving and growing in the ministry, developing a healthy church, and leading in transforming communities. Further, he wants Pastors' families to be healthy, while joyfully serving God in the ministry He has called them to.

Furthermore, he will emphasise the promotion and facilitation of an excellent administration process leading up to the various BU ministry lists and enhancing the on-field comprehensive care and support for Pastors.

