Christian Voice

Monday, 25 May, 2020

HOW ON EARTH DID WE GET HERE? >pg2

DON'T GIVE UP!

COVID-19 **▶** 56

cases recoveries

deaths

thirty-four-year-old man from **Bulawayo was on Saturday night** fatally shot by suspected police officers in Hillside suburb while driving with his fiancé.

Paul Munakopa, who was shot around 10 pm along Caithness Avenue in Hillside, succumbed to the gunshot wounds and died at United Bulawayo Hospitals (UBH) in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Munakopa's fiancé, Tracy Mufudzi, told CITE in an interview that her fiancé was shot four times by suspected police officers who were driving in a white Toyota Fortuner.

Mufudzi said they had met earlier in the day and had gone together to Burnside suburb to view a house which they were planning to rent.

"We went to my place and parked outside the gate. We were so excited about moving in together and starting our own home. He said the house was a bit old and would need some renovations. He then suggested that we go to Malindela suburb where he would show me a house he once revamped while he was still staying there," she narrated.

Mufudzi said they proceeded to Malindela suburb and parked by near the house.

She said they sat in the car talking for about 20 minutes and as they drove off the white car appeared from nowhere.

"Munakopa reversed his car and we drove off. When we got to Cecil Avenue we spotted the car following us. They caught up with us at Hillside Teachers College and blocked our way. This car had no siren or anything on it and we were just puzzled as to whom it was. We reversed and turned into Cathiness Avenue," she narrated.

She said the car blocked their way again and two white men, who were wearing camouflage caps and had bandanas tied to their faces disembarked from the vehicle.

"We were now panicking because we couldn't even see who these people were nor did we know what they wanted. He tried to reverse again. At the time when he started to drive off we heard

'We were excited about our future together'

Woman shares last moments with slain fiancé



four gunshots. He was hit on his hands, the car lost control and fell into a trench on the side of the road," she said.

"There was no warning shots or anything. They just started firing. At least they could have hooted or asked us to pull over. There was no way we could have just known that these were police officers chasing us."



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She added that the two armed cops came to the car and started smashing the windows.

"I was seated at the back seat of the car and I was screaming. I reached out for Munakopa and held his head. I felt blood all over it. One of the white men told the cops that Munakopa was bleeding and asked for something to help to apply pressure to prevent blood loss," she said.

"The man then called for an ambulance, more police officers came to the scene. I asked them why they didn't fire warning shots, the cops said they fired at us because we did not stop."

Mufudzi said an ambulance came about 30 minutes later, but she remained at the scene until the car was towed away.

Her brother picked her up and they drove to UBH.

"At UBH they said I should have been accompanied by a police officer who would explain what had transpired. They said he had

lost a lot of blood because the bullets had hit several arteries. They said they'd only give him painkillers and operate on him the following day. Around 4 AM I got a message that he had passed on," she said.

She said she then proceeded to Central Police Station to open a case against the police but was referred to Hillside police station.

"When I got there I was ushered into a room where we found one of the officers who shot at us. He looked at me and laughed. I ran out of the room crying. They then started recording my statement as a witness to the case. I told them that I wanted to open a case too against the police but they told me that I was not allowed to do so," she said.

When contacted for a comment, national police spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said he was yet to get the full details on the case. **Source: Cite**

How on Earth did we get here?

Woman shares last moments with slain fiancé

Bishop Ngwiza Mnkandla

n his writings, Dave Richards says "we are here through forsaking the Lord, His ways and word". Today's teaching therefore desires to unpack meaning from his text.

1) If God created the universe, then by right of creation He legislates for all men. Western civilization was built on the back of a legal code drawn from biblical law. The universe functions best when run on the Creators manual. Violate this and two things will happen: the system will fight back, aided by God's curse and judgment.

We are bearing the consequences of defying God's law which by the way no one has ever succeeded in breaking. Watch what happens when God withdraws the Holy Spirit and His restraining influence. As Evangelicals we've fallen for the trap of the enemy in trying to prove the existence of God. Ask your non-believing neighbor to prove to you that there is no God and see how far he will go. God created and owns the universe.

Obey His laws and they will work for you believer or non- believer. We've not only rejected God's son, but we've sought to eliminate God from the public square. If all things hold together in Christ, then without Him they fall apart. That's how we've got here! If things are falling apart in your life, the first checkpoint should be to see if Christ is still at the center whether we are talking about the individual, family, church or society.

2) We've attacked the Family. The family was so important to God that four of the Ten Commandments were meant to protect its integrity! We cannot understand relationships in the Godhead and between God and man without understanding the institution of the family which preceded and remained after the Fall. This is God's basic unit for governing human society. Touch this and you not only destroy the Church, but you also destroy Government because neither can exist without it. Powerful guns are aimed at the family institution and their fire is taking it apart piece by piece.

A careful strategy has been meticulously executed over the years. The tragedy is that the Church has by and large been blind to this war.

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Reflections from Scriptures

Bishop Ancelimo Magaya

s the world continues in its struggle to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic with most people panicking and fear of death settling in, the word of God should continue to speak into our lives and situations.

1). Being skeptical about resurrection, the Sadducees intending to prove their point, presented a story of a woman married to seven men at different times each dying childless. They pose the question whose wife she would be after resurrection given that all these men had had her as their wife, the lord answered that marriage is for this world but there is no marriage after resurrection.

Christ says to the Sadducees on the same matter "You neither know the scriptures nor the power of God" given their world conditioned mindset it is inconceivable for the Sadducees to imagine a resurrection life, and in presenting to Christ the marriage situation they are used to here on earth they display their cluelessness on the power of God, namely that a completely different kind of life superior to the life here on earth is not only conceivable but it is a big reality in God's economy. Resurrection is indeed a reality.

