

**THE FIRST NATIONS
INITIATIVE**

AND FAITH ALONG THE TRAIL OF TEARS

Don Randolph

FROM THE ROAD TO RELOCATION TO THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION

WHEN I SHUT UP THE HEAVEN AND THERE IS NO RAIN, OR COMMAND THE LOCUSTS TO DEVOUR THE LAND, OR SEND PESTILENCE AMONG MY PEOPLE, IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES IN PRAYER, AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND. 2 Chronicles, Chapter 7, Verses 13-14.

ARISE, SHINE, FOR THE GLORY OF THE LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON THEE. FOR BEHOLD, THE DARKNESS SHALL COVER THE EARTH, AND GROSS DARKNESS THE PEOPLE: BUT THE LORD SHALL RISE UPON THEE, AND HIS GLORY SHALL BE SEEN UPON THEE. AND THE GENTILES SHALL COME TO THY LIGHT. AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF THY RISING. LIFT UP THINE EYES ROUND ABOUT, AND SEE: ALL THEY GATHER THEMSELVES TOGETHER, THEY COME TO THEE: THY SONS SHALL COME FROM AFAR, AND THY DAUGHTERS SHALL BE NURSED AT THY SIDE. THEN TOUT SHALT SEE, AND FLOW TOGETHER. AND THINE HEART SHALL FEAR, AND BE ENLARGED: BECAUSE THE ABUNDANCE OF THE SEA SHALL BE CONVERTED UNTO THEE. THE FORCES OF THE GENTILES SHALL COME UNTO THEE.
Isaiah, Chapter 60, Verses 1-5.

This book was not written to condemn any individuals or group of people. It was written to educate and inform people of the plight of the First Nations people and the steps many are taking to bring reconciliation, closure and forgiveness to a Nation divided against itself. Many people around this country are working together to help bring First Nations and non-Native Americans together in peace. Only God can mend this Nation and the festering wounds which have brought it to its knees in these days of sorrow and grief. This Nation needs Revival, but true Revival will never come until people repent of their sins and start loving one another whoever they may be, regardless of their race or cultural background. Repentance always precedes Revival. Revival will always bring reconciliation and renewal. As Christians we have all been given the “Ministry of Reconciliation,” reconciling ourselves and others to Christ. 2 Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 11-21. We must never forget what God brought us out of and where we are going because of Christ’s selfless sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary. Christ who vindicated us also

commands us to love one another. Jesus said: “This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.” John, chapter 15, verse 12. Love is not a suggestion, but a command. He also said if we love Him we will keep His commandments. John, chapter 14, verse 15. If we love one another we are keeping His commandment.

Don Randolph

DEDICATION

This Book is dedicated to all the poor souls who lost their lives and those who suffered grievously along the Trail of Tears Relocation which occurred during the tumultuous years of the Eighteen Thirties and all Native Americans who still suffer because of the way their ancestors were treated.

IN 1963 President John F. Kennedy said: “Before we can set out on the road to success, we have to know where we are going: and before we can know that, we must determine where we have been in the past. It seems a basic requirement to study the history of our Indian people. America has much to learn about the heritage of our American Indians. Only through this study can we as a nation do what must be done if our treatment of the American Indian is not to be marked down for all time as a national disgrace.

Reverend Billy Graham said: “THE greatest moments of Native history may lie ahead of us if a great spiritual renewal and awaking should take place. The Native American has been a sleeping giant. He is awakening. The original Americans could become the Evangelists who will help win America for Christ.”

“The reason we are not seeing the blessings of God on this nation is because of the breaking of Covenants.”

Lou Engle

INTRODUCTION

The Trail of Tears Relocation of many Native Americans from Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee was a tragic part of early American History. Many Native Americans still resent non Native Americans because of this great tragedy. Native Americans all over this great Country of ours were wronged by politicians who promised them freedom and equality through various Treaties which were never kept by the Government. In no way are we implying that Native Americans were never guilty of atrocities against any Native or non-Native Americans. We realize there were people on each side of the equation who were guilty of genocide and massacre. However, we do not wish to dwell on the failures of the past, but we desire to create a greater future for all of us in order for us all to dwell together in unity, peace and harmony. As we live alongside one another we must all learn to live together and help all those who may be less fortunate than we are regardless of one's color or origin.

Many of the Native Americans who suffered and those who died along the Trail of Tears were Christians. They held prayer meetings as they travelled along the Trail. During their trials and tribulations on the Trail of Tears, their faith in God was sorely tested. Many of them perished, however their faith was unwavering. Surely these brothers and sisters in the Lord should be

added to the HALL OF FAME along with those spoken of in chapter 11 of Hebrews. The Native Americans whose faith was also tested and tried were found worthy to receive a Crown of Life after enduring the many trials they suffered along the Trail of Tears.

The First Nations Initiative is an ongoing work to help find solutions to the many problems which continue to plague Native American Tribes including poverty, alcohol abuse, hunger, jobs and education. We can all be agents of change to all of God's people as we work together toward the goals placed before us. There are several groups of Native Americans working alongside non-Native Americans to bring about unity so our country can go forward together as one nation under God.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 The Trail of Treaties.....	11
Chapter 2 The Trail of Tears.....	15
Chapter 3 Trials along the Trail.....	20
Chapter 4 The Cherokee and Religion... 	29
Chapter 5 The Day of Remembrance.....	36
Chapter 6 First Nations Culture.....	45
Chapter 7 A New Trail of Tears.....	49

CHAPTER 1



THE TRAIL OF TREATIES

The term “FIRST NATIONS” relates to the indigenous peoples of North America. Native Americans prefer the term “First Nations” rather than “Indians.” The term “Indians” was given to Native Americans by Columbus when he first reached the shores of what we now call North America. Columbus was searching for a new trade route to the East Indies. Instead of landing in the East Indies he landed on one of the Islands in what is known today as the Bahamas. He named the first Island he landed on “San Salvador.” Native Americans today desire to preserve their Tribal or National identities as the FIRST NATIONS. Their ancestors were inhabitants of this Continent centuries before the Europeans sailed the Atlantic Ocean and landed on our Eastern Shores.

The idea to relocate Native American Tribes from the Southeastern United States was conceived by George Washington and John Knox over 50 years prior to the Trail of Tears debacle. Their plan for relocation did not include the forcible relocation of the Tribes which eventually took place under the direction of President Andrew Jackson. Washington’s idea of Relocation was to be a voluntary one, not a forced one. The Tribes were to be compensated for their homes and lands, as well as given safe passage to

other locations. However, the plan of Washington and Knox was far from what actually took place under the direction of Andrew Jackson.

In 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. It was signed into Law by President Andrew Jackson. Jackson was a major proponent in the Relocation of the Indians. The Law required the United States Government to negotiate, through treaties, the removal of Native Americans from their Territories in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The Indian Removal Act was not just supposed to be a Law, but a Treaty the Native Americans would sign agreeing to their relocation. According to the terms of the Treaty, relocation was to be a voluntary peaceful one. Native American lands were to be traded for land in the Oklahoma Territory. The Law did not permit Jackson, or anyone else, to coerce or force Native Americans into giving up their Lands. However, President Jackson ignored the law and forced relocation of the Tribes to lands in the Oklahoma Territory.

