



Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

Fulata Lusungu Moyo
World Council of Churches
150 Route de Ferney
P.O. Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel: 0041 22 791 6027 (w)
0041 22 340 4762 (h)
+41 76 294 3531 (c)
Fax 0041 22 791 6406

HONOURING THE LIFE OF DORCAS OLUBANKE-AKINTUNDE:

Accept this song of praise from the depth of our hearts, Dorcas Olubanke-Akintunde, our dear sister in the Circle!

Dorcas, our sister—we learnt about your sudden departure from among us with great shock and deep sadness. You were taken away from us at the time when your life was in its full blossom. As we celebrate your life, we are reminded of the mark that you have made in the history of the Circle of African Women Theologians. While your participation in the Circle has a long history, it was from 2002 to 2007 that you made your biggest contribution to the leadership of the Circle. It was in September 2002 in Addis Ababa that we embraced you as the coordinator of the Anglophone Circle and significant member of the Continental Executive Committee of the Circle. You inspired us with your calm spirit and very active leadership style. During your term of Circle leadership, it did not take long for you to organize the Anglophone Circle into a working movement with regular meetings. Is it any wonder that it achieved the Circle's goal of researching and publishing articles and books in support of women struggling for a just life in the religions and cultures of Africa?

While death seems to have snatched you from us, in fact, it hasn't. Why? Because, you have long since begun to write your own eternity. You have already laughed to scorn the power of death when you became a woman of faith and a writing woman. Your voice speaks to the world and it will continue to speak to the world eternally, through your publications. Here now although you are gone, you can never go away from us. You live forever. Here in our hearts and minds, you live forever. Here in the writings that you gave to the world, you live forever. We in the Circle, celebrate that you live with us in the resurrection power of your faith and noble work.

Your motherly love was extended to all with whom you worked in the Circle. You created an atmosphere of peace in times of turmoil in the Circle's life. You used technology to your advantage and ours, by keeping in touch with all Circle members in your region and beyond. You did not allow us to forget our responsibility in the Circle. You were a great encourager to those who were discouraged as they attempted to research and publish, encouraging them even in their private lives. Yes, you constantly sent emails and text messages just to check how we were with our loved ones. Even when we did not respond, you did not get tired to send emails of encouragement. You fulfilled the responsibility of your position in the Circle by nurturing the upcoming scholars from your region. The articles you edited bear witness of your contribution to the vision and mission of the Circle. When your term of leadership in the Circle Executive came to an end in 2007, you continued to give the Circle advice based on your experiences and wisdom. We continued receiving your timely emails of encouragement.

**C/o Fulata Lusungu Moyo, Circle Coordinator, Programme on Women, World Council of Churches,
150 Route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.**

Tel: 0041 (0)22 791 6027; Fax: 0041 (0)22 791 6406<fulamoyo0@gmail.com>;

We heard the echo of your life and research lifting up the vital role played by women in your church! This oracle, sister Dorcas, has been our inspiration, when you concluded your article on “Partnership and the Exercise of Power in the Christ Apostolic Church, Nigeria” (2005) with the following words: “...women..ought rather to arise and be vibrant and powerful as their source of strength and power comes from God!”

Wasn't it like yesterday when your Circle sisters celebrated your well deserved promotion to headship of the Department of religions at the University of Ibadan? Elated and encouraged when we heard about your promotion to the position of Reader (Associate Professor) in the same Department? We ululated and danced with our scarves flying in the breeze of warmth! “Well done and Godspeed, Daughter of Africa”. We knew that this department would benefit from your solid leadership just as the Anglophone Circle did. We knew that as a proven researcher, both your Department and biblical scholars in Nigeria and beyond, would continue to benefit from your scholarly work! We envisioned your wisdom and sharpness taking shape in the decisions and processes to take place in the department!

Our sister Dorcas, you still live on through the women and men you mentored as a teacher, professor, writer, leader, woman of faith and a beloved daughter of Africa.

You left us too soon Dorcas! We will miss you. Still we thank God for a life well lived to uplift other women in the Circle. Wherever the herstory of the Circle is told, your name will be mentioned. You were appreciated by your sisters in the Circle.
Go well Dorcas and rest in the arms of the God whom you faithfully served!

With much love,



Fulata Lusungu Moyo, PhD

On Behalf of your sisters in the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
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**C/o Fulata Lusungu Moyo, Circle Coordinator, Programme on Women, World Council of Churches,
150 Route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.**

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