

Curriculum Vitae of John Samuel Mbiti, January 2013

My life span began in my mother's womb, who bore me on 30 November 1931 in Mulango, Kitui, Kenya. I was the first (to survive) of six children, of very loving and caring parents Samuel Mutuvi Ngaangi (1899-1993) and Velesi Mbandi Mutuvi (1908-2010). Through them I grew up in the extended family and kinship with extensive ties. To: Elementary and Primary schools in Kitui, Alliance High School, then Makerere University College, Uganda, in which I was in the first batch to get the B. A. from London University. For Theological Studies I started at Barrington (now Gordon) College in the United States of America, and finished up with a Ph. D. in the new Testament at Cambridge University, England. There followed my long University career, beginning at Makerere University (1964) and continuing as visiting professor at universities in the U.S.A. and Europe, the last of which was part-time at the University of Bern (1983-2003) while I served in a Church parish at Burgdorf, Switzerland. I have worked in various capacities with the Church, including as Director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Pastor, and Teacher, in Kenya, Uganda, United States of America, England, and Switzerland. I have travelled to all the continents except South America, to give lectures and attend conferences.

Besides my Ph.D., I have received four honorary doctorate degrees, including D.D., Dr. Theol., etc., from universities in America and Switzerland. I am a Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences, since 2012.

I have done research, written, edited, and published over 450 items, by way of articles, books, essays, and reviews, in the fields of Biblical Studies, Ecumenism, Literature, Science of Religion, Theology, Marriage and Family. I have translated the Greek New Testament into Kikamba (accepted for publication by the Kenya Literature Bureau). The publications are in Kikamba and English, with some translated into French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, etc.

I have one wife Verena, teacher of languages (German, English, and French), from Switzerland, four children and five grandchildren. On retirement from University and Church services, there is no dull moment as I continue with research, writing, travelling, and spending time with my family both in Switzerland and Kenya. I feel very enriched by the friendships, comradeships, colleagues at work, and fellow travellers from dawn to sunset. The earth is beautiful and I admire its wonders, mysteries, and myriads of life forms. It is a privilege to live, to love, and to serve.

John Mbiti, Burgdorf, Switzerland, 25 January 2013

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