The Indian Removal Act did give President Jackson the power to pay for transportation for the Native American Tribes to move wherever THEY chose to relocate. However, the treaty did not give Jackson the authority to forcibly remove the Tribes without a Treaty to a place which he wanted to send them.

THE TRAIL OF BROKEN TREATIES

Prior to and after the Indian Removal Act of 1830 the United States had developed a history of making and breaking Treaties with the FIRST NATIONS people. The U.S. Government also abused its relative power over other indigenous Tribes. Their relations negotiations in dealing

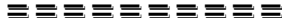
with the FIRST NATIONS were no different in this regard. The United States committed itself to and signed many Treaties which they repeatedly broke over and over again. Their record of adhering to their portion of the Treaties which they themselves wrote was a dismal one. They may or may not have been sincere in their motives at the time they signed them, but they almost always reneged on their promises to the FIRST NATIONS. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 was no exception.

The United States Government signed many Treaties with Native Americans which they did not have the authority to sign. In 1874 the Government signed an agreement with the Indians to purchase the Black Hills of South Dakota where gold had recently been discovered. This agreement was signed by just a few individual members of the Lakota Tribe. This agreement was a clear violation of the 1869 Treaty with the Lakota Tribe who owned the Black Hills. The 1869 Treaty specifically required three-fourths of the men of the Tribe to sign the agreement, however the signatures fell far short of the number needed to ratify the Treaty. Congress soon afterward passed a law making the Agreement “null and void.”

Native American leaders sued the United States Government on several occasions to force them into abiding by the Treaties which they had signed in good faith. In 1902 and 1903 the Supreme Court ruled that Congress had the authority to terminate or change Native American Treaties without the consent of the Indians. What good is a treaty if one party has the power to terminate, change, or make void at their discretion any agreement which is signed by the two parties?

The abuse the Native Americans suffered over the years is one of the greatest tragedies ever perpetuated on a group of people in this nation. Although we cannot change the past we can work together to forge a better future for all of us. However, people must be willing to forget the past or they will never be able live in peace and harmony.

CHAPTER 2



THE TRAIL OF TEARS

There were five Native American Tribes which were forcibly removed from Territories belonging to them to lands west of the Mississippi River. They included Native Americans from the Choctaw, Seminoles, Creek, Cherokee, and Chickasaw Tribes. There are 554 recognized Native American Tribes in the United States today. Most of them were driven from their Ancestral Homelands by the U. S. Government and forced onto Reservations where many of them died due to lack of food and shelter and adverse weather conditions.

The Trail of Tears was a series of forced relocations which began in 1831 and culminated in the removal of the Cherokees in 1838 and 1839. There were actually five trails or five different routes which the different Tribes traversed to reach the Oklahoma Territory.

In December of 1831 the Choctaws were the first to be relocated. Many of them were placed in chains and given no food or necessary supplies to use along the Trail. Thousands of them died of starvation, exposure and disease as they travelled along the Trails.

During the years of 1832 to 1837 many Seminoles, Creeks, Chickasaw and Muscogee Tribes were taken from their Homelands and forcibly removed to Reservations

West of the Mississippi River. A few of them did relocate on their own, however, most of them refused to leave the homes and lands they and their ancestors had owned for many years. By 1837 over 46,000 Native American had been forcibly relocated to the Oklahoma Territory. Many of the Cherokee died along the Trail on their journey to the Reservations which were located in what was known then as the Oklahoma Territory. The largest number of deaths along the Trail of Tears were those among the Cherokees.

THE CHEROKEE RELOCATION

The Cherokee were relocated during 1838 and 1839. They were the last of the Tribes to be relocated. When most people think of the Trail of Tears they think of the relocation of the Cherokee people. This is mostly because the Cherokee were the largest and most prominent of all the Tribes located in the Southeastern portion of the United States. It may also be because so much more has been written about the removal of the Cherokee than any of the other Native American Tribes. In this Book I am going to focus on the Cherokees and their plight before and along the Trail of Tears. We wish to in no way diminish the suffering and pain which the other Native American Tribes experienced on the Trail of Tears. In perspective, the death, pain and suffering which all the Tribes experienced on the Trail of Tears was heartless, barbaric and inhumane.

The forced relocation of the Cherokee began with the Treaty of New Echota in 1838. The Treaty of New Echota was signed on December 29, 1835. The Treaty ceded land to the United States Government in exchange for monetary compensation which was supposed to be paid to the Cherokee Tribes. The Treaty was signed by a Major

Ridge who was part Cherokee and a few other Cherokees who claimed to be representatives of the Cherokee Nation. They sold the land to the U. S. Government in exchange for Five Million Dollars. In reality, Ridge only represented a very small faction of the Cherokee people. John Ross, who was the Chief of the Cherokee Nation at that time had not been notified of the Treaty or the transaction.

In 1830 Gold had been discovered on Cherokee lands near Northwest Georgia near Dahlonega, Georgia. Many white settlers and gold speculators swarmed to the area to find gold without the permission of the Cherokee who owned the land at the time.

The Treaty of New Echota was ratified by only one vote in the U.S. Senate. The Cherokee people, led by John Ross, rejected the Treaty which led directly to the forced removal of the Cherokees in 1839. The Cherokee who lived on Indian owned lands were taken from their homes in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. The Cherokee who did not live on Indian Lands were allowed to remain in the area.

Many of the arrests of the Cherokee took place at a local Church which was located near Brasstown, North Carolina, and was pastored by Cherokee Native Peter Oganaya.

LT. JOHN BUTLER, WHO WAS STATIONED AT FORT BUTLER IN MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA, WROTE IN HIS DIARY CONCERNING THE ARRESTS (written in his words):

“Many of the Cherokee were collecting at a place of worship of theirs, seven companies of us marched thither

and bivouacked. By night fall about 100 had assembled, and when the camp was hushed they held a prayer meeting. They are of the Baptist persuasion. One of them opened his prayer by saying that it was probably the last time they should ever meet at their wonted place of worship; but he exhorted them and prayed that they not be led astray in the Wilderness. The occasion was deeply affecting and Indians though they were ...the congregation were all in tears. They did not know what to expect. A night of moral darkness enshrouded them, and beneath it unwholesome shades...barely hoping for the dawn of day the benignant day of rectitude. They wore that calmness of expression which sometimes so terribly indicates deep and stifled emotions.”

Most of the Cherokee Indians were surprised by U.S. Soldiers and were forced immediately into Internment Camps. Many of them were seized in the fields and woods surrounding their homes. They were not allowed to return home to get any supplies or extra food and clothing to take with them along the Trail.

The Internment Camps were Hell Holes where the Cherokee were crammed in stockades together with little room to maneuver. During their wait the Cherokee were beset by gamblers, bootleggers, swindlers, murders and thieves who tried to rob them of what little they had taken with them.

