

# JOURNAL OF THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER



*Botho/Ubuntu and Community  
Building in the Urban Space*

*Volume 51, Spring 2022*

Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ISSN 50092-6558) is published semiannually.

JITC is a journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center. It publishes peer- reviewed research articles written primarily, but not exclusively, from an Africentric perspective of the Bible and related disciplines. All contributions are referred to recognized scholars who are specialized in the particular discipline in which the article is written.

**Contributions of articles and books for review should be sent to:**

The Editor *JITC*  
Interdenominational Theological Center  
700 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
United States of America  
(404) 527-7727  
Email: [journaleditor@itc.edu](mailto:journaleditor@itc.edu)

**Subscriptions should be sent to the Editor at the above address.**

**Copyright**

*The Interdenominational Theological Center (All Rights Reserved)*

Articles submitted for publication must conform to the house rules found on the home page:

***JITC* homepage (house rules, content, subscription)**

<http://www.itc.edu/academics/itcjournal/>

***JITC Order Form:***

Institutional and Individual Subscribers are charged for international shipping.

Individual Subscriptions:

\_\_\_ 1 yr. (\$24.00)      \_\_\_ 2 yrs. (\$45.00)      \_\_\_ 3 yrs. (\$65.00)

Institutional Subscriptions:

\_\_\_ 1 yr. (\$28.00)      \_\_\_ 2 yrs. (\$56.00)      \_\_\_ 3 yrs. (\$70.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail subscription to: The *JITC* Office

700 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW,

Atlanta, GA 30314-4143 or call 404-527-7727.

# JOURNAL OF THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER

Volume 51



Spring 2022

Musa W. Dube  
*Guest Editor, Volume 51*

Temba L.J. Mafico  
*Editor*  
Jermaine J. Marshall  
*Associate Editor*

Editorial Consultants  
Tirelo Modie-Moroka,  
University of Botswana  
Mmapula D. Kebaneilwe  
University of Botswana  
Charles Thomas, ITC, GA  
Harold Bennett, Morehouse, GA

Journal Editor Assistant  
Angel Parks

A Publication of  
The ITC Press  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center  
(ISSN 50092-6558) is published semiannually.

*JITC* is a journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center. It publishes peer-reviewed research articles written primarily, but not exclusively, from an Afro-centric perspective of the Bible and related disciplines. All contributions are referred to recognized scholars who are specialized in the particular discipline in which the article is written.

**Contributions of articles and books for review  
should be sent to:**

The Editor *JITC*  
Interdenominational Theological Center  
700 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
United States of America

(404) 527-7727

Email: [journaleditor@itc.edu](mailto:journaleditor@itc.edu)

Subscriptions should be sent to the Editor at the above address.

***Copyright***  
***The Interdenominational Theological Center***  
***(All Rights Reserved)***

***Botho/Ubuntu and Community  
Building in the Urban Space***

**Volume 51 Spring 2022**



## Table of Contents

Introducing the guest editor for Volume 51 <i>J.J. Marshall</i>	i
Introduction: Towards <i>Botho/Ubuntu</i> -centred Individuals, Communities and Nations <i>Musa W. Dube</i>	ii
<b>Spring 2022</b>	
Naomi/Laban Showers and the Creation of Womanist- <i>Botho/Ubuntu</i> Ethic of Communal Living Spaces <i>Malebogo Kgalemang, Tirelo Modie-Moroka and Musa W. Dube</i>	1
“Call me Mara for I am Bitter:” A Womanist Impression of the Wailing Women of Naomi/Laban Showers” <i>Mmapula D. Kebaneilwe, Rosinah Mmanana Gabaitse and Senzokuhle Doreen Setume</i>	55
Baby Showers as Economic Support Networks: An Intersectional Approach <i>Poloko Nuggert Ntshwarang and Boineelo Pearl Lefadola</i>	91
The Influence of Baby Showers on Breastfeeding Practices: Qualitative Findings from Mothers <i>Boineelo Pearl Lefadola</i>	116
Metshelo Micro-Lending Schemes: Weaning Women from Patriarchal Milk <i>Tebogo B. Sentsima</i>	139

Introducing the Guest Journal Editor  
Jermaine J. Marshall<sup>1</sup>

I am delighted to welcome Dr. Musa W. Dube, renowned author and professor of New Testament at Candler School of Theology (Emory University) as the guest editor for this volume. Dr. Dube is not new to the *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center (JITC)*. She has served as the member of the editorial board of the *JITC* for over a decade beginning when she taught at the University of Botswana.

