

# Pastor Humphrey Mogashoa



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## Current position(s)

Pastor, Yeoville Baptist Tabernacle – branch of Baptist Convention of SA

Former Yeoville Community Policing Forum chair

## Bio details

**Born:** 1972, Atteridgeville  
**Family Status:** Single  
**Lives in Yeoville:** Since 2004  
**Current job:** UNISA College of Human Sciences Quality Assurance Practitioner



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## The vision

“I believe issues of justice, the oppressed and the marginalized, are there in the Bible and Jesus speaks about them. At the School of Theology at the University of Natal it was teaching about Liberation Theology, Black Theology. I don't think it is possible to disintegrate life especially the political, the spiritual and the economic because they all go together.”

**“I've always believed that the church must interface with the community.”**

## Being an Activist

“You have to be earthly useful, because Heaven is too far, while we are still waiting for it, we'd better be busy with something useful... Activism is the livingness of effecting impact in the community, that's what it is!”

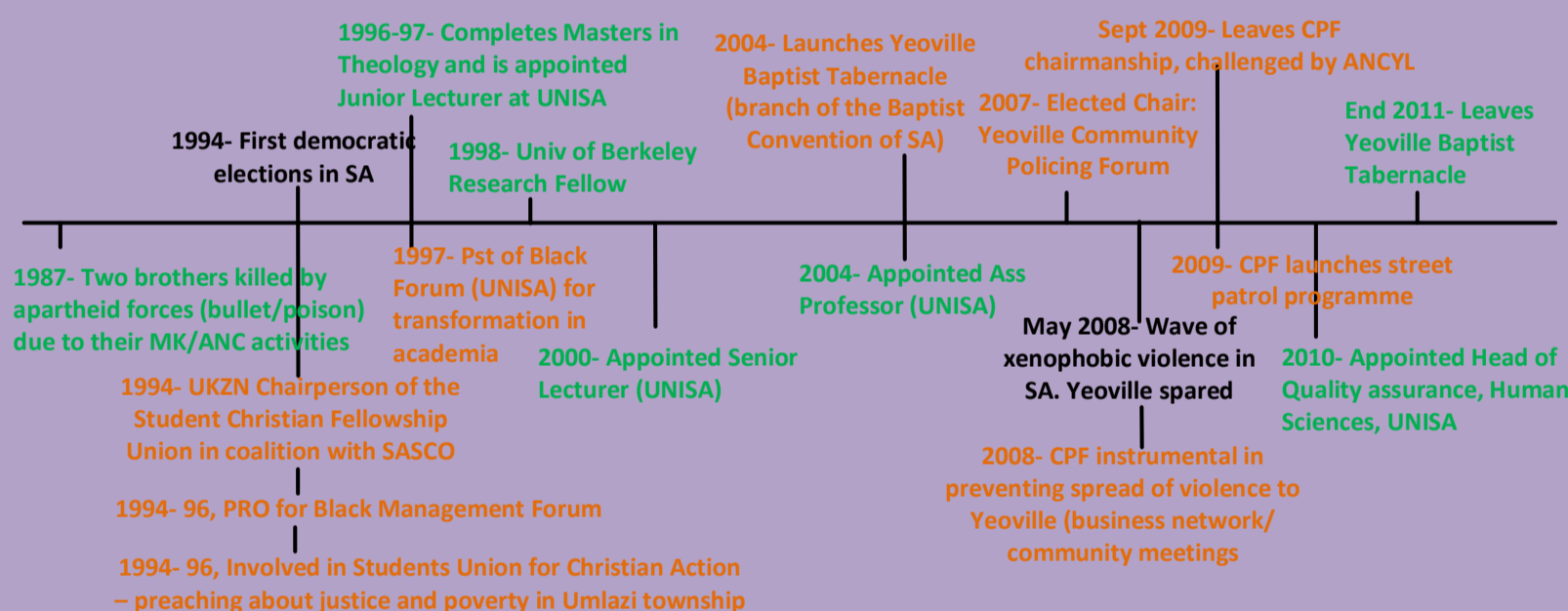
## Why Yeoville?

“My entry into Yeoville is because of two things. One, the national office of our Church, the Baptist Convention of South Africa is based in Yeoville. And two, some of the people I studied with at the University, they started residing in Yeoville. I believe God spoke to me that, “no man, you need to start the ministry here.” So the church started in Yeoville in 2004.”

## Yeoville Recreation Center

“The previous Hall was really not working for the community. Why it was churches non-stop. I'm a Pastor, no doubt I'm not anti-Pastors. But Community Hall must be Community. There should be skills development, computer training, sewing, cooking, literacy programs. So I said, for the new Community Hall, no Churches, no Church services.”

## Pastor Mogashoa's trajectory



## Building the church and the community

### Getting involved in Yeoville

“We'd have seminars in the Church, concerning women abuse. I also became concerned about other nationalities in Yeoville: the sense of isolation they imposed to themselves; us South Africans, we needed to reach out to them. I told the church we don't use 'foreigners', we don't use 'makwerekwere' we don't use all those words. We say brothers and sisters outside South Africa, or 'fellow Africans'. I was beginning to know councillor Mohlala. So we even scheduled community meetings in the announcement of the Church. It was the youth from the Church who helped start the Youth Desk for Yeoville. And then, as the Youth Desk was working so hard, the ANC asked can it become the ANC Youth League? It was started by the Church!

And in January 2007, the Station Commander of Yeoville waited for me outside a Church. He said, 'Could you come and be the Chairperson of the Community Policing Forum? Can you help revive the Community Policing Forum?' That's how we started.

### Preventing xenophobic violence in Yeoville

In May 2008, Yeoville fortunately managed to prevent xenophobic attacks. How did we do it? People were coming, marching with spears, all the way from Berea to target all those shops on Raleigh, owned by brothers and sisters. But with the CPF, we had started a Business CPF, linking with all businesses in Yeoville. So we had their immediate contacts, and we could send an SMS to all, just like that. So immediately the Police instructed shop owners to close shops, and they guarded the entrance of the street. You can imagine the panic. And then it happened, we managed to prevent violence. Two days later we called an urgent community meeting, and then the community meeting, really there is no doubt, struck a chord.

### Creating jobs for the unemployed youth

So many people were unemployed, we said 'we need to be creative, can't we have street patrollers?' And we asked from the Office of the MEC for Safety, just to get these people off the street, even if they are give R1000 as a start, as a stipend and they were also going to be give food coupons from Checkers... So by the time I was leaving, the target number we had was 400 people to employ, within three to six months.

The things I started were making some people begin to panic, because they thought I'm having too much influence in the community. And then they plotted, some ANC Youth League guys and they forgot we helped revive ANC Youth League, they wanted the positions and the connections to all those business people, owners of Times Square who are willing to sponsor and the MEC, oh they wanted access to these things. Immediately when I left office, September 2009, a number of business people also asked to leave, so everything fell apart. So even the people who were going to be employed, all jobs stopped, everything stopped when I was leaving.”

## Pastor Mogashoa - evenings and week ends

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Dealing with SMS (4000 per month)	Youth fellowship (partnership Alex-Yeoville youth)	Home cells, house fellowships (6 in Yeoville)	NA	NA	Office work-update people on Sunday's activities	Teachings (Bible study) Main church gospel (10-12h00)



Pastor Humphrey Mogashoa (standing, top right), chairperson of the Yeoville Community Policing Forum, speaks at a lively public meeting convened by Ward 67 ward councillor Nomawazi Mohlala (seated, top right) on Saturday 16 May in the hall at St Aidans Anglican Church.