

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

April 2021

It is with sadness and exhilaration that I have to tell you that Chief passed at 14:46 on Thursday, March 18, 2021. I say it's with sadness for those of us left behind but exhilaration because now he is in the presence of the Lord, praising and worshipping, which was his love and gift. For all of you that knew him you know that he was awesome when it came to leading you into the presence of the Lord through worship, and his heart was that he wanted you to go with him, but whether you went or not he was going to go. That was what made him and his worship so wonderful and experiential. Daily worship to Chief was as important as reading the word daily and praying daily.

Many didn't know he had several college degrees and taught music at the university level in Romania for several years. He traveled extensively and knew several languages. And this was besides his degree in theology and counseling. But when it came time to worship, that was a whole other story, he could lose track of time and worship for hours and anyone around was welcome to join in. He also had a passion for helping others understand and walk in their calling, as many of you experienced, the Lord frequently gave him words of knowledge and encouragement for those around him. And yes, at times there were words of correction too, but it was all in the love of the Lord. My prayer is that, of those who knew him and allowed him to speak into your life that you will reflect on those things and put them into practice.

Over the years I saw him change into the awesome man of God and a reflection of our Lord Jesus in everything that he did. Anytime he would have someone come to him that had a problem or ask him to pray for them he would do that right there. He was always willing to do it no matter what was going on, or what he was going through. No matter how he felt whether he be sick, tired, or in the middle of something he would stop and minister to others. It didn't matter what color your skin was, your affiliations, or even your beliefs, he always had time to pray for you, to share the love of God with you or to give you a soup.

Most of you knew him as the "go to guy" if you had a problem or needed prayer. He was kind and generous, That is what I loved about him. I know that some of you don't know who I am, but I am Ms G, he always referred to me as his secretary, it was kind of a game that we played with each other, because although I transcribed the newsletters (which he wrote and sent to me), and sent them out, found people and addresses for some of you and assisted in many other ways, I am really not a secretary. But over the 20+ years that I knew him, we worked together, worshipped together, ministered together, laughed together, cried together and went through many things together, some good, some not so good, and that included his time in prison. It wasn't until these last few months that the Lord opened both of our eyes to the love that we had for each other, first to him, then to me. On March 6th, Chief asked me to marry him, after praying about it I told him yes on March 7. It was amazing how although neither one of us recognized or acknowledged the love that we had, it had been growing for years and it just started flooding in. God revealed to both of us how He had been weaving our lives and love together from the beginning. When we were finally able to talk for longer than five minutes, we shared those things the Lord had done with/to and through us over the years. There were lots of WOW moments, and yes even some painful ones, but all still orchestrated by the Lord. Our job was obedience. I am so thankful we both passed that test.

As he had shared in previous newsletters he got covid in May 2020, it exacerbated an underlying lung condition and over the next 8 months his health declined. In early January, he went to UTMB Galveston and spent all but about 10 days over the last 3 months in the hospital. We were able to have a video visit on Wednesday, March 17 the day before he passed. He was in the ICU, on continuous dialysis, but his voice was strong, and towards the end of the visit, he asked me to pray for him, I did, then he prayed for me, and then he prayed for our life together, our future, and our love for the Lord and for each other. It was so special and I will always be grateful for that one hour visit.

The hospital was calling me twice a day to give me updates, the evening of Wednesday, March 17 they called me and told me that after visit it was like a miracle because he was smiling, talking with the staff, he was still on continuous dialysis but the blood pressure medicines to keep his blood pressure up was able to be decreased by half. That was very good news, but short-lived. My morning call on Thursday, was that he was less responsive, disoriented, the blood pressure medicines had to be increased again and they were going to have to start a third blood pressure medicine, they put him on oxygen by mask.

That afternoon, the chaplain called me and asked if I had received a report yet today, I said yes, had there been a change, she said yes, he passed at 14:46. My heart breaks for the loss that I have right now but I'm also excited to know that he is with the Lord, praising and worshiping and that someday I will see him again and we will be praising and worshiping the Lord together. I have comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain and all of his organs are fully restored. And he is dancing on streets of gold!

From me and all the family, we want to thank you for your prayers. Please know, Chief is healed, restored and made whole. Your prayers were not in vain. And thank you, thank you, thank you...to ALL the men at Eastham who was there for him, helping him in the last few months he was there, bringing him food, water, assisting him and taking care of him. He told me, he would have died right there if it hadn't been for your help. Know you will receive a prophets reward for your service. He loved you all and always wanted the best for you.

So now what?