Government rations were scarce and often spoiled. Many diseases, including dysentery and whooping cough, took a heavy toll on the captives in the camps. Death was a daily visitor to the Stockades and Camps. Many of the Cherokee people took their own lives. They may have

been among some of the more fortunate ones seeing as how many of them suffered so terribly and tragically along the Trail.

CHAPTER 3



TRIALS AND TEARS ALONG THE TRAIL

The Trail of Tears was an unspeakable horror which led to the deaths of many Cherokee people. Death was no respecter of age, gender or nationality. African Americans, European Americans, and slaves who lived peaceably with the Cherokees at the time were also relocated with them. Around 5000 of these people lost their lives along the Trail of Tears. They endured heavy rains, snow, exposure, starvation and freezing temperatures. Many began their hazardous trek along the trail with scant clothing on their backs. They had little time to gather food and supplies were scarce along the Trail. Many left home without moccasins or shoes on their feet. When they were rounded up they were not allowed to go back to their homes to retrieve anything to take with them along the Trail.

Parents lost children. Children lost parents. Many of the elderly did not have much of a chance of survival and died along the Trail. Tears along the Trail were seldom quieted. Many of the Soldiers guarding the Cherokee along the Trail shed tears when they saw the plight and suffering of this once proud people. The Cherokee Nation had now become a people filled with grief, sorrow, suffering and pain. Surely such trials and tribulations have not been known to human-kind in such a manner as this. How can mankind treat his fellow man in such a terrible way? These

thoughts and many like them plagued many of the Federal Soldiers who forced the relocation of the Cherokee Nation along the Trail of Tears.

After fighting in the Civil War a Soldier from Georgia who participated in the Relocation, stated and I quote: “I fought through the War Between the States and have seen many men shot, but the Cherokee removal was the cruelest work I ever knew.”

There were some Federal Soldiers who remained indifferent about the plight of the Cherokees. Some of them probably gained pleasure in what they were doing. Mankind has always produced those who do not care about the sorrows, sufferings and trials of others.

At one point along the Trail of Tears it took almost three months to travel just 60 miles. This happened between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This is where the Cherokees lost many of their numbers. Many whites along the way did not want the Indians coming through their areas and they attacked and murdered many of them. Nearly one quarter of the Cherokee people who were forced to relocate died along the Trail of Tears. The Trail of Tears has been referred to by some as a “Death March.” Others have referred to the Trail of Tears as the “American Holocaust.” Both referrals are correct.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER WRITTEN BY L. B. WEBSTER, AN OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, TO HIS WIFE ON JUNE 28, 1838 CONCERNING THE FIRST 80 MILES OF THEIR JOURNEY (written in his words):

I left Fort Butler on the 15th in Charge of 800 Cherokee. I had not an officer along to assist me and only my own Company as guard. I experienced no difficulty in getting them along 10-14 other than what arose from fatigue, and the roughness of the mountains, which are the worse I have ever saw. We were eight days in making the journey (80 miles) and it was pitiful to behold the women and the children who suffered exceedingly as they were all obliged to walk. I had three regular Ministers of the Gospel in my party, and we have preaching or prayer meetings every night, while on the march and you may well imagine that under the peculiar circumstances of the case, among these sublime mountains and in deep forest with the thunder often roaring in the distance, that nothing could me more solemn and impressive....and always looked on with awe lest their prayers which I felt ascending to Heaven and calling for JUSTICE to Him (God) who alone can and will grant it, might fall upon my guilty head as one of the instruments of their oppression.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM A JOURNAL WRITTEN BY A REVEREND DANIEL SABINE BUTRICK WHO TRAVELLED WITH THE CHEROKEE ALONG THE TRAIL OF TEARS FROM THEIR HOMES IN GEORGIA TO THEIR NEW HOMELAND IN OKLAHOMA (written in his words):

The Cherokees had been kept on a small spot, surrounded by a strong guard, under such circumstances that it would seem impossible for male or female to secrete themselves waste from the gaze of the multitudes for any purpose whatever, unless by hanging up some cloth in their tents, and there they had no vessel for private use. But now the limits were somewhat enlarged, yet it is evident that

from their first arrest they were obliged to live very much like brute animals, and during their travels, were obliged at night to lie down on the naked ground, in the open air, exposed to wind and rain, and herd together, men, women and children, like droves of hogs, and in this way, many are hastening to a premature grave.

FINDING PEACE, FORGIVENESS AND CLOSURE

The great suffering and tragedy which took place along the Trail of Tears remains unprecedented in American History. It reminds us of how men, especially those who may share a common bond, can become so cruel, brutal and inhumane toward their fellow man. We all have a God given responsibility to watch over and care for our fellow man.

Whatever we do, we must as Native American and non-Native American alike, find a way to forgive each other. For the sake of peace and human decency we must learn to live together in peace and harmony. If we are going to live as one NATION and a “people united” instead of a NATION and a “people divided,” we must find closure for all people on both sides.

It is only through understanding and forgiveness that we can find peace and live in harmony with God and with our fellow man. Many of our ancestors made grave and grievous mistakes. However, we do not have to follow in the footsteps of those who may have brought disgrace upon themselves, or those who refuse to forgive them and their descendants for their cruelty and failures.

My Heritage is rooted in the America which was founded by men who travelled to this Country to find freedom of religion and freedom from persecution because of their Religion. My Heritage is also rooted in the First Nations people who inhabited this land before my European ancestors crossed the Atlantic Ocean to dwell in this land of plenty.

One of my ancestors Abraham Randolph fought in the Revolutionary War to help free this land from tyranny. My great, great grandfather John Randolph fought in the Civil War. My father Malcolm Randolph fought in World War II to help protect the freedoms this nation offers to all of its citizens. My Cherokee Ancestors and other Native Americans were terrorized and victimized by some of the same people who fought for freedom and equality for themselves and their families.

Many Native Americans were complicit in the deaths of many Native and non-Native Americans. Conflict has always been the result of fear, mistrust, greed and misunderstandings. For many, peace has always seemed to be an unattainable commodity because the hearts of many men are evil and desperately wicked. Evil men will always dwell among us until the PRINCE OF PEACE returns to Earth. However, we must understand that Peace can be attained in our hearts, but only by seeking understanding and forgiveness among ourselves. If we seek peace, we will only find it by understanding and forgiving one another for the way which our ancestors and we ourselves have treated one another. However, it will take the PRINCE OF PEACE to perform that miracle in our hearts.

WHO began the massacres, wars and killing between the First Nations Tribes who fought with each other and the First Nations people and the non-Native Americans does not matter at this point? We cannot keep harboring animosity and resentment toward people who may not look, act or talk like we do. If we are going to work and live together in peace and harmony, we must find common ground and promote unity through forgiveness, understanding and reconciliation.

Until we learn to forgive others for their sins and trespasses against us, we will never be truly free. The chains of hatred and animosity will continue to hold people in bondage unless they make a quality decision to “forgive” and make a concerted effort to forget. After all, people who are living today had nothing to do with what others did in the past. Does there still need to be changes made in the way the United States Government treat Native Americans? YES! Is there hope that this will happen? YES! Can we live in peace together as One Nation under God? YES! However, it will take people like you and I to come together and seek to forgive and forget the sins and transgressions of our ancestors. We cannot change the past, but we CAN forge a better future for ourselves and our children and grandchildren if we choose to do so.

