

Lumbee Leadership Among Women Should Be Supported by Churches and Communities

To the Editor:
The Book of genesis tells us that God created man, then He created women. Some will say God created man, saw room for improvement and then He created women. No matter what one believes, we must all agree that women and men, although different, possess special qualities that are different from one another. However, for the most part, women are not often rewarded for the many things they do.

Locklear and Cynthia Hunt have no doubt withstood adversity in serving the people they love. Connie Brayboy has provided the avenue to voice community and political concerns. From the homemaker, to the factory worker, in the classroom, or in the tobacco fields, women have the glue in most situations.

There are many others far too numerous to identify, who have been instrumental in the development of the Lumbee tribe but I do want to speak on behalf of the 23 women who serve with 19 men on the project of drafting a Lumbee Constitution. These women and men are church delegates who represent communities of men, women, children, both the young and the old. They have been assigned the duty of drafting the Lumbee Tribal Constitution, a project funded by the General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church. The work the committee is doing will embark the county on a new beginning and offer great economic development. They have a tremendous challenge writing a constitution to govern and represent the people fairly, respectfully, and economically. To assist in meeting this challenge they have scheduled community meetings to listen to the PEOPLE's concerns, to make sure the PEOPLE have a voice in drafting a constitution they can live and abide with. But this challenge also requires the support of the churches and communities they

represent as well as the Lumbee people as a whole.

In these times it is easy to be complacent and comfortable with allowing others to take responsibility for leadership. When we delegate leadership roles, we should stand behind those people and speak out when injustices occur. Many of the men on this committee have previously served in leadership roles, they know the personal problems often associated with being a voice of the people. Many of these women have not had to face personal adversity such as Ms. Ruth B. Locklear, an active member of the Prospect community and past Director of Tribal Enrollment, having devoted the last decade of Lumbee Federal Recognition to suddenly find herself on an indefinite leave of absence. Ms. Locklear continues to work toward the dream of federal recognition.

Let us come together and commend Ms. Ruth and others for the work they are doing. They deserve it, they have earned it. The next delegate meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, beginning at 9:00 am at the Indian Resource Center in Pembroke. Let me encourage each of you, pastors, deacons, and members of the churches and community to come out and listen as these delegates struggle with issues directly affecting the Lumbee people.
Ronald Hammonds
Saddletree Community

All nationalities in Robeson County are very fortunate to have women of distinction in various roles. This letter, however addresses some of the concerns I have about the lack of appreciation and support many Native American women are getting from within the Native American community. We have many women who have dedicated years of hard work to jobs outside the home, while taking care of a family and yet still finding the time to be involved in their church and community.

The Robeson County Human Relations Committee had its start under Mrs. Roxanne Hunt. Ms. Hunt and the committee dared to address issues and accept the challenge of making Robeson County better. Ms. Ruth Dial Woods provided extensive leadership to the public schools of Robeson County. Virginia Jacobs, Emma Locklear, Dorothy Lowery, and Patricia Hunt, Attorney Arlinda

An open letter to Sheriff Hubert Stone about article in GQ Magazine

To the Editor:
This is an open letter to Sheriff Hubert Stone. It is in response to his comments in the "Gentlemen's Quarterly," the March issue.

Mr. Stone, in my opinion, your language in that article was awful. I wonder if you have completed the third grade. It is my feeling that your quotes by Mr. Scott Raab made me also wonder if you could be a savage yourself.

Yes, Mr. Stone, we have Indian men who drive to Raleigh and Charlotte to hang sheetrock, but I am told that they are paid \$100 or more per day. I have friends who work in textile plants who are paid as high as \$12 to \$15 per hour.

Yes, we must have some savages in Robeson County. That is the only way I can explain them keeping you in office for 16 years. You need to know, Mr. Stone, that I am Indian and some of my best friends are Black and they are very much dedicated to our kind.

Apparently, you have forgotten the

statistics on the killing of whites by whites. I have read that race kills as many as 50 people a year, and some of them kill 8 to 15 at one blow. I have read that some even eat the flesh of their victims. I have never heard of a serial killer who was either Indian or Black. This information has been in all our local and national papers.

Statistically, some whites have killed more people in one blow than Indians kill in ten years.

Even the whites that I spoke with over the weekend felt that you definitely could not be very well educated, if we base it on the GQ magazine.

Mr. Stone, I hope all Indians will go to the polls and vote Indian. That would be the best thing in the upcoming election. Of course, we have good people of the white race, although according to GQ magazine, you don't know any "good" Indians or Blacks. I am sorry that you singled yourself out to use to have high remarks for you, but I didn't realize until GQ

magazine you felt as you do about Indians.

