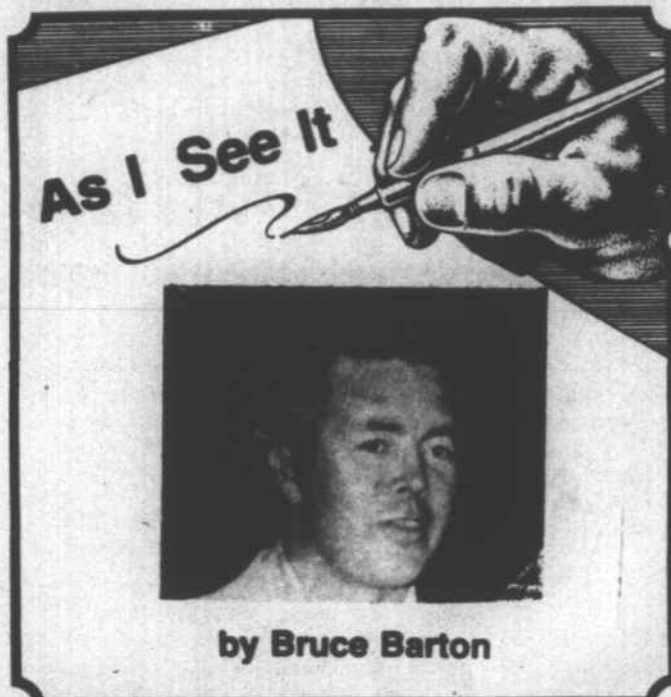


EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

"We cannot know where we are going if we do not know where we have been."



by Bruce Barton

I FOUND PEACE AT DEEP BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

I really have mixed feelings about what has happened at Deep Branch Baptist Church during the last few years. Adam's nature, once again, asserted itself here.

I married "one of those Sampsons" from the Deep Branch Baptist Church in 1975 and shortly thereafter she and I built a home on her family's "old home place." I love the Deep Branch Community; there is a sense of community there and the people are friendly and protective of one another. Sampson predominates; most of us who are not Sampsons probably married one.

Sampsons settled in Deep Branch sort of like the Locklears did in the Prospect Community. They feel deeply about the community and their families and their churches and their schools.

Like Deep Branch Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. Deep Branch was the third church to join the association in the 1880s and the church has been a vibrant member of the predominately Indian Burnt Swamp Baptist Association ever since.

And then Rev. Chesley McNeill came to Deep Branch Baptist Church; later he became pastor. He is a very conservative and strong willed man. He believes literally every word in the Bible; he does not concern himself with nuances, historical notes and social connotations. He believes exactly what the Bible

says period.

Nine of his ten children were members of Deep Branch Baptist Church. His wife, Margie, is supportive of his ministry. All of his children are talented and expressive. Four sons make up the Heavenly Bound Boys, a gospel quartet that is already good and getting better all the time. Their brother, DeRonda McNeill, plays piano for them.

DeRonda, his sisters Carolyn and Virginia, and another brother, Johnny, make up the McNeill Quartet. They are a superb gospel singing group. "Sister Carolyn" has one of the most remarkable voices I have ever heard. I love to hear them sing of Christ and Heavenly things.

And I was saved under the preaching of Rev. Chesley McNeill. I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour in 1978. It came to me that day that I was lost pure and simple and that I had no recourse except Christ Jesus. I finally understood my need for a Saviour. The preacher spoke from the second chapter of Phillipians. The general thought of this particular scripture is that every knee will bow before Christ Jesus in time; and that He was abased so that we might have knowledge of Him which is Life Eternal.

I understood it so clearly that morning; I came to the altar. The man of words, the literate man, could only cry out I AM LOST! and I WANT TO BE SAVED! And Rev. Chesley McNeill told me how I could be saved. And, since that day, I have believed on

In time some of the elders went to court about the matter; they were granted a restraining order. The preacher resigned.

The Robesonian got hold of the story and misrepresented it, as I see it.

The leadership of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association felt that their position was misrepresented and they wrote the Robesonian a letter attempting to set their position straight. And the more the matter was examined the more it was misunderstood. For me it is difficult to write about this; all of us are guilty of not being reconciled in Christ. He died on the cross so that we might be reconciled; we refused His reconciliation. That is what hurts me most of all.

