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Dr. Teacher

Living As His Grandmother Taught, Jim Jones Follows A Simple Calling

By Carol Tyer

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Dr. James G. (Jim) Jones, the Greenville resident who is the new president of the 57,000-member American Academy of Family Practice, says he regrets that the Lumbee Indian woman who reared him did not live long enough to know that he has become a teacher as well as a physician.

Jones has been a physician educator, chairman of the East Carolina University School of Medicine Department of Family Practice for 13 years.

But when his grandmother Dovie Jones was alive, he was "only a doctor."

He recalls going home from college to Pembroke in 1959 and telling his grandmother with some pride that he had qualified for entrance into the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and would be the first non-Caucasian to be so accepted. She listened attentively while he shared his news, then asked why he wasn't going to be a teacher instead.

Jones, who has chaired the East Carolina University School of Medicine Department of Family Practice since its earliest days, smiled as he talked about his father's mother who was the prime motivator and sustainer of him and his four brothers and sisters throughout their childhood.

"My grandmother was a teacher before she was married," he said. "She really believed that teaching was the highest profession. She didn't live long enough to see me become an educator, but I know she'd be proud of me."

"To understand why my grandmother raised my brothers and sisters and me when our mother and father were living, you have to understand what a powerful woman my grandmother was. When my parents said they were divorcing and my father was moving to Buffalo, N.Y., and my mother to Washington, D.C., she said, 'You're grown. Do what you have to do. But you're not going to drag these children around.'"

"She demanded that all of us be left in the care of her and my grandfather Arthur Jones. They had raised seven children of their own and were just at the stage of life when they could have begun to take it easy. Instead they took on the five of us."

He recalls that his was a loving home, a home grounded in the work ethic and the faith of the Baptist Church.

"We always participated in all the activities of our church," he said. "And some of my best role models were the people in the church."

"And all of us children worked hard, just like our grandparents did."

From the time he was in the second grade until he graduated from high school, he was the newspaper delivery person for his hometown. From the fourth and fifth grades on, he had a large route — about 10 miles — that had to be delivered every morning, so he was up at 4 o'clock each day. And he did his collections in the afternoons and on Saturdays.

He said it was always a given in their home, regardless of there being virtually no money, that his two sisters, two brothers and he would go to college. He knew from the time he was in first grade that he needed to make grades that would warrant scholarships. So he did — he graduated in 1951 from Pembroke High School in Robeson County with a 98 average.

During his youth, the schools of Robeson County were tri-segregated, i.e. there were separate schools for whites who made up 10 percent of the population, for blacks, also about 10 percent, and for Indians, who composed 80 percent of the community. "It was a community," he said, "where your racial background meant everything. I know a large part of my lifelong drive to excel has been to prove that I, as an Indian, could do anything that anybody else could, and perhaps do it better if I'd work really hard."

From the time he was a child he planned to be a doctor. At the time he thought he would be a medical mis-

sionary. He was steeped in the values of the Missionary Baptist Church and he felt this was what God would have him do.

He recalled one of the most hurtful experiences of his young life. When he was in the eighth grade he asked his biology teacher about preparation for medical school. His teacher suggested he call a local doctor and request advice. "I thought I knew this man," he said. "I'd delivered newspapers to him, carried him eggs from my grandparents, worked in his yard. I really liked and respected him. I called him on the phone and posed my question. As soon as the words were out of my mouth, I heard a loud boisterous laugh on the other end of the line. It cut through my heart like a knife."

His commitment to become a doctor was no less strong after this experience.

When he started thinking of going to college, he said he never considered going to anything but a Baptist School. And because of his devotion to Mr. Underwood, the director of the Baptist Children's Home in Pembroke, who had been his friend and mentor, he chose Mars Hill College in the mountains of North Carolina. "Going so far away from home to college was a good experience," he said. "It was the first time in my life I could think of myself as an ordinary person, not a little Indian boy."

He found various employment throughout college, often holding two full-time jobs during summers. Each June he would travel by bus to Buffalo where he would live with his father and work in his father's auto body shop and at a second job like serving as a steel mill plant security guard. "I never did learn to do auto body work well," he said, "but I bet I could paint a car right now if I had to."

In addition to scholarships, he got personal and educational loans to see him through school. His older brother Bruce and sister Gloria gave him money when they could.

