

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Luise Schottroff

Luise Schottroff, Professor of New Testament in Mainz, Kassel, Berkeley and New York died on Febr. 8, 2015 after a long battle with cancer at the age of 80. A pioneer and towering figure of feminist liberationist Bible interpretation in the context of the “First world,” she did groundbreaking socio-historical work in Early Christianity and in reclaiming the Jewish context of Christian scriptures. Together with her husband Willy Schottroff and her close friend Dorothee Soelle she was formative in shaping post-Holocaust Christian theology in Germany for over four decades, both on the academic and congregational level. Numerous of her publications have been translated into English, e.g. her books on *Jesus and the Hope of the Poor* (1986), *Lydia’s Impatient Sisters: A Feminist Social History of Early Christianity* (1995), *Feminist Interpretation: The Bible in Women’s Perspective* (1999, together with Sylvia Schroer and Marie-Theres Wacker) *The Parables of Jesus* (2006), and *Feminist Biblical Interpretation: A Compendium of Critical Commentary on the Books of the Bible and Related Literature* (2012, together with Marie-Theres Wacker). An enthusiastic visitor to SBL meetings, she after her retirement taught several semesters in Berkeley and, in 2005, a highly popular course on First Corinthians at Union Theological Seminary in New York. The work with the Corinthian correspondence and with Paul since then has kept her engaged until she was able to complete her commentary in 2012. Another manuscript on the gospel of Matthew stays unfinished, though. Embedded into a close network of friends in Europe and the United States – many of them former students and colleagues – she in her final months reflected on her happiness in dying as part of a community (“Sterbeglueck”). Already very weak, she nonetheless never lost her exegetical passion and firmly rooted “textual piety”: her last message to her friends was a request to send brief notes and thoughts on Matthew 28 that she wanted to be read to her. Luise died peacefully and will be deeply missed and mourned.