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Introduction to Racial Reconciliation

PMN 205

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READING REPORT ON ROADMAP TO RECONCILIATION: SHORT SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THE
AUTHOR BRENDA SALTER MCNEIL.

1. DEFINATION OF RECONCILIATION: ACCORDING TO SALTER MCNEIL, “ Is an ongoing spiritual process involving forgiveness , repentance and justice that restores broken relationships and systems to reflect God’s original intention for all creation to flourish.” Pg.26 She further stated “ that this definition acknowledges the historical wounds that must be healed and transcends an individualistic view to include the need for systemic injustice to be addressed as well.” Pg.26
2. THEOLOGY MATTERS: Debunking the bad theology of the 1930s by the apartheid South Africa regime. The author further emphasizes” that is why it is crucial that our theology be sound , our theology matters!” p.26
3. THE TOWER OF BABEL: As opposed to today’s Towers; “ The inclination to build a tower was a metaphorical attempt to institute a new source of power carved out of human mastery and imagination. The tower was sort of a totem, a visual symbol that could reify the formation of a new civilization – an oblique icon of human superiority.”p.30

4. LANDMARKS OF RECONCILIATION: emphasizes “ Contact theory proposes that if diverse groups spend extended time together , their intergroup conflict and negative effects of racism and ethnocentrism will gradually decrease and possibly even disappear altogether.”
5. SHAKE IT UP: This explains the author’s idea of catalytic events, which “ is the first landmark on our roadmap.” The author stated that;” Transformation requires disruption and a degree of chaos to increase the sense of urgency that change must happen.”
6. A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE: According to the author, “ In order to shift, one must engage in the three essential tasks of the realization phase : i. reorientation, ii. Readiness, iii. restoration.
7. According to the author, there is the need for a group effort, planning for action, doing justice, repairing broken systems together, staying the course, in order to have a vision of a flourishing future.

INTERACTION AND CRITIQUE: What the book revealed about my worldview and spiritual expectation?

- A. The book makes me think more seriously intentionally in my redemption and how I can be spiritually filled continually and be both physically and healthy and live a long life on earth fulfilling the Lord’s mandate and vision.
- B. What I agree most with the author: is the exposition on the bad theology of the apartheid South Africa regime.
- C. How the book impacted my theology and current ministry: According to the Holy Bible in first Corinthians that talks about reconciliation to Christ by God the Father, the book has helped me to reconcile my theology perfectly with the help of the Holy Spirit and has upgraded my ministry currently, by not adding or taking away from the word of God, so that I will not do like the bad theologians of the apartheid South Africa regime.