



# **HYMN STORIES** for our Contemporary Christian Lifestyle

**MUGERWA Paul**  
Music Evangelist & Scholar



Selection of songs from, and comprehensive review by major contributing Christian denominations to hymnody (esp. Protestantism movement) – global Leaders and scholars:

- ❖SDAs
- ❖Anglicans
- ❖Baptists
- ❖Methodists
- ❖Presbyterians
- ❖Lutherans
- ❖Evangelicals



# Book Review 1



- Often times, when we open our song and hymn books to sing in churches, at homes and other gatherings, we have no idea that the lyrics and music have a deep emotional and spiritual background.
- Mr. Mugerwa has joined a few of those who prove us wrong. He has rewound the events to reveal to us that these pieces evolved from real human experience with life and with their God.
- Sending us to such scenarios inspires us to envision a character behind a song and have a personal touch with the experience of the composer, sharing with him/her the awesome spiritual and passionate aura.



## Book Review 2

- This book clearly shows that, if all the aspects of a context are carefully kept in mind ,when interpreting music, a much more accurate knowledge of its truth will be known. A faithful adherence to situation will create in the interpreter an honest appreciation of the song.
- As we understand the circumstances that occasioned the authors composition, we are deterred from attaching ideas to his writing that are completely foreign to the purpose of the song. The take in this book is the most important tool to understanding the original purpose to the hymns in this book.





- It has the capacity to enliven our congregational singing, to rekindle a dying and desperate Christian soul, and reawaken Christians across the board toward a renewed relationship with God, the initiator of music and worship.
- Christian hymns inspire us as we sing them in seasons of praise, prayer, and affirmation of major doctrines of the faith. Stories behind these hymns draw us into the lives of the writers and composers, and leave us with solemn admiration and profound respect for their talent and faithful endurance.



## **6 Classifications** of the Hymn and Gospel songs background stories:

### **i) Praise Songs:**

These songs talk about God's miracles; His workings through our daily lives; our response to His goodness by shouting and dancing to praise Him. Simply put, responding to what God has done for us or seen us through.

### **ii) Worship Songs:**

These songs express and manifest God's glory; creative power; His holiness. Simply put, singing about "who/ what God is".

### **iii) Discipleship Songs:**

These songs are about evangelism (the good news about Christ- life, resurrection, redemption, divine ministry in heaven, etc). They focus on Christianity; inviting/ mobilizing fallen humanity to Christ.



#### **iv) Christian Living & Virtues Songs:**

These songs are in the themes of: prayer, dedication, pleading, judgment, family life, etc. Most of them are played with a low tempo that implies thoughtfulness and a calm ambiance for spiritual needs.

#### **v) Extraordinary Occasions Songs:**

These songs are used on special/ unique ceremonies for the church, these include: baptism, weddings, funerals, offerings, Holy Communion, and when dedicating either children or church ministers.

#### **vi) Benedictions & Doxologies Songs:**

These songs are aimed at: wishing/ bidding farewell to God's people with blessings; in a special way glorying God's protection, providence and faithfulness toward His people.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Mugerwa Paul** was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1983 to Mr. Paul Mukisa Ssali & Mrs. Ritah Namiro Ssali in Bunamwaya- Wakiso District. He did his Primary education from Kitebi Primary Sch.; 'O'- Level education from Lubiri Secondary Sch.; and 'A'- Level education from Old Kampala S.S.S & Greenlight High Sch. Zzana.

He later joined Kyambogo University for his Bachelor of Arts with Education (Economics & French Language) from 2004 – 2008. He pursued his MBA-Investment Management & Entrepreneurship at Bugema University from 2010 – 2013. Then, he partly pursued a finance/investment professional course CFA-1 (Chartered Financial Analyst) in 2013 offered by CFA Institute, USA. After teaching in Secondary schools including Ndeje S.S.S, Mugerwa Paul has been a lecturer at Bugema University & other tertiary institutions from 2011 to-date; and he is currently the C.E.O of Asante Capital Hub Ltd (a financial services & business consultancy). He has authored & is currently authoring a host of other publications (journal articles, books, policies, etc) in the areas of finance/investment, risk management, and strategic business planning.

He has served as SDA Church Elder for 5 years, and as the director of Education department for SDA Church Najanankumbi District (15 churches) for 8 years. He has ministered as a musician, music leader, choir chairman, and head of music in SDA Church Najanankumbi District Camp-meetings in the past decade. He has been an inspirational & key-note speaker at both local and international conferences since 2009.

