

IN MEMORIAM
OUR ANCESTOR:
INUS DANEEL



RESEARCH OF M. L. DANEEL
DIGITAL RESOURCES



LAUSANNE IV
GLOBAL
COLLABORATION

CGCM NEWS



A Missiological Giant

Marthinus "Inus" Louis Daneel, Co-Founder of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission, died on July 29, 2024, at age 87, after a long illness. Daneel was a noted eco-theologian, ecumenist, author of fourteen published scholarly volumes on African Christianity and traditional religion, and founder of ecumenical movements in Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe.

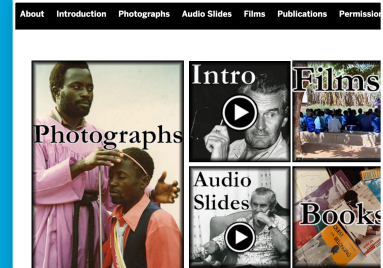
Inus was born of missionary parents in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). He

Called "Bishop Moses," he was both an activist and scholar his entire career.

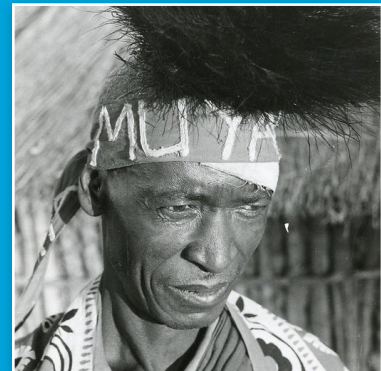
grew up fluent in Afrikaans and in Karanga, a dialect of Shona, the majority language of Zimbabwe. In 1960, he graduated from the University of Stellenbosch with a B.A. Hons. in Philosophy. He received the prestigious Abe Bailey Bursary, which sent a dozen outstanding South African graduates to the United Kingdom. Cashing in his travel award, he headed to the Netherlands and in 1971 earned the D. Theol. (cum laude), from the Free University of Amsterdam with a dissertation on "The background and rise of Southern Shona Independent Churches." He was Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Africa sponsored by the Free University of Amsterdam and the African Study Centre of Leiden University from 1965 to 1971. He founded and directed both the African Independent Church Conference (Fambidzano) (1972-1989), and the Zimbabwean Institute of Religious Research and Ecological Conservation (ZIRRCON) (1984-2000). In addition to his activism, he was Professor of Missiology at the University of South Africa (1981-1995), and Professor of Missiology Part-Time at the Boston University School of Theology from 1997 until his retirement in 2012. In 2004, his war novel *Guerilla Snuff* was named by the Zimbabwe International Book Fair as one of the best 75 books of twentieth-century fiction in Zimbabwe (one of 25 in English), the only one by a white Zimbabwean.

In 1965, Daneel moved into the Matopo Hills in apartheid-era Rhodesia to conduct research on indigenous Christian movements. Befriending the priests of the traditional high god Mwari, Daneel was the only white person admitted to the oracular cave of the deity. The deity sent him to warn Rhodesian government officials of the impending civil war, if white settlers did not return land to the Africans. His warnings went unheeded. For his refusal to bear arms against the Shona people, he was summoned before a Rhodesian military tribunal and threatened with imprisonment. With leaders of African Initiated Churches, he founded the ecumenical movement Fambidzano that conducted theological education by extension throughout central Zimbabwe. As the adopted son of the Rev. Samuel Mutendi, founder of the Zion Christian Church in Zimbabwe, Daneel sat in the docket with the Mutendi family and bailed them out when they were convicted of resisting government seizure of ancestral land. After the war, although he was a Dutch Reformed church elder, Daneel was made a Bishop by Ndaza Zionist Churches in recognition of his ecological leadership. Called "Bishop Moses," he raised funds for church development projects, planted trees, and wrote the most extensive detailed studies of African indigenous churches in a single cultural group.

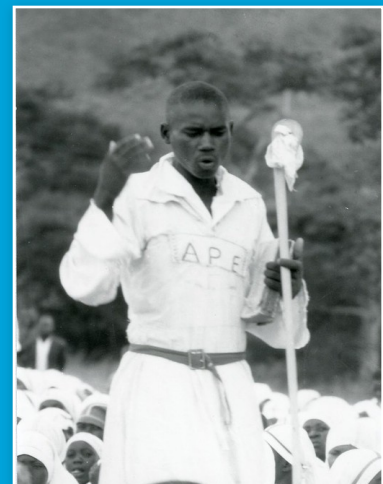
Resources on the Life and Work of M. L. Daneel