2)."Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For he is not the God of the dead but of the living: for all live unto him" (Luke 20 verse 37-38).

This excellent thesis succinctly and cogently argues for higher life of an eternal nature after we leave this world whether leaving it because of corona or by old age. Eternal life is therefore more real than physical death. Abraham, Isaac

This excellent thesis succinctly and cogently argues for higher life of an eternal nature after we leave this world whether leaving it because of corona or by old age. Eternal life is therefore more real than physical death...

and Jacob: our patriarchs long left this world and during the time of Moses' encounter with God through the burning bush, these patriarchs had left this world three hundred years back. Christ scholarly argues that because Moses refers to God as the God of these patriarchs, it means that though these people had physically died, they are alive because God cannot be the God of the dead. Such depth and profundity of truth should embolden the church and together with Apostle Paul mock death because soon its sting will be no more. Resurrection is a reality.

Our focus should therefore be to:

- a. Make right our relationship with God.
- b. Preach the gospel to the lost souls
- c. Fully discover our life purpose and live accordingly
- d. Look forward to leaving this world whether through sickness, old age or rapture.

Praise be to God!

How on Earth did we get here?

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We cannot be complacent about the authority of God's word, the life and future of the family, the calling of the church or the function of the state. If we don't wake up now, there'll be very little to fight for. It's time to stand up for what God says about the family.

Let me warn you that it will cost you to stand for the truth in this space because the opposition will not be kind. Without the family, there is no church and there is no government! Only chaos and continuous meltdown. Society falls apart. The clock turns back on civilization. That's what happens when we aren't concerned about future generations. It's that serious. But God will not allow it. I trust you won't either.

3) We've bowed to the god of mammon! The love of money is the root of all evil. A little while back, Mom Howie quoted a few scriptures from Paul on the love of money. We love money more than we love God. Money buys all things, but it sure has destroyed a lot of things too. There's big money behind most of what we see today. Whether it's advertising or publicity to influence people's minds, or behind the scenes lobbying to influence policy decisions, there are cartels controlling whole industries or Queen Bees running whole countries. That's why it's not so easy to effect change. Leaders have been eliminated because they stood in the way.

Research findings have been falsified to protect brand names. Elections have been rigged because money passed hands under the table. Much of what's happening today is linked to big money whether of corporations or of governments. Follow the money and you will find the decision trail. Sad to say, many have fallen for its allurements. How free are you from this trap?



INSTON Churchill once said, "Kites rise highest against the wind — not with it". It has been said only dead fish flow with the tide. As we strive for success challenges are inevitable, but we should face them head-on as my prose poetry below would say:

Jonah

Nyoni

Don't give up! strive your way up!, the force of gravity may try to pull you down but cry in bravery don't be vexed but be blessed because as always, dawn Yes, I say dawn will break to be blossomed by that bright, breezy day adorned, infused, enthused and decorated by a pearl-like opalescence rippled in waves of iridescence.

Your rapture will rise and you will feel a tingle-like sensation, tailoring down your spine and melting your bones. As if you took a chill pill No! I say NO! Only because I know that the storm rolls in for you to come out strong, with triceps tough like teak and biceps bulging and better for bigger burdens. Strive your way up! So as to enjoy the grotto- coolness of your golden cave. Don't stop to pave and swim against that wave and you will be on the crest!

There are hard seasons that everyone goes through. Every dry season has its importance

and in most cases such times prune our bad character to bring the best out of us. Such times herald the new season that we are about to enter into. When we fail this step, we cannot graduate to the next level. The bad behavior we cannot conquer when we are in tough times, determines how long we stay in the desert. Your dream will at one time make you stand in "the midst of a fiery furnace". This is good! You have to go through the tough and the rough times.

Elisha Goodman illustrates it so painfully frank; for David to reach the top there was to be a Goliath. Goodman further goes on to say: "Your enemy is as important as your friends. Friends create comfort while your enemy creates rewards. Do you want to be rewarded? Then there has to be a test. Tests, trials and tribulations give birth to testimonies and triumphs.

Storms are unavoidable, but misery (when passing through those storms) is what is optional. In this instance, when things seem gloomy, that is when many people give up, not realizing that it is like a woman giving birth; if she stops pushing she will experience at least one of many fates such as damaging the child or aborting. Some people have failed in the process thereby aborting the dream that God intended them to do. For David to be a wise, great and gusto-packed leader he had to confront a Goliath and face the harsh conditions of being a shepherd boy. He conquered the

giant Goliath so as to become the giant himself. Do you want to break into the limelight? Kill the Goliath that is menacing in front of you.

Whether you are from the sacred or secular world, you will agree with me that those who are successful in life will tell you that what they dreamt made then go through some kind of test or trial. For gold to be called pure it has to go through refinement. Now, we stand on the edge, with two options to embrace. One option is to abandon your dream in fear of the tests and the other is to dive into the dream and be refined and find yourself in the history books and standing with the great. Life, there are two basic people that we have on earth, connotatively, those that dream and those that sleep.

Dreamers are those people who have been branded by society as being ambitious, who love to see things happening and always want to make this world better than they found it; by making their own contributions.

There are people who cause action, those who watch action and those who are reeling in confusion, they do not even know what causes action, how it is caused and they do not bother learning how to bring about action. They specialize in gobbling what others have toiled for. They do not necessarily get positive tests, but they just would want to always taste what others have done.

Stand up, face your storms and be a star!