Many Native Americans continue to harbor hatred and resentment for the way the United States Government treated their Ancestors in the past. Many harbor these same feelings toward our current Government. Many non-Native Americans continue to harbor hatred and resentment toward Native Americans for killing their forefathers. However, we must realize these feelings will not only hold us in bondage to the whims of evil men and satanic entities,

but will also keep us from being truly free from their oppressive ways.

I believe that the majority of Americans today do not harbor any animosity for Native Americans. Maybe that is because they were not driven from their homes and lands as many Native Americans were. Pressing forward toward reconciliation is the only path which will bring closure to all Americans. We must all leave the past in the past so we can all work together in the future to promote a better future for our children and our children's children regardless of race, religion or cultural background.

FOLLOW PEACE WITH ALL MEN, AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD. Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verse 14. The Bible admonishes all men to love "his neighbor as himself."

THE ETERNAL FLAME

The mystery of the ETERNAL FLAME has been around since before recorded History. The ETERNAL FLAME was a part of Cherokee culture long before the arrival of Europeans on the Continent of North America. It was a flame which has burned from generation to generation among the Cherokee people. The FLAME was to keep burning forever as a tribute to the unquenchable spirit of the Cherokee Nation. Council Fires in every Cherokee Village were kept burning from the flames and embers of previous fires among the Cherokee people from generation to generation.

The Cherokee carried the Eternal Flame with them along the Trail of Tears during their relocation to the Oklahoma Territory during the 1937-1938 debacle. They

were determined to keep this fire which represented the Cherokee Nation itself burning no matter what adversity they faced.

While travelling along the Trail of Tears the Cherokee were commanded to extinguish the ETERNAL FLAME by Officers of the United States Army. When they refused to put the fire out some enlisted men were ordered to put the FLAME out themselves. However, no matter how hard the soldiers tried they were unable to extinguish the FLAME. The ETERNAL FLAME was a sign that the INDOMITABLE Spirit of the Cherokee could never be, and never will be extinguished by mortal man.

In Oklahoma the ETERNAL FLAME was kept burning from year to year. In 1951 coals from the Eternal Flame was transported back to Cherokee, North Carolina. Then in April 1984 ten Cherokee runners transported a fire from the Eternal Flame from Cherokee North Carolina to Red Clay National Historic Park in Bradley County, Tennessee. Red Clay was where the last gathering of the Cherokee Nations took place before many of them left on the Trail of Tears.

At Red Clay State Park the Eternal Flame which was transferred there was allowed to die out on several occasions. Unfortunately, the task of keeping the FLAME from dying out was not given to the Cherokee themselves, but the Park employees. Leaving the task of keeping the FLAME alive should never have been left to people who did not understand the significance it holds. The ETERNAL FLAME represents the “spirit” of a people whose fire could not and would not be extinguished by evil men who were bent on destroying them. Fortunately, today

there are still many places on Reservations where the FLAME is still burning brightly.

For the Christians who suffered along the Trail of Tears, the Eternal Flame was about more than the spirit of the people, but about the Spirit of God. To them the Eternal Flame represented and continues to represent the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst. That ETERNAL FLAME which burned then and continues to burn today deep within their hearts could never be and never will be extinguished.

CHAPTER 4



THE CHEROKEE AND RELIGION

Native Americans have always been a religious people. I cannot recall or remember ever reading about a Native American Tribe who were atheists. That is not to say that their religious beliefs were not sometimes misguided, but they always believed in a higher power than themselves. Many Native Americans called/call their God “the Great Spirit.” They must have known somehow that God is a Spirit. Many of the Tribes probably heard about the Christian God Jehovah from Missionaries who came to North and South America from Europe.

When the NEW WORLD (new to them) was discovered by the Europeans, the Conquistadors and the Europeans escaping religious persecution shared the concept of the Christian God with the Native Americans. Many Native Americans were converted to Christianity through the preaching of the Gospel by the Europeans. Unfortunately, many of the missionaries who came to the New World were not true Christians, and their FORM of godliness was neither genuine nor legitimate.

Not all the efforts to convert the FIRST NATIONS to Christianity were done with the right motives or in the correct way. The Conquistadors and others tried to force Christianity upon the Native Americans, and in doing so they made a mockery of their Christian religion. True

commitment to Christ is not found in forced subjugation but in true repentance and sincerity of heart. We cannot force people to accept Christ as Lord, we can only offer them the opportunity to receive Him as Lord and Savior.

Many of the Cherokees who were forced to walk the Trail of Tears to land awaiting them in Oklahoma were Christians. Some of the Tribal Chiefs and leaders were Ordained Ministers of the Gospel. We will discuss more regarding this later.

The early Cherokee Religion was different than all the other Native American Religions. When the first Europeans came to what we now know as North America, they found that some of the Cherokee Nations Religions was much like their own. The Cherokees they encountered were Monolithic. They worshipped a God they called Yehowaah. Yahweh is the God which Jews and Christians worship. They believed in a three-person Godhead just as Christians today do. Many of the early Cherokee Religious Festivals mimicked the Jewish Festivals established by Moses and other Old Testament characters.

Many early Cherokee teachings closely paralleled many of the Old Testament stories we find in the Bible. Abraham was called Aquahami and Moses was called Washie. Many of their Ancient Cherokee legends portrayed godly men who stood up for righteousness and truth.

One of the most significant and similar beliefs of the Cherokee was the Story of Creation. The one God they believed in created the first man and woman. They also believed He created the World in seven days. According to Cherokee teachings, the woman was “bitten by a snake” which resulted in death becoming the destiny of all people.

The Cherokee believed in having no idols before their God. They also believed the Earth was created in seven days which is similar to the Biblical version of Creation. The Cherokee believed in draining and cooking (kosher) the blood out of their meat. Much like Christians and Jews, they worshipped their God through ceremonies, songs, dance, festivals and prayers. The Cherokees even kept religious items in an Ark much like Israel did. This is probably why many Cherokees were so easily converted to Christianity. Cherokee Religious ceremonies and teachings resemble some of the other Native American Tribes.

THE HEBREW CONNECTION

When British Colonists first came to North America, they found the Cherokee to be unique among the FIRST NATIONS TRIBES. Some Cherokees practiced a Religion which seemed to be much like that of the Ancient Hebrews. They built a seven-sided Temple which faced eastward where they worshipped the “Great Spirit.” Inside the Temple was a Sacred Fire which was kept burning all year long. The fire was relit every year during a Cherokee Indian Festival day which was much like Yom Kipper. They also had a variety of purification rituals and activities in the Temple which resembled the ones the Jewish people practiced in the Temple in Jerusalem. Even though there were many similarities, there were also some differences between different clans of the Cherokee Nation.

