

Book Notices

The Good, Great Man by Mary Treacher

Christians Aware £5.99

ISBN 978-0-9955428-3-9

The title, taken from a poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, records and celebrates the life of James Mayebo Aryada. James was the first Ugandan to read for a mathematics degree at Oxford, possibly the first Oxford undergraduate from Uganda in any discipline. He was a student and teacher at Nabumali High School, in the first wave of students at King's College, Budo to sit for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate, the first Ugandan to become his country's Inspector of Mathematics and subsequently Chief Inspector of Schools.

James was a pianist, organist and singer. Above all he was a deeply committed Christian, a man of humility and total integrity. 'You cannot bend Aryada', they used to say. It was this integrity that led to his murder during Obote 2.

James' life proves that it is possible to live a moral life in the upper echelons of a society in which morality has largely collapsed. He would count the 'Good' a far greater accolade than the 'Great', though he was certainly both. This little book is a worthy tribute.

Bryan Wilson

The Ugandan Churches and the Political Centre

Cooperation, Co-Option and Confrontation

Edited by Paddy Musana, Angus Crichton and Caroline Howell

Ngoma Series Vol 1 (£30 in UK, shs 35,000/- in Uganda)

ISBN: 978 1 999 74930 1

We have been given notice of this book, published in September 2017, which contains chapters written by various (mainly Ugandan) scholars, shedding light from different angles on Church-State relationships within Uganda. The Christian faith and the political centre have been intertwined from the outset in the Ugandan Christian story. The chapters in this volume take examples from this story where the churches have cooperated with, been co-opted by and confronted the political centre. These examples come from different periods and regions and are based on pioneering research.

“This is an impressive collection of essays, which shed light on the history of mainly the Uganda Protestant churches as they respond to developments within Uganda’s political history, wrestling with what it means to be light and salt to the world, while holding onto the quasi-established status of their colonial legacy. A significant contribution to the development of African political theology, which lay readers, researchers and mission agents will find extremely useful.”

Emmanuel Katongole, Professor of Theology and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

“The volume gives the reader a powerful and often nuanced insight of the interwovenness of church and politics in Uganda. For example how church leaders too often mirror their political counterparts by using ecclesiastical power selectively in the face of Christian theology and traditional culture that demand power is wielded for the benefit of all. On the other hand argument is made that Ugandan churches have presented opportunity to moderate the contemporary political order for ordinary Ugandans’ lives.”

Professor Edward K. Kirumira, Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University

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