

# The Sunday School Lesson

by John R. Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

- Making Choices (Joshua 24:1-2, 11-16, 22-23)
- I. A Tribal Gathering (Joshua 24:1-2)
- II. A Review of God's Blessings (v 11-15)
- III. A Call to Serve God (v 14-15)
- IV. The Right Response to God's Call (v 16, 22-24)

## I. A Tribal Gathering (Joshua 24:1-2)

The Lumbee Indians have gatherings at different times to reflect on their past and to look to the hopes for the future. Sometimes it is good to reflect on where we are going. Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel together at Shechem. He called for the leaders of the tribes to present themselves to God. When you have leaders that are good role models then others will be influenced to follow. The leaders in our churches and communities as the tone for the kind of churches and communities have. Joshua was getting ready to go off the scene, and he was giving the leaders instructions from the Lord so that Israel would continue on the right path.

## II. A Review of God's Blessings (v. 11-15)

Joshua reminded Israel of how God had brought them over Jordan, and how He had delivered them from their enemies. Joshua reminded them that it was God who had brought them into

Jericho because of their obedience. Also Joshua told them to look at their blessings. God not only give them the victory over their enemies but also cities, land, vineyards etc. that were already prepared for them. All these things were given to them and they did not labor for any of it. We as Christians need to remember where God found us and how His grace delivered us, and put our feet on the solid rock.

## III. A Call to Serve God (v 14-15)

Joshua told the people, as you reflect on these things I want you to fear and serve the Lord. Forget about those gods that your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt. In other words, put sin, or the things of the world behind you, and live a life dedicated to God. Many Christians today need to fix their heart and make up their mind to serve God regardless of the consequences. After all, what the world has to offer is not lasting. We need to set our affections on things that are eternal. Joshua goes on to say make your choice today whom ye will serve, whether it be the gods of the Amorites, the gods of your father or God. Joshua simply told them that they must make the choice. God does not make people serve Him; He simply gives them the opportunity. If we want the blessings of God upon our lives, then we need

to choose to serve Him. Those of us who are saved need to examine ourselves and ask the question are we pleasing God? Joshua made it clear who he would serve and his family.

## IV. The Right Response to God's Call (16, 22-24)

Israel's reply that they would serve God and not other gods. God wants that kind of commitment from His children today. When we allow material things of the world to have priority in our lives, we displease God. The people made a commitment and Joshua told them that they were witnesses against themselves if they failed in their commitment. He told them if they were going to serve God, then at that very moment they needed to remove the strange gods from

among them. Commitment to God is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. If we walk upright before God we will be able to hear His call and obey it. Now to you who are not saved, Joshua's voice echoes yet today choose ye this day whom ye will serve. Will you choose to be a slave to Satan or will you choose to be the servant of God. Remember it cost the Son of God his life for us to be redeemed back to God. Jesus loved you so much that He died for your sins. Now it is your move. God bless you all. Pray for us.



William Reece Oxendine

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school and preaching in the morning and the Gospel Chapel for the evening services.

At "Miss Deb's" funeral service, held at Berea Baptist Church, the officiating ministers were Rev. Bruce Swett and Rev. James H. Woods. At Mr. Fred's service, held at Harper's Ferry Baptist Church, Overseer Charles Oxendine and Rev. Steve Jones officiated. I was impressed by the important points made by each of these men, as well as John Prime (at Branch Street UMC) made that day.

I believe all of our abilities come from God, either directly or indirectly. The visiting speaker at the Gospel Chapel used the same scripture passage as the adults Sunday school lesson at Branch Street Church, the story in the book of Joshua of how God instructed the Israelites to take the walled city of Jericho. At the end of the day, after attending Sunday school, preaching, two funerals, and an evening meeting, it was ONE idea—from that last service—that really stayed with me: "THE only ABILITY God will use is our AVAIL-ABILITY." Are you and I AVAILABLE for God's use today?

When I went to the funeral home to honor Deb and spend time with her family, I did not realize that Mr. Fred Maynor's family were on the other side. There have been SO many deaths lately! I don't even know all the names. But God does. And he has the power to bring ALL of us through trials and tragedies that would be TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE without Him.

Along with all the others, let's keep "Miss Nancy Jane" and son, Fred Jr., in our prayers. Nancy Jane is the first cousin of my father-in-law, Mr. Lonnie Oxendine. His mother and her father were twins. When I visited her Sunday night, she told me that she and Fred had been married nearly 49 years, and that he took care of her after her stroke several years ago. Although she is recovering from that stroke, I am sure she will be a very lonely lady, unless she has caring friends who will visit from time to time, and perhaps take her to church, as well as other places.

