Mongameli Mabona

Wolff, Ernst

Published by Leuven University Press

Wolff, Ernst.
Mongameli Mabona: His Life and Work.

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TIMELINE

5 June 1929 – birth, Qombolo
1930 – mother dies
? – moves with father and brother to Sabalele
1937(?)–1942(?) – moves to Zigudu and starts school; in state school up to Standard 4 (now called Grade 6).
1943(?)–1948(?) – continues schooling at Ixopo Minor Seminary; completes matriculation
1949(?)–1954(?) – Major Seminary St. Peters, Pevensey
1953 or 1954 – father dies
1953 or 1954 – brother dies
1954 – ordination; starts working as a priest in the Queenstown area
1957–1963 – Rome: three years of canon law; four years of study and research for thesis; Second meeting of black writers and artists; Vatican II.
1958(?)–(?) – editor of Lux; first articles
1960 – first article in Présence Africaine published
1963 – completes PhD in canon law; back in South Africa;¹ teaches at Lumko, St. Peters
July 1966² – SPOBA founded
1967 – appointed at St. Peters³
1970 – Black Priests’ Manifesto published
May 1972 – leaves South Africa⁴; starts at SOAS; London
1973 – “long essay”

¹ August 1963, according to Martha Mabona (Interview 3).
² According to Dictionary of African Christian Bibliography.
³ Mukuka, The impact, p. 60.
⁴ Denis, “Seminary networks...”
1975 – leaves priesthood\(^5\); works in hotels in London; advocacy for Mafuna group
1977 – moves to Switzerland
1978 – marries Marta Giger
1984 – enrolls for PhD in Bern
1984–1994 – works in hospital
1991 – first visit to South Africa from exile
1996 – visit to South Africa; reports for Présence Africaine
2000 – completion of PhD in Anthropology at the University of Bern
2004 – publication of Diviners and prophets
2019 – celebrates ninetieth birthday

* This timeline is only a guide for the most important dates. The uncertainties are discussed in the biographical part of the book.

\(^5\) DP, “Introduction”