

牧靈札記 11/12/2017

恩浸人啊！上主日崇拜後，我們如常在餐館享用午餐，團契快樂時，槍手凱利 (Devin Patrick Kelley) 於上午 11 時 30 分，穿戴黑色戰鬥裝備，手持突擊步槍闖入德州薩瑟蘭泉 (Sutherland Springs) 第一浸信會教堂，對正在祈禱的會眾掃射，26 名死者年齡在 5 歲至 72 歲之間，其中有一名孕婦。是美國歷史上傷亡人數第 5 大的槍擊案。

根據《CNN》報導，教會牧師波默羅 (Frank Pomeroy) 夫婦當天不在禮拜堂，去了奧克拉荷馬州，其妻子雪莉 (Sherri Pomeroy) 沉痛地表示，她 14 歲的女兒也在槍擊中身亡。

屠殺慘案發生後，經過短暫的追捕，警方發現嫌疑人中彈死於車內，目前並不清楚是兇手自裁，還是當地居民自衛朝兇嫌開槍所造成。事發當地為一個小社區，居民約有 400 人，幾乎每個人都互相認識，大約有 100 名受害者家屬聚集在教堂旁邊的瑟蘭泉社區大樓內，祈禱並等待親人的消息。

根據空軍記錄，2012 年，凱利在新墨西哥州霍洛曼空軍基地 (Holloman Air Force Base) 服役期間，曾因攻擊行為遭到指控。空軍記錄還表明，在與第一任妻子結婚僅數月後，他就開始多次毆打、腳踹妻子，掐她的脖子；空軍稱他對繼子頭部造成的傷害「足以導致死亡或嚴重身體傷害」。

犯案前他過著極度混亂的生活，和他有交集的人無不深受其害。據報槍擊事件可能是因「家庭問題」

引發的，與他分居的妻子及其家人有關。據當地執法部門稱，凱利的第二任妻子有時會和她的大家庭成員一起去那座教堂。

面對這悲傷的事件，我們如何處理內心的爭扎呢？母會的 Taylor Sandlin 牧師在教會網頁說：我們可以有以下的態度：

Grieve 憂傷 One of the most appropriate things we can do when faced with tragedy and death is to grieve. Grief can take the form of tears, sorrow, and even prayerful laments. When David's friend Jonathan died, David took the time to compose a song on his behalf (2 Samuel 撒下 1: 17-27). Poems or journal entries or prayers that name our grief help us heal. This is true even when the only prayer we can utter is, "This should not be." When bad things happen and no one says a word, tragedy is heaped upon tragedy. We honor life when we grieve its absence and protest its violation. In the face of evil and tragedy, grieve.

Help 援助 In moments like this, it is tempting to throw up our hands in despair or lash out at others in our anger. Remember Paul's words, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 羅 12: 21). In the face of tragedy, look for ways to help others. It has been heartening to see the outpouring of support for FBC and the families who attend there from people from all walks of life. Our missions committee is in the process of making a donation to the church. I encourage you to do the same. If you can't help victims directly, then look for

some other opportunity to do good today. Our gospel declares that evil does not get the last say in our lives. Love does, so put love into action today.

Listen 聆聽 I realize that this doesn't seem like much in the face of a tragedy like this, but communities are strengthened when we listen to one another. It is clear that people have different opinions as to what should be done to help prevent shootings like this. With each shooting, those opinions seem to be ever more entrenched. Instead of talking to and with one another about a complex issue, we shout over one another. We seek to score points instead of understanding. Divides are deepened rather than bridged. As difficult as it is, attempt to listen this week to someone who has a different point of view from your own. Ask them, "How did you come to your point of view?" Put the emphasis upon listening rather than speaking. Listening builds trust, even if after listening we still don't agree with what we have heard. Trust provides the foundation for working together. It seems obvious that we need to work together if we are to build safer, more loving communities in the days ahead.

感謝主，根據 Fox 電視台報導：美南浸信會聯會將支付該教會受難者的殮葬費用，表達我們的關懷和支援，浸會一家親。

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