

The Most Rev'd Dr Malkhaz Songulashvili

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Place of Birth: Tbilisi, Georgia

Nationality: Georgian

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Education

Vakhtang Songulashvili School in Digomi (1980)

Master's degree in History and Pedagogy – Tbilisi State University (1987)

Course in Biblical Hebrew under the tutorship of Dr. Nisan Babalishvili – Institute of Oriental Studies, Tbilisi (1983-86)

Doctoral work under the direction of Prof. Paul Fiddes and Dr. Paul Freston in association with the Oxford Center of Mission Studies and the Regent's Park College, Oxford (2013)

Work Experience

Leader of an Archaeological group in the Iori Gorge Expedition, the Centre of Archaeological Studies at the Academy of Science of Georgia (1980-85)

Lecturer in Medieval History, Early Church History, Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew, Tbilisi State University (1987-2006)

Director of the Publishing House "Biblioteca Christiana" (1992-96) Principal of the Baptist Theological Seminary (1992-1999).
The Representative of the United Bible Societies in Georgia (1996 -2003) Primate of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia (1994 –2013)

Director of the Betheli International Humanitarian association (since 1999)

Principle of the School of Elijah the Prophet, Tbilisi (2002-2006)

Metropolitan Bishop of Tbilisi and the Senior Pastor of Peace Cathedral (since December 2013)

Assistant Professor of Comparative Theology at the Ilia Chavchavadze State University (since 2014)

Freedom, Peace and Justice Work

Supported Chechen refugees in Georgia after the Second Ruso-Chechen War (1999-2001)

Supported freedom and justice movement in Kiev, Ukraine along with Archpriest B. Kobakhidze and Archpriest Z. Tevzadze (2004)

Was arrested in Minsk, Belarus and deported for supporting democratic process in the country along with Archpriest B. Kobakhidze and Mr L. Gogiashvili (2006)

In the aftermath of Russian invasion of Georgia visited territories occupied by Russian troops (2008)

Organization of the visit of a Church of England delegation in Support of the UkrainainOrthodox Church (Kiev, 2011)

Delivered a Khutba-sermon in the North Oxford Mosque (2012)

In solidarity with Muslims who had been abused by Christians in Georgia he took off his pectoral cross and enculpion of (2013)

Participated in peace missions and events in Israel (1989-2015), Iraq (2013-2014), Turkey (2016-2020), Iran (2013-2014), India (2015), South Africa (2017), Ukraine (2022), United States of America (1996-2024)

International Church Experience

Liturgical leader and keynote speaker at numerous conferences and retreats in Germany, England, United States, Norway, Ethiopia.

Participant of the Eighth (Harare, Zimbabwe, 1998) and Nineth (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2006) Assemblies of the World Council of Churches; the 7th and 8th World Assemblies of the United Bible Societies; 1988 and 2005 Baptist World Congresses; Edinburgh 2010 Conference, Doha Interreligious Conferences (Doha, Qatar 2016-2024), Parliament of World religions (Chcago, USA, 2023)

International teaching and Lecturing 1993-2013

University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands),

University of Oxford (UK),

University of Cambridge (UK)

Meredith College (USA)

University of South Carolina (USA)

Morris Hill University (USA)

Mercer University(USA)

Duke University (USA)

Campbell University (USA)

Translation Work

Bible Translator for the Georgian Orthodox Church (1986-89) Bible Translator for the UBS Representation in Georgia (1996-2001) Translation of C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia (2000)

Published Books and Articles

Modern Georgian Bible (Translation, Patriarchal Edition, 1989)

Revised Version of the Georgian New Testament (Translation in cooperation with Prof. Z. Kiknadze – 1993)

New Georgian Bible (Translation, UBS edition, 2001)

Bible Stories: Old Testament (original work, 1992)

Bible Stories Old and New Testament, (original work, 2003)

Evangelical Christian Baptists of Georgia: The History and Transformation of a Free Church Tradition (Studies In World Christianity), (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2015)

A Meaning Based Translation of the New Testament into Georgian with commentaries (Tbilisi, UBS Office in Georgia, 2018)

„Baptists in Georgia and Orthodox Culture,1944-1915“, in Baptists, Gospel and Culture, Papers from the Eighth International Conference (Macon, Mercer University Press, 2021).

„The Establishment of Women's Leadership“, in ICOBS Papers (Macon, Mercer University Press, 2021).

„Exploring the Lent to Easter Journey“, in Takin on the Cross (Nurturing Faith Books/Good Faith Media, Estimated time of publication: November 2021).

A New Meaning Based Translation of the Pentateuch from Old Hebrew into Moder Georgian with indroductions to each book an scholarly and linguistic comments, UBS Representation in Georgia, 2024 (being prepared for publication).

Religious Experience

Baptized on 19th January, 1980
Ordained on 14th November, 1994
Professed member of the Society of St Francis –TSSF, 2004 Installed as archbishop on 15th October, 2005

Resigned as archbishop on 20th December, 2013
Metropolitan Bishop of Tbilisi and the Senior Pastor of Peace Cathedral, 2013

Skills

Organization, counseling, writing, liturgy, cooking.

Languages studied

Old Greek,
Old Georgian, Biblical Hebrew, Persian, Syriac,
Arabic, Persian,
French, English, German, Russian

Mother Tongue

Georgian

Interests

Hiking-pilgrimage, researching peace building experiences in different parts of the world, interfaith encounters, creative liturgical writing and designing liturgical choreography, visiting architectural monuments, studying iconography, wondering in old Middle eastern towns and villages, browsing secondhand bookshops .

Honorary Titles and Awards

Golden Cross by Patriarch Bartholomew, Istanbul, 1993

Ecumenical Canon of Norwich Cathedral, Norwich, 2005

Ecumenical Canon of Wakefield Cathedral, Wakefield, 2006

Lambeth Cross by Archbishop of Canterbury, London, 2006

Order of St George by Patriarch Philaret of Kiev and All-Ukraine, Kiev, 2008

Cross of Nails by Bishop of Coventry, Coventry, 2010

Order of Christ the Savior by Patriarch Philaret of Kiev and All-Ukraine, Kiev, 2011

Honorary Citizen of Tbilisi by the Mayor of Tbilisi, Tbilisi, 2013

Order of St Nicolas by the President of Georgia, Tbilisi, 2013

Pro Fide 2014 Award by the Friends of Martyred Church, Helsinki, 2014 Shahbes Bhati Freedom Award by the First Step Forum, Berlin, 2015 Ambassador of the House of One, Berlin 2016

Guardian of Tolerance Award by the Public Defender's Office, Tbilisi, 2017

Amakdar Award by the Yezidi Spiritual Council of Georgia, Tbilisi, 2018

Equality Award by the Equality Movement – Georgia, Tbilisi, 2019

Hero of the Caucasus Award, 2021

Winner of Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue, Doha, Qatar, 2022

The House of One Peace Prize Lauriat, Berlin, Germany, 2023