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I'm no longer normal, says man whose wife died after church event

AUGUST 22, 2015 : JESUSEGUN ALAGBE 15 COMMENTS

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Joywealth. Inset: Francis

It's been nine months since Francis Osaeliogor lost his 39-year-old wife, Joywealth, mysteriously and when one would have expected him to be healing over his loss, the father of two is still in shock, traumatised and confused.

Indeed, his current mental state may not be his fault, more so when he had yet to unravel the cause of his wife's death.

If the lady had died in an accident, or was sick or hacked to death or even died in her sleep, Francis may probably have mellowed a bit. But since the cause of her death had remained unravelled, Osaeliogor said he will not be at peace until he finds out how his wife

died.

Looking confused and pitiful while speaking to our correspondent earlier in the week, Francis told the story of the last day he saw his wife.

According to him, in the morning of Tuesday, December 16, 2014, Francis, who is a former pastor of the Believers' Loveworld Inc., popularly known as Christ Embassy, bid his wife goodbye for a business transaction in Ikoyi, Lagos, as an insurance broker, while his wife also informed him that she would be going out to attend an end of the year party of Inner City Mission, one of the arms of the ministry where she was a member of staff.

However, that would be the last goodbye they would say to each other.

In the middle of the night of the following day, around 3am, someone knocked at the door of his Mowe, Ogun

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State residence, asking him to come out to see what had happened. He opened the door, met a group of torch-wielding vigilantes and on the ground lay the body of his wife downwards, lifeless.

Seeing his wife's lifeless body, his feet shrank. "My wife vomited some reddish stuff and blood, her face lying on the ground," he remembered.

He said some members of a church close to the Osaeliogors' residence were returning home after a vigil when they found Joywealth's body at the entrance of the compound. They were afraid, so they called the vigilantes, who were able to identify who she was.

"I was a pastor of the Christ Embassy at Orimerunmu, Olowotodo Bus stop in Mowe. I started leading the church in 2008, though I had been in the ministry since 1996. I was a part-time pastor and I also planted several branches of the church. My wife was a staff of one of the ministry's arms called Inner City Mission before her death. We were married for 10 years until death took her away from me. On that fateful day, December 16, 2014, she told me she was going to attend their end of the year party in their department at the headquarters in Oregun. She was in the education unit as a teacher. She joined the Inner City Mission in 2004.

"I was a member of the Department of Children's Books at the headquarters too and we too were having our own end of the year party, but that day, I left home before her because I had a business to attend to in Ikoyi. A client gave me a business to transact that day, so I didn't wait for her. Throughout that day, I was communicating with her on the phone. I returned from Ikoyi later in the day to meet my own people. When it was 9pm, I called her that I was going home and asked where she was. I thought we could go home together, but from the way she responded I knew they were not yet through. We have two kids, so I left her there so that one of us could be with them.

"When I reached Berger, she called me to ask where I was and I told her that there was heavy traffic. I got home past 10pm and met the children asleep already. I called her again and she said they were yet to be through. I waited for a while and by the time it was past 11pm. I called her and told her not to bother coming home again. I told her to find a place to sleep around the church area because it was already late."

Francis thought his wife would have found somewhere to sleep that night, but just to satisfy his conscience, he put a call through to her, but she didn't pick it. He placed 52 more calls to her phone – until the unimaginable happened.

He said, "I sat in the sitting room and I couldn't enter the bedroom. I just didn't feel sleepy. In order to be sure that she eventually found somewhere to sleep, I started calling her again, and at that point in time, she didn't pick my calls again. I called her 53 times that night and she didn't answer any. When it was 3:57am, one of the vigilantes knocked at my door and I was a bit afraid. 'It's me, pastor, please come outside. Some people want to see you,' the man told me. I was on boxers and singlet and I went out. Behold, I saw the body of my wife at the entrance of my compound, lifeless. I ran mad.

"I still thought she was in a coma. When I checked her, there was no trace of her being strangled; her bag was there with all her things intact. No injury, no gunshot. Her dress and hair were unruffled. There was no part of her body removed. Nothing was removed from her purse. Everything she bought in the morning of the day she went for the party was there. The only thing I noticed was that one of her shoes was missing. Neighbours came and everyone was disturbed. We started pouring water on her, but she had gone. I called one of her colleagues to ask what happened and I learned they were six who live in the Mowe-Ibafo area that entered their staff bus after the party was over."

The next series of events have made Francis to be psychologically disturbed.

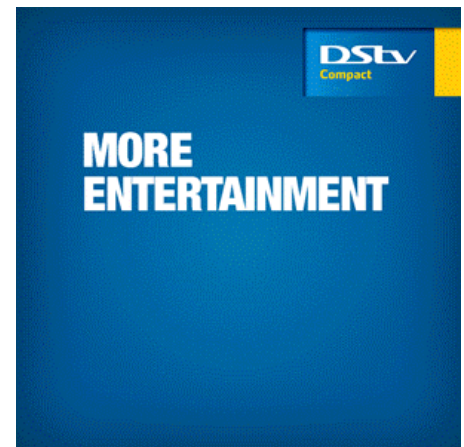
He said, "The driver of the staff bus lives in Asese and he claimed he dropped my wife at the bus stop alive. He claimed he dropped two of the staff at the bus stop and that my wife took a motorcycle. I confirmed from someone that they left the party around 12 midnight, and at that time there could have been no motorcycle operator in this area. In that dead night, my wife couldn't have got a bike. I have lived here for many years and I get home late, many times around 10.30pm or 11pm. I have never got a bike around that time. I always trek down.

"If she was alive before she died, she would have picked my calls. No matter how her condition was, she would have managed to pick my call. I am already a mad man. She wasn't robbed. She wasn't shot. The police in Mowe Division have questioned the two people that were dropped off last."

When he was asked whether there was an autopsy, Francis said he was denied access to it despite the fact that he paid N50,000 to the doctor who carried it out. He also said he wrote petition to the State Security Service, a copy of which was shown to our correspondent. However, the security agency had yet to be able to tell him what happened that night.

Joywealth was eventually buried on March 26, 2015, about 100 days after she died, but Francis will probably forever be pained if he is unable to find out why his wife's body was allegedly dumped in the middle of the night.

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He added, "The autopsy was even denied me at first. I paid N50,000 to get it done. I didn't get the report from him directly. It was later at Zone 2 command that I saw it. He wrote there that my wife ate rice and that she was choked to death. I don't believe that. He told me he would give me in three days' time, but for over two months I got nothing.

"I am not fighting anyone, though I am angry. Christ Embassy gave me N200,000, after my wife's burial, on April 16, 2015, and has offered an additional N400,000, which I haven't collected because my wife's death is not about money, but justice. I want justice to prevail.

"Till now, I have not got out of the trauma of the whole thing. I lost my wife, I also lost my job at the church and I'm still facing all these. I received a mail of termination of appointment. The cogent reason for that action I don't know.

"My wife's memory will forever stick to my memory. She was quiet. I never knew the tragedy of losing a wife and job at the same time until it happened to me. She didn't fight anyone, though she used to tell me of gang-up against her by some people, and I used to tell her it's normal everywhere. My daughter is eight years old and my son is five. I am trying to look for a job to sustain them. They don't deserve how their mother is being treated after her death."

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