**Four churches** Even when I was a church worker, I seldom attended more than TWO churches in one day. But last Sunday I was at four different ones, Branch Street United Methodist for Sunday

# Educational Notes

## Purnell Swett High School News

### SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICER RECEIVES LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Purnell Swett High School security officer, William Reece Oxendine, received his certificate in basic law enforcement training August 5 at Robeson Community College. "I would like to stress to the students here at Purnell Swett that success and education are the key to success," quotes Oxendine.

### NINTH GRADE ORIENTATION

Full of excitement, fear, and skepticism, PSHS freshmen were ready for orientation for its new school year August 23rd. Principal, Bill Brewington welcomed the students and briefly instructed them of school concerns and introduced several staff and faculty that the ninth grade students may encounter as a teacher assistant principal, resource officer, and guidance counselor.

Student council president Shelli Brewington also welcomed everyone after Mr. Brewington's comments.

To create a hospitable atmosphere, student council members dressed as unique characters such as a hillbilly, a farmer, Harley-Davidson fan, etc., dramatized a short skit to encourage the new coming freshmen to be themselves and be proud of who they are because every person is unique.

Afterwards the ninth graders took a tour through the school with student council acting as guides.

How would you like to buy a favorite hardcover book for less than a dollar? How about a bag of books for only a dollar? Visit the Robeson County Public Library during its Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale, to be held September 29, 30 and October 1, for your chance to take advantage of these great prices! Thursday, September 29 will be the first day of the Book Sale. Hours will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hardcover books will be offered for 50 cents each and paperbacks for 25 cents each.

Friday, September 30, hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hardcover books will be offered at three for a dollar, or 35 cents each, and paperbacks for five for a dollar, or 20 cents each.

Saturday, October 1, hardcover books will be offered for 25 cents each and paperbacks for 10 cents each. These prices will be available from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. From 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, all books will be offered for one dollar a bag!!!

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE BOOK SALE WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY AND ITS PATRONS.

Credit slips will be offered for patrons who bring aluminum cans to the sale. For each can, patrons will receive one cent off the cost of their purchases at the Book Sale. Aluminum cans will not be accepted before the Book Sale begins. They should be brought during the Book Sale only.

Eagle Distributing Company of Lumberton has graciously agreed to sell these aluminum cans for the library and to match dollar-for-dollar the amount collected. These funds will be donated to the library's book fund.

For more information on the Book Sale, please contact Bob Fisher at 738-4859.

# Reflections by Alta Nye Oxendine

## TIPTOEING AROUND

I think I may have STUMBLed onto SOMETHING! For those of us who tend to spend a lot of time hunched over, with very POOR posture, how about walking around the house on TIPTOE every so often? It's pretty hard to bend forward when you're trying to BALANCE yourself up on your toes. (My FIRST plan, in the '70s, was a column for women, where we could share OUR unique problems and needs, like this one. But maybe MEN who have trouble standing straight could try this out, too.)

If anyone besides me DOES try, and it HELPS, how about letting me know? Leon built a LONG house. I used to talk about "jogging" down the hall. NOW, at 67, I'm trying to remember to TIPTOE from one end to the other, while I can STILL do THAT!!

## MY BIRTHDAY

By the way, I had a nice birthday! Good to be with my daughter at Branch Street Church that afternoon Jeff and the other "Branchmen" went to Raleigh to sing at a meeting to other "Branchmen" went to Raleigh to sing at a meeting to launch "Vision 2000", a special program for renewal in the UMC Church. My daughter took me to Laurinburg for lunch and for a ride afterward. I also bought a pretty wall clock and some pots and pans to celebrate being three years away from 70.

HAITI I for one am thankful for everybody's sake that we did not go to war against Haiti this week. I was skeptical of the "deal" Jimmy Carter made with the late Kim Il Sung, the communist leader of North Korea. This time I feel better. Perhaps Raulo Cedras is not responsible for much of the terrorism that has been taking place in his country. An article in a recent Washington Post Weekly Edition, says, according to a friend, Cedras has a hard time making decisions. Maybe his biggest problem is not being able to stop others, below him, from committing atrocities. In any case, Jimmy Carter seems to be a "peace-maker as well as homebuilder."