He speaks at least seven (7) languages, some of which he does fluently & others he can communicate: English, French, Spanish, Luganda, Swahili, Kinyarwanda & Lunyankore. He is happily married to Rebecca Nakisozi Mugerwa, who actually inspired him to join music way back when still just friends ; and a proud dad to Gracia Namuli & Gentil Katumba.

**Rebecca Nakisozi Mugerwa** born on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1986 to Mr. Kalema Richard Paul & Mrs. Kalema Hadjah. She did her Primary education from Bamusuuta P/S; her 'O'- Level from Baptist High Sch. & Bethel High Sch.; her 'A'- Level from Najanankumbi Young Christian Sch.

Later, she joined Kyambogo University for her studies in Hotel & Institutional Catering from 2008 – 2010. Since then, she has done a couple of courses in Entrepreneurship & Crafts making, which she is currently taking up as a career. She is currently the General Manager at Gracia Celeste Enterprises Ltd. (an entrepreneurial, crafts & designs creation centre).

She is been a musician for all her life, and served in various positions in her local SDA Church.



This publication is intended to highlight the background stories of selected golden hymns and gospel songs so as to enliven our congregational singing today; to learn singing with a purpose and more insight, keeping in mind the circumstances that occasioned the composition of these songs. They inspire us as we sing them in seasons of praise, prayer, evangelism, special occasions, Christian virtues, and affirmation of major doctrines of the faith. Stories behind these hymns draw us into the lives of the writers and composers, and leave us with solemn admiration and profound respect for their talent and faithful endurance. All this is blended with more than 150 real-life stories of hymn writers, international personalities & also of the authors themselves that are truly worth sharing.

Hymn Stories FOR OUR CONTEMPORARY LIFESTYLES

MUGERWA PAUL

GRACIA & GENTIL

# Hymn Stories

## FOR OUR CONTEMPORARY LIFESTYLES

MUGERWA PAUL

FOREWORD BY PROF. REUBEN T. MUGERWA





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(Baptist Church)

Pr. Dr. Kwanuka Emmanuel  
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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mugerwa Paul was born on 27th September 1983 to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mukisa Ssali of Bunamwaya – Wakiso District, Uganda (East Africa). He completed his B.A (Economics & French Language) at Kyambogo University in 2008; his MBA Investment in 2013; partly pursued a CFA-1 at CFA Institute, USA. He is currently pursuing Securities & Investment certifications at the Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment (CISI, UK).

He has been a scholar at Bugema University and other Tertiary institutions since 2011; and he is also the CEO of Asante Capital Hub (a financial services & Business consultancy). He has authored a host of publications; presented papers in several local and international conferences; and he has been hosted on local & East African regional media houses (TV, Radio & print media) in the fields of financial economics, Church music and inspirational content. He speaks at least seven (7) languages – regional and international. He is happily married to Mrs. Rebecca Nakisozi Mugerwa, and he is a proud dad to Gracia Namuli and Gentil Katumba. The author has equally undertaken studies in Christian music; he has ministered as musician and music leader in various portfolios and levels within the SDA Church Najjanankumbi District. Besides, he has served as SDA Church local Elder for years; and he is the Director of Education Department at SDA Church Najjanankumbi (19 Churches).

This Publication is intended to every Christian, but in a special way, every worship leader (be it household, Church, institution, etc) needs this resource to facilitate and enhance people's worship and devotional experiences. He/she should make a good choice of Psalms, Hymns and Gospel songs that are appropriate to a given Christian service, such as: worship, praise, evangelism, Christian living, benedictions & doxologies, but also extraordinary occasions like weddings, baptisms, holy communion and funeral services. This Book (Volume 2) also takes us through the lives of Church hymns composers, devotional aspects of each song, what inspired its composition, life application lessons for us today, lives of International personalities, and the author's escapades that are worth sharing.

The selection of church hymns and their composers in this 2nd Volume was carefully guided by objectivity and deliberate research, which led to a harmonized choice of globally popular songs from the following Christian denominations: Seventh-Day Adventists, Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostals, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic and Lutheran Churches. Besides, Mugerwa (the book author) was privileged to interact with some top leaders and scholars in these denominations.



