As a human, I am saddened by the sheer disregard for the lives of 49 innocent people; as a mother, I am broken and cannot begin to fathom what it would be like to see my child go off and never return, because someone committed an inhumane act based on his beliefs. As a nurse, I wish I could have been there to assist in saving a life; but now, as a social worker, I am going to raise my voice against such atrocities!! I am incensed that people use God to justify hate when God is Love! Part of the circle of life entails dying; however, when life is cut off in a cruel and senseless way, it touches places that a natural death wouldn’t. So you now have to say goodbye for now to a son, a daughter, a niece, a nephew, a best friend, a cousin, brother, sister, aunt, or uncle. Perhaps the next president or Picasso. Our hearts are bleeding for the injustices and social ills of our modern society while calling for peace and healing. When will the racial, sexual orientation, religious, socio-economic, and gender barriers be broken. When will love and respect for one another be the universal order? I extend to the families, friends, and surrounding communities my deepest sympathy. It is my prayer that this moment will not be in vain, or just another occurrence that will soon fade into our memories. If we don’t stand for what is right, the lives lost will be for naught.

**“Saying Good-bye”**

Saying good-bye is hard to do; and at these times, your words are few.

For, how can you say good-bye to someone so dear; when tomorrow is hard to face because they’re no longer here.

We enter into this world to achieve a certain goal;

For this is the passing place of every body’s soul.

To enter into a kingdom where suffering is no more, it’s where the hearts are free and the spirits do soar.

Although they’ll be missed, your memories will never part because photos are permanent when taken by the heart

and yet there will be times of great sadness and pain, until such a time when we’ll all meet again!

May peace, love, and healing flow your way now and always.

Kimberly R. Thomas