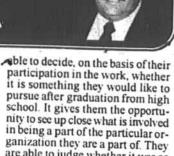


It was an impressive group of young people who were gathered last week for recognition of their efforts as Apprentices and Workforce Development Interns. For the 42 apprentices and 30 interns present, it was an acknowl-edgment that they had, for the past school year, been a part of programs intended to expose them to what's involved in certain kinds of employment. Also in attendance, were representatives of the Lumber River Workforce Development Board, the Robeson County JobReady Partnership Work-based Learning Committee, the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce. the Public Schools of Robeson County as well as representatives of firms which provided appren-ticeship of intern opportunities for these young people.

With these entities working together for work-based learning for our students, the latter are given the opportunity to learn firsthand what being a part of these firms or pro-fessions entail. The students are



are able to judge whether it was as they had imagined it to be and whether they think they could be happy with it as a career. On the other hand, if they discover that the work is not what they thought it would be like, it is better to find that out before they go too far in making plans to make it their career choice and taking courses that are required for that career. They have the time to be able to adjust those courses in keeping with the requirements of an alternate career. Re-gardless, then, of which way they choose to go, the experience of work-based learning has been a

positive one for the student combining, as it does, classroom learning with practical exposure to the world of work.



50 YEARS - DAY OF PRAYER

According ti the latest newsletter from Dr. James Dobson, (as well as Stan Smith's Robesonian column for April 27) President Truman and Congress signed a joint resolution in 1952 to establish a "National Day of Prayer" in the United States. In 1988 the first Thursday in Nay was designated as the National day of Prayer. Perhaps I'll remember that next yearl

Through the years I have received reminders to observe the annual WORLD Day of Prayer. But I don't remember hearing of the "National Day" until I began listening to and receiving materials from Focus on the Family, the organization Dr. Dobson startc 'fer spending several years working with children and youth as a psychologist. For several years his wife, Shirley, has been the chairman (chairperson) of this annual event.

If there has been a yearly public gathering in the Pembroke area to pray together on this special day, I have not been aware of it. According to Pastor Stan Smith (whom I met at First Methodist last year after the memorial service for Jon Ray) Lumberton is one of the nearby towns where persons of all backgrounds have been meeting together (at the

While work-based Learning certainly offers advantages to the students, it also helps the local firms who agree to participate in the program to be exposed to students who might prove to be valuable employees in the future. That's at least part of the reason for the number of firms who are involved with itsome for more than just a first year.

That number is about fifty firms. When students become interested in taking part, they apply to the program they're interested in. They agree, along with their par-

ents, to adhere to those requirements which have been established in cooperation with the Department of Labor, the school and, of course, the employer. In return, the students are paid for the time they spend in the employer's business.

For the few years that the intern and apprentice programs have been in effect, there has been so much praise for them that I believe that they will be with us for a long time to come with the benefits to the county and its students continuing to grow.

Page 3-Carolina Indian Voice-Thursday, May 3. 2001 county courthouse) to join in prayer for our nation on the first Thursday each May. Surely our nation is in DIRE NEED of God's forgiveness, help, and guidance !!

I believe I have failed to say: "Let's remember to pray for our new president." Actually, we Christians, as citizens of this great country, ought to pray REGULARLY for each current administration, our current Congress, our Supreme Court, and the entire assortment of leaders from Washington all the way to our own hometown, oughtn't we?

Billy Graham, this year's HONORARY National Chairman, has called on all of us Americans to join in praying for our nation on Thursday, May 3.

I should have put this in my column last time. However, if you do not hear about the Day of Prayer until after the date has passed, *I know no* reason why concerned people could not get together at a later date, or just take their concerns for this nation to our Creator privately on a day-to-day basis. I wonder what would REALLY happen if all who believe in God would pray EACH day for our country! I an sure we would soon see some positive results!

FORGETTING THINGS

I get SO degusted with myself when I forget something important! And that happens regularly these days. Lately I've noticed that even when I remember ALMOST all of what I'm trying to do, I can hardly keep from forgetting ONE important item, errand, or activity.

It just occurred to me that, maybe, after we reach threescore years and ten, our minds have to let something slip through the cracks, in order for us to be able to concentrate on our main objective. Of course, when we are dealing with a lot of different things, we nay not take the time to decide what our main objective IS, and that can spell real trouble! We may mange to remember something we could have out off until day after tomorrow and have a totally deleted memory of the most important jobs we were supposed to do. IMPORTANCE OF ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS

Last time I said that God is always ready (like the father in the parable of the "Prodigal Son") to welcome us back after we have let go of His hand and started backsliding. But, as we turn around, to head back to Him, the FIRST thing we need to do is to ask for forgiveness. And that's something that modern-day Americans don't seem to want to do. Don't let your PRIDE (or your SHAME) keep you MIRED DOWN IN SIN of one kind or another, without taking it all to the Lord!! He understands. He will forgive!

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