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Hymn Stories  
HAVE LESSONS FOR US TODAY VOL. 2

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Hymn Stories  
HAVE LESSONS FOR US TODAY

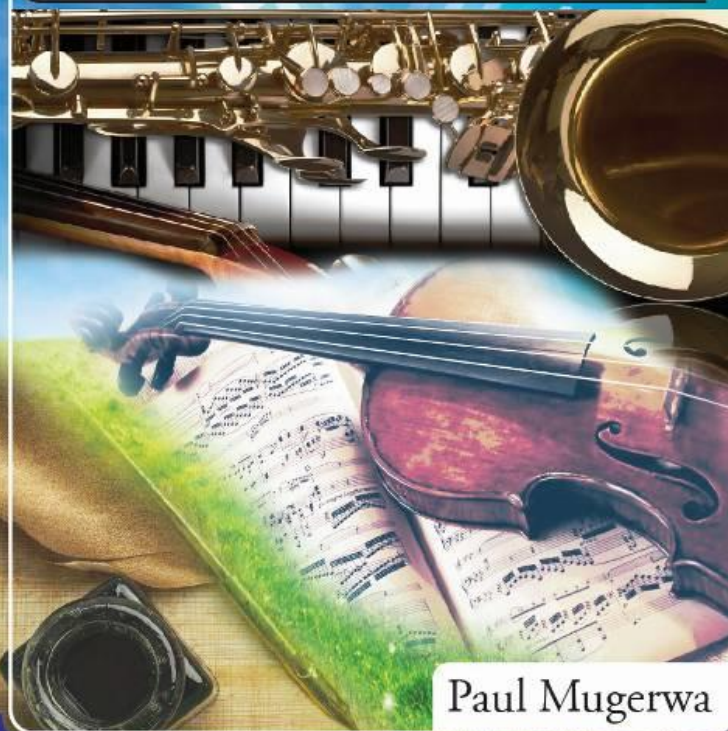
VOL. 2  
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Gracia & Gentil :

# Hymn Stories

## HAVE LESSONS FOR US TODAY VOL. 2

Foreword by: Prof. Dr. Nathaniel Walemba and Bishop Kajoba Samuel (SDA)



Paul Mugerwa





Commemorating 500 years  
of Protestant Reformation (1517-2017)

By: **MUGERWA PAUL**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

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He has been a scholar at Bugema University and other Tertiary institutions since 2011; and the CEO of Asante Capital Hub (a financial services & Business consultancy). He has authored a host of publications; presented papers in several international conferences; and he has been hosted on East African regional media houses (TV, Radio & print media) in the fields of financial economics, Church music and inspirational content. He speaks at least seven (7) languages – regional and international. He is happily married to Mrs. Rebecca Nakisozi Mugerwa, and he is a proud dad to GraciaNamuli and Gentil Katumba. The author has equally undertaken studies in Christian music; ministered as music evangelist and music leader in various portfolios and levels within the SDA Church in Uganda. Besides, he has served as SDA Church local Elder for years; and the Director of Education Department at SDA Church Najjankumbi District(19Churches).

This Publication is intended to every Christian, especially, every worship leader (at household, Church, institutional levels) ought to have this resource to facilitate and enhance people's worship and devotional experiences. This will be achieved by making a good choice of Psalms, Hymns and Gospel songs that are appropriate to a given Christian service, such as: worship, praise, evangelism, Christian living, benedictions & doxologies, but also extraordinary occasions like weddings, baptisms, holy communion and funeral services. This Global Edition of Vol. 1, besides being greatly enriched to respond to the diverse worship needs of an international readership; it also takes us through the lives of Church hymns composers, devotional aspects of each song, what inspired its composition, life application lessons for us today, lives of international personalities, and the author's escapades that are worth sharing. The selection of Church hymns in this *Global Edition* (with a lot more added hymns /songs) was carefully guided by objectivity and deliberate research leading to a harmonized choice of globally popular songs from: Seventh-Day Adventists Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Pentecostal Churches. Besides, the Book author was privileged to interact with various top leaders and scholars from these Christian denominations.

**VOL.1**  
**Global Edition**



**PAUL  
MUGERWA**  
VOL.1  
Global  
Edition

Foreword by:  
Pr. Dr. Matte Daniel  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Mutebi Hannington

**MUGERWA PAUL**

**GRACIA & GENTIL**

*Christian Hymns Stories for Our Contemporary Christian Lifestyles*



# GRACIA & GENTIL

CHRISTIAN HYMNS STORIES FOR OUR CONTEMPORARY  
CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLES

**VOL.1**  
**Global Edition**

