The goal of the *Journal of African Christian Biography* (*JACB*) is to “complement and make stories from the online *Dictionary of African Christian Biography* (www.DACB.org) more readily accessible and immediately useful in African congregations and classrooms” (*JACB* masthead). Each monthly installment (see black and white cover, top left) will include a biography from the *DACB* database and a commentary written by a member of the Advisory Council or the Editorial Committee. The commentary may focus on historical, theological, contextual, pedagogical, or interpretive issues, depending on the interests of the writer. Again, according to the masthead: "the *JACB* is intended to promote the research, publication, and use of African Christian biography within Africa by serving as an academically credible but publically accessible source of information on Christianity across the continent." The annual cumulative volume (see color cover, bottom left) will include all previous content from the year’s monthly issues and additional book reviews.

**DACB Collected Memories**

With this newsletter, we announce the new “Collected Memories” feature of the *DACB* website. The purpose of “Collected Memories” is to gather obituaries, newspaper articles, and other fragmentary information on recently-deceased persons who are worthy subjects for future research. We hope through this feature to stimulate the writing of their full biographies.

It is appropriate that our “Collected Memories” honor the recent death of Fr. Vincent Machozi Karunzu (1965-2016), a Catholic priest of the Assumptionist order. A gifted teacher and theologian, he formed many candidates for the priesthood. Fr. Machozi was a former doctoral student at the Boston University School of Theology.

**From the Director**

The December 2015 executive meeting of the *DACB* advisory council and editorial committee issued in several exceptional ideas for new initiatives—including the *Journal of African Christian Biography* (see announcement, left)—and the addition of five new advisors who bring a variety of gifts and ecumenical networks to the table. They add geographical range and denominational diversity to an already strong council. Dr. Jesse Mugambi is professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Nairobi, a well-known figure in the Anglican Communion and the World Council of Churches where he has served as a representative. Dr.


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- Returning to Old Watering Holes
- Lessons and Legacies, cont.
- Director’s Column continued
- Contact Information

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When I came to Boston in September 2014, little did I know that my student job would turn out to be as meaningful and educational as the lectures I attended or the book I read. Every biography I have worked on has broadened the horizons of my mind: the entries have taught me and enlightened me, not only as stories of individuals but as pictures of histories, nations, cultures and, above all, the infinite variety and power of Christian faith. I have been intellectually and spiritually inspired by the project and I am grateful that I have been allowed to play a part in it.

The DACB has been my home away from home and I am truly sorry to be leaving. However, I comfort myself with the thought that the connection will not be lost; I have been trying to put together a biography of my great-grandmother, Lois Nees Murphree – a Boston University alumna, missionary and hymnist in Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia as it was then) whose most famous hymn, *Mu Zunde Renyu Baba Mune Basa rekuita* (In Your Field, Oh Father, there is work to be done)

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In September of 2014, Sam Roebuck stepped into her position as editorial assistant for the DACB with zest, passion, and inspiration. She had been the first to apply and her enthusiasm for the project was evident. Her excitement grew as she gained new insights into the increasing prominence of African Christianity on the world scene. She also struggled to contain her indignation when she heard it described as “an undeveloped form of Western Christianity.” But Sam knew better. She grew up in Zimbabwe where 81% of the population self-identifies as Christian and 56% of that number belong to an African Independent Church, a quintessentially African expression of Christianity.

This sense of scholarly integrity and the earnest desire to give a voice to the stories of little known agents of African Christianity have colored all of Sam’s work. Dr. Daryl Ireland, associate director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission (STH, room 311) where the DACB has its office had this to say: “Sam has contributed to making the DACB a visible presence at Boston University. The hours she spends in the office, applying her skills to the website, newsletter, or a submission, reminds everyone that the largest digital collection of African Christian Biographies is now housed at BU. Her professionalism and devotion to the project have made her an ideal representative of the project.”

I have enjoyed working with Sam from the moment she walked into the office. As a true African, she enjoys working in community and has a joyful sense of humor. Certain new words in my vocabulary pay tribute to her influence—expressions such as “crack on” and “dodgy” (pronounced with a British accent, please, or it sounds corny). I know I won’t be the only one to miss her congenial presence let alone her invaluable work for the DACB.

After a successful Masters program here in the BU School of Theology, Sam is returning home to England where she plans to seek work and eventually continue her studies. But I know her relationship with the project is not over. It recently took a personal turn when she undertook to write the biography of her missionary great-grandmother for the DACB.

Thank you, Sam, for all that you have already done for the project. As you return home to old watering holes may you find more than water, but also friends and dreams waiting there to meet you (African proverb). And may God accompany you, always.

- Michele Sigg

Lessons and Legacies (cont.)

is still sung throughout churches in Zimbabwe and has been recorded by one of Zimbabwe’s most famous and popular musicians, Oliver Mtukudzi. In spite of my access to archive materials of the Methodist church, I have found almost no record of her or her work. My grandfather, Marshall W. Murphree (the baby in the photo on the left), has been almost my sole source of information and I have realized that I need to record as many of his memories as I can. I am travelling to Zimbabwe in June and hope to find out more about my great-grandmother and to complete her biography for the DACB. I hope that this will be the first of many contributions I make and that as a writer, I will be able to carry the mission of the Dictionary of African Christian Biography wherever God leads me next.

- Sam Roebuck
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Otterburne, MB R0A 1G0, Canada
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Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele) is professor of Old Testament Studies at the University of South Africa and a leading authority in African women’s theology. Very Rev. Protopresbyter Fr. Evangelos E. M. Thiani serves as vice rector and senior lecturer at the Orthodox College of Africa in Nairobi. He is the director of Theological Advancement, Interfaith, and Ecumenical relations for the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa. In addition to being the Global Translator Advisor for the United Bible Societies, Dr. Jean-Claude Loba Mkole, OP, is professor extraordinary at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and visiting professor at Hekima University College (Nairobi). The Reverend Engr. Gabriel Leonard Allen, from the Gambia, is a theologian, an ecumenist, and an interfaith activist working in the Methodist Church.

These join the seven individuals who have served on the Advisory Council since 2014: Dr. Deji Isaac Ayegboyn, professor and head of the Religious Studies Department at the University of Ibadan (Nigeria); Dr. James N. Amanze, General Secretary of ATISCA and professor at the University of Botswana; Dr. Philomena Njeri Mwaura, associate professor at Kenyatta University (Nairobi) and director of the Center for Gender Equity and Empowerment; Dr. Paul Nchoji Nkwi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Catholic University of Cameroon; Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Oduro, a member of WAATI and president of Good News Theological College and Seminary (Ghana); Rev. Prof. Priscille Djomhoué, who pastors a parish of the Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique and is professor at the Faculté Universitaire de Theologie Protestante de Bruxelles; and Dr. Edison Muhindo Kalengyo, a member of ATIEA, who is professor at Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology at Uganda Christian University.

Given the personal and joint commitments, capacities, reputations, and wide ranging connections that these extraordinary men and women bring to our already strong Advisory Council, DACB prospects of fulfilling its mandate have never been better! We are blessed! 

- Jonathan Bonk