I’m so thankful for the many people I get to work with through this Chaplaincy; One outstanding example is Chaplain John Thompson. As many of you know, John got to meet His Lord and Savior face to face on Sunday Oct 7th.

John was gifted by The Lord in the ability to reach people right where they were at; and he made efforts to engage with people. This opened up doors that helped people begin to grow and heal. For those of us who had those opportunities to connect with John, we know that was a special talent he had, and he graciously used that talent to enter into our lives with love. That was always John’s ministry focus; “Others-first” and “Others-centered”. Skillfully and intentionally patterned after his Lord Jesus.

This “Others-first” approach was in everything he did in the ministry. John was always ready to listen to others; and what a great listener he was.

When you or I would hear “How are you doing” from John, he actually wanted to know the answer and would stop everything to listen. John was always ready to pray for others; give to others; care for others; teach others; spend time with others; and to love others.

John told me that people may not remember your name; and they may not remember what you say to them; but they will remember how you make them feel. Powerful.

John never wanted the spotlight; and he made huge efforts to ensure that never happened. He was a hero that worked spiritually in people’s hearts and lives to help them back on their feet, and he did so faithfully in the background. Let’s decide, here and now, to keep giving that blessing of true-gentle-kindness to each other. Reach out to others and engage with people in meaningful and genuine ways. We can honor John and his memory in this powerful way.

Thank you John for being an outstanding inspiration and setting such a perfect example. I am so very thankful for you.