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Nigerian Pentecostalism and Development

Spirit, Power, and Transformation

Richard Burgess

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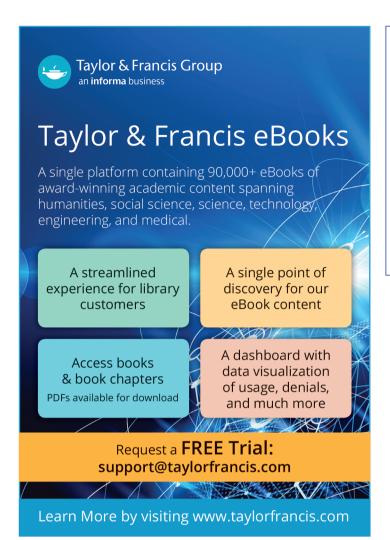
The Nigerian Pentecostal landscape is one of the most vibrant in Africa, with churches increasingly assuming more prominent roles as they seek to address the social and moral ills of contemporary society. This book examines the contributions of Nigerian Pentecostal churches to development, studying their practices broadly in relation to the intersecting spheres of politics, economics, health, education, human rights, and peacebuilding. The book will be of considerable interest to scholars and students with an interest in the intersection between religion and development, and to practitioners and policy makers working in the region.

"Burgess has mastered the secondary literature and done fresh qualitative research on especially Nigerian neo-Pentecostalism and its diaspora in order to present in almost comprehensive compass evidence of the potential for social transformation embedded in pneumatic and charismatic spirituality. The local and yet transnational scope of this study frames the discussion of Pentecostalism and development for decades to come." – Amos Yong, Dean of the School of Theology & School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Seminary

"Drawing on many years of up-close involvement with and intensive study of Nigerian Pentecostal churches, Richard Burgess offers highly readable, insightful, ethnographically rich analysis of the relationship between Pentecostalism and development in Africa's most populous country." – Daniel Jordan Smith, Charles C. Tillinghast, Jr. Professor of International Studies, Brown University

"This volume deserves an exemplary status in the thriving field of studies on global Pentecostalism. In a rare multi-disciplinary approach Burgess explores contemporary transformations within Nigerian Pentecostalism including its wide transnational networks ... With such compact sense of development the volume inspires future comparative analyses of the social agency of Pentecostalism." -Andreas Heuser, University of Basel, Switzerland

"This book makes a major contribution to the literature on the role of religion in development, drawing on the innovative practices of progressive Pentecostal churches in Nigeria." - Donald E. Miller, Leonard K. Firestone Professor of Religion, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, University of Southern California



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