

The Carolina Indian Voice  
**Editorial & Opinion Page**  
 Send letters to the editor to:  
 P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372  
*The editor reserves the right to edit libelous and/or lengthy letters*

**A Commoner's Comments**

*An. Debra and Susan, Jr.*  
 A regional businessman wrote a very interesting letter to the editor of our local newspaper concerning local taxation. Save one very common error, he made some excellent points. For example, our Caucasian forefathers won their political freedom from England, and Martin Luther King won social freedom for minorities. But he asked: "I wonder of everyone has forgotten how one atheist woman was able to remove prayer from all the schools in America?" No, all have not forgotten this myth, but that is exactly what it is - a myth! As common as the belief is, did Madlyn Murray O' Hair single-handedly remove prayer from our nation's public schools? Or was she the attention seeking "loudmouth" who gladly accepted the credit, and became extremely wealthy as a result? Did powerful people who wanted the same result, but without repercussions, discretely aid her cause, then assign her the blame? No doubt city, county and state governments can trim their budgets, but have you noticed that our federal government, which opened the door for the exodus of our jobs, our tax base, and our economic stability is spending countless billions of our tax dollars in Iraq - with U.S. contractors, who contribute to campaigns of politicians - who decide to spend our tax money with U.S. contractors operating in Iraq? Do you see the cycle? Segments of our pluralistic population, which had no problem with prayer that begins with "Almighty God" or "Our Heavenly Father," did not want their children exposed to prayer that ends with "In Jesus Name." Neither did they want the political, social, and especially the economical repercussions from vocalizing their opinion. Madlyn Murray O' Hair gladly took the credit for their accomplishment. The special interests dictating policy to our federal leaders today, war profiteers and space exploration vendors in particular, would like nothing better than for us to fight among ourselves over the few monetary crumbs falling from the federal table. And blame city, county and state public officials for inequitable distribution of funds they do not have! Just as Americans blamed Madlyn Murray O' Hair for what special interests were really responsible for half-a-century ago. Please ask yourselves: Do our federal tax dollars allocated for Iraq stay in Iraq, or end up in the bank accounts of politically powerful U.S. corporations? Corporations owned and operated by people who do not suffer when city, county and state governments are under funded. The regional businessman wrote to our local newspaper concerning our county commissioner's inequitable distribution of funds. But how can public officials distribute limited funds equitably? Isn't it time for all hard-working taxpaying citizens to join forces with our city, county and state officials in petitioning our federal government for what is rightfully ours? And let the special interests pay their own way? Think about it, please!

**TWO MINUTES**

WITH THE BIBLE  
 BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, FOUNDER  
 BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
 PO BOX 756  
 GERMANTOWN, WI 53022



**THE APOSTLE OF GRACE**

Did you know that St. Paul was chosen by God as the apostle of grace?

He is God's great example of grace, "the chief of sinners" saved by grace (I Tim. 1:12-16).

To him was committed "the dispensation of the grace of God" (Eph. 3:2).

He was sent forth to proclaim "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

He wrote far more about grace than any other Bible writer.

All his epistles open or close (or both) with the salutation, "Grace be to you."

He declares: "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

He shows how God's grace was planned for believers in ages past: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9).

He shows how this grace will be ours in ages to come: "THAT IN THE AGES TO COME HE MIGHT SHOW THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN HIS

KINDNESS TOWARD US THROUGH CHRIST JESUS" (Eph. 2:7).

He shows how this grace is greater than all our sins: "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20).

He shows how grace gives us a righteous standing before God: "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).

He shows how God's grace has given believers a position in heaven: "[He] hath made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus...for by grace are ye saved through faith" (Eph. 2:6,8).

He shows how God's grace is sufficient for our difficulties and can help us to live consistent Christian lives: "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE" (II Cor. 12:9), "AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU, THAT YE, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS, MAY ABOUND TO EVERY GOOD WORK" (II Cor. 9:8). Accept salvation "by grace...through faith" as "the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8,9), and you too will enjoy these riches of grace.

**Board meetings scheduled for Community Corrections Board**

Samuel Kerns, Director of the Robeson County Offender Resource Center announces the scheduled Board Meetings of the Criminal Justice Partnership Program Advisory Board. The meetings will be held on the following dates at the Center Office, 120 West 6th Street, Lumberton, NC at 1:00 p.m.: August 18, October 20, January 20, 05, March 24, 05, and May 12, 05.

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