

Neighborly News

Brought to you by your friends at the Mt. Hebron Church of Christ.

The difference in sand and stone

A story tells of two friends who were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, she wrote in the sand:



"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE"

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but her friend saved her. After she recovered from the near drown-

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE"

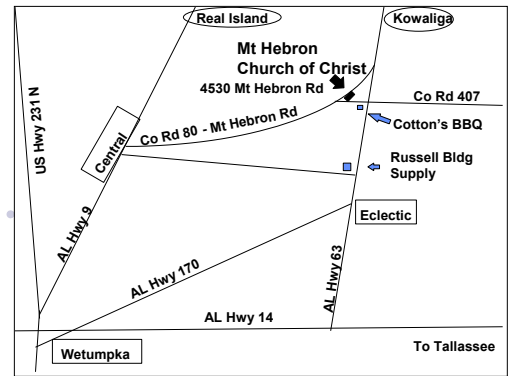
ing, she wrote on a stone: The friend, who had slapped and saved her best friend, asked her, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand, where the winds of forgiveness can erase it, but when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone, so no wind can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to

carve your blessings in stone.

"So you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow," (2 Corinthians 2:7).



Mt. Hebron Church of Christ

**P.O. Box 240159
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.
Eclectic, Ala. 36024**

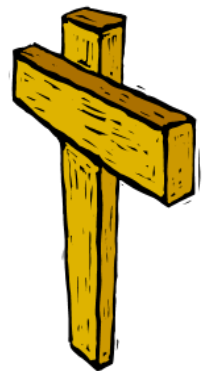
Come and visit us

**Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM**

**Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM**

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| God's Grace | - Ephesians 2:8 |
| Christ's Blood | - Romans 5:9 |
| The Spirit's Gospel | - Romans 1:16 |
| Sinner's Faith | - Acts 16:31 |
| Sinner's Repentance | - Luke 13:3 |
| Sinner's Confession | - Romans 10:10 |
| Sinner's Baptism | - 1 Peter 3:21 |
| Christian's Work | - James 2:24 |
| Christian's Hope | - Romans 8:24 |
| Christian's Endurance | - Revelation 2:10 |



A Psalm. Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.- (Psalm 98:1-2)

Play catch with your children

God's wisdom is seen in His stressing the importance of instilling in children the truths of His Word at an early age (Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:4-7). The man will be as the child is trained. By exposing children to a large quantity of Bible teachings in their early years, we can be instrumental in programming their "mental computers" so that they know the mind of God and think as He does.

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

(Proverbs 29:15)

Truth is as much the natural staff of life for the soul as bread is for the body. The soul cannot be strong and healthy without it. Ignorance is the starvation of the soul; error is its poison; truth is its food and healing medicine. The very highest truths are those which should be imparted at the earliest possible period in a child's history. It is important that as soon as a child's mind can admit the thought, it should be taught concerning Him who made it

and all things, and who rules in heaven and on earth. You may train a fruit-tree by tying them to a railing; but the tree whose branches have nothing to lean on but air is not trained at all (Proverbs 29:15). It is a question between the Bible as a standard, and no standard at all.

Much of what parents are able to teach children is what is "caught" rather than "taught." Children are far less influenced by precept than by example. Our character is a stream, a river flowing down upon our children hour by hour. What we do here and there to carry an opposing influence is, at best, only a ripple that we make on the surface of the stream; it reveals the sweep of the current, nothing more. If we expect our children to go with the ripple instead of the stream, we shall be disappointed.

Example teaches without a tongue. Precept may point the way, but example carries us along. The common saying of "Do as I say, not as I do," is usually reversed in the actual experience of life. All persons are more apt to learn

through the eye rather than the ear, and whatever is seen makes a deeper impression than what is read or heard.

Whatever children see they unconsciously imitate. Thus it is important that parents set a good example for their children; that grandparents set a good example for their grandchildren. They must live near to God. The influence of a parent or grandparent on the child should make it

"easier to be holy than to be sinful, to do good than to do evil, to sacrifice than to enjoy." Solomon said, "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life." (Proverbs 16:31). What you are, he will be.

Some do not get better with age; they get worse. Some begin to murmur and complain (cf. Philippians 2:14). They tend to exaggerate their problems and mini-

mize their blessings. Someone said,

"The older a man gets, the farther he had to walk to school as a boy." At the funeral of a man prominent in the community, I overheard some elderly women talking



about the deceased. "It's really too bad about him," one said. "He had the same thing I've got, only mine's a lot worse." We should try to avoid this attitude, for it will not set the right example for the next generation. The road to success is always under construction, but a gray-headed Christian is something worth imitating.

The inevitable and the immovable

There are times in life when we find things in our way that we cannot move. Even after persistent, fervent prayer, the cup of suffering is brought to quivering lips and we must drink of it—right down to the bitter dregs.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Some troubles are like the stump an old farmer had in his field—too hard to uproot, too knotty to split, and too wet and soggy to

burn." When asked what to do in a spot like that, he replied, "Well, I'd just plow around it."

Some situations are like that stump. They are there and cannot be changed and must be accepted. May God give us grace and strength to accept the inevitable and plow around the immovable. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . Longsuffering."* — Galatians 5:22