

Funeral Reflection
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Love is all we need.

None of us knows the whole truth about what lies beyond death.
Christians believe that as we journey between life and death,
We are safe in the hands of an infinitely gracious God.
This God stands with us at this moment.
It is the same God
who was prepared to die in love for all humankind,
who has entered every struggle of our lives with us,
and who deeply understands what we are going through.

In the face of Desmond Oluwatobi's death if we ask what remains, the only answer we can give is: Love.
The love of 9 months of pregnancy, the love of 9 weeks of his young life, the love and care his mother and her friends had for him, the love of the hospital staff where he had to live most part of his short life, the love with which we were hoping for his and his mother's future, the love with which we prepared his baptism that in the end never took place, the love with which his name was written into the book of the church, the love with which church people were wrapping presents for him which he never received, the love with which we were waiting for him on Sunday a week ago, - all those remain...

Looking at this tiny coffin, I give my heartfelt thanks to God for the few moments I held Desmond in my arms 3 weeks ago. I held him for the first and for the last time.

That his young life simply did not continue, that his body did not have enough strength to survive, that he suddenly stopped breathing, after we all had thought he had overcome the worst, is something our human understanding finds hard to take in.

We ask why... knowing that there is no answer to that question, knowing that it is not God taking this baby from us, but that God is all around us and with us in our painful questioning why and in our sorrow.

We were all prepared to love this little boy. Now we are standing here with hearts and hands full but no where to give ...
And the most Christian way to react to this is, to give what we had for Desmond Oluwatobi to those who are still alive. To give our love to his mourning mother, to her friends, to other children and to the people who are living with us and who need us and are waiting for our love and care.
If Desmond's death makes any sense, then this sense lies in our giving of our love to others and making sure that new life can be lived and found among those who now grieve...

This is really all that needs to be said at the coffin of a lovely little baby boy who only had nine weeks of life.
Let us hold one another in love, because God loves us. Amen.