



*"...Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory?*

*Where, O death, is your sting?*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*I Corinthians 15: 54b-57*

I stood quietly and solemnly as I watched the bakkie (pick-up truck) arrive at the Temba cemetery. It was filled with 47 tiny bodies that were laid to rest, each in a tiny little wooden casket being carried to the grave. Sadly, the bodies of these children were never claimed from Jubilee Hospital by family members. Many of the mothers were probably the victims of AIDS, adding to the catastrophic statistics of the dreaded disease that is taking its toll on this country.

Soon the bakkie was before us. The doors opened and we gently took each casket out of the bakkie and placed it on the ground before us. There were no tears although a hush - an unspoken word of understanding - was evident among the cemetery workers who participated in the service.

Sadness overwhelmed my heart as never before. As I stood next to Meshach, who had invited me to conduct the graveside service, somber thoughts were running through my mind. How can I say all that needs to be said to give these workers hope?

The Word of God proclaims that there is hope beyond the grave! We can rejoice and say as in I Corinthians 15, "*...Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* I Corinthians 15: 54b-57

That was my message that day as we laid those bodies in the ground; and it continues to be our message, as we daily seek to let our light so shine before men while we live out the gospel of Christ. Our mission is to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. By giving each child a home with Godly parents who will instill Biblical principles, it is our prayer that they will put their complete trust and confidence in Christ and become disciples of Him. Remember, there is no sting in death when we know Christ as our personal

*Savior. "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

Thank you to each of you who has stood firm and fully participated in the ministry of Bethesda. As many of you know, October 16<sup>th</sup> will be a milestone for the ministry as we dedicate the Bethesda Village to the Lord. Your labor of love and your financial gifts are not in vain! You are saving precious lives for His glory that they in turn will be able to go out and share with others the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please rally with us as we give all the glory to Him who deserves the praise for what He is doing here at Bethesda Outreach Ministries.

*"...because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

John P. Mixon  
Director, Bethesda Outreach Ministries

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