

# Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stanley Knick

Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

In the last segment, we continued the search for a broad context for the Lumbee. We observed that the writings of Thomas Harriot in the 1580s (among Carolina's Coastal Algonkians) give us a glimpse of the spiritual and ceremonial lives of some of the Woodland ancestors of the Lumbee. This week we continue that search by looking for references to the Iroquoian and Eastern Siouan ancestors.

The writings of John Lawson also furnish a view of the spiritual and ceremonial aspects of Woodland culture. Lawson traveled among the Indians of the eastern Carolinas during the period 1700 to 1711, at a time when varying degrees of change (due to European contact, diseases and trade) had already occurred among these Woodland societies. However, his observations are in general early enough that most Native people in this region had not yet been subjected to sustained acculturation to European ways.

Lawson recorded that the Native Americans of this region "carefully preserve the Bones of the Flesh they eat, and burn them, as being of

Opinion, that if they omitted such Custom, the Game would leave their Country, and they should not be able to maintain themselves by their hunting (1967:58)." This reference shows us that part of the belief system of these Woodland Indian ancestors focused on the spiritual relationship between the human beings and the animals. Let they might offend the spirit of the animals (and thus be unable to survive), Native people treated the bones of the animals with special care and respect in order to maintain good spiritual relations between humans and animals. This kind of animistic belief system was a broader spiritual context than is common in modern mainstream America. It embraced Man's spiritual connectedness not only to the Creator but also to all of Creation.

Lawson's writings also reveal that there was some flexibility in ceremonial matters. Although he consistently wrote that Carolina's Woodland Indian people always had a certain way of doing ceremonial things — an order of events, a way of speaking, a respect for elders — the

ceremonies seem to have been adjustable to various occasions: "Their Dances are of different Natures, and for every sort of Dance, they have a Tune.... All these Songs are made new for every Feast." In the next passage, Lawson describes ceremonies held in the fall and spring of the year (probably about the time of the autumnal and vernal equinoxes): "The one, to return Thanks to the Good Spirit, for the fruits of the Earth; the other, to beg the same Blessings for the succeeding Year (1967:177)."

Lawson's travels took him mainly among Eastern Siouan and Iroquoian people in the Carolinas. Thus his reports complement those of Harriot (among Carolina's Algonkians) in helping us to gain perspective on the spiritual and ceremonial lives of the ancestors of the Lumbee.

In the next segment we will continue to look at the prehistoric context of the Lumbee. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

# Thus Saith God

by Rev. Ted Brooks

Sex, Morality and the Protestant Minister. What Sexual Standard should the preacher obey?

Dear Reader,  
Once again I find it very needful to write letters to you to warn you and myself as week that today's churches are facing a double threat involving Purity of Doctrine and Purity of Conduct.

Paul, in his writing to the Galatians in Asia Minor, sent a letter to instruct the many Jews who lived in these cities. The Galatians were noted for their impetuosity, fickleness and love for new and curious things.

The new things among us today seems to be "everybody is doing it." In the next few weeks, if God should allow, I want to speak to you on the subject: **What Sexual Standard Should the Preacher Obey?** Some months ago Christopher Darden summed up his disillusionment with the O.J. Simpson trial saying, "I never got a change to cross examine Simpson and I didn't want to anymore. I just wanted to talk to him and to make sure he knew that he hadn't fooled all of us and that his dream team hadn't fooled all the American people."

I wanted to tell him that there was another court that would hear his case one day, with a Judge who could separate racist policemen and murder. A Court where the only witness will be the eye witnesses Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown."

Dear reader, there is an undercurrent in our church today (wading it-

self) deadly crying "everybody else is doing it!" No, my dear friend, not every one is doing it.

Sexual conduct outside of marriage will one day be judged. God keeps a record of the sins of men. "For god shall bring every work into judgment-with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil. Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Thus saith our Savior. "By thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Eccl. 12:14. Matthew 12:36-37. The secret purpose and motives will appear in the unerring register, for God will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts. I Corinthians 4:5 "Behold, it is written before me...your sin and the iniquities of your father together, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65:67.