According to historians, in the early seventeenth century Jewish Immigrants settled in North Carolina, Georgia and the surrounding areas. They intermingled with the Native Americans and indoctrinated them to Jewish traditions and laws. Many Cherokees converted to

Judaism. Many of the Jews and other European settlers in the area took Native American women for their wives.

In 2010 The History Channel aired a documentary entitled “AMERICA UNEARTHED.” According to the documentary, DNA Scientists found that many of the modern day Cherokee had DNA which linked them to the Nation of Israel. They concluded that the Cherokee must be part of one of the Lost Tribes of Israel. However, they failed to take into account the fact that Jewish immigrants had inhabited the area in the Southeastern portion of the United States alongside and among the Cherokees. They also neglected to report that many of the Cherokees tested did not possess Jewish DNA. Some of the Cherokee who were tested had DNA matches that linked them with the Choctaw, Creek and other First Nations people in the area of the Southeastern United States.

Whether or not Cherokee Ancestry is linked with the Lost Tribe of Israel, it is a fact that many Cherokees do have some link to the Middle East and specifically that of the Nation of Israel according to DNA results. The Jewish link IS there, but it may or may not be with the Lost Tribe of Israel. It is not my wish to make a determination on how a link was found between some Cherokees and Israel, but to publish the fact that many of them have been linked to Israel through DNA testing.

UNCOMMON GROUND

When different cultures come together and cohabitate, it is not uncommon for them to incorporate many of their religious rituals, practices and traditions together with their own. Over the centuries many indigenous peoples all over

the World have integrated the political and religious cultures and practices of others they have come in contact with.

Uncommon ground will become common ground when people are determined to work together in unity and harmony in order to promote the well-being of each other. When we “do unto others as we would have them do unto us,” we have fulfilled the Law of Christ. When we make ourselves available to work with one another to promote peace, harmony and charity, we can and will be walking in unity.

Firstly, God created us to have fellowship with Him. Secondly, God said it was not good for man to be alone so He created a wife to work alongside him. Thirdly, God desired for all men and women to work together to ensure that His will, plan and purpose would be fulfilled on Earth. I believe God created each one of us and placed us on Earth to help and serve one another especially those who are unable to help themselves.

I believe we can all find common ground on ground which was once uncommon to us all. If we put aside all animosity and hatred toward one another for conscience sake, we will be able to work together and fulfill the will, plan and purpose of God for our Nation and for each individual.

THE MORAVIAN CONNECTION

The Moravian Church is considered to be the oldest Protestant denomination in history. Its roots go back before the time of the Reformation. The Church was founded in what is now called the Czech Republic. The Moravians

were dedicated to LIVING BY FAITH according to the teachings of Christ. They were dedicated to living simple, humble, disciplined, and peaceful lifestyles. The Moravians started the Protestant Movement some sixty years before Martin Luther hung his 95 Theses on the door of a Chapel in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. They began a 100 year non-stop, 24/7 prayer meeting which was inspired by the Tabernacle of David.

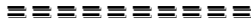
The Moravians first came to North America in the year of 1732. They set up missions in early Colonial America and the Caribbean Islands. A group of Moravians settled near the area of what is now called Salem, North Carolina. They established several missions in the Southeastern portion of the United States.

The Moravians sent Missionaries from North Carolina to set up a Mission among the Cherokee Indians in 1799. The Moravians were later followed by the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists. Many Cherokee were converted to the Christian faith. The first Cherokee Hymnal called the “Cherokee Hymnbook” was published in 1829. The Cherokee Hymnbook or “TSALAGI DIKANOGISDI” was carried by the Indians on the Trail of Tears in 1838. The Cherokee Christians sang hymns, prayed together and held prayer meetings along the Trail. The Moravian Missionaries greatly influenced the Cherokee with their faith in Christ and their godly lifestyles.

Just a few years ago a Cherokee intercessor gave a prophecy stating that “the Lord will restore the Eternal Flame, or Moravian Lampstand, to the Cherokee.

Many of the Moravian Missionaries travelled to Oklahoma with the Cherokee. After the Trail of Tears debacle some of the Moravian Missionaries established a school among the Cherokee on the Reservation in Oklahoma.

CHAPTER 5



THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The DAY OF REMEMBRANCE was first conceived in the heart of a Pastor from South Africa named Andre Vaynol. Pastor Vaynol had never heard of the Trail of Tears and knew very little of the history of the plight of Native Americans. At the time the Southeastern portion of the United States was experiencing the worst drought in 170 years. The Lord revealed to Vaynol the drought was due to the fact that U. S. Officials had never apologized to Native Americans for the Trail of Tears. After the apology by Government officials on the DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, the worst drought in Tennessee and North Carolina in 170 years ended.

The Day of Remembrance took place in Murphy, North Carolina in 2008. Representatives from several different Native American tribes met with government officials, and an official apology was given by government officials to the First Nations people. They apologized for the Trail of Tears debacle and the way the United States Government had treated Native Americans over the years.

Through divine connections Pastor Vaynol was able to contact Allison Muesons who has worked with Youth with a Mission since 1987. Allison is part Cherokee and a longtime native of North Carolina. Allison and another friend was then introduced to Bill and Lynette Dineheart

who hosted the Day of Remembrance on their property in Murphy, North Carolina in 2008.

Allison met with the Governor of North Carolina and shared the vision of Pastor Vanol and the plan for a Day of Remembrance with him. The Governor was very interested in helping her with bringing the Nations together for the Day of Remembrance.

Allison also shared the dream of Pastor Vaynol with Senators and Congressmen in Washington. She then shared the vision about the Day of Remembrance with North Carolina State Senators and Congressmen including State Senator Roger Snow.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS Relocation of Native Americans from North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida was a tragic part of early American History. Many Native Americans still resent non Native Americans because of this terrible tragedy. Many non-Native Americans are unsympathetic of the plight of Native Americans and how they were treated by their ancestors. Many non-Native Americans are also unsympathetic of the suffering of the First Nations People. Many Native Americans still live in poverty amid horrible living conditions on Reservations throughout the United States.

Many Native Americans still harbor resentment and animosity toward non-Native Americans for the Trail of Tears debacle and other atrocities perpetrated by the U.S. Government. They have haunting visions of their people dying from abuse, disease, starvation and exposure along the Trail of Tears.

THE DAY OF REMBERANCE. In 2008 a group of Native Americans and other non-Native Americans gathered together on a Mountain in Murphy, North Carolina, to commemorate the Trail of Tears debacle. However, this was not just to be a “day to remember” those who died along the Trail, but to help bring healing and restoration to Native Americans who are still emotionally impacted by the tragic events which transpired along the Trail, as well as to help bring them closure.

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE took place on property leased by Hosts Bill and Lynette Dinehart. Bill’s Native American Heritage is linked to the Abenaki Tribe which is located in Southeast Canada and Maine. Lynette’s Native American Heritage is linked to the Cherokee Nation. Among others Bill and Lynette were instrumental in laying the foundation for the first steps of Reconciliation between the First Nations and non-Native Americans.

