

FROM LaVerne: Re. Vol. 8--

I see the book as a singular beacon of hope...allowing people to find their way through an incredibly complex situation...providing ways and means to further positive progress in searching for methods/solutions to resolve issues and make Nigeria work. By posting guidelines along the way, in developing not only the possibility, but also both the necessity and the probability that shifting gears and seeing who else is along in the car for the journey with you, can surely inform all that the past needs not be endlessly repeated.

Just knowing there can be a way through that generates creativity and turns the head and heart towards accepting the challenge. And knowing ahead of time that making a compromise or two is a sign of intelligence, not of weakness; this is but one of the tools provided for committing to work enthusiastically toward re-shaping the future in Nigeria and, by extension, *everywhere* else now, too.

Of course it throws up many questions and concerns, but *now* there is a good foundation to examine and resolve these issues. Nothing in the book is dictatorial-- it releases all to get down, get through and get going! So the thing begins to look possible. The tool box is filling up, the light has turned green, all that forward momentum!

I tell people, read this book *first!*.... then go back and read all the descriptive, anecdotal, philosophical, historical and background stuff in the first eight books. It will put you in a better frame of mind to *know* that the past does not doom the future. Because of the context and the content, it *does not "read fast"* - but, *it does read well!* I stay ahead of Bill because I started one first, and I can always tell the spots that he will laugh out loud. I mark them "LOL" and when it happens, we can talk about that issue at hand, because the book compels comprehension.

A thing that makes it so acceptable is that some Muslims have appreciated the work, the wisdom, and the routes to the roadmap that is laid out.

I jumped in and started with Gender and Human Rights and Politics chapters 8, then 7, then 6, then went back to the beginning. Bill started at beginning and plowed slowly through the process part ( General Intro and Intro to Part 2) and stalled a bit. Then I would say, pick an issue - read *that*, - and *then* go back to the beginning part.

I am generally more interested in the writing, organization, tracking footnotes, publishing piece that he is. Proof: I read endnotes!!! ahead of.... then with, then ending, with each chapter. He doesn't. At all. He promised he would at the end.

So there you go. We tear up your baby, but we do not destroy the tyke. And the "conversational style" you have employed is so easier to stick with, he reads an hour each night and each morning, I read as often and in more fragmented pieces, but we both feel like we are in conversation with you, not getting material we should be taking notes on.

This is why I can recommend it to the generally non-book reading public. Ok, they like novels, and books-to-movies, but wait! think about it.... This book is a movie, better, probably the series is a movie, with sequels and prequels. Let's find a producer and director. Press on, and God will choose the good ground for the seed.

Oh, I had Gordon Spykman as a teacher, and read and heard all those other guys, too. I took several big tests on Kuyperian World and Life view and drew pictures of "sphere sovereignty." Think Calvin in the early 70's. These guys were there. A personal favorite was Charles Strikwerda. Bill, being a Baptist, was of this mind-set without the historical vocabulary, but with "you are a temple" and "every last thing you do" is subject to your beliefs and "only what's done for Christ will last" well, he was always on board this freight train.

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Comments from Bill:

You probably don't remember, but when we first met together and you said that you wanted to write about the Christian/Muslim relations, I was very enthusiastic. Jesus said, " Blessed are the peace makers." I believe that your work could be an important tool towards making a significant move toward peace. Also I think that both Christians and Muslims need a Reformation. This is God's work and your book is a significant tool. I don't expect to get any responses. My hope is that the responses will come in the purchase of your book and contacts with its author, you.

I have been working my way through the faculty of Political Science schools.

Bill.

January 17, 2010

My dear brother Jan,

LaVerne says that you are welcome to edit LaVerne's comments and use it as you wish.

LaVerne was not accurate about how I saw the introduction to your book. I loved it from the very beginning! And at the end (I just finished it while I was supervising some African American teen boys practice basketball, my own attempt at peacemaking.) your farewell made me cry! When I got home and told LaVerne that it made me cry she asked me to read that part and I was choked up again. I read passages from it with Hamza at our kitchen table doing school work with LaVerne.

I keep telling Laverne, I didn't write a book but God has given me the opportunity to promote this one! Our ministry is also an effort to promote God's will, and peace in our community.

Bill