



Jose R. Ortiz, Jr.

Dear Royal Ranger Family,

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You," for the privilege of being this year's guest speaker at the sectional POW WOW.

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York in 1964. I'm one of seven children born to my parents Jose R. (deceased) and Cecilia Ortiz. I was also the middle child! That was no fun. I was too young to be with my older brothers and their friends and my sisters were not cool enough for me to hang around with. This also resulted in my being just old enough to do everything that no one else wanted to or could not do because they were either too old or too young or a girl for that matter. I had to grow up rather quickly. I had a great childhood but not without its share of problems.

I was a "welfare boy" and thus poverty was a really close friend. I lived on the third floor of a row home (A New York Brownstone if you're wealthy) with my family and an aunt! I referred to us as the "Julio Bunch" since we were Puerto Rican and could not be called the Brady Bunch. We were very happy with our poverty since we didn't know any better. I grew up believing that it was normal to miss a meal if you arrived home at a time other than dinner time. One pair of sneakers was your favorite treat that came only once a year in September, at the beginning of school. That's not all. Try having only three pair of pants and maybe four shirts that were all interchangeable so as to appear you had more clothing than you really had! Ridicule was also a close friend. BUT through it all, my mom always taught us to be thankful for what we owned and to take care of it all so that it may last long. Dad, on the other hand, was rarely around. He was a night club singer and usually drank his earnings. We suffered as a result of his lifestyle but we were not knocked down.

My grandparents made it a point to take us to "Sunday School." We learned about GOD and remembered the instruction of our grandparents. My grandfather was the associate pastor of the church. My parents were not saved. When my grandmother went to be with JESUS, we all stopped attending "Sunday School." That got me in trouble. I hung around with neighborhood kids and eventually joined gangs. I got in trouble with the law but I never went beyond the limits that would get me incarcerated. I experimented with drugs and was exposed to violence because of street gangs. All this because what little I knew about GOD was no longer of interest to me.

When I was 16, I was witnessed to by a family friend. He asked "where would you spend eternity if you died this instant?" Just as he finished his question, a gun shot was fired from the projects across the street from my home.

The bullet struck the wall beside me and I ducked down expecting more shots to be fired. My friend Joe stood by unshaken and confident about his security in JESUS.

He asked the same question again. All I could do was, think about dying and going to hell. The next day, my mom had invited me and my sister to go to a crusade at an old movie theatre on 4th Avenue and Pacific St. My mom and dad had been saved a few months earlier and were excited to go to church.

I accepted the invitation and was saved and filled with The Holy Spirit that same day, August 4, 1980. I was baptized on October 4, 1980 and I've been serving the LORD ever since.

I'm married and I have 9 children through two marriages. Their ages range from 29 down to 1. My oldest is my stepson from my first marriage and my youngest is one of three children my wife and I are adopting.

I've been a member of Bethel Christian Center since 1996, and I currently serve on the Deacon Board. I teach an adult Sunday school class and I lead a ministry group in my home every Monday night. The group is known as a Proverbs Group. I've also served as a Royal Ranger Commander and Outpost Chaplain until the arrival of our associate pastor.

I am a law enforcement officer in the capacity of Detective and I've been in the profession since 1992. I currently work in the Borough of Haddonfield, NJ. I've also worked in many capacities to include undercover work in Camden, NJ while working for The Delaware River Port Authority Police. I'm a trained Hostage Negotiator and Crime Scene Investigator amongst many other things. However, the greatest claim I have is that of being called A Son of GOD which I like to refer to as "servant".

I hope that this brief biography is sufficient enough to validate me as your speaker. By GOD'S grace I will submit myself to your leadership and recommendations for the success of this year's fellowship. I am READY to serve.

In Service for the KING,

Bro. Jose R. Ortiz, Jr.