

were extremely troubled. We had a team of MSWs and therapist come in and tell us how to make life better for these students. We thought they would talk about providing more counselors and that sort of thing. Instead, they told us the single biggest factor in helping to alleviate serious problems among students who were that far away from home was for them to have some access to spiritual counseling. This was documented by people who did not come with that idea in mind when they came to Sequoyah High School. So that's when I suggested that we build a non-denominational chapel and have various pastors from the area come to the school and make themselves available to the students at Sequoyah.

The fundraiser is being done through art shows, individual people contributing and that sort of thing. You will see Sequoyah Chapel Fund booths around during this Holiday and we would appreciate your help. We are writing some grants, but I want this to be something built by the Cherokee people and the students at Sequoyah. Last year the tribal council contributed \$15,000 toward that effort.

In closing, I want to tell you about my health since every single person has asked me. I am in as good of health as I will ever be and am able to do my job enthusiastically. I still wake up every day and am excited about going to work, and ready to do what is necessary. People with kidney transplants don't necessarily have to sit around and be sick. I certainly have not done that, so don't worry about my health. I feel fine and am doing extremely well.

I hope you enjoy the Holiday, and I assure you that the tribe is doing well. The incredible growth that we have experienced over the last ten years has been the result of many people, the tribal council, John Ketcher, employees, and because you support me. I always really appreciate that, even when you have not agreed with me on a particular issue. Anywhere I go, in any Cherokee community there is someone there or a group that is giving me words of encouragement and support. I am always getting notes and a sense of good confidence, and I appreciate that.

If you will hang in there with us and with the support of the council, John Ketcher and the employees, I will come back next year and tell you again that the state of the Cherokee Nation is very good. Thank you very much.