If you had been seeking re-election, I wonder if you would have made those statements. Now, you want a position as a federal marshal and actually may be appointed. I am just amazed at that. I had hoped to support Mr. Clinton, if he seeks re-election. If you are appointed a federal marshal, I will have to re-think my position.

And while I am talking about elections, may I remind Indians and Blacks that I would recommend that they vote for Richard Townsend for District Attorney. If they vote for Luther Johnson Britt, they will again vote for someone who does not care about Indians and Blacks. I believe that this can be documented by his tenure in the district attorney's office as assistant district attorney.

And a vote for Lum Edwards is a vote for Hubert Stone.

Myrtle Rose Locklear
Route 1
Pembroke, NC

Readers' Forum

Reader Asks question: Can we be peaceful and still be Native American?

I made it home last week. I wanted to see how Grandpa Spotted Turtle, Painted Turtle's father was doing. He had a mild stroke. I'm asking that we remember him in our prayers. A good friend of mine Morgan Eaglebear and I held a pipe ceremony for him at Pat Locklear's of Red Springs. Now before anyone goes to jumping to conclusions, a pipe ceremony is a prayer meeting. Their is nothing in it that the "Old And Foolish" (My term for those without God. Read Eph. 4:22-23) could get HIGH on.

Morgan who is Apache, prayed and discussed a few things that really touched me. After we finished our prayer meeting he discussed the need for our people to recognize the fact we do have a culture, and yes it is very Native American. Morgan only started reading about our people a few years ago and he has been impressed with the things he has read. One person he was very interested in was Mr. Vernon Cooper of Hoke County. I told him it was really sad that Mr. Cooper had passed away a few years ago.

Morgan stated the fact our people seem more interested in other Native American cultures than their own. This made me think of a letter that was written by Jimmy Boy Dial, which even he had some wrong ideas as to what powwows are. I see nothing wrong with the way our kids dress at powwows. If Jimmy Boy Dial knew as much as he said he did, he would know plains culture were always borrowing from each other all the time. It read as if his head had been filled with plains indian culture ideas, no one looks at powwows as being some kind of sacred ceremony. As a matter of fact not all Native Americans go to powwows, some of them only go to ceremonies and others have very little with anything dealing Native Americans. True powwows started out being sacred ceremonies, but not anymore. Jimmy Boy did have a point about the way some, not many, Jimmy Boy, are obtained and possessed in an

illegal manner. When you said many of these feathers are obtained in this manner it implied you knew how I came about mine. If you really knew how I obtained mine you would know I got mine in the right way. I'm going to tell you Jimmy Boy like I did former Governor Martin if you don't want our people buying drugs or eagle feathers go tell the people who sell them to our kids. Then you educate our kids on why they should not buy them. I'm sure your intentions were good but it's always better to educate someone than to criticize someone especially our children.

Back to what Morgan Eaglebear and I discussed, he went further to say that society as a whole is more interested in a group that fights and kills, than a peaceful one. Morgan is a decedent of Geronimo, so he knows what he is talking about, he knows about Hear. Berry Lowrie also. He was not trying to take away from these men's efforts, but he did ask what about those who lived their lives for peace. I thought can't we be Peaceful and still be Native Americans, or does society think that only those who fight count. Which really got me to thinking about some people, such as the following. My ancestor George Washington Lowrie who started a petition to try and stop the government from enacting the "Indian Removal Act", better known as the "Trail of Tears" sure he didn't accomplish his goal but neither did Moses see the promise land, nor did Martin Luther King see his dream fulfilled. I could be wrong but I think this is the same George Lowrie who gave the eulogy at New Hopes Church for his sons, where he stated the following:

"We have always been friends of white men. We were a free people long before the white men came to our land. Our tribe lived in Roanoke in Virginia. When the English came in our land, we treated them kindly." What about people like Preston

Locklear, Rev. W.L. Moore, Rev. Venus Brooks, Rev. Simeon Cummings (just to name a few). I think of our religious leaders and how they effected our people greatly. I feel it is because of our traditional values as Native Americans is why we are a very religious people. Even among those who are Old and Foolish people who are not saved, who don't go to Church or practice their religion know, a great deal about the Bible and Christian teachings. Go to just about any of our Native American Churches in Robeson County and you'll hear terms like the Holy Spirit, laying on of hands, guarding angels, anointing with oil, prayer and fasting. True all these terms are deep rooted in Christian theology, but are you aware that these practices are also rooted into Native American traditions as well. There are many parallels, such as Native Americans use a combination of water and smoke to cleanse themselves a religious objects with. The Native American traditionalist believe one must pray and fast to receive answers to prayers. They also believe that before the spirit can fully develop the body and mind must be brought under control (1 Peter 1:13).