It was while he was in medical school at Bowman Gray that he came to the realization he didn't have to become a medical missionary to please God. "There was one professor there," he said, "who helped me see that a life of service is a life of service. This was a tremendous relief to me. I still wanted to be a doctor, but I no longer felt I had to be a missionary."

Soon after he completed medical school, he was married and he and his wife moved to Atlanta where he completed a rotating internship at Grady Memorial Hospital. He then began a general practice residency at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Camp Lejeune. "I joined the Navy to see the world," he said, "and I never got over 100 miles from my home, down in the swamps of Onslow County."

"But I grew to love that area so much that when I got out of service, I wanted nothing more than to go into private practice right there."

He and his wife had two sons, James Jr. and Robert Glenn, both born in Jacksonville. Jim, now 26, is a pharmaceutical salesman living in Chapel Hill. Robert, 23, is a law student at Campbell University.

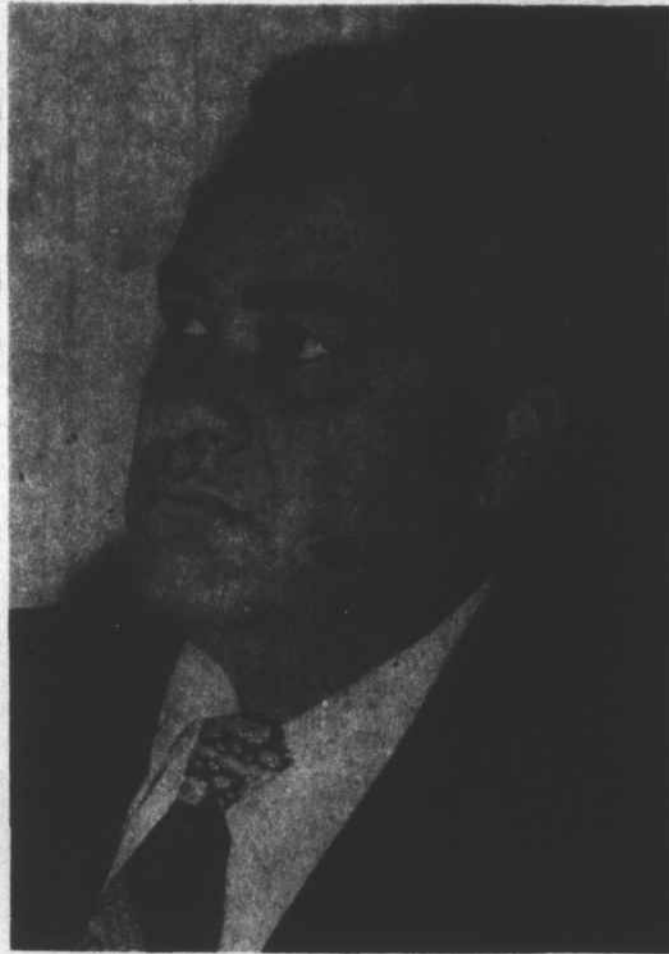
He said he threw himself passionately into serving the people of Jacksonville as a family doctor. And, as he was developing his practice, he was becoming a community leader in Onslow County and rising in the ranks of family physicians in the state. The year he turned 38 he was president of the North Carolina Academy of Family Practice and became its spokesperson. Gradually he began to see the value of the East Carolina University's having a medical school and began to champion this cause with the legislature, too. He was instrumental in the academy's coming out in support of the school when the state medical society was vocally against it.

He says that his inflated concentration on his work undermined his relationship with his family and led to a divorce. "I was starting over when I came to Greenville," he said. "I have a lot of regret about that phase of my life."

Once here, he began to build the faculty of the medi-

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SAM DIAL RETURNS TO HIS FIRST LOVE: MUSIC



Sam Dial

Pembroke native Sam Dial has an opportunity few people get in a life time. He is in a position at this time to return to his first love—MUSIC. Dial is in the process of purchasing Diamond Records, located in Wordorf, Maryland. With the ownership of the recording company will come the rights to all the artists who are under contract with Diamond Records. Among these artists are *Elvis Presley* and *Ray Charles*.

The purchase includes all equipment for a recording studio. The operation will be managed for Dial by Bill Sizemore.

This purchase allows Dial the distinction of becoming the first Indian to own a major recording studio and a major record label.