A book of remembrance is written before God in which are recorded the good deeds of them that fear God and those who meditate upon His name. Malachi 3:16. Their words of faith, their acts of love are registered in heaven. Nehemiah refers to them when he says "Remember me, O my God, and wipe not out the good deeds that I have done for the house of my God." Nehemiah 13:14.

Now you and I might wonder what or why we seem to be surprised at what has taken place in our churches. We need to look and see how we got so caught up in man who has taught us that God doesn't keep a record and that He can't see our sin. Man seems to say "live as you please, regardless. We are on our way to Caanan's fair

land."

Oh, my friend, while you have been so busy and preoccupied with elevating people to such dizzying heights, we are now unable to distinguish a skill that we admire from the reality the skills does not describe the whole person. We have forgotten that giftedness says absolutely nothing about integrity and character.

God's qualities for a minister are far above your thoughts and mind. This attribute called character has nothing to do with how well one may speak. One may be a world champion boxer and have a bad character. With God, my friend, character does matter. You may be a gifted speaker (preacher) but character is God's choice of man. God's choice is always based on character and integrity, faithfulness and a trust in God which does not fail.

The church is joining up with the world's standard. She wants celebrities. Some how she has come to believe that performance is demanded and that her preacher being a celebrity defines his essential worth. We have gotten caught up in the billboard of T.V. stars. We don't seem to care about character. But God does, my friend.

What does God says about His church that practices adultery and fornication from the pulpit? Now you Deacons, may skirt the issue for your pastor and even your closest and dearest friends, but God will not skirt the issue. You ask him a candid question. God will be frank with you. People often say be honest with me. Tell me the truth. The truth is we all have an alternative. You don't have to live a life of corruption, and worldly lusts. Our alternative is to live soberly. The power of choice, my friend, is a gift from God. There was only one choice you could not and did not make, whether to be born with a sinful nature. That decision was made by Adam and Eve long ago. We have absolutely no choice about the kind of nature we possess at birth. It was and still is a sinful nature. But if it be left unchanged, it will lead to eternal death.

Even though we were born with a fallen nature, god gave us the choice about changing it from evil to good. Without a doubt, it constitutes the most important decision that any persons faces during his or her life time. The choice is whether we yield to that sinful nature and die eternally, or receive a new nature through faith in Christ. The choice is yours.

There is much disagreement existing over the kind of choice offered to each of us. There are perhaps millions who believe that god opens the door only once in a life time for a decision and then closes that door forever. Once you are saved, always saved, they say. In the back of our minds we know there is a deadly undercurrent which is crying out that no matter how much bitterness I possess, no matter how rebellious I become, I cannot escape eternal life. One thing you have forgotten, my friend, personality does not over ride the truth, nor does a gift over ride

character. "The soul that sins shall die."

Every man's work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness in heaven. The books will be opened and entered in these books with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty and every secret sin, every hurtful assembling, heaven sent warnings, and reproofs neglected, wasted moments, un-improved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or evil, or for evil with it's far reaching results. All are chronicled by the recording angel.

Oh, my friend, the Law is the standard by which the characters and lives of men will be tested in the judgment.

Sexual and Morality of all Clergy-a man who claims to be God's voice who sang from his old gospel hymn book and preached from the Holy Writ of God and sneaked out of his house and whispered in the ears of another man's wife that he loved her and showered her with worldly kindness, then go back to the pulpit as though no sin had been committed. God shall judge him! These same kinds of things David had done and they displeased the Lord. Job said, if I sin, then thou markest me and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity. II Samuel 11:27 and Job 10:14.

Just recently the National Baptist Convention, the largest Black denomination, gave their President a vote of confidence in spite of the fact that his wife of 25 years had publicly announced that her husband had been unfaithful. Yes, my friend, God is keeping a record. You and I may count the requirements of chastity of little value. God will mark us! We may even modify the scripture on condemning adultery and fornication, but you can hear those words. It displeased God when David had slept with Bath-sheba and committed the great sin. It was told that she had conceived and David began to plan and scheme. He sent for Uriah to try to get Uriah drunk and to return home. Verse 9 of II Samuel 11 says that Uriah slept at his in door.