I hoped that we might be able to talk. Some of us attempted to get the members of the church to talk to one another; it just got to the point, where we could not talk to one another. We wanted to cry out to God but we would not talk to one another. It was sad at the end; our fellowship was broken irrevocably; and I do not believe it can be put back together.

But it must if we are to know Christ in His fullness of forgiveness and love. We must forgive one another of our transgressions. We must love one another as Christ loved us.

I wanted and still want reconciliation. But the pastor, and the membership together, must lead the reconciliation effort if there is to be a reconciliation in a church; And we were not reconciled.

In spite of all the above I still possess the peace that I found at Deep Branch Baptist Church in 1978. And I am glad that Christ found me there that wonderful morning.

Who was at fault? All of us...

Rev. McNeill left the church under a court order; he and other members of the church who went with him have reorganized as Riverside Independent Baptist Church. They are presently worshipping in a building off Highway 74. They seem to be doing well. I have visited them a time or two and my feelings for them still run deep. They are building a new and beautiful church on the same highway. They hope to be in the new facility soon.

I love all of them period. I harbor no ill will. And I never shall.

I have, like everyone else, had to decide what to do. After a lot of questions and deep felt thought and prayer I have decided to stay at Deep Branch Baptist Church. It is good for my family and I to stay together as a unit. And, too, I do not like to be bouncing around from one place to another. God is everywhere. But mostly in our hearts. We must learn to worship God in spirit and truth and worship Him where ever we find ourselves.

The broken fellowship has caused me to search the scriptures more diligently for myself. And my faith is grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of my faith--not in man or any of his buildings. God is everywhere, at Deep Branch

Baptist Church and at Riverside Independent Baptist Church too.

One thing is sure: I love those who reorganized as Riverside Independent Baptist Church and miss worshipping regularly with them. But my love for Deep Branch continues unabated.

A number of people have asked why I have not said anything about this before now. It simply hurt too much to write or talk about it for a long time.

Our new pastor at Deep Branch is Rev. Harvey Brewington. Our prayers and support are with him...and our prayers continue, too, for Rev. Chesley McNeill and our brothers and sisters at both places--Deep Branch Baptist Church and Riverside Independent Baptist Church. May God's blessings be on both houses.

In last week's issue of The Carolina Indian Voice I reported in this column, "As I See It" about A Man and His Religion. Here's an update.

Brother Ronald Bryant had refused to serve jury duty in Hoke County Superior Court contending that his religious beliefs would not allow him to judge another man. But Judge Coy Brewer demanded that he sit in court anyway, even though the consensus seemed to be that he would not have to serve on a case.

We received further correspondence from Brother Bryant's church--Trinity House of Prayer Holiness Church--this week. Douglas Maynor, another minister with the church, wrote: "...We kept pressure on our adversaries and on Wednesday afternoon (July 15) Brother Ronald Bryant was set free. We won. Thank God."

The church is a Lumber Bridge address and is located near Davis Bridge one mile west of the Rockfish Road.

It was good news to us. A man's religious beliefs is just about the only thing that can sustain him in these perilous times. It is good to know that a man will still take a stand on his beliefs.

IN THE ARMED FORCES

MARINE LANCE CPL. TERRY L. BELL

Marine Lance Cpl. Terry L. Bell, whose wife, Clarice, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dial of Route 3, Box 672, Lumberton, N.C., recently returned from a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean.

He is a member of Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/8, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During the six-month cruise, his BLT was embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Saipan operating as part of the 34th Marine Amphibious Unit. He participated in several combined amphibious assaults and cross training exercises with the armed forces of many European countries. Port calls were made in England, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Kenya.

A Marine Amphibious Unit has the capability of conducting amphibious operations of a limited duration or it can be committed as an advance force of a larger Marine Air Ground Task Force. It also provides combat support for allies as well as providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and protection or evacuation of noncombatants. Bell joined the Marine Corps in July 1978.

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE
U.S.P.S. #978380
Established 1973
Published each Thursday
by
Lumbee Publishing Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1075
Pembroke, N.C. 28372

Phone 521-2826
2ND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT PEMROKE, N.C. 28372

EYE

OPENERS

Question: I can't seem to learn to judge the distance of oncoming cars. My instructor says it could be my eyes. How can that be?

Answer: Our two eyes sit side by side and work together to give us many different vision skills. One of those skills is the ability to judge distances between objects, especially when both are moving.