Dial's love of music has been demonstrated around the Pembroke area. He owned and operated Dial's Music Company from 1956 until 1974. While operating his own business he kept local establishments supplied with a juke box and maintained the current record changes on these boxes. During his

tenure with Dial's Music Company, Dial worked in promotions with RCA in Nashville, Tenn. It was during this particular phase of his employment that he received the biggest thrill of his musical career. He met and traveled with Elvis. He spent two weekends at Graceland visiting with his friend. "That was the highlight of my career," Dial said. "Of course, I met and traveled with various other stars, but you know, Elvis was the king."

The music lover has also been involved in various civic and community affairs. He served during three decades on the Pembroke Town Council and enjoyed a impeccable reputation for honesty and fairness. He has been called the "Father of Public Housing" in Pembroke. Dial Terrace, Pembroke, is named in his honor.

Dial is presently employed with the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

The community can expect to hear more about the man who has now returned to his first love—MUSIC.

Lumberton Area Visitor's Bureau Gets Added Leadership

Two businessmen have joined the leadership team of the Lumberton Area Visitors Bureau as it begins its second year of operation, according to Paul D. Francisco, general manager of the Lumberton Ramada Inn and Bureau president.

He said that Bobby Stogner, proprietor of House of Quality, and Sammy Cox, Robeson County Commission chairman who owns Cox Motors, were added to the Bureau Board at its January meeting at the Crackerbarrel Restaurant and Old Country Store. Cox will represent the County and Stogner the Downtown Lumberton Association.

Cox was the County Commission choice to fill the unexpired term of former Commissioner H.T. Taylor of Lumberton who had resigned when he lost a bid for re-election to the Commission last year. Stogner will replace Greg Phelps of Bob's Jewelers, who resigned from the Board for business reasons.

Francisco noted that John McLellan of John's Restaurant was elected to a full three-year term at the Board meeting. McLellan had been serving the last year of the term of Ms. Norma Martin, motel manager who was promoted to a new position in another city.

The Board also elected Ms. Betty Hall Williamson, manager of Biggs Park Mall, secretary, replacing Phelps. Officers re-elected to one-year terms were Francisco, Lumberton City Councilman Dr. E.B. Turner, vice president, and Treasurer James R. (Randy) Rust, president of Rust, Inc. (McDonald's).

Francisco said he had also appointed the following Standing Committees:

Executive—Francisco, chairman; Coble Wilson, Jr. of Freeman Motors, Lumberton City Councilman

Glenn Maynor, Ms. Williamson, Dr. Turner and Rust;

Nominating—Maynor, chairman, Rust, Ms. Janice B. Davis of Robeson Community College, and Dr. Ray V. Beatty of Pembroke State University;

Marketing—Wilson, chairman; Stogner, Davis, Dr. Beatty and Ms. Williamson; Advisory member—Corky Hickman, proprietor of His and Hers and president of the Lumberton Outlet Center Merchants Association;

Public and Governmental Relations—Dr. Turner, chairman, Cox and Ms. Williamson; Advisory members—County Manager James Martin, Lumberton Economic Developer Kirk Mattson, City Manager A. Ray Griffin and Dr. Joe Sandlin;

Finance and Membership—Rust, chairman; McLellan, Dr. Turner and Cox; Advisory members—Membership Campaign Chairman Al Kahn, proprietor of WAGR-WJSK radio, Griffin and Martin.

SGH HONORS EMPLOYEES FOR SERVICE

President Donald C. Hiscott, president of SGH Healthcare Corporation and its affiliate Southeastern General Hospital, presented service awards to 58 employees and three retirees at the annual employee awards dinner held at the Ramada Inn Monday, January 9.

Sara Watson (Food Service) received a service pin and luggage for her 40 years of service to the hospital.

Three employees Thomas Carrow (Building Services), Vashti Pittman (Pediatrics) and Margie Tyson (Fiscal Services) were presen-

Kenny Buffalo To Present Karate Demonstration



Kenny Buffalo, Lumbee Indian Martial Arts Star, will do a special live karate demonstration at Biggs Park Mall in Lumberton on Saturday, February 4, at 1:00 p.m. Buffalo recently began filming on a fourth video action movie that will be released this spring to all area video stores. This demonstration is Buffalo's third live appearance in Robeson County and he is asking for support from the Lumbee community. There are two t.v. stations scheduled to cover Mr. Buffalo's appearance.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarships worth \$3,050 each are available to American Indian students in their junior year of high school for six weeks of college-level study in the summer of 1989 at Cornell University.

