

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOUL DAYS

November 2019

November includes the commemoration of all Saints and all soul. The Saints included the well-known Christian who paid the ultimate price for their faithfulness and willing to die for their faith and witness. The all faithful souls include un canonized witness and prophets. The Saints includes Paul who was chained and died like criminal.in both category we have great men like William Tyndale, who were burned at stake for translating the Bible in English, Hugh Latina and Nicholas Radley for starting renewal in England in 1555. Their mission statement was: "We shall light that fire in England as shall never be extinguished." They were accused of "protestantizing" and were burned at stake by the regime of Bloody Queen Mary. We should also commemorate Abraham Lincoln who died for defending the union between Northern and Southern state and abolition of slavery. Similarly, we should remember Stephen Biko, leader of black consciousness in South Africa. By strengthening the ego of his community, he was lock in cell without toilet, sleeping in his urine, and when he became sick, he was transported to the hospital on a truck naked and of course he died nicked. Stephen message was "The sense of defeat in what we are against."

All Saint and All Souls days challenges us to have a mission statement. The mission statement of ANCCI is empowered by the Holy Spirit, we preach the gospel to all nations." As a theologian and cultural anthropologist, I have been awed by unique cultural ethos of the nations that I have minister. I was surprised when I landed at Manila airport, in Philippines to met someone who introduce a motion for debate. We were total strangers. The motion was Vatican 1 verses Vatican 2. I argued for the Vatican 2 while he defended Vatican 1. We argued for 30 minutes. After which I asked him whether he was a theologian. He informed me that He was agriculture Officer. I was pleased by the way we debated without being angry. Another debate was started by a bishop who hosted us after I had consecrated his son, and Ordain several women who included his daughter in law. What amazed me was that the women, who were serving us were the one I have just ordained. But the debate gave me a golden opportunity of walking the audience throw the Bible on women ministry and leadership Starting with Debora, who was a judge and the prophet to Mary Magdalene who was the first Apostle. After the debate, one lady said: "for your information the wife of the man who is debating with you was a pastor."

The Saints undergo through exaltation and humiliation. In August on 2001 I participated in mission to Panama which was organed by the Episcopal church for minority exposure to mission. We were a team of 8. All the missionaries who included African American and native Americans were fair color. I was the only one who was black with three doctorates. To my greatest surprise, I was held with great honor by the Panamas. On one occasion the team attended entertainment. I was surprised by someone who came to me opening his mouth and pointing to his tooth saying: "You are a doctor. Please help me. I have a toothache." I later learned that most of the doctors and profession in Panama are black. However, During the debriefing, the leader of the team concluded that Githiga is the only person who can never be a missionary. This pains me, because, I was already a missionary and had participated on numerous domestic and overseas missions. But being analytical psychologist, I realized that that my dear sister was projecting that part of her which she does not like which is known as shadow.

However, those who minister in Christ are connected with the universal power which is both immanent and transcended. Our God is a mighty God He is described by Daniel as:

"Ancient of the Days: His clothing was as white as snow,
The hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all a blaze

A river of fire was flowing coming out from before him,
Thousand upon thousand attended him

Ten thousand time ten thousand stood before him. Daniel 7-10

So, whatever you are going through because of your faithfulness and commitment to the ministry, remember our God is all powerful and faithful. He know what you are going through and will strengthen you. Remember, "no temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. I
Corinthian 10:13

We are most grateful to those who have been supporting the mission that God has given us. You can plant the seed in our ministry by making a check payable to ANCCI and mail it to P.O. Box 19805, Amarillo, TX 79114 or electronically at www.allnationscci.org

May the Lord fill you with love, peace and joy

+++John G Githiga