## "MISS DEB"

Although I met most members of "Miss Deborah's" Dial family at Old Prospect Church, I must have met "Miss Deb" herself on the college campus when her first husband, Dr. Herbert Oxendine, was working at the college. I remember being in their new home shortly after they moved in. And again when our children were young. In the late sixties I often saw Deb at Magnolia School when I was working with the Trainable Class and she was a high school English teacher there. By that time her husband had

died. "Mr. Woodrow" Sampson was teaching in the same building where Mrs. Sarah Clewis and I had the "Trainable" students. Later, after his first wife died, Mr. Woodrow became "Miss Deb's" second husband. After HIS death, I heard her say that she had been blessed with TWO good husbands!

When we started the "Singles" Group in 1984 (nearly 10 years ago) I really began getting TO KNOW Deb. For years she was one of our most faithful, active members. About the time she stopped coming on a regular basis, her younger sister, Grace, joined our group. Last week, after running back and forth from the Lumberton hospital to Cape Fear Valley, Grace, now our faithful (and capable) Singles' president, was too tired out to come to the meeting. During the prayer requests we included Deb, her brother, "My Adolph", and Grace, who (ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE) has been helping at the Travel Galore agency. Also a number of OTHERS who are going through difficult times.

Actually, the first family member I met was their sister Rosa. I still call her "Miss Rose". When I came to Pembroke, she was playing the piano for the MYF members who met at Old Prospect on Sunday afternoons. Then, when Leon and I got Prospect on Sunday afternoons. Then, when Leon and I got married, we moved diagonally across from that Bullard family, on Pine Street. I remember when the twins were little, and when "Miss Rose" became a single-again mother.

Also, I've know her present husband, James H., ever since he was a college student active in the Wesley Fellowship. During my first year at Pembroke, we started a prayer group on the campus for any students who might be interested. At that time groups like Madalyn Murray O'Hair's "Atheists" and the ACLU did not seem to be targeting such activities. (I still think it's interesting that Madalyn's son, Bill Murray, finally can't BELIEVE in God and prayer.)

I met "Mr. Adolph" that same year at Prospect High School where he was the principal. I also remember "Miss Grace" from the fifties. And of course there was their brother Herman.

## "Miss Sarah"

At the funeral for "Deb" I was pleasantly surprised to see "Miss Sarah" Clewis. She said she gets THIS Paper and keep sup with what I write

I told her I'd just mentioned her name in the segment for this week's column that I'd typed the night before. We had a nice little visit. She is not 80. She drove all the way to Pembroke from Saddletree in her pick-up truck and was heading home in the rain. An

independent lady who has been a widow (and a farmer) for years. Mrs. Clewis said she still has cows to look after. When we were working together, "Miss Sarah" told me she considered many of the Indian people among her best friends. She worked at Magnolia for a number of years before retiring.

Let's keep the ENTIRE Dial/Oxendine/Sampson family in our prayers. Also the families of Mr. Abner Locklear, Mr. Jydor Locklear, Mr. Bobby Chavis, Mr. Fred Maynor and ALL OTHERS who have recently lost their lives. Although I did not know (Jed) Locklear, I got acquainted with his parents several years ago. His brother Jeff was Gordon's friend when they were both little boys. And I have long appreciated another brother, Rudy, for his dedicated work at Robeson Community College, as well as his beautiful singing voice. Also the family of Robbin Oxendine.

## "Blood Bought" Quores

I have been unusually impressed with several of the singing groups that appear on Channel 7. One of these is the newly organized group, "Blood Bought." At the funeral home I had the privilege of meeting all four quartet members, two Oxendines (first cousins), a Tyner and a Britt. (The only first name I remembered is "Miss Deb's" son, Richard. I see Richard's sisters, Miriam and Linda, from time to time. But I didn't remember seeing Grant since he was a young boy.

## "Mr. Fred"

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**"In our deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decision on the next seven generations."**

The Great Law of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy



**Vote**  
**Ponce DeLeon Chavis, Jr.**  
**Lumbee Cheraw Tribal Council**  
District 11 (Deep Branch)

**"A true believer in the Great Spirits and in the Indian People."**

Deep Branch School, Saturday, September 24, 6:30 a.m. -7:30 p.m.

**Need a ride, call 521-1451**



## The Intertribal Council of Elders

is looking for members from all Carolina tribes, groups, and bands to aid in Traditional Heritage, Cultural, Spiritual Gatherings.

For More information call Spotted Turtle at (910) 521-4178, Painted Turtle at (910) 521-0020 or Wild Turkey at (910) 521-2826. Or write in care of the Carolina Indian Voice, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372. Fax (910) 521-1975.

