

Phiri, Isabel Apawo

Foreword

In:

Chitando, Ezra; Mombo, Esther; Gunda, Masiwa Ragies (Eds.), That all may live! : essays in honour of Nyambura J. Njoroge, Bamberg : University of Bamberg Press, p. 11-12. 2021. DOI: 10.20378/irb-50019

Bookpart - Published Version

DOI of the Article: 10.20378/irb-93650

Date of Publication: 18.03.2024

Legal Notice:

This work is protected by copyright and/or the indication of a licence. You are free to use this work in any way permitted by the copyright and/or the licence that applies to your usage. For other uses, you must obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).

This document is made available under the **Creative Commons License CC BY**.



This licence information is available online:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

FOREWORD

It is my singular honour and privilege to write this foreword to a volume honouring my long-time colleague, co-worker, co-activist and sister in faith, Nyambura J. Njoroge. I have known Nyambura for many years, having interacted with her well before sharing our time at the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Throughout all these years, Nyambura has remained a dynamic, focused and visionary woman of faith who does everything “with passion and compassion.”

When the faithful women at the tomb asked the question, “Who will roll away the stone?” (Mark 16:3), they were raising a question that women in successive generations have reflected on. The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (hereafter, the Circle), where Nyambura is one of the founders and one of the leading members, has responded by saying, “we will roll up our sleeves and roll away the stone ourselves.” Nyambura and other sisters have been unrelenting in seeking to remove oppressive religious, cultural, political and economic practices that prevent women and girls from enjoying life in its abundance. As one of the leaders of the Circle, I can declare with confidence that by calling religious institutions to take women’s issues seriously, we have made a difference in Africa and globally. Nyambura’s contribution to this cause is outstanding.

The theme of this volume, namely, *abundant life for all*, speaks directly to the key concerns of the World Council of Churches (WCC). For example, through the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, the WCC is inviting churches to join together with others in celebrating life and in concrete steps toward transforming injustices and violence. The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace calls for communities of faith to work for gender justice. It mobilises churches to collaborate with others to work towards a world where all may have life, and life in abundance (John 10:10). Nyambura’s own life, activism and theological stance mirror this commitment to *the fullness of life for all*. In her ministry with churches and church related institutions, especially in theological education, Nyambura has contributed a great deal in creating spaces of partnerships and networks. She has accompanied and mentored young theologians as they find their feet in academia and ordained ministry.

I am impressed that many younger and emerging African women theologians have contributed to this volume. Promoting women’s theological education has been one of Nyambura’s deepest passions. Over the years,

she has supported, inspired and cajoled women in different contexts to take up advanced theological studies. As part of her commitment to mentorship, Nyambura has edited a number of publications that feature the work of African women theologians at the early stages of their careers. These works are being utilised in theological and religious studies in Africa and globally. She has demonstrated her commitment to the Circle's approach to leadership as facilitating and enabling, rather than leadership as dominance.

On behalf of the WCC and on my own behalf, I warmly commend this volume to you. It addresses the central themes in Nyambura's long and productive ministry. This timely and rich volume represents yet another milestone in the WCC's quest to promote relevant and life-giving theology in Africa and beyond.

ISABEL APAWO PHIRI

*Deputy General Secretary
World Council of Churches*