



Violence In God's Name: Christian and Muslim Relations In Nigeria: Christian and Muslim Relations In Nigeria

A Christian Van Gorder

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For more than three decades, Nigeria's Muslim and Christian relations have been marked by both amicable and violent encounters. More than 100,000 individuals have perished in increasingly volatile and frequent interreligious riots. Are these bloody atrocities primarily the result of economic or political factors – as government officials insist – or are they rooted in the unique expressions of these two religions? *Violence in God's Name* explores the reasons for and ramifications of Nigeria's multi-faith violence and how these stress fractures might be effectively addressed. Dr. van Gorder does not hide behind theological assertions or ask Christians and Muslims to compromise their faith or evangelistic convictions. He provides an analytical evaluation of past and present tensions between Nigeria's Muslims and Christians. The book culminates into practical directions for realizable multi-faith partnerships for social justice. "Violence in God's Name benefits both from its deep historical perspective, and from the author's thorough knowledge of the situation. This is a rich and well-informed account, which tells us much about the current state of both Christianity and Islam." Philip Jenkins, Pennsylvania State University "Van Gorder has done an excellent job in ... putting the current spate of violence in Nigeria in a nuanced historical context..." David T. Ngong, PhD, Stillman College "Violence in God's Name provides a balanced perspective that is urgently needed at a point when Nigeria's huge potential for African leadership is threatened by unresolved religious conflict. In this book Dr. van Gorder gives us the background, the current situation and points to possible solutions." Dr. Gary Maxey, President West African Theological Seminary "A. Christian van Gorder's insightful perspectives ... offers a concrete pathway forward for genuine multi-faith dialogue that holds both Muslims and Christians accountable. It is a must read for religious and political leaders of all persuasions in Nigeria." Reverend Father Anthony Odiong, Director St. Peter's Catholic Center, Baylor University Dr. A. Christian van Gorder is Assistant Professor of World Religion at Baylor University. Dr. van Gorder has travelled for several decades throughout Africa and around the world intent upon learning more about Muslim and Christian interactions. He is the author of seven books on multicultural and multifaith dynamics. www.adponline.info

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