



Rev. Dr. Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo

Rev. Dr. Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo is a native of South Africa. She is the first black South African woman to receive a Doctor of Ministry degree. She is the Founder and Pastor of Kalafong A.M.E. Mission Church in Baltimore. Kalafong is a word in three Southern languages which means, "A Healing Place." In addition, she is a Mentor for Doctor of Ministry candidates with concentration in "The Black Church and Public Health" and, adjunct professor in Ethics at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

While she was in South Africa, she taught at Seoding Elementary School. She also trained as a nurse and midwife at Baragwanath Hospital. She attended the University of the North to study towards a diploma in Nursing Education. Her education was interrupted by political activism around Steven Biko's death.

Rev. Dr. Mahlangu-Ngcobo has been involved in anti-Apartheid movements in South Africa and in exile (Canada and U.S.A). In South Africa, she was detained in solitary confinement for 21 days. She fled South Africa in 1980 and came to United States of America in 1981. In the same year she addressed the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid in 1981. She was able to return to South Africa in 1991 to lead the National Coordinating Council for Repatriation (NCCR) of South African Exiles.

She was called to the Ministry at Bethel AME Church under the leadership of Bishop John Bryant, then pastor, in 1988. In 1990 Bishop Hartford Brookins ordained her an Itinerant Deacon and in 1992, Bishop Frederick James ordained her an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was the WIM Coordinator for the Washington Conference in the 2nd District of the AME Church 1996-1998.

In 1997, Rev. Dr. Mahlangu-Ngcobo went to Liberia to lead the workshop on Conflict Management for women and also to observe the National Election under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity.

In the U.S., she received four degrees. Bachelor of Science, (BS) at Morgan State University, Master of Public Health (MPH), The Johns Hopkins University, Master of Arts (MA) (Theology), St Mary's Seminary and University and Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) United Theological Seminary in Dayton Ohio.

Rev. Dr. Mahlangu-Ngcobo has been involved in several faith/health projects. From 1986 to 1991, while serving as a Health Educator for the Baltimore City Health Department, Rev. Dr. Mahlangu-Ngcobo designed, developed and implemented a Health Ministry involving more than

fifty Black Churches. The churches worked with the Health Department to promote health and prevent diseases. In association with Liberty Medical Center she coordinated seminars and conferences that integrated Spirituality and Mental Health and served on the Hospital Ethics committee to discuss resolutions for the terminally ill patients. Furthermore, she was appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health to serve on the District of Columbia HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee for 2 years. (1994-1995). The committee was a collaboration of between government, community and Church to ensure that HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment needs in the District were addressed. More recently, she has served as a Board Member of the Institute for Mental Health Ministry, Inc.

She has written six books namely, *The preaching of Bishop John R Bryant* (1995), *100 Ways of Empowering Women* (1995,) *To God be the Glory: Celebration of the Life of Bishop Frederick Calhoun James*, (1996), *Wise Words- Men Empowering Men.* (1998), *Women in the Ministry: Their Trials and their Triumph*, (2000) and *AIDS in Africa: An African and Prophetic Perspective.* (2001) She has also produced a CD Prayer for AIDS in Africa.