

Use “The Scene” to introduce “No Death?” the High School Sunday school lesson for May 8, 2016. The lesson is found on page 63 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Randy Hentzel, 48, had been a missionary living in Jamaica for eight years. He taught students about the Bible and about construction. He helped them to earn money by repairing church buildings and making children’s toys.

Harold Nichols, 53, had been a missionary in Jamaica for twelve years. Among other things, he had worked with the Hentzel family to host medical clinics and build houses for their Jamaican community.

Both men enjoyed exploring the country on their motorbikes, often while they were on their way to check on the people they served. It is thought that they might have been doing just that, on the way to check on a home construction site, when they were brutally killed this past Saturday.

Sara Hentzel, Randy’s wife and mother to their five kids, commented that among the locals they knew, she had never felt threatened in the years they lived there, even though Jamaica has a high rate of violent crime. She and her three teenage children had recently moved back to the United States, and her husband was planning on joining the family after staying to ensure a smooth handoff to the new leaders of the ministry school he had opened in 2012. He was supposed to be home in Iowa in time for his child’s high school graduation, coming up on May 14.

As of right now, three suspects are being held in connection to the murders. No reports on a motive have been released.

But the motives of the victims were widely known by the people they touched. As Sarah Hentzel said about her husband, “He was just always looking for ways to make people’s lives better” (based on reporting by Julie Zauzmer, from *The Washington Post* online).

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above story to read. Then discuss it in this way:

This may not be the first time you have heard of missionaries being killed while living in countries other than their own. What do you think about events like this? What first thoughts come to mind?

The stories about these men tell about many lives being changed. It’s hard to even imagine the extent to which they have impacted the lives of people in Jamaica for generations to come. Does that affect how you think about their deaths?

How do the stories of these missionaries affect the way you think about your own life? Explain your answers.

Job recognized three truths about death. Let’s discover what those are.