

Dear Friend

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your e-mail and the encouraging feedback on our book ***Biblical Principles for Africa***. This has received a tremendous response throughout the continent, including from the Presidents of Malawi and Zambia.

We have used it as a textbook for many Biblical Worldview Seminars.

Thank you also for your constructive criticism concerning my 1987 article: ***If Jesus Came To South Africa – Would He Be Detained Or Necklaced***

I think you misunderstand our position. There was no defense of apartheid, but an opposition to liberation theology and its abuse of the Church for political ends. I was never a supporter of apartheid. My opposition to apartheid was consistent, vocal and even included in books such as: *South Africa – Renaissance or Reformation?*

My family came from the English liberal tradition and opposed the National Party government and apartheid on principle. I chose to study in a multi-racial Theological college back in the early 80's when that was considered completely unacceptable. I received visits from the Military Intelligence, the Security Police, and National Intelligence Service for my missionary activities in Communist Mozambique and writings which they questioned as subversive. I was criticized and attacked by my own Baptist church for going into black and coloured townships without a permit in violation of the apartheid laws (in the late 1970's and early 1980's).

As a missionary who for 26 years has dedicated my life to serving mostly black people suffering in countries as far afield as Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria, The Congo, Rwanda and Sudan, I have spent more months and years in mud huts and under thatched roofs in remote rural African villages than you probably have.

Opposing communism, terrorism, and political manipulation of the churches, such as by Bishop Tutu who hailed Mugabe’s seizure of power in Zimbabwe as “the arrival of the kingdom of God in Zimbabwe!” is not the same thing as supporting apartheid! Please do some more research, into our background and track record. Otherwise you may find yourself bearing false witness against your brother.

I’ve met with Nelson Mandela, and spent an hour talking to him in his home, where we spoke openly of the fact that my opposition to communism and terrorism was not support for apartheid. I think what has happened in Zimbabwe proves our point.

We do strive to be Salt & Light in every area of life, and anyone who knows our work here in Africa sees that.

I’m afraid I don’t know anything about you. Where do you live? What is your background? How much exposure have you had to the realities of South Africa and Zimbabwe?

May the Lord continue to be your joy and strength.

Yours for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Dr Peter Hammond

Director

