



This inspiring collection of 72 critical and creative contributions honouring the life and work of Desmond Mpilo Tutu comprises a rich and diverse array of reflections on the ecumenical global struggle against Apartheid, and Archbishop Tutu's role therein, as a political priest, prophet and intellectual. The encounters with 'the Arch' and his work has shaped ongoing faith-based, activist and academic pursuits for justice, peace and dignity. Anyone familiar with his outstanding contributions to the promotion of justice, dignity and peace, will know that a hallmark of Desmond Tutu's celebrated style is his use of narrative and real-life stories. In honour of his unique and remarkable example, the contributions in this book combine oral history and written history paradigms, as well as sociological, philosophical and theological approaches. While the book is meant to be a memorial recollection of encounters with the Arch, the hope is that these recollections will continue to inspire collective struggles and hopes for justice, peace and dignity.

This book is a treasure trove of some of the most stunning memories of personal encounters with one of the greatest ecumenists in the world. To have worked with Desmond Tutu has been a great privilege. He is a force of nature. In the pages of this book, readers will encounter Tutu the champion of the ordination of women, the practitioner of Ubuntu, the humorous public speaker, the prophetic preacher, the bridge-builder, the defender of the downtrodden, the loving husband, the doting father, and the humble servant of God.

Dr Brigalia Hlophe Bam, former General Secretary of the SACC & former Chairperson of the IEC Archbishop Desmond Tutu, as one sees in the book, has lived to witness the appreciation of the world of his multifaceted roles reflected in many words: icon of justice and reconciliation, a pastor to the nation, a moral voice against apartheid, and more. For the AACC he remains the most remarkable of its Presidents. The reach of his inspiration is reflected in the global composition of authors most of whom have personal experience with him. I gladly commend this book which will undoubtedly inspire every reader to rekindle our calling to work for responsible spirituality, justice and reconciliation, with daring divine boldness.

Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches

This book is a 'must-read' for anyone interested in issues of justice, liberation, transformation, dignity, hope, joy, resilience, peace, prayer and reconciliation. Using a variety of genres and with intergenerational contributors, it paints a multifaceted picture of an extraordinary ecumenist, priest, husband, father, intellectual and politician, Desmond Mpilo Tutu. The editors and contributors are to be commended for sharing their rich, inspiring and enlightening personal reflections of one of the most revered and important Africans of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This publication is a befitting celebration of a colourful life.

Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, Deputy General Secretary, World Council of Churches,
Honorary Professor of African Theology at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa



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