



VICTORY OVER DEATH
October, 2013

Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your pain?

These words have been comforting me while I have been mourning the death of innocents who were killed by Jihadist in Westgate Mall and the Christian who were killed at All Saint Church, Peshawar City in Pakistan by the same evil spirit. I shopped in Westgate mall Nairobi in February. So, I know very well this magnificent building where you can get almost any item that you are looking for. At that particular time I was looking for a brief case with four wheels. Some years back you could not get this item in Kenya. There were so many people who were shopping. The Mall has not much different from Westgate Mall in Amarillo, Texas where my wife I go for shopping and relaxation.

What brought lot of tears was that these innocent people were murdered by Al Shabab in the name of God. They targeted the Kenyans and the Americans and nonMuslims. It was painful to see the photos of the innocent shopper who were murdered. They included women and children. While the majority of them were Kenyans, there were also Canadians, Italians, French and the Americans.

While I was still weeping for the Saints who have lost their lives in Kenya, I received an email from our Evangelist in Pakistan with photos reporting that 150 people were killed at all Saints Church on Sunday and 130 were injured and the victims included women and children. We were directly affected since we have 8 ministries in Pakistan, which include two children Bible Schools and a Seminary. We also have ministry which empower women and take care of the orphans. In the same way we have nine ministries in Kenya which included feeding at the dumpsites and internally displaced persons. Besides having ministries in these country, the church in the deepest sense is one. So when one part suffers, the whole body is affected. The challenge which the believers in Pakistan face is that they are looked at through the lenses of their Islamic Government. That being the case, it has been difficulty to raise fund for our ministry in Pakistan. Yet these brothers and sisters are a vital part of the Body of Christ. Interestingly when they reported to me they concluded by asking us: "Please claim a great

revival for Christians of Pakistan.” They did not ask for money. This prayer is answered. The saints who died in All Saints Church planted the seed of the Gospel. As Tertullian, an African Church Father wrote to the Emperor: “The more you persecute us the more we will spread; the blood of the martyr is the seed of the Gospel.”

As with Pakistan Christian we should look at the glory beyond the cross. We should ask with Paul: “death, where is your victory? Death, where is your pain? Christ has conquered death for us. He says: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” John 11:25. So for a Christian, physical death is self defeating for it opens the door for endless life with God. The word of God says this about those who have sold themselves to the devil so as to kill. “But the fire came down and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophets were and they were to be tormented day and night forever and ever...This is the second death.” Rev. 20: 7-13

Thus, as Christians we should focus on the victory and the glory. In this regard, our loving Savior says: “In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16: 33.

May the Lord richly bless you

Peace

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