

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

*Visit our Website at [www.foresthillchurch.org](http://www.foresthillchurch.org)*

## **Forest Hill Church of Christ**

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444  
Fax: (901) 751-9711  
Info Line: (901) 392-2449

### **Elders:**

Anthony D. Callahan  
Floyd M. Hayes  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Leonard Watson

### **Ministers:**

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit  
Matthew L. Martin, Associate  
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

### **VISIT US SOON!**

#### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

#### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF  
MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF  
PREACHING  
[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)**

### **Missions Supported:**

Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Far East/World Evangelism  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Truth for the World

Volume 33

October 11, 2005

Number 41

## **OH, THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP (part two)**

Matthew Martin

A few weeks ago the topic of friendship was discussed. Two Old Testament characters (Joshua-the friend of Moses, and Jonathan-the friend of David) were considered. Let us turn our attention to the New Testament this week and consider another aspect of a good friend, as we examine the Apostle Paul: a good friend who rebuked, when his friend erred.

### **PAUL: WHO REBUKED HIS FRIEND WHEN HE WAS WRONG**

Peter: The most up-and-down Apostle. For every two steps forward, it seems he took two steps back. One preacher said Peter had "foot in mouth" disease; constantly getting himself into trouble. And yet, for all his faults, you cannot help but root for him. You cannot help but want to see him do right, and make up for the times he did wrong.

Like all of us, Peter had problems. He was headstrong, undisciplined, and often times spoke (Matt 17:4, John 21:21), and acted (John 18:10) without thinking. But, for all his shortcomings, by the end of his life, Peter had matured into a sober-minded, and pious elder in the church (1 Pet. 5:1). But what led him to that point? How did he go from headstrong to sober-minded? Was it age? Surely age cannot take all the credit, as there are many older men who are just as brass as Peter was in his younger years. It wasn't just age that smoothed Peter's rough edges, it was the company of good friends he kept; friends that would rebuke him (in a *Christian* way) when he erred. Chief among the examples we have of his being rebuked, is the one found in the book of Galatians:

But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *[them]* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? (Gal 2:11-14).

Peter had done wrong. He showed prejudice and, in doing so, hurt the cause of Christ among the Gentiles. Paul knew his friend had done wrong, and rebuked him. Now, the word "rebuke" has been thrown around quite a bit so far. Perhaps it would be good to understand what constitutes a godly rebuke, or rather  
(Continued on page 4)

---

## REPORT FROM CORDOVA CHURCH OF CHRIST ON HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your willingness to help with the relief efforts for hurricane Katrina. Out of destruction, devastation, and dislocation there has developed a benevolent spirit of compassion from Christians all over this country. The Cordova church of Christ here in Cordova, Tennessee has a direct link with the Chalmette congregation in Chalmette, Louisiana. One of the elders from Chalmette, Chris Kramer, relocated his family to Cordova. His daughter is a member here. We have helped find housing here in Cordova and provide financial assistance for the Kramers and two other families from Chalmette. With brother Kramer's help we have been able to locate all of the members of the Chalmette congregation except five families (14 individuals). As we have located these Christians who have evacuated to various parts of the country we have connected them with congregations of the Lord's people in the areas to which they had relocated. We have mailed most of these fellow Christians financial assistance in the form of money orders because many of them can't cash personal checks in their temporary homes.

It has truly been heart warming to witness the response from Christians all over this great nation who want to help their fellowman recover from the devastation hurricane Katrina left behind. One hundred twenty (120) congregations and individuals have given \$148,000.00 to sustain those who have lost their homes, jobs, and possessions. Many have offered rooms in their homes or other housing arrangements. Many have provided the items that we have posted on our website, [www.cordovacoc.org](http://www.cordovacoc.org), and others have offered to travel to the storm-stricken areas to help with cleanup and repair. There will be a greater need for supplies and help cleaning up as the New Orleans area is opened back up. The items that are needed change from week to week as we enter different phases of recovery. The government officials have indicated to the Chalmette residents that it may be anywhere from six months to a year before they are allowed back to rebuild. We will do our best to keep you informed by newsletters and by posting updated information on our website.

We have thus far provided monetary support in the amount of \$18,700.00 to 13 individuals and/or families. We have a used van, equipped with a lift, for a Christian family from Chalmette who have a 30-year-old daughter with cerebral palsy. They had to leave their fully equipped van in Chalmette because it wasn't running well and they were afraid it would stall on them as they were trying to escape from hurricane Katrina. Needless to say their home, van, and all their earthly possessions were under several feet of water for more than a week. They are a very humble and appreciative family. We have also found this family housing and the husband has secured a job here.

We will keep you updated on how funds are dispersed and what needs remain. If you have questions feel free to call us at 901-754-9893 or write to us at the Cordova Church of Christ, 7801 Macon Road, Cordova, TN, 38018. Thanks again for your benevolent spirit, monetary assistance, and your prayers.

For the church,  
The elders at Cordova

what *does not*. Did Paul insult his friend Peter? No, what good would insulting him do? Did he belittle his friend Peter for making a mistake? No, Peter was not the first to err, and Paul was not perfect either. Some may think those are the two essential ingredients in a rebuke: belittling and insulting, but they are not.

Paul simply addressed the situation (in a *godly* manor) to Peter, and logically showed him that what he was doing was wrong. There were no insults, there was no belittling of Peter's character. And Paul describes that as a "rebuke to the face."

Consider how Paul *could have* (wrongly) handled that situation. He could have labeled Peter a heretic. He could have refused to forgive Peter. He could have used that as a way to advance his own cause and gain more notoriety for himself. He could have, but he did not. Why? Because Paul didn't care about advancing his own cause, he cared about advancing the cause of Christ. And when he saw his brother in Christ, who he knew was a great preacher, doing wrong, he rebuked him, and helped him get back on the right track. After all, Paul was a good friend.

Let us thank God that Peter listened to the rebuke, and that both were wise enough to understand Solomon's words, when he said "Faithful are the wounds of a **friend**..." (Pro. 27:6).

\*\*\*\*\*

Non-Profit  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GERMANTOWN, TN  
PERMIT #94

# DON'T FORGET!

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE**

## Forest Hill Ladies Day

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

**Speaker:**

Melony Webster, of Hoover Alabama

**Theme:**

"The House the Lord Built"



**The Forest Hill News**  
Forest Hill Church of Christ  
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road  
Germantown, TN 38125

Address Service Requested