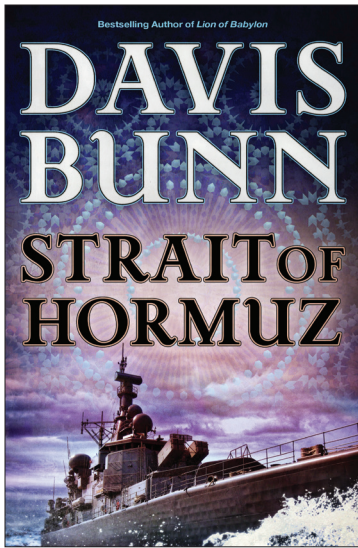




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DAVIS BUNN



Strait of Hormuz

by Davis Bunn

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1. The first two novels in the Marc Royce series have been bestsellers and also won praise from critics. *Lion of Babylon* was named one of *Library Journal's* Best Books of 2011, and *Rare Earth* won the 2012 Christy Award for Suspense Fiction. What do you see is behind this success?

The stories have certainly resonated with the audience. I have tried to develop a strong sense of unfolding drama combined with a unique spiritual theme. This moral structure plays out both in the story and the characters. My aim is to create an inspirational challenge that remains with the reader long after the book has been set down.

2. All three of these stories focus on the missionary church movement in high-risk areas of the world. *Lion of Babylon* explored the church in Baghdad, and *Rare Earth* looked at the rising church movement in Kenya. Where does *Strait of Hormuz* take place?

Well, obviously the title gives this away, at least in part. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical waterways. Stretching between Iran and the Gulf states, the Strait is home to two U.S. fleets. More than one-third of all the oil consumed worldwide passes through these waters. But the story actually begins in Switzerland, before traveling to the Sinai Peninsula and then into the hotly contested Strait of Hormuz.

3. What spiritual theme is the focus of this third novel?

One growing area of the missionary church movement is with displaced persons. More than five million Iranians have been expelled from their homeland or been forced to flee the current regime. This includes virtually the entire Christian population. The missionary movement has made enormous strides in bringing peace to these families and introducing Christ to those Muslims exiled because of an oppressive government.

4. What drew you to the missionary church movement as a theme?

I actually came to faith in a missionary church. I was working as a consultant based in Germany. The year I accepted Christ, the Southern Baptist Mission Board founded a missionary church in Dusseldorf. I attended the church, I grew in the church, I studied under two amazing pastors, and one of them returned to Europe to officiate my wedding. It was also where I learned to write. Two weeks after coming to faith, I felt called to writing. I wrote for nine years and completed seven books before my first was accepted for publication. The church, its members, and the elders all played a vital role in bringing me to where I am now. I am living testimony to their ministry.

5. All three of these novels have given significant insight into the Muslim world, something critics around the nation have picked up on. What experience do you have with this region?

For the four years prior to moving to Germany, I lived and worked in the Middle East. I was the only non-Muslim in the management structure of a family-owned company. They had three major arms: construction equipment, shipping, and pharmaceuticals. I rose to become marketing manager of the pharmaceutical division. One of the requirements of the job was to take instruction in the Koran and Islamic history from an imam who taught at the local university. I think this experience played a major role in my coming to Christ. And that is a story I would love to tell.