I believe that our ancestors seen a lot of common ground between the Native American traditional beliefs and Christian theology, this is why we accepted Christian beliefs so fast, but there were still people like Mr. Vernon Cooper, Ms. Nepsie Braveboy, Aaron Carter, who practice both Christian and Native teachings, but it wasn't just these people. What about all the Midwives, and people who could blow fire, and those who after reading in the Bible (Ezekiel 16:6), could stop bleeding.

So when you stop making feathers and beads your main focus, you soon realize there is a lot more Indian about our people than first appears.

In the True Way
Derek Lowry
Greensboro, NC

The Sunday School Lesson

by John R. Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Receiving God's Gift
Romans 4:13-25

1. God's Promise Received through faith (4:13-17)

2. Abraham's Example of faith (4:17-22)

3. Righteousness given to all believers (4:23-25)

In the background scripture Paul says that we are justified by faith not by deeds of the law. In Roman 3-21 the scripture says "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We are justified by grace through Christ Jesus.

1. God's promise received through Faith (4:13-17)

The promise made to Abraham was not by the law but by faith. Faith by the law would make it void and of no effect. In essence to obtain salvation one would have to obey the law completely, but salvation is not of works. Salvation is by grace and grace is God unmerited favor toward man. The promise is of faith by grace. Therefore the promise is sure for all seed, not only those under the law but those which are of the faith of Abraham, the father of all. Contrary to what some people teach and believe that you have to work to be saved or do something worthy, the scripture teaches us that it is a faith way and has

always been. We work because we are saved not to be saved. In verse 17 God had made Abraham a father of many nations. If the promise of Abraham was made before law then it did not hinge on works or keeping the law but faith.

II. Abraham's Example of Faith (4:17-22)

God had promised Abraham that he would be a father of many nations. Abraham being old and without a child of his own believed God even though he saw no hope. We see that Abraham even though he did not see physical evidence of God's promise he believed God. The scripture says Abraham considered not the deadness of his body or the deadness of Sarah's womb. The promise in man's eyes was an impossibility but with God all things are possible. Many times we are faced with crises and it looks as if there is no way out but with faith in God he makes a way for us. Abraham believed that God would perform that which he had promised. For a person to be saved they must do like Abraham and take God at his word.

One must do as Abraham and exercise faith. Paul says in verse 22 that Abraham's faith in God was imputed to him for righteousness. As Abraham's righteousness was imputed

to him by faith so is our righteousness imputed to us through Jesus and the finished work on Calvary. Abraham was looking to the cross, we are looking back at the cross.

III. Righteous Given to All Believers (4:23-25)

In verse 23 Paul says that it was not written for Abraham's sake alone that righteousness was imputed to him. We therefore see that if God imputed righteousness to Abraham through faith then if God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow then our righteousness is imputed by faith in God. When we believe the gospel (the birth, death burial and resurrection) then righteousness is imputed to us. Christ being put to death for our offenses, was raised for our justification. Christ died for our sins but had he not resurrected we could not be justified; but because he lives, we can live. If you had not exercise faith and accepted Jesus Christ and the finished work on the work on the cross, I urge you now to accept Jesus now. We are all only one heartbeat from eternity. Where will you spend eternity.

Pray for us at Salem. God Bless You. Remember man may go to hell in any way he chooses, but he can only go to Heaven in the way God has chosen.

Make Your Vote Count

Elect
Glenn Maynor

for

Sheriff

Robeson County

"He Cares About You"

-17 Years Executive Director of Robeson County Housing Authority

-17 Years Member of Lumberton City Council

-Member of Reedy Branch Baptist Church

-Seven Years Law Enforcement Experience

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Glenn Maynor Sheriff of Robeson County



Public Hearing

Everyone in Robeson County is invited to participate in a public meeting on Monday, March 14th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Lumberton Junior High School on Marion Road, Robeson County and its Municipalities are hosting the public meeting to gather input into the development of an application for federal designation as an Enterprise Community.

Thirty rural communities across the nation will receive the Enterprise Community Designation in the fall of this year. Communities receiving this designation will receive special state and federal funding and other considerations to reduce poverty and improve other social and economic conditions existing in rural communities.

A strategic plan will be the most important component of this application and will require the participation of all county citizens, elected leaders, community groups, businesses and industries to be successful.

If you are interested in the future of Robeson County, please attend on the 14th and bring your friends and neighbors. Everyone's help is needed. For more information, please contact the Lumber River Council of Governments at 910-618-5533.

ELECT

JO ANN LOCKLEAR

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

"27 Years Hands-On Experience"

8 Years - Deputy Clerk of Superior Court

19 Years - Assistant Clerk of Superior Court

A PROVEN RECORD OF HARD WORK, FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY.

Your vote will be appreciated and will keep her experience and commitment working for the people of Robeson County

Paid for by the Committee to Elect JoAnn Locklear Clerk of Superior Court, Robeson County