Native American representatives from Tribes in several States, along with other Community and Government leaders, began the ground work and first Steps toward reconciliation that day. Present at THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE gathering were several distinguished guests which included both Native Americans and non-native Americans. Some of those present included State Senator Roger Snow of North Carolina, U. S. Congressman Zack Wamp of Tennessee, Jerome Slides Off--a descendant of Chief Crazy Horse and Chief Red Cloud along with several other State and Local Officials. Pastor Vaynol from South Africa was also present at the Day of Remembrance gathering.

Senator Snow, who has since retired from office, came to the podium and gave a speech which included an apology to the six Native American Tribes who were displaced during the Trail of Tears and for the many Native American lives lost along the Trail. He also apologized to all Native Americans for the way they had been treated by the United States Government over the years. This was the first time in History an official from the United States Government made a public apology to all Native Americans for the way they had been treated by the government.

HEALING AND CLOSURE

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE brought healing and closure for many members of the FIRST NATIONS TRIBES who were present at the gathering. Many tears were shed and many hearts were mended and healed among FIRST NATIONS people that day. The long festering wounds and animosity in the hearts of the Native Americans toward non-Native Americans who attended the gathering that day were healed, and closure was found for them. A new TRAIL OF TEARS began that day. It was a Trail of Tears which lead to healing, forgiveness and reconciliation—not just among the FIRST NATIONS people, but between First Nations people and many Americans.

In 2008 an eight day gathering which was called THE RESTORATION OF NATIONS was also held on the same property. Representatives from several different States and First Nations Tribes along with nonnative Americans met together again for a time of reconciliation and forgiveness. Local Government Officials and Tribal

Leaders from North Carolina and other States were present at the eight days of meetings. Many from different Tribes communicated their desire to return to the Mountain for more gatherings like the ones they had attended on THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE and THE RESTORATION OF THE NATIONS.

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND THE RESTORATION OF NATIONS were faith based gatherings. True closure, healing, reconciliation, and forgiveness can only come from Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Only Christ can wipe away the TRAIL OF TEARS which remain in the hearts of the First Nations people who continue to suffer so much abuse in this Nation.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS CONTINUES

As a Nation we have done little to ease the pain and suffering of our Native American brothers and sisters. Poverty, illiteracy, and substance abuse run rampant on Reservations all over the United States. The average Native American male dies at the age of 42. The average female dies at the age of 48. The suicide rate is twice the National average. Among Native Americans living on Reservations the infant mortality rate is three times the National average. The suicide rate is twice the National average. Suicide among teens on Reservations is four times the National average, and unemployment is around eighty percent.

The Government gives very little help to Native Americans who are living on Reservations. They have very few programs geared toward helping Native Americans

recover from the years of abuse and neglect they have suffered. Most of the help they do receive from outside sources comes from Christian Organizations who the Native Americans do not trust. This is why it is so important to bring Native Americans and their counterparts together for a time of restoration and reconciliation. We can never call ourselves a Nation united until we heal the wounds which have divided our Nation through the sins of the past.

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE in Murphy was the beginning of a new attempt at restoring peace and harmony between the indigenous people of this great Nation of ours and all the people who call themselves Americans. The next steps to bringing reconciliation and healing between Americans of all cultures is to find common ground. Common ground is usually found in establishing a Commonwealth of people. When we are sharing our God-given finances, talents and abilities with those who are less fortunate than we are, we will be fulfilling the Law of Christ.

On October 20, 2015 my wife and I were praying for the First Nations reconciliation and for a Revival among the Nations. The Lord gave me a vision of a very sad, forlorn looking Native American. He seemed to be destitute and without hope. Many Native Americans were laying prostrate before him at his feet worshipping him. I wondered who this man could be and why these people were worshipping him. Then the scripture came to me which says: "When you have done it unto the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me." Matthew, Chapter 25, Verse 40.

Jesus represented the Native American who stood looking sad and forlorn with hopelessness in His eyes. When we are helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are doing it to Jesus. We are His body, the FULLNESS of Christ. Helping those who are unable to help themselves is the duty of every individual. When you are helping a brother or sister in need you are helping Christ. Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”* Matthew 25:40.

We must realize we are all in this together. God placed us on this Earth for a reason. He had a plan for men and women of all races and cultural backgrounds to work together and help one another. I am in no way foolish enough to think that everyone has the wisdom and prudence to follow the plan of God. Many evil people dwell among us who try to stifle the plan and purpose of God for mankind. However, there are many people who are interested in the wellbeing of their fellow man. If we forget to remember the failures of the past and how we arrived there, we will continue to follow a Trail of Tears to a not so pleasant future where we are all headed.

WORST DROUGHT IN 170 YEARS

In 2007 and 2008 the Southeastern United States was experiencing its worst drought in 170 years. This drought affected the Southeastern United States, and in particular, mainly encompassed the Tribal Lands of the Cherokee and other First Nations people whose lands were forcibly taken from them. If you look back in history to the years of 1837 and 1838 when the Trail of Tears was in full swing, you will find that 170 years had elapsed.

The Lord had shown Pastor Vaynol this drought was directly related the Trail of Tears debacle and the taking of Indian Territories by force from their ancestral homelands. After the Day of Remembrance the drought in the Southeast lifted and the land was restored by plentiful rain. Areas where lakes and rivers were severely affected by the drought again began experiencing rain. The lakes and rivers were again filled with precious life giving water and the land was restored.

“WHEN I SHUT UP THE HEAVEN AND THERE IS NO RAIN, OR COMMAND THE LOCUSTS TO DEVOUR THE LAND, OR SEND PESTILENCE AMONG MY PEOPLE, IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND. 2 Chronicles, Chapter 7, Verses 13-14.

There is a direct correlation between the land and human behavior. In scripture “the land” speaks prophetically of “the spirit.” Since the beginning of time when God’s people were disobedient God would send a curse upon the land until His people repented. This is apparent in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned and God cursed the ground. You can read the account of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden in Genesis, Chapter 3.

When God was cursing the ground He was not only speaking of the ground that Adam and Eve were walking on, but the spirit which dwelt within them. God had told Adam and Eve that “on the day they ate of the Fruit of the

Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would surely die". On the very day they partook of the forbidden fruit the process of spiritual and physical death began for all mankind due to the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

CHAPTER 6



FIRST NATIONS CULTURE

Over the years many Native American children were forcibly removed from Reservations and placed in schools where the U. S. Government tried to change their cultural expressions and traditions. They were given English names. Young men had their hair cut so they could “fit in” with the whites they were living among. Nothing could have been more devastating to the First Nations people than to take away their identity. Forcing our culture and beliefs upon another race of people has never been successful. If transition from culture to culture is to take place it should come naturally--not forcibly. When you take away the heritage of a nation you take away their identity.

In many areas of the country Native Americans were forced to conform to white culture against their will. Many Indian Children were taken from their homes and placed into boarding schools and forced into learning the ways of western society. This policy was designed to strip the Native Americans of their Native traditions, culture and heritage.

