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ISBN: 978-1-7393211-7-8 978-1-7393211-8-5 ISBN (Kindle): ISBN (ePub): 978-1-7393211-9-2 Pastor Daniels Ekarte

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African Churches Mission

Liverpool 1931-1964

Marika Sherwood

WITH A PREFACE BY STEPHEN SMALL

A young man arrived in Liverpool from Nigeria around 1915, expecting to find the streets paved with gold. The Dingle area of Toxteth he settled in was instead depressed, poor, racist, and to his mind, ungodly. In 1931, he founded the African Churches Mission, in which he not only conducted services but also fed and clothed the poor of the community, and housed seamen and others denied accommodation due to the colour of their skin. He also provided a home for the unwanted children of local white women left behind by their fathers. African American servicemen who returned home when World War II ended.

As a radical supporter of pro-independence and anti-racist movements in the African Diaspora, he was regarded as troublesome by the Establishment, and therefore received no state or voluntary support, not even from the Anti-Slavery Society. Nevertheless, he and his mission soldiered on for over thirty years, until the dilapidated building was finally demolished by the Council in 1964.

Using British and international sources, historian Marika Sherwood has pieced together this account of the remarkable life and work of Pastor Daniels Ekarte (referred to as the African Saint), retelling an inspiring story of kindness, activism, Black pride and resilience in a city built on the exploitation of his Continent.

MARIKA SHERWOOD is an internationally-renowned historian, educator and author based in England. A Hungarian-born refugee in 1948, she experienced first-hand the effects of discrimination while working in Papua New Guinea; and also when working in schools in England. Appalled, she decided something had to be done. Her critically-acclaimed books on topics such as slavery, colonialism and the history of African and Caribbean people in Britain have earned her considerable recognition. She has also been a driving force behind the attempts to diversify the UK curriculum, both in schools and higher

education. She has dedicated her life to challenging racial discrimination, and was a co-founder of the Black and Asian Studies Association (BASA).

STEPHEN SMALL is a Professor in the Department of African Diaspora Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1995. He was born and raised in Liverpool 8, and has carried out research, with, about, and for Black people in Liverpool all his life. He has known Marika Sherwood since she first arrived in Liverpool and began research on Pastor Ekarte in 1992.

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