



## *Giving and Receiving Correction on Social Media*

by J. Paulos



I want to say from the get-go that I am no expert on this subject. I can only share what I think and what I have done. So hang in there with me as I attempt to express my own experience and opinion.

Social media is a convenient tool. It's great to be able to share family pictures and ideas. It is a wonderful way to keep up with friends who live far away or to locate long ago acquaintances. Facebook is a quick way to get out information about the need for prayer or a recipe.

A 23-year-old guy by the name of Mark Zuckerberg launched the site to be used by fellow students at Harvard. Although its original use was used to compare pictures of fellow female students, it quickly evolved into a much used online site for sharing student profiles. In a short time, Harvard and other universities were using the site as a tool for students. By September of 2008, anyone with an email address could acquire a Facebook account. Now who doesn't have a Facebook account?

Over the years its use has been both very good and very bad. People

have found long lost siblings and parents, but people have also been stalked, enticed away from their family, and bullied to the point of suicide. People have found and lost jobs because of what they posted on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, I'm sure you have read a post, shook your head and asked, "What are they thinking?"

So.... How do we deal with the craziness that we oftentimes see on our newsfeed? This, my friends, is a delicate subject. There are many different opinions concerning this topic. I can only speak for myself, but we have the Gospel of Matthew to help us. Matthew 18: 15 says, "If someone offends you, go in private and tell him alone. That means we don't post it on our newsfeed!

The best way would be to make face-to-face contact, but I have also "messed" a person. It depends on how well I know the person and how serious the offense. I'm not talking about a difference of opinion. Sometimes people are offended when we have a different opinion. Some folks feel it is their duty to convince us that

we are wrong about what we are sharing about a given topic ( especially religion and politics ). That's fine. But it is how it is shared that can be offensive. I've been in verbal face-to-face conversations that I found very offensive, not because of the words that were used, but by the tone of voice or body language of the other person.

If you are like me, I have people posting on my newsfeed that I don't know very well. I know who they are, I am familiar with them, but I don't have a close relationship with them. There are people on my newsfeed that have completely different religious and political beliefs than I do. Sometimes they share things that are so opposed to what I believe that I'm dumbfounded. Because I know that there are grandkids and young people who share the same newsfeed, I have to choose to either speak up or block that person so their opposing comments don't influence others who might be affected by what was shared.

I have rarely blocked anyone. The

# Lunches Provided Wonderful Learning Experiences

By Dorrie Platte

It all began at Hamrick's in North Augusta when I saw Peg Barcomb standing near a clothes rack waiting patiently for Joan Thorpe to finish her shopping. After exchanging warm greetings, I shared with Peg my idea of serving lunch as part of the English

Language Program and inviting members of Alleluia as guests to be paired with a Brazilian visitor to have a one-on-one conversation for an hour. I reminded Peg that I participated in a program in Spain that used this technique and I knew that it worked. Peg caught the vision right away and her response which was typical of her was, "I can do this." What an encourager she was!

From the beginning we had two agreements. The first was we would share the cooking responsibilities, but if anyone offered to cook, we would gladly accept their offer. The second agreement was if it got to be too much, Peg promised she should let me know and adjustments would be

made. I made out the month's menu, did the shopping and we divided the cooking jobs.

What fun we had—two old retired ladies dreaming big dreams. We shared many good laughs along the way. Peg and I had cooked together for several years for Golden Life, and I knew that we had similar styles—bargain shopping and cooking for large families. I talked with Peg on the phone a little 6 p.m. the day before we were to serve our first meal, and I was able to not only thank her, but tell her how much I enjoyed working with her, how much I appreciated her encouragement and prayers, how pleased I was that she was the first to catch the vision and I went on and on. Peg said she looked forward to the project. She had to go to Support Group, so we ended the conversation.

That night I got the call that she was in the hospital, and at 11:30 p.m. I got another call from Fred Harshman telling me he would do whatever I needed, and he has been there just about every day cooking or filling in as a lunch talker. What an answer to prayer.

The Lunch Project continued with over 125 Lunch Talkers helping the Brazilian visitors to practice their English Language skills. This gave the students 22 hours of individual time

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Erika Sanchez, Rebecca Krementz, Angela Rizzoti and Joan Thorpe

## Correction on Social Media

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only time I have blocked someone is when they posted profanity that was over the top or pictures that are immodest.

Debating over a topic is fine as long as it remains kind and loving. I have a family member and a friend that have totally different beliefs about God and politics. Both of them post their agenda on Facebook and we often go back and forth with our own beliefs. That's ok. It has gotten a little touchy sometimes, but neither of us has crossed the line. Hopefully, I've made some headway into their opinion concerning the Lord.

When it comes to correction, I have followed Bob Mumford's advice to weigh your relationship with the person with whom you want to correct. If the relationship is good and

you know the person well enough, then go lovingly and bring the correction. I recommend never correcting a person in public or on Facebook. Follow the guidelines of the Bible and address your correction privately and lovingly. This way you will protect the person's dignity even if you were offended publicly. We will be judged by our actions.

Joanne Paulos is an Alleluia Handmaid, one of twenty-one women who provide overall insight to the Community Elders from a womanly perspective and has been serving in pastoral care for about 30 years. She currently serves on the Pastoral Team. Joanne and her late husband, Jimmy, have been members of Alleluia since 1976. They have seven children, 21 grandchildren and attend St. Joseph Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia.



Rodrigo Carneiro, Renaldo and Lloyd Hedlund

# Learning a Second Language Over Lunch

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and, in my opinion, did more to improve their conversational speech than anything done in the classroom alone. The 22 volunteer cooks had the meals which consisted of a meat, starch, vegetable, salad and dessert at the High School classroom turned into a lunch room by 11 a.m., and the 16 volunteer servers set up, filled the plates with a smile and cleaned up after the meal. We began promptly at 11:30 a.m. and ended at 12:30 p.m. as the visitors had an afternoon class to attend. The next morning in class we would review what happened at the lunch the day before. I believe that our brothers and sisters from Brazil enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many people on a personal level.

Here are some of their comments about our one-on-one lunches:

**Déborá:** "About the program for lunch, I liked to meet people and learn English. It was a good time to taste delicious food too!"

**Rodrigo:** "I liked it so much because it was an opportunity to know other people and increase my family in Christ."

**Orlanda:** "Yes, I liked the program.... I like to get to know other people in Christ."

**Afonso:** "Yes, I liked the program so much because I had the opportunity to learn more about the language. The people were very nice. The different people facilitated my understand-

ing the pronunciation. Thank you."

**Angela:** "I enjoyed studying here because all were very patient and dedicated."

**Gleison:** "I enjoyed it so much because I have listened to many histories, and this has helped me to understand more about the church and the English language."

**Dario (Italian):** "I really enjoyed the several times that we spent with the community members during lunches, because it has been a great opportunity to share some beautiful stories and improve knowledge about American food."

**Cristiane:** "I liked [the lunches] because I trained my ear and I met several sisters in Christ."

**Erika:** "I really liked it because I think it is a good way to learn more and more English. When you listen, you can learn a lot, and this was awesome!!! More than learning English, I



Back: Afonso Porto, Debora Cabral, Maria Angela Rizzoti, Orlanda Leite, Rodrigo Carneiro, Dario D'Alba; Front: Erika Sanchez, Galdino Cruz, Gleison Carotta, and Cristiane Pasqualino. (missing from the photo is Clelia Arruda)

think it was so-o-o important to meet so many special people with amazing stories and testimonies! I discovered that my family in Christ is bigger than I thought!"

What a blessing each volunteer has been and a wonderful role model of Community life. Thank you so much for the gift of time that you gave to our Christian friends from Brazil.

Dorrie Platte is a retired speech pathologist, English as a second language instructor and teacher. She has served on many service teams in Alleluia. She and her late husband, Ronald Platte, signed Covenant in 1983. They have five adult children and 28 grandchildren and she attends St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia



Tony Visintainer, Kathy McKeown, Orlanda Leite and Galdino Cruz



Debora Cabral, Erika Sanchez, Viki Hedlund, Cristiane Pasqualino and Anita McKie



Afonso Porto and Larry Stenger

# Meet the Bullocks

By Anna Dresser

In response to many members who do not recognize some of our Underway members, we will be continuing a series of articles to introduce them to the Greater Alleluia Community.

The next couple is Michael and Niki Bullock, who went underway in December 2014, attend St. Joseph Catholic Church and are affiliated with the Densmore Support Group.

They have two children, a six-year-old son, Michael – going into first grade this school year – and a five-year-old daughter, Sammi – going into kindergarten. According to Niki, they are very eager about starting school and have enjoyed making new friends in the Community.

Michael, a social worker, grew up in South Carolina, but recently lived in Florida and moved around several times through the military.

Niki, currently a stay-at-home mom, hopes to get back into nursing at some point in the future. Niki grew up mostly in Virginia Beach, but also moved around a lot when growing up because of her dad's job in the navy.

Michael and Niki first heard of the Community back in 2006 from Mike and Bev Firmin. At the time, Bev was Michael's internship supervisor at MCG.

However, it was not until late 2014 until they began to feel God's calling to be in the Alleluia Community.

"One day around last October I got an impression that my family and I were being led to the Alleluia Community," Michael said. "I did not tell anyone about this, so



The Bullocks (L-R): Michael, Michael, Niki, Sammi

when my spiritual director informed me he believed the Holy Spirit was leading us here two days later, it got my attention."

Before coming to the Community, they had been involved in an occasional small group or religious education class, but nothing quite as big as the Community.

To the Bullocks, the most surprising aspect of the Community was the vast amount of talents that the Community members have and the many different activities involved in community life. They were also surprised at how quick members were to accept them and treat them like family.

"I feel like I've acquired dozens of brothers and sisters!" Niki said.

The Bullocks are thankful for what the Community stands for as

well, and how members seek live a life of holiness. Also, since they have two children, they greatly appreciate the school.

"I like how people are willing to be real and ready to make and maintain deep, meaningful relationships," Niki said.

Anna Dresser, the daughter of Full Covenant members Jim and Kim Dresser, is an Alumni Associate. She is currently enrolled at Georgia Regents University where she studies journalism and graphic design. She is assisting the Dove editor in the ACSC office for the summer.

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