

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



MICHAEL 'MIKE' CHERN
30th OCTOBER 1960 - 22nd APRIL 2023



Welcome

Personal Tributes *Clive, Paul and David*

This is our God

Verse 1

Your Grace is enough
More than I need
At Your Word I will believe
I wait for You
Draw near again
Let Your Spirit make me
new

Chorus

And I will fall at Your feet
I will fall at Your feet
And I will worship You here

Verse 2

Your presence in me
Jesus light the way
By the power of Your Word
I am restored
I am redeemed
By Your Spirit I am free

Chorus

And I will fall at Your feet
I will fall at Your feet
And I will worship You here



Bridge

Freely You gave it all for us
Surrendered Your life upon
that Cross
Great is Your Love
Poured out for all
This is our God

Lifted on high from death to
life
Forever our God is glorified
Servant and King
Rescued the world
This is our God

Personal Tribute and Thanksgiving

Laura

John 1:1-5, 9-12

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life; and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name



Psalm 23

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
- ² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
- ³ He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
- ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all
the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



King of Kings

Verse 1

In the darkness we were
waiting
Without hope without
light
Till from heaven You
came running
There was Mercy in
Your eyes
To fulfil the law and
prophets
To a virgin came the
Word
From a Throne of
endless Glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in
one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the
King of Kings

Verse 2

To reveal the Kingdom
coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole
creation
You did not despise the
cross
For even in Your
suffering
You saw to the other
side
Knowing this was our
salvation
Jesus for our sake You
died

Verse 3

And the morning that
You rose
All of heaven held its
breath
Till that stone was
moved for good



For the Lamb had
conquered death
And the dead rose from
their tombs
And the angels stood in
awe
For the souls of all
who'd come
To the Father are
restored

Verse 4
And the Church of
Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the
flame
Now this Gospel Truth
of old
Shall not kneel shall not
faint
By His Blood and in His
Name
In His Freedom I am
free
For the Love of Jesus
Christ
Who has resurrected me



What now?

Lisa

We are gathered here today as Mike's friends, with his loving wife, Laura, his friends and his family members, and Laura's family members to celebrate Mike's life. Although the last years before his passing had been affected by his illness, Mike was always a joy to visit. We loved him, cherished him, and enjoyed his cheerful company. I would often find him with a big smile on his face despite the suffering he was going through. During his last days whilst visiting him in the hospital, however, I witnessed a different Mike. What might have been his cheerful personality and his attempt to look at his life positively, now had turned into hope. It was the first time I saw real hope in Mike's eyes. As he knew he was about to die I saw joyful expectation on his face. Why? Several years ago, Mike understood that Jesus was real and that He was the only one that could save him from his sins and give him peace with God. As he was now lying on his deathbed Mike knew it deep in his heart that this was true.

Mike's life is showing me that suffering is not a bad thing as God causes all things to work together for our good. You might ask yourself now. What is she talking about? What is that Good? Suffering, pain, and death can't be working for our good. Can it?



Especially, in times like these, we need to take a good look in the mirror and ask ourselves, "What is this really all about?" Unfortunately, it often takes a tragedy or loss to do so.

Do you remember the time when you wondered what you wanted to do with your life... with your ENTIRE life? Do you remember when you made your decisions and moved forward, but were often filled with paralyzing fear and doubts whether this is all there is?

Like many here in this room, I have gone through success but also times of failure and uncertainty. I did this and that, went here and there. I felt invincible and important for a moment, and completely insignificant the next, on my knees in heartache and hopelessness, my thoughts full of doubt and fear due to wrong decisions I had made. I cursed the day of my birth. Does that sound familiar to you?

But after many good and bad years, God nudged me and began to explain to me what the REAL meaning of my life and the question of my existence were.

First, the Bible says (and this is the "bad news"):

- it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment
- that we are dead in our sins and transgressions
- that unless one is born again, he will NEVER see the kingdom of heaven.



But the GOOD news is that Jesus says:

- I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- I died so that you may live.

So, you may think, "That's all well and good, but what does that mean for how I should live my life?"

Jesus has also taken care of this question! He tells us that those who come to Him must believe that He is telling the truth and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Why seek Him? So that we may be transformed into His image (into His thoughts). Romans 8:29

In Romans 12:1+2, it says that we should not be conformed to the thoughts of this world but be transformed in our thinking by reading the Bible WITH JESUS. So that we can run this race (the renewal of our thoughts into Jesus' thinking) and win this race.

So, we see that He has given us an incredibly FANTASTIC, ETERNAL purpose, with the GUARANTEE of winning this race IF we continue to diligently pursue it, just as we diligently pursue so many other things every day that have no eternal goal??? He tells us to seek HIM above all, and then all things will be added to us. What things? Work, a home, family, strength, and comfort in times of weakness.



And the list goes on and on. I stand before you today and can testify that this is true and much more.

There is a REAL purpose for being born and for living here on earth, and that death is not the end, but can become the beginning of something glorious.

Suffering brought Mike, Laura, and myself the best thing ever. HOPE! Hope beyond this life and grave, eternity with Jesus in heaven with things that Mike is witnessing with his own eyes right now. Eternity is written in our heart. The question is, are we sure about where we will spend it?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the years You have gifted us with Mike and for the great times together. Thank You for the saving work You have done in his life through Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Thank You for the hope and assurance that he is now with You in heaven, where there are no tears, no death, no pain and no suffering. Thank You for the hope you have given us through Jesus' Saving work, that one day we will be with You forever.

We praise Your name, Jesus, for everything You have done for us and Mike.



Jesus YOU said, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Mat 11:28)

It is also written: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

This is your opportunity today, regardless of your upbringing, beliefs or background, to say a quiet prayer with me: “Father, I believe in Jesus Christ. I am receiving Him as my Saviour. I thank You, that You made a way for me to have a friendship and a relationship with You now in this life and a hope and eternal life when I die.

Because just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE (this is Jesus), AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM (in Jesus) WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

Jesus also said: “The one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out” (John 6:37)

Thank You Jesus for this hope!

In Your precious character and authority, we pray. Amen

Leaving the chapel