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TEMBA MAFICO AMONG CELEBRATED FACULTY AUTHORS

New Book Brings New Voice to the Debate About “Yahweh”



Dr. Temba Mafico



(L-R) Drs. George B. Thompson, Jr., Beverly Thompson, Tumani Nyajeka, Love Henry Whelchel, Edward P. Wimberly and Anne E. Streaty Wimberly.

(March 25, 2007, Atlanta, GA.) – The scholarship of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) faculty is recognized throughout the academies of both theological and secular thought, nationally and around the globe. While ITC faculty are infusing seminarians with the academic underpinning and spiritual formation needed beyond the classroom and across the broad spectrum of ministry, many are concurrently involved in research and writing.

ITC will celebrate the literature of its faculty with the Annual Faculty Booksigning and Reception, Tuesday, April 10, 2007. The presentation of seven authors and their published works for 2006 will begin at 11 a.m. in the ITC Chapel, followed by the booksigning and reception in ITC's James H. Costen Lifelong Education Center. This will provide a lunch time opportunity for faculty, students, and guests to hear brief reviews and applaud these new editions to theological journalism.

Seven authors and six texts will be recognized. One of the most compelling is that of Dr. Temba L. Mafico, Associate Provost and Professor of Hebrew Bible at The ITC. *Yahweh's Emergence as "Judge" Among the Gods: A Study of the Hebrew Root Špʿ* is his compelling treatise on the God of the Old Testament. Mafico explains, "The book attempts to put to rest the debate that has been raging since 1888 concerning the possible meaning of the Semitic root Špʿ erroneously translated, "to judge" in the Book of Judges, *passim*. The monograph goes on to demonstrate that the so-called judges were serving as deputies of Yahweh. Because Yahweh is also addressed as Šopeʿ in several biblical texts, this reveals that he too was a deputy of the gods ('êlôhîm) but subsequently assumed supremacy over the gods in the post-exilic period. The monograph ends with a discussion on the significance of justice (*mišpāʿ* derived from the root Špʿ) which is Yahweh's highest attribute."

Six other texts and authors will be recognized as well: *The Winds of Promise: Building and Maintaining Strong Clergy Families*, is co-authored by Dr. Edward P. Wimberly, Vice President for Academic Affairs-Provost and Jarena Lee Professor of Pastoral Care at The ITC, and Dr. Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Ph.D., ITC's Professor of Christian Education and Executive Director of the seminary's Youth Hope Builders Academy.

A second clergy couple offering individual publications is George B. Thompson Jr., Ph.D., and Beverly Thompson, D.Min. Dr. George Thompson is associate professor of church administration and leadership at the ITC. His new book, *How to Get Along with Your Pastor: Creating Partnership for Doing Ministry*, is a fitting response to his 2005 manuscript, *Alligators in the Swamp: Power, Ministry, and Leadership*, which explored the nature of power and the challenges it poses to pastoral ministry. Dr. Beverly Thompson's book, *A Spiritual Companion to How to Get Along with Your Church*, also follows the church administration thematic focus.

The Unwritten Text: The Indigenous African Christian Women's Movement in Zimbabwe by Dr. Tumani Mutasa Nyajeka clearly distinguishes her as an expert in Religions of the World with a particular interest in African religion. Dr. Nyajeka occupies the Cornelius and Dorothy Henderson Chair as the E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism at ITC. Of tremendous significance is the position Dr. Nyajeka occupies as one of the first persons to be published by Africa University Press.

Dr. Love Henry Whelchel, professor of Church History at ITC, has published *Shelter in the Time of Storm: Sermons of Inspiration and Healing from the Book of Romans*. For 28 years, he was an effective parish minister and for seventeen years (1988 – 2005), he served as Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy and Professor of Religion at Clark Atlanta University.

These books and authors will be honored during the Faculty Booksigning and Reception. The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the ITC Academic Publications Committee, chaired by Dr. Joseph Troutman, ITC Theological Librarian. For additional information, call 404-527-7718 or 404-527-7727.

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