The inception of Chief Ministries was birthed out of a vision the Lord gave Chief when he first went into prison. For those of you who aren't aware, Chief, was Native American, which is why he was called Chief, (since everyone has a prison given name not their own). On Christmas morning of the first year Chief was in prison, the Lord asked him "Why do they call you Chief?", Chief's response was, "because of all sinners I feel like I am the chief sinner". The Lord told him, "No, CHIEF is an acronym for, Christ's Heart In Every Felon. And I want you, Chief to start a ministry called CHIEF Ministries." Chief asked the Lord, "How can I do that in here?", The Lord said. "I will put people in place and direct your path." It was shortly after that, that I received a letter from him detailing his and the Lord's conversation and directions. It was then that CHIEF Ministries came into existence. Over the next 15 years, Chief Ministries provided thousands of Bibles to inmates in the prison system in Texas and other states in the country. His mother, Delma, who went on to be with the Lord several years ago, was faithful in writing hundreds of letters per month to different men encouraging them in the Lord. At the time of her death, many of you wrote to the family and they were so encouraged they read many of the letters during her service. Chief (Rob) was also blessed knowing how much she was loved by all of you.

For you guys out there that did know him you know what I am about to say is what he would tell you. Prison is hard, for you on the inside, because of the confinement, because of the conditions, and overall situations. If you have people that are there for you, helping you, supporting you, holding things down for you, it is just as difficult for them on the outside as it is on the inside for you. They may not tell you because they know how difficult it is on you in there, especially if you're always complaining about life

behind bars. Sure, the people on the outside can go to Walmart if they want to, or to the movies, or out to eat, or meet up with friends at the park. But many times those opportunities for which you may see as a luxury, cannot be fulfilled because your loved one is making the choice on spending money on those things or putting it on your books to make sure that you have commissary, ecomm, the ability to call home, or even gas money to come visit you and coin to share chips and a Coke with you at visit.

One of the things that Chief told me when he asked me to marry him was that he had seen so many times and heard guys talking in there about how this one would stay with them but this other one was the one they wanted to be with when they got out. He said he didn't want to be like that, that was not God's way. If you have someone that has stuck with you during your time behind bars, don't use them just for what you can get from them while you are locked up. God will hold you accountable for how you treat that person, that one who was or is holding it down for you on the outside. Take this opportunity to change into that godly man you were created to be, walk in the fullness of your destiny and the path that the Lord has provided for you. He will and does direct your path if you let him! Remember it is all about the choices!!

"Remember that salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you everything", (Bonhoefer) wrote, The Cost of Discipleship, he was hanged in 1936 for standing against Hitler. For those of you who were privileged to know Chief, you know these words are how he lived. He lived, walked, talked and ministered upright. Not only was he a disciple but his discipleship truly did cost him everything.

Here is a poem he wrote in 2007 which sums up who he was and who he wanted each of you to be!

God's Plan

In the beginning of time, God breathed
and we were caressed by His hand
Gently, for me and you, He laid out His plan.
Along the way, the enemy laid snares out
to trap us and capture our soul,
deviously designing ailments
and sins to keep us under his control.
But after escaping these holds, we entered the fold,
and began to walk out the Master's plan.

If we could have known then what we know now,
Perhaps on a different path we'd walk.
But when surrendered to Him,
He takes what is meant for evil
and turns it into something grand.
Now, we're forever grateful we opened
the door when He knocked.

So today, the little things,
often unnoticed, sometimes unseen
are all for the ONE...who gave His only Son.
And these endurings will seem but a moment,
for His plan has been; that we'd do ALL for Him.

And that place He's prepared so bright and so fair
would be filled with His children whom He loves so dear.

We are they who shine brighter and brighter each day.
Helping lead others out of their lives of disarray.
The little things we do are making
a beautiful picture to the eyes of our Lord
The scene we paint on the canvas of God's plan
is too beautiful for us to see here and now.

Sometimes our tools and colors seem gone,
but our hope springs eternal
when on our knees again we bow.
understanding through it all
we are never, ever alone
His will is what we do.
He's using us, so no matter what;
to this we'll be true

So, thank-you for being His partner and mine.
Through all of this, together we will forever shine
The countless seeds planted will continue to take root.
bringing revival to these prisons;
putting the devil underfoot.

God says, "I ordained it, I planned it,
I am the Truth, the Life, the Way.
there is much to be done;
the work is far from complete,
help me make them soldiers
and I'll bless them at the mercy seat.

The Kingdom is Mine
and the Power and the Glory.
so never stop proclaiming
Salvation...My love story
For I am with you even to the ends of the earth.
remember.... I planned this before your certain birth."

So let us all say today,
"Here I am, Lord
your warrior for the cross
bringing healing to the nations
a light for all those lost.
you've done it for me,
so I must do for them
taking up my own cross daily,
serving others, serving Him"

by Robert Franklin (Chief)
October 2007

I am sure he is praising and worshipping like there were no tomorrow....then again, for him, there isn't.

I am continuing to pray about the future of Chief Ministries and Chief's House, both of which were birthed from his vision given by the Lord. I was just a helper, his secretary! My prayer is also that each one of you, pick up your cross daily and walk in the way that pleases and glorifies the Lord. In doing that, you too will be able to enter into the gates of heaven and hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into your rest!"

Blessing and honor to Him, who sits on the throne, His ways are higher than ours and His ways are always perfect!!

In Loving memory, my friend and love forever,

Robert Franklin (aka Chief)

6/4/1966 – 3/18/2021



If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to www.chiefministries.com and www.chiefshouse.org

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