Many First Nations people still resent non-Native Americans because of the way they were forced to submit to their lifestyles. Many were also FORCED to submit to

the white man's God. When the Conquistadors first came to the Americas, Native Americans were forced to convert to their religion or be killed. Many did not submit and were systematically slaughtered by people who claimed to be representatives of God. We all know they were not the representatives of God but of Satan. Genocide would be a better name for what the Conquistadors did. The true Gospel never forces anyone to submit to a God they do not know or have never been exposed to.

In the years following the arrival of white men on the shores of North America, God did send Missionaries who preached the Gospel to the First Nations people. Many American Indians were converted to true Christianity at that time.

I believe that it was God's plan and purpose for people of other Nations to come to the "New World" to preach the Gospel of Christ our Lord. I also believe white men were sent here to SHARE the Land with the indigenous people who lived here. However, God never meant for white men to take the lands of Native Americans away from them as many of them did. Greed can lead the hearts of whole Nations astray where the fear of God does not exist.

The Day of Remembrance was a step in bringing Native Americans and Non-Native Americans together to heal the many wounds which our ancestors have thrust in each other's hearts with swords and spears. We alone can be a catalyst for change. Reconciliation must first begin in our own hearts before true change can be realized. Each of us must search our own hearts to find forgiveness for those who have opposed and so grievously stole the peace in our

hearts and destroyed our faith in God and each other. Many people were touched at the Day of Remembrance gathering and many hearts found peace because others reached out with a loving hand to embrace their hands and hearts.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Many First Nations people do not worship God in the same way many white people do here in the United States. Cultures are different all over the World. People in other parts of the World worship God the only way they know how. Does that make them wrong? God is not just a white man's God. He is the God of all Nations and people with different cultural backgrounds. Many Christians from different parts of the World would find many of the ways most Americans worship God to be strange and maybe even perverse at times. True worship is an attitude of the heart and does not have anything to do with outward appearances. Many people worship God in different ways due to their cultural upbringing. The Bible tells us to make a "joyful noise" unto the Lord. Our noise may sound different than others, but God looks at the heart not the method in which we worship.

God speaks to people of different cultures in the ways they can best understand. Do some Native Americans have traditions that may not be scriptural? Yes, some may. On the other hand, there are many people in white Churches who are steeped in traditions that are not scriptural. We were not ordained by God to judge and condemn one another, but to help one another to see the error of their ways. We will never do that by being judgmental or unkind to one another.

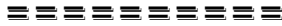
Many white Pastors in the area where I live in Cherokee County, North Carolina, and other surrounding counties will not have anything or do with First Nations Christians because of the way they look and the way they dress at times. Many of the men still wear long hair and may even sport a feather in their ball cap. Some of them still wear some of their traditional clothing. Yet, these same Pastors may have a picture of Jesus with long hair on the wall in their office. They would not lift a hand to help their Native American brothers and sisters because they have prejudices which they have buried within their hearts. Everywhere churches are full of hypocrites.

Thankfully, God does not judge people according to their outward appearance, but by the **CONDITION OF THEIR HEART**. If we judge someone because of the way they look or what they may wear, we cannot truthfully say that we love God. We will never reach people by being their judge, jury and executioner. Jesus did not come into this World to judge or condemn people for the World was already condemned. Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost.

Religious people have always found a way to judge and condemn people who do not look like them or do things exactly as they do. Judgment must first begin in the “House of God.” If we would judge ourselves, we would not have to be judged by the true Judge, Jehovah, who sees the heart and tries the reins (motives and attitudes) of people. Jeremiah chapter 17, verse 10.

CHAPTER 7

A NEW TRAIL OF TEARS



A New Trail of Tears began after the Relocation of the Cherokee when they reached the Reservations in Oklahoma. Like the Trail of Tears, the Cherokee had embarked on a new journey which would lead them down a precarious pathway similar to the one they had just travelled. From a psychological standpoint the Cherokee had suffered more than any group of individuals should have ever suffered. Poverty, disease, and death were visited upon the Cherokee as they tried to acclimate to their new surroundings. However, they were a resilient and proud people who refused to let their tormentors and circumstances cull their spirit. They called the Trail of Tears Nu na da ul tsun yi---which means the “Place Where They Cried.”

Life was different for the Cherokee in Oklahoma. Survivor’s guilt ran rampant among the Nation. Memories of their friends and loved ones who had suffered grievously and died along the Trail haunted many of them for years to come. They had learned a hard lesson concerning the United States Government. The government could not be trusted. This mistrust of our Government Officials still lingers today. The lands of the Cherokee had been forcibly taken away from them and they were relocated to a place

where the ground was hard to till and bad weather made their lives even more miserable.

Life was difficult in their new Homeland. Most of their belongings were left behind at their homes in the Southeast along with their memories of prosperous and happy times. Weeping among the Cherokee became the new norm for the people who had been so grievously and forcibly torn from their Homeland.

It took time to establish a new Government because many of the Cherokee who had travelled West before them were despised for caving into the demands of the U.S. Government. There was much friction and infighting among the Cherokee clans. Loyalty among the Cherokee Tribes had diminished and the proliferation of the Cherokee spirit would have wiped them out if it had not been for their resilience and steadfastness in the face of adversity.

There were promises of food and other supplies waiting for the Cherokees when they arrived in Oklahoma. This was one promise they hoped the U. S. Government would not renege on. They were promised payment for the lands they had been forced from in the East. However, most of the Cherokees were deprived of even their basic needs. Many of the things they were promised were not there when they arrived in the Oklahoma Territory.

The Cherokee had to adapt to new climate patterns which were much different from those they had in their native Homeland. Food sources were different, and the plants and herbs they used for food and medicine were not available in to them their new Homeland.

GENOCIDE AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS

Before the arrival of white settlers from Europe there were over ten million First Nations people who lived in North America. Ninety percent of these indigenous people were wiped out due to warfare, disease and famine.

Most of the white settlers were met with open arms by the First Nations people when they came ashore to their new Homeland. Unfortunately, greed and hegemony on the part of the white settlers became a problem for the Native Tribes. They were forced further and further into the interior of what we now call the United States of America. The Conquistadors like Desoto and others had been received by friendly Native Americans only to be betrayed, robbed and slaughtered by them.

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was unsettled by the atrocities the Europeans committed against the First nations people. He said in a sermon entitled “A Caution against Bigotry” the following:

“Even cruelty and blood shed, how little have the Christians come behind them! And not the Spaniards or the Portuguese alone, butchering thousands in South America: not the Dutch only in the East Indies, or the French in North America, following the Spaniards step by step.: our own countrymen too, have wantoned in blood, and exterminated whole nations: plainly proving thereby what spirit it is that dwells and works in the children of disobedience!”

The Nazi Party studied the tactics of the United States Government’s plan of genocide and extermination of the First Nations people as a model to eliminate the World of the Jewish population during the thirties and forties. Even though many Indians and Jews were slaughtered

during their respective holocausts, neither plan completely worked out the way their leaders had planned. A small minority of Indians and Jews were spared from the brutality of these governments.

