

Former Alberni Man Publishes Book¹

Dwayne Stern

A former Alberni Valley resident, who has spent the greater part of his life in Nigeria, will be visiting relatives in Port Alberni and introducing his recently-published book as part of a two week RV vacation on Vancouver Island.

Jan Boer, who lived on Gertrude Street in what was then Alberni, spent most of his teenage years in the Alberni Valley from 1952 to 1958.

At various times during that period he delivered newspapers for the *Vancouver Sun*, did janitorial work at the Christian Reformed Church and labored at Alberni Plywood and Alberni Pacific Lumber (APD). All this while attaining his high school diploma through BC Government Correspondence.

Boer left Alberni to study in 1958. He had originally intended to study accountancy at the University of British Columbia, but instead chose religion and Calvin College in Michigan.

Boer said, "That (accountancy) was overruled by the Almighty Himself, with whom I had an actual struggle, which He won. I then turned to the ministry and at the end I believe we both won."

After graduating in 1965, Boer spent the better part of 30 years helping to establish a mission for the Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria.

It is this experience that has inspired his recently-published series, *Studies in Christian-Muslim Relations*. Volume One in the series, *Nigeria's Decades of Blood 1980-2002* is an account of Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria. Much of the work is based on opinions of Nigerians, both Christian and Muslim.

Some of Boer's other works have been published in magazines in Canada, the U.S. and Nigeria. Among those is an article entitled, "Western-Christian-Muslim

¹ Stern, Dwayne, *Alberni Valley Times*, 25 July/2003. In my day, Alberni was a separate town with Port Alberni as its close neighbour. Since then, the two have been amalgamated and took the name of the older and larger town "Port Alberni" "Alberni" is no longer on the map.

Relations in the Current Crisis – A Christian Challenge,” which deals in part with the US involvement in Asia.

You can get information about and see much of Mr. Boer’s works on the Internet at <http://.socialtheology.com>.