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Afterword

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AFTERWORD

This devotional guide, based on “The Arusha Call to Discipleship,” reflects one result of the shift of Christianity to the global South, where spirituality is often experienced more holistically than in the global North. It is clear that, with the extension of Global Christianity to all over the world, and with local congregations being on the front lines of witnessing to Christ, the question of their worship and spirituality is something to which mission pays, and will pay, much attention.

Often the best parts of international conferences are available only to those who could attend them. Even though the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches – held in Arusha, Tanzania, in March 2018 with 1,024 participants – was the largest world missionary conference organized by the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism since the world missionary conference in Edinburgh in 1910, the remark is still pertinent. That is why we decided to make available not only the contents of speeches, discourses, panel discussions, addresses, messages, and so on delivered during the conference and found in the *Arusha Report*, but also something of the rich spirituality experienced through the Bible studies, prayers, meditations, songs, mutual sharing, and theatre – all of which reflect ecumenical, global, and, in particular, African spirituality.

The devotional guide is meant for all Christians all over the world: for pastors, mission leaders and ecumenical officers, lay leaders, as well as any parish member. It is a contribution meant to be used by all those who want to follow Jesus Christ and identify him as the risen Lord of their lives. In other words, it is meant for all those who have heard the call of Christ to transforming discipleship and have answered “yes” to that call, and thus want to follow Jesus and participate in God’s mission in this world, no matter where they are. The guide can be used in

Bible study groups, in prayer groups, in mission gatherings, even in worship services.

A great word of thanks goes to all those who have made their material available and who helped us to make this devotional guide and its publication possible.

We hope and pray that it can be a tool for you, a follower of Christ, to become more his disciple, encouraging you daily to a more self-emptying, cross-bearing, and witnessing life in your environment – in fact, to become more like the Master you are following. Through his Spirit, he has promised to be with us always, “to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).

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Co-Editor