

Dissertation presented to Redeemer College Library

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This morning I bring you Mr. President, staff & students of Redeemer College the greetings of our Canadian workers in Nigeria. And not only do I bring greetings, but on behalf of one of those workers, I am here to present to you Mr. President, a doctoral dissertation, a monumental work, to be placed in your fast growing library. It is one of those donations, one of those tokens of love from that dedicated, supportive community that has made Redeemer College, with God's help, possible. I cannot tell you how surprised and impressed I was to find this kind of marvelous support in far away West Africa. My son Michael, who cannot be here, but who should be here, carried this heavy volume over five African countries and three continents to be presented to you the staff and students of Redeemer College.

Strange story you say; let me explain what happened.

My son, Michael and I, after lengthy preparations, arrived in Kano, Nigeria on October 1, last year, for a fact finding trip. We were interested in our mission work and our world hunger alleviation programs, but even more interested in the educational systems in the third world, especially West Africa. My son, 23 years old, an English major, plans to spend a few years in Africa as an English teacher, to make a small contribution towards the development of that strange dark world, at present in so much agony and turmoil.

A visit to these countries is no picnic. Being on our own, we did not find a welcome committee to entertain us, we did not have mission airplanes to wing us around. We travelled by means of local transportation, taxis, mini-buses, walking and hitchhiking. We slept in the dirt without water and light and we learned to appreciate the marvelous hospitality of the local people.

When we arrived in Jos, a cool city on a plateau in this hot and humid Nigerian country, we met an old friend, Dr. John Boer. He is a CRC missionary on loan to the local churches. He is involved in that Christian battle against the forces of corruption that poison that society from high to low. Dr. Boer is convinced that only the Gospel of Christ can bring solutions, that our Biblical world and life view spells hope. Dr. Boer follows closely *our* struggles in North America where also the spirits of corruption and greed, much more subtle than in Nigeria, invade our culture from high to low. Dr. Boer is deeply aware that only an educational system based upon the Gospel of Christ can stem the tide. That is why he wanted to make a contribution towards Redeemer College in donating this personalized copy of his dissertation to your library.

Think of it, Dr. Boer and you together, joining hearts and hands, in that gigantic struggle to turn the tide of secularism and materialism, in order that justice may roll again as the waters, and righteousness may become again the cornerstone of the nations.

In that struggle you, students in Redeemer College, preparing your future, being equipped with true knowledge, are going to play such an important role. In that battle of the spirits you are not alone, being one small Christian voice in an ocean of secularism and confusion.

You are supported by the Christian homes you come from, by a constituency that sacrifices to make Redeemer possible, but also by loyal friends and supporters worldwide, even in far away Africa, friends who are aware of your battles and who want to support your institution.

Mr. President, it is an honor and a great pleasure for Michael and me, to present to you this dissertation, with the prayer that the students may receive a deeper understanding of this worldwide battle between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. May the Lord bless our friends far away and may He bless you in your important work in Redeemer College.