The students, who must demonstrate outstanding academic ability plus financial need, will be awarded Jerry M. Rivers Summer College Scholarships. The awards cover tuition, room and board, but recipients must pay for their own travel and books; the books usually total about \$100.

American Indian students are also eligible for other scholarship awards in varying amounts for the summer program, which offers more than 120 courses. Academic details about Cornell's American Indian Program are available from Sandra Rourke, American Indian Program, Caldwell Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Her phone number is (607)255-6587.

ted service pins and watches for their 35 years of service.

Alene Lamb (Carolina Manor), Jessie Stephens (Laboratory) and Patricia Stephens (Laboratory) were recognized for their 30 years of service.

Three employees James Baldwin (ICU), John Gavin (Linen) and Annie Stevenson (Central Supply) received pins in recognition of their 25 years of service.

Seven 20-year service awards went to Glenda Bellamy (Housekeeping), Donald Hiscott (Administration), Marveil Leonard (Housekeeping), Barbara Prevatte (Pediatrics), Phyllis Richardson (Long Term Care), Valdorena Rowell (ICU) and Mary Washington (Obstetrics).

Nineteen employees received 15-year awards. They are: Earnestine Jamin (Medical Records), Frances Locklear (Outpatient Surgery), Frances Prevatte (Emergency Department), Ruby Pittman (Communications), Virginia Lewis (First East), Mary Hunt (Central Supply), Dacia Oxendine (Long Term Care), Sherrill Stone (Obstetrics), Sadie Chavis (Housekeeping), Anne Hendren (Business Office), Dora Sutton (Laboratory), Patricia Powers (Delivery), Ruth McKinnon (Long Term Care), Joyce Britt (Business Office), Gale Blackmor (Food Service), Mary L. Locklear (Laundry), Josephine Wallace (First East), Terry Carter (Delivery) and Octavia Anderson (Fourth West).

In addition, 25 employees were honored for 10 years of service and three retirees, Agnes Spaulding, Lester Eddings and Cora McBryde, received plaques.

Governor Makes Appointments To Human Relations Council

Governor Jim Martin has announced the appointment of Robert Henry Lineberger Jr. of Lincolnton, H. Dobbs-Oxendine Jr. of Lumberton and Dr. Jimmie Blake Shuler of Raleigh to the N.C. Human Relations Council (HRC).

The 20-member council serves to create an attitude and climate which will promote the opportunity for social and economic equality for North Carolina residents and serves as a focal point for developing, maintaining and improving human relations.

Mr. Lineberger, 30, is a senior purchasing agent and import manager with Vermont American Tool Company in Lincolnton. He has worked with the Lincoln County Department of Social Services as an eligibility specialist. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Mr. Lineberger is a member of the Boy Scouts of America Weblo Review Board. He has also served as a member of the Council on Ministries and the Administrative Board with the First United Methodist Church. His term of service with the council will expire June 30, 1992.

Mr. Oxendine, 50, is president of Dobbs Enterprises. A graduate of

Pembroke State University, he taught elementary school in Ft. Washington Force, Maryland. Mr. Oxendine was instrumental in the founding of the Kiwanis Club in Lumberton and served as its first president. He also served as vice chairman of the Robeson Drama Strike at the Wind Association. His term of service with the council will expire June 30, 1990.

Dr. Shuler, 36, is a pediatrician. She attended Claflin College in Orangeburg, South Carolina; Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN; and served her residency at East Carolina University's School of Medicine. Dr. Shuler has served on the Governor's Commission for the Family and the Board of Trustees at Good Hope Hospital in Erwin. She is a member of the Child Medical Examiners Program Advisory Committee, Board of Trustees for the Methodist Home for Children, N.C. Pediatric Society and the N.C. Medical Society. She also serves as director of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries for the United Methodist Church. Her term of service with the council will expire June 30, 1990.



Dr. James G. Jones

PEMBROKE JC'S PLAN DANCE FEBRUARY 11

The Pembroke Jaycees will sponsor a Valentine's Dance Saturday, February 11 at the Pembroke Jaycees Clubhouse. The dance will begin at 8 p.m. and last until 2 a.m. Deejay for the evening will be Ricky Brewington. Tickets may be purchased from any Jaycees for \$5. For more information, call 521-9917 or 521-4540.