As people of God from all Nations we must never forget the atrocities of the past which has been visited upon those that God loves dearly, no matter who they may be. We must remember that God loved ALL the World so much that He sent Christ to die on the Cross at Calvary for people of ALL Nations, races, cultures and tongues.

When we learn to love one another regardless of our cultural differences and the color of our skin, we will be fulfilling the Law of Christ Jesus. When we learn to love others as Christ loves us, we can then call ourselves the “People of God” without being hypocritical and judgmental.

A NEW CHAPTER

We all need to write a new chapter in our life if we are not truly free where it counts most—in our heart. We will never experience true freedom until we are free from bias, hatred offenses, unforgiveness, bitterness, strife and envy.

Many Americans are offended by the way their ancestors were treated. Many ancestors were enslaved by ungodly men and/or driven from their homelands like cattle and sheep to die along trails and in trials of desperation and despair. However tragic these situations may have been, we must not allow the tragedy of hate, bitterness, unforgiveness and offenses to take control of our hearts and oppressively rule our minds.

Forgiveness is the KEY to finding true freedom. Forgiveness is not just an opportunity where those who have offended us can find redemption. It is an opportunity for us to find peace and rest in our own hearts. When Jesus told us to “forgive one another” He was not just saying that for the benefit of those who have transgressed against us, but for our own benefit as well.

We must learn to forgive unconditionally if we are going to take the first step toward reconciliation. However, we will find we cannot forgive in our own ability. It will take the love of Christ for others within us to forgive those who have sinned against us. When we forgive “and forget,” we will find the weight of many obstacles which hinder inner peace and freedom lifted off of us. It is the truth which sets us truly free. Jesus is the Truth, the Life and the Way. He is the WAY to forgiveness. He is the WAY to freedom. He is the WAY to reconciliation. Trust Him to help you today in whatever need you may have.

In 2016 all the Tribal Elders of the Cherokee Nation met together to heal the wounds which festered between them for over a century at their annual POW WOW at Red Clay State Park located near Cleveland, Tennessee. All who attended the POW WOW left the area with a new sense of unity and forgiveness. This is an encouraging sign that relationships will continue to be strengthened for the First Nations across America.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS

The Trail of Tears of a Nation,
on the Road to Relocation.
Hearts once filled with pride
now left with much sorrow inside.

Such great sorrow and pain
among First Nations remain.
With great Eagles surrounding
tears on mountains keep mounting.

Sad hearts with great sorrow
what will happen tomorrow?
With prayers still ascending
God's heart they are rending.

MANY tears of sad sorrow
what will happen tomorrow?
On Eagle's wings prayers ascending
Father's love comes descending.

First Nations tears come to rest
in Father's great Eagle's Nest.
Now the hope of Salvation
brings grace to this Great Nation.

The Power of Peace from above
rests on First Nations with love.
In the heart of this Great Nation
comes great faith and elation.

continued.....

With hands lifted high
First Nations look to the sky.
No more Tears on the Trails
Father's love now prevails.

Hearts once fill with such sorrow
have found hope for tomorrow.
Descending grace from above
fills First Nations with God's love.

Don Randolph

A NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER

Oh Great Spirit whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the World, hear me, I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple skies. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every tree and rock. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight against my enemy, myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

THIS PRAYER WAS TRANSLATED BY LAKOTA
CHIEF YELLOW LARK IN 1877.

PUBLISHED IN "NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYERS" BY
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

AS WHEN THE WEARY TRAVELLER

He walks here on earth,
His heart is filled with Spirit

He saw his home,
Someday it will also be.

Just as I will be in Heaven

When I see my home,
I am filled with Spirit,

I long for that place.

I will live where Jesus lives,

Where the daylight shines

Where pain and bad things,

Do not live.

Tears and death,

Will not live there

Jesus saved us.

AN OLD CHEROKEE HYMN FROM THE
“TSALAGI DIKANOGISDI”

BIOGRAPHIES

Don and Alma Randolph

Don Randolph has been in Ministry for over thirty-five years. Don is an Itinerate Minister ex-Pastor and business owner. Alma worked for years as a Legal Secretary, Paralegal and Deputy Clerk at the Tennessee State Supreme Court in Knoxville, Tennessee and the United States Bankruptcy Court in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Don served in Pastoral Ministry for fifteen years and as an Evangelist, Author and Itinerate Speaker for over twenty years. Don and his wife Alma have been married for thirty-three years.

Don and Alma serve in Ministry together as a team working with, pastoring and counseling other Ministers and their spouses. They have a heart to provide solutions for Ministers who are dealing with burnout and other problems which adversely affect their Ministries and ultimately their congregations. By helping to provide the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of Ministers they are helping the WHOLE Body of Christ. Helping Church leaders with their problems helps promote unity and strength so the BODY can function together as a UNIT to

fulfill the PLAN and PUROPSE of God on this Earth. Don and Alma are part Cherokee Indian.

Our current goals are to continue to help Ministers to find solutions for their problems. We are also working to help provide food, shelter, clothing and spiritual guidance to individuals and families in the Appalachian areas of North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Don is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Eagle's Nest Prophetic Ministries, Eagle's Nest Refuge Association a non-profit Organization, and former Director of Potter's House Ministries in Cleveland, Tennessee.

The Bible tells us that “it is not God’s will for anyone to perish, but that all would receive Eternal Life.” 2nd Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9. Like sheep we have all gone astray and need to be reconciled with God our Creator. “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John Chapter 3, Verse 16.

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, IF YOU ARE BACKSLIDDEN, OR NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST—PLEASE PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER AND ASK JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR HEART NOW.

FATHER, I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF YOUR SON JESUS, I CONFESS THAT I AM A SINNER AND THAT I HAVE COME SHORT OF YOUR GLORY. I BELIEVE JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS AND THAT YOU RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. I KNOW IT WAS FOR ME CHRIST SHED HIS BLOOD ON CALVARY’S CROSS. I AM SORRY FOR THE SINS I HAVE COMMITTED. PLEASE FORGIVE ME AND COME INTO MY HEART RIGHT NOW. I ALSO ASK YOU TO FILL ME WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT RIGHT NOW. AMEN.

Signature and Date _____

BOOKS BY DON RANDOLPH

I AM- A Prophetic Look at End Time Events
It is Written
A Message to the Churches
Spiritual Warfare-And the Craft of Deception
The New Jerusalem
The Story of the Cross
Two Trees in Eden
The Vagabond Spirit
A Cry in the Wilderness-The Voice of God
Prophetic Poetry Songs and Psalms
Tongues of Fire 1896
Wisdom Speaks
The Knowledge of God
Pursuing the Divine Nature of Christ
The First Nations Initiative
The Great Storm
The Spirit and the Bride Say Come
Divine Leadership Directives and Disposition
Exposing and Dethroning Lucifer

BOOKLETS BY DON RANDOLPH

A Message From the Seven Stars

In My Father's House

The Spirit of Fear

The Vagabonds

Who Told You That You Were Naked

The Path Least Travelled

Visions of Rapture-Poetry

The Rose of Sharon-Poetry

The Wisdom of the Ages-Poetry

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