RECONCILIATION, FORGIVENESS AND VIOLENCE IN AFRICA

BIBLICAL, PASTORAL AND ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES

EDITORS

MARIUS J. NEL, DION A. FORSTER & CHRISTO H. THESNAAR

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FOREWORD

Writing on some themes is seldom the prerogative of a single theological discipline, let alone of a single theologian. Some themes require reflection that comes from a variety theological disciples, each with their particular methodological, and theological, resources. In fact, some themes are simply so multifaceted, and so central to the gospel and to our faith, that they must be reflected upon by all theological disciplines. Examples of such theological themes include those in the title of this publication: reconciliation, forgiveness, violence and, to the background of these, the theme of human dignity.

Within, at the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology we tend to agree with David Tracy, that all theology is intrinsically public discourse across the publics of the church, the academy and society at large. This volume contains a variety of rich and challenging essays that contribute to the wider discourse on public theology on the African continent as it relates to reconciliation, forgiveness, violence and human dignity.

We are extremely proud of it, not only because it is the first publication from the Unit for Reconciliation and Justice that is housed in the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, or because it contains contributions by colleagues from all three the disciplinary environments in our Faculty, but also as it showcases the work of some of our doctoral candidates and doctoral alumni from across the continent. May this publication also represent a first step for them in a long and fruitful scholarly journey.

Len Hansen

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