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*"...Until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts"
(2 Peter 1:19 KJV)*

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SINGLE ADULTS SURVEY

NGURU



SINGLE ADULTS IN AN AFRICAN CITY

Nairobi Christian Single Adults Survey Report

Prof. Faith Nguru

Single Adults in an African City

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By

Prof. Faith Nguru

Daystar University

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Acknowledgments

The idea of this book began a decade ago when a group of single adult women met to share their experiences as Christians in a culture that highly values marriage.

In order to validate their experiences, a more recent empirical research project was designed to capture the views of both men and women who were wrestling with the challenges of singlehood. Those who provide ministry to the single adults were interviewed in order to present a fuller account of the church as a context within which believers are nurtured towards fullness in Christ.

I wish to sincerely thank all the pastors and single adults who took part in the survey and also in the focus groups discussions.

I am especially thankful to Dr. Michael Bowen for assistance in the questionnaire development and data analysis and to Samuel Macharia for the cover design.

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Foreword

Rev. Prof. Godfrey Nguru, Vice Chancellor

Singlehood of both men and women is not a new phenomenon in the Africa society. However, due to such practices as polygamy the numbers of single women were far less than we find today.

The situation in our societies and in our churches is different from traditional African society. The influence of modernity, monetary economy and Christianity has reduced the prevalence of early marriages and polygamy. The number of singles particularly females has increased in society and in churches yet most churches tend to concentrate most of their ministry to the typical family: husband, wife and children. The single adult, whether male or female, is left out in the ministry of the church and in the sermons. The single adults do not fit in such ministries as men's ministries or women's ministry and yet they have unique needs and struggle with issues that married couples do not deal necessarily with.

This study delved into some of these issues and its findings are contained in this report. A church minister or worker who plans to strengthen his or her ministry to singles or introduce one where there is none will find this book a useful tool to help achieve ministry goals.

I wish to congratulate Daystar University's department of Research Publication and Consultancy for coming up with this report and recommend it to every one who needs to know about Christian singles and the issues they wrestle with as they try to live their lives. It is a must read for pastors and other practitioners of Christian ministries.

Daystar University's vision is to prepare servant leaders to transform the church and society in Africa and beyond. This research report is an invaluable vehicle to assist in the process of such transformation.