

Clara Mae White Hip Nomee

One day my phone rang with a call from someone who was a part of the Crow Tribal administration. This was unusual. In fact, the two times that'll be mentioned here were the only times this happened.

Clara Mae White Hip Nomee was the Chairwoman of the Crow tribe at the time. She served in that capacity for five terms from 1990 to 2000. It was during that time, in the early 1990s that her administration called me. Clara wanted me to preach at a Tribal administration luncheon. They provided me a time and place. That's all I knew.

After praying and receiving God's leading the message began to come together. By the day of the luncheon things were ready, with the caveat that what is said can always change depending on how the Lord leads by His Holy Spirit. The text was Joshua chapter six concerning the downfall of the city Jericho.

God told His people to march around the city once each day for six days with armed men going before and after the ark of the covenant. Seven priests would be carrying seven trumpets of ram's horns, blowing them as they all marched around the city.

On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times blowing the trumpets of ram's horns. Then after a long blast on the trumpets all the people were to shout loudly. When this was done the walls of Jericho fell flat, and the city was taken as promised by God.

It's a very dramatic part of the recorded history of the Hebrew people. Especially when we consider that the walls were very thick, and at least twenty-six feet high, which sat on top of a forty-foot high embankment. This means there was no way for the Hebrews to effectively attack the city without God's miraculous intervention.

When I arrived at the luncheon there was a large crowd of over two hundred people. Clearly this was an important event, and I had no idea what it was for. Family meals are used for many types of celebrations, requests for prayer, or to honor someone. This was directly connected with the Chairwoman, Clara White Hip Nomee, and the Crow Tribe as a whole, so it was of distinct importance, but I knew not why.

When I asked where they wanted me to sit, they took me to the chair next to the Chairwoman. This was a distinct honor and privilege whatever the reason. So, I sat down hoping that Clara might give me a clue concerning this event.

After a while the Chairwoman leaned over speaking close to my ear and told me this meal was for prayer for her. They had found a large tumor in her abdomen and discovered it was malignant. She was going to the hospital the next day to have it removed. So, she wanted me to "preach a good sermon".

When the time came, I got up prepared to preach about the walls of Jericho. The Lord had given this to me due to the insurmountable challenges faced by the Crow people. That had been my understanding. Now it was clear that the cancerous tumor was one of the most significant insurmountable challenges being faced at that time.

Chairwoman Clara White Hip Nomee was an extremely positive influence with several historic achievements in the behalf of the Crow people. Now she, and the entire Crow Tribe faced the strong possibility of her demise.

While approaching the close of the message it was clear to me what the Lord wanted done. I invited the Chairwoman to come and sit in a chair in the middle of the room. Then all who wanted were invited to

gather around her for prayer.

Standing behind her, others gathered around with each placing a hand on her shoulders. Then other people placed a hand upon the shoulder of the person in front of them with the connections extending in all directions across the room. We all prayed together, and the event came to an end.

If I remember correctly it was about a month later when the second call came from the Administration. They were having another meal for Chairwoman Clara Nomee. The person told me they wanted me to preach again, but to make it a shorter sermon this time. Funny, but probably fair. (Had a good laugh at myself.)

Who knows what the sermon was about that time? Certainly not me. What is clearly remembered is sitting next to Clara again. This time in a clear voice she told me the following without hesitation.

She had gone to the hospital, got checked in, and received anesthesia going fast asleep. When she awakened, she was prepared to feel pain, and thought, "That's funny I don't feel any pain."

Then the doctor came in with two x-rays for them to look at together. He said, "Clara, just before the surgery, while you were out from the anesthesia, I had them x-ray you again so I could see if there were any changes needed in my surgical plan."

He held up the first x-ray and showed her the large tumor that could be easily seen. Then he showed her the second x-ray and explained the obvious, there was no tumor present. He asked her if she had done anything different since the last time he'd seen her.

Clara said, "Some people prayed for me." The surgeon said, there was no explanation, but when he saw the x-ray it was obvious no surgery was needed. So, when she was recovered from the anesthesia she could be checked out of the hospital and go home.

And that was that. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! Just do what the Lord wants you to do. God will not only give you what's needed to be obedient, but He'll also do things far beyond our small role within the circumstances.