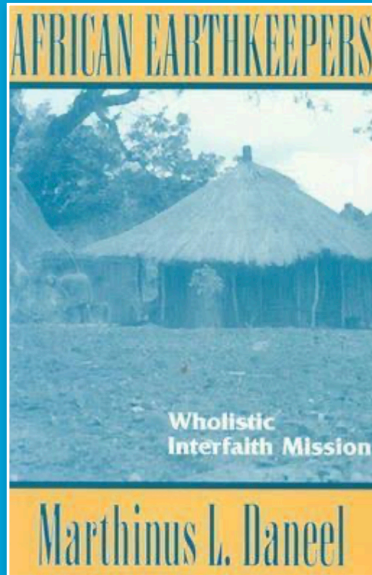


sites.bu.edu/shonareligion
is a digital repository of
much of Daneel's work.



It includes thousands of
photographs that
document African
Traditional Religion and
African Initiated Churches.

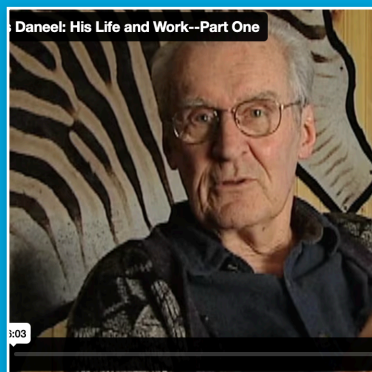




The website also contains digital copies of M. L. Daneel's many books.



Documentary films and audio slides can also be viewed online.



After the civil war ended, resulting in the country of Zimbabwe in 1980, Daneel turned over the theological extension work to local church leaders and was appointed Professor of Missiology at the University of South Africa. In his 15 years in Pretoria, he taught black and African theologies while commuting to Masvingo, Zimbabwe, where in 1985 with a group of chiefs and spirit mediums, he founded ZIRRCON to restore the lands ecologically-devastated by the civil war. With a traditionalist branch and a Christian branch, ZIRRCON initiated religious rituals for tree-planting, gully reclamation, and similar efforts to “clothe the earth.” For roughly fifteen years, ZIRRCON was the largest grassroots tree-planting movement in southern Africa. It hosted dozens of tree nurseries, 80 women’s clubs, and theological education by extension that included eco-theology and HIV-AIDS awareness.

As a self-professed “nomad” and adventurer, during the late years of the war Daneel designed boats and with his team Mutapa Eagles won multiple championships over a five-year period at the Tiger Invitational Tournament at Lake Kariba, the largest freshwater fishing tournament in the world. In 1996, Daneel married fellow missiologist Dana Robert. He began a decades-long commute between southern Africa and teaching African religions and theology at Boston University. In 2001, Daneel and Robert founded the Center for Global Christianity and Mission, one of the first university-based centers of its kind in North America.

New Director of the African Studies Center

Beginning in the Fall of 2024, Nimi Wariboko, a Faculty Associate of the CGCM and the Chair of the Dictionary of African Christian Biography Executive Committee, was appointed to lead Boston University’s African Studies Center (ASC). Founded in 1953, the ASC is one of the oldest institutions in North America committed to advancing the study of African languages and for producing excellent research, learning, and teaching about Africa.



Lausanne IV: Global Collaboration

Between September 24-28, five thousand delegates from around the world gathered in Seoul Korea for the Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization. The theme was “Let the church declare and display Christ together,” and throughout the week emphasis was put on humility and team work. The task is so great and the gaps so many that participants were encouraged to connect with others with similar vocations, and find the courage to say, “I need you.” That, Lausanne IV urged, is the pathway forward.

Various CGCM affiliated scholars played active roles in the event. Daewon Moon ('18) was a member of the Board of Directors. Ruth Padilla DeBorst

('16), pictured on the top-front page of this newsletter, delivered the most discussed and commented upon plenary session, as she addressed the task of doing justice.



Meanwhile, Casely Essamuah ('03), Soojin Chung ('18), and Tyler Lenocker ('20) hosted breakout conversations. Former Visiting Researchers, Jesudas Athyal and SuYeon Yoon were also present and active in shaping the conversations, making connections, and thickening the ties that link the CGCM to the larger global Christian community.

New Publication

Faculty Associate, Eunil David Cho's book, *Undocumented Migration as a Theologizing Experience* examines how Korean American undocumented young adults tell religious stories to cope with the violence of uncertainty and construct new meanings for themselves. Based on in-depth interviews guided by narrative inquiry, the book follows the stories of ten Korean American DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients who have found their lives in limbo. While many experience narrative foreclosure, believing “My story is over,” Cho highlights how telling religious stories enables them to imagine and create new stories for themselves not as shunned outsiders, but as beloved children of God.