Somebody needs to tell you who are in the pulpit and practicing adultery. God is going to get you. You may not appreciate this letter, but God will get you for scattering His flock, no matter where you go. God will stand at your door.

When this life is over, every man's work will pass in review before God. The Book will be opened. There the Moderator, the Deacon, the Pastor, the Board Committee...all will be there. Also, here on this side we have given men of adultery a "vote of confidence." But at the Judgment, 1,000x1,000x1,000, million will be there. All the lives of all who have believed on Jesus will come in review before God.

Every name, every name will be mentioned, every case closely investigated. Name are accepted. Names are rejected. Because of sins remaining upon the book, record, unrepented and unforgiven, their name will be blotted out of the Book of Life and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the Book of God. Remember, the Lord declared to Moses-whosoever hath sinned against me will I blot out of my book. Exodus 32:33. Ezekiel 18:24.

Let me close with this. David committed adultery. He did not attempt to blame anyone else, or to say everybody else is doing it. No sir, his sin was against God. II Samuel 12:7. God said David I anointed you King over Israel- I delivered thee out of Saul's hand- I gave you thy master's house, master's wives-David, when you were able, I reached the top. I put you there. You see, Preacher, when you got to that well paid position with fine cars, God said I gave it to you and when you sinned, it was against God. No wonder Joseph cried, How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God. Genesis 39:9

## NEWS FOR VETERANS

### VFW Sets Up Hotline To Monitor VA Care

(NAPS)—John Moon, the newly elected Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, called the maintenance of the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system "the biggest challenge" facing the organization.

Moon, of VFW Post 2873 in Grover Hill, Ohio, also announced that the VFW's Washington office is opening a toll-free hotline for veterans to tell them about the quality of medical care at their VA facility.

Speaking at the VFW national convention in Salt Lake City, Moon said he wanted to ensure that the VA system will not only survive, "but that it be the best provider of health care to you, the veterans of America, and former defenders of our country."

He told members the VFW will monitor any redistribution of resources among the VA's various service networks—a change due to a rapidly aging veteran population unequally spread throughout the nation.

"We will not tolerate any inequities nor will we tolerate any veterans suffering unduly as a consequence of this sharing concept," Moon said. "As the VA transforms itself to the more modern health care concepts and practices for the 21st century, we must have the courage to face those who would thwart this needed change."



John Moon  
VFW Commander in Chief

Moon said the VFW will distribute posters advertising the hotline to its departments and VA medical facilities. Information gathered from the hotline will be fed to the National Veterans Service staff at the Washington office's Tactical Assessments Center.

"Rest assured that we will challenge those who would undermine the quality as well as the accessibility of veterans health care," Moon said.

The new commander noted important decisions on veterans'

issues are being made daily. "It is clear we have our work cut out for us," Moon said, adding there are thousands of homeless veterans on the streets and there remains a need to find a cause and cure for disabilities confronting veterans of the Gulf War.

Moon said the challenge before him was to make the VFW "a force for change—a force for action." He said the organization must reach "those millions of eligible veterans who know and support the VFW but have not had the opportunity to opt for membership."

The VFW was formed 98 years ago to protect the rights and entitlements of veterans who have honorably served their country. It supports those serving in the military today through services such as Operation Uplink, a telephone calling card program jointly supported by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

#### Medical Hotline

The VFW medical care hotline, for veterans to call with both compliments and complaints about VA service, is (800) VFW-1899.

#### Free Brochures

If you'd like a free brochure about becoming a member of VFW, write: Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Headquarters-Membership, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

### "FALL FESTIVAL"

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\*Continued, Open, Responsive Government and Equal Treatment for All with Special Privileges for None.

Your Vote will be appreciated!

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