The articles in Volume 51 continue the discussions that begin in Volume 50. The volumes are significant because they delve into *Ubuntu/Botho* philosophy, which has grabbed global attention for its relational ethics. The volumes investigate the intersection of *Ubuntu/Botho* with gender, class, migration, and urban settings. They present interesting findings on how Botswana women are rewriting the patriarchal script in the context of practicing *Ubuntu/Botho*. Thus, these articles fit the mission of the ITC, which focuses on shaping students to practice justice as

---

<sup>1</sup> Reverend Jermaine J. Marshall, Ph.D., is associate editor of the JITC. He is also an assistant professor of Church History and African American Religious Experience the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA. He is a church pastor and a member of the American Society of Church History; the Graduate Students and Independent Scholars Committee; and member of the Steering Committee of the Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, American Academy of Religion and an author who has just published a book, *Christianity Corrupted: The Scandal of White Supremacy*



local and global leaders through liberative and transformative spirituality.

## Editorial

Musa W. Dube, Candler School of Theology

While the previous volume focused on Bridal and Baby showers, this subsequent volume focuses on Naomi and Laban showers. It features two papers on these showers. This special volume also welcomed other researchers who had independently done work in similar areas. These papers are the ones authored by Boineelo Pearl Lefadola and Poloko Nugget Ntshwarang and Tebogo B. Sentsima. We hope that the publication of our findings will contribute towards evidence-based policy-making in Botswana and other countries that subscribe to the Botho/Ubuntu ethic. In this issue, the reader will get a glimpse of some of the findings.

Naomi/Laban showers are designed for parents and the communities that will receive new daughters and sons-in-law. They were started to address the apparent gap—namely, the assumption that parents automatically know how to receive and welcome in-laws without training. Such an assumption, the trainers argue, is false. Ignorant parents and other in-laws often mess up the marriages of their children and sometimes even cause divorce. The mother and daughter-in-law relationship is particularly known for its conflict. The Naomi Laban showers therefore

seek to empower parents and all in-laws with skills of welcoming the new daughters and sons-in-law into new families, homes and communities. The shower primarily uses the biblical book of Ruth, although not exclusively. Two papers analyze data from the Naomi/Laban shower. The article, “Naomi/Laban Showers and the Creation of Womanist-Botho/Ubuntu Ethic of Communal Living,” takes cognizance of the fact that mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationships, often conceived within patriarchal economy, breed competition and conflict in these relationships. The article thus theorizes the Naomi/Laban shower as a reconstructive space that seeks to create communal living spaces that are informed by Botho/Ubuntu.

In the biblical book of Ruth, we find Naomi and her daughters-in-law wailing when they say good-bye to one another. Similarly, in the Naomi Showers in Gaborone, when the ritual of uniting the new daughter-in-law with her new mother-in-law was performed it was a very emotional moment that led to weeping among the participants, including the researchers. The article, “‘Call Me Mara for I am Bitter’: A Womanist Impression of the Wailing Women of Naomi/Laban Showers” explores the possible causes and implications of this wailing. In the book of Ruth, Ruth the immigrant gets married and gives birth to a son. Naomi takes the child and raises him. The women of Jerusalem come and declare that Ruth is a daughter whose worth is more than seven sons.

The two papers in this volume that explore the influence of baby showers are: “Baby Showers as Economic Support Networks: An Intersectional Approach” co-authored by Poloko Nuggert Ntshwarang and Boineelo Pearl Lefadole and “The Influence of Baby Showers on Breastfeeding Practices: Qualitative Findings from Mothers” authored by Boineelo Pearl Lefadole. The jointly authored paper elaborates how baby showers function as networks that help assist women economically. The second paper is by Lefadole, in which she examines how Baby Showers have affected mothers’ perceptions and practice regarding breast-feeding. Her findings recommend that health workers should target baby showers as a space for promoting breastfeeding practices. Sentsima’s article, “Metshelo Micro-Lending Schemes: Weaning Women from Patriarchal Milk,” explores women’s micro-lending, schemes as another example of women expressing their Botho/Ubuntu amongst themselves and thereby creating supportive communities.