When our eyes don't work together properly, vision skills such as judging distances are affected. This may be your problem.

The only way to know for certain is to have your doctor of optometry thoroughly examine your vision. Depending upon the cause, poor depth perception can often be improved.

Your optometrist will also check your other driving vision skills, including distance and near vision; side vision; the ability to change focus quickly and easily; night vision; and color vision.

Eye Openers were prepared by The American Optometric Association. Dr. John Adams and Dr. Harold Herring of Pembroke Optometric Clinic have edited and submitted these columns as a service to the citizens of the Pembroke area. The Carolina Indian Voice is pleased to print this column as a public service.

Thanks from H'coming

Carolina Indian Voice
Mr. Bruce Barton
P.O. Box 1075
Pembroke, N.C. 28372

Dear Mr. Barton, I am very grateful for your participation in our annual Lumbee Homecoming events. Without you it could not have been a success as viewed by the general populace.

I hope you will continue to support and share our homecoming feelings as a vital part of who we are.

Respectfully,
Kenneth R. Maynor
Executive Director
LRDA

Kind Words

Mr. Bruce Barton
The Carolina Indian Voice
P.O. Box 1075
Pembroke, N.C. 28372

Dear Bruce,

I was extremely pleased to see your picture front and center on your paper as you received the Henry Berry Lowry Memorial Award. I also got a kick out of your response in your column regarding the award.

While some people do not seek awards and special recognition, their contributions automatically causes them to

be sought out for special recognition. You certainly fit into this distinguished category, and I compliment you highly for all of your outstanding leadership efforts. You must know that it is a special pleasure of mine to work with you and to have the opportunity to provide information to the readers of the Carolina Indian Voice.

Congratulations again for a well deserved honor.
Sincerely yours,
John G. Richardson
County Extension Chairman

Pharmacist

Howard Brooks
Pembroke Drug Center
Olson and W. 2nd, Pembroke, NC



The truth of DMSO's

DMSO - The "persecuted drug" What's the truth? Persistent reports attest to its usefulness in the treatment of sprains, strains, acute spinal cord injuries, arthritis, tendonitis, and strokes.

Since 1940, DMSO has been a widely-used industrial solvent. As a 50% solution, it has government approval in the treatment of a certain bladder ailment, but for none of its other claims, as yet.

No solid evidence exists to suggest serious or persistent side-effects in human users. But, nevertheless, I recommend caution. Seek a physician's advice, first.

Your Pharmacy Dial 521-4805

Lela Anne's Learning Center Planned Nursery School



OPENING
AUGUST 10TH

Located next to Pembroke Elementary School

Elizabeth B. Brooks, Director
Certified K-3 Teacher
(Early Childhood Education)
10 Years Teaching Experience in Public Schools in Robeson County
Mother of 4 Children

- Planned Educational Programs for all ages
- N.C. State Licensed
- Monday thru Friday, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm
- Ages: Infants to 6 Years
- Meals and Snacks
- Central Heat and Air Conditioning
- Fenced Playing Area
- Fire Detection System
- After School Care
- We invite your inspection of our facilities.

Now Accepting Applications For Enrollment.
Please Call 521-4064 or 521-8711

The Singing Cookes

BIG GOSPEL SING...featuring
•The Singing Cookes
and •J.K. Kinkle •The Lowery Trio
and •The Singing Meares
at Maxton High School
SATURDAY, AUG. 1st - 8 P.M.

Admission at door.....\$5
(Advance Tickets on Sale
at Lowery's Pharmacy, Pembroke
for just \$4.00)
children Under 6, Free!

PROGRESSIVE SAVINGS & LOAN, LTD.

111 N. Court Sq., Lumberton, N.C. Phone 738-1415

6 Month M.M.C.
15.568%
Rate effective through July 27th.
\$10,000
Minimum Deposit

1 Year - 2 1/2 Year
MONEY MARKET CERTIFICATE
12.00%
Rate effective thru Aug. 3rd.
Effective Annual Yield 12.747%.
\$1,000
Minimum Deposit
12-18-24-30 Month Term

30 Days to 6 Mo.
MONEY CERTIFICATE
14%
Rate effective through July 27th.
\$1,000
Minimum Deposit
30 Days to 6 Mo.
Maturity

DEPOSITS INSURED UP TO \$100,000 BY NCSGC. PENALTY FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL.