

ONE WAY... OR THE OTHER!



JUNE 2023

Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

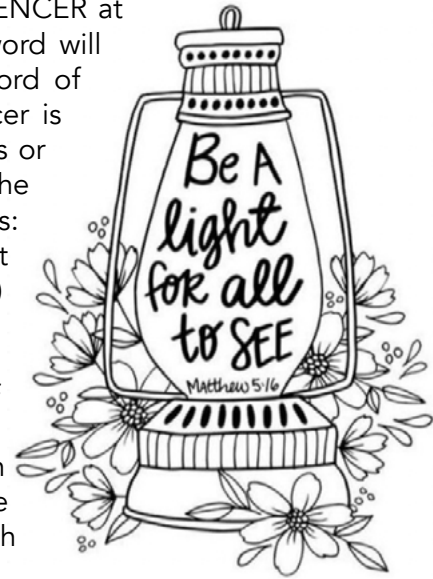
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 KJV

Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
SAM Newsletter Editor: Judy Bryant
Newsletter Design: Stephanie Entrup

This newsletter is prepared and emailed monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist Church Trussville, Alabama. Suggested information to be included in an upcoming SAM newsletter may be emailed to sam.news@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

No doubt we've all heard the word INFLUENCER at least once a day. My guess is that this word will be touted as the most popular "buzz" word of the early 21st Century. The word influencer is of course not new. "A person who inspires or guides the actions of others." But notice the new, additional definition in the dictionaries: "a person who is able to generate interest in something (such as a consumer product) by posting about it on social media." Influencers, as the word is defined today, are ordinary people making millions of dollars for businesses and products they are selling all over the world. An influencer is an occupation these days. So when we hear the word, we must be sure to recognize which definition of the word applies.



Jesus is the greatest influencer of all time; so is the Enemy, and we know the Enemy has plenty of influencers on the social media platforms.

Did you know that Jesus Christ has a platform on Instagram! Under that name, the site is one of many influencers for the Bible. There is a random list out there of the top influencers for the Bible based on number of followers; Jesus Christ holds 5th with 2 million followers. (Also in the list are Tim Tebow, Franklin Graham and Andy Stanley, among others). For those of us who do not follow Instagram, it's simply another social media platform, like Facebook is.

Consider other influencers in biblical times: King David, John, Peter and Paul, just to name a few in the Bible (could say the Bible itself, the bestselling book of all times, is also the greatest influencer of all time).

Like it or not, we're (Believers) held to higher standards than non-believers, and we're always influencing people – either toward God or away from Him. By Convene Now, "Can Business and Ministry Connect?" Do you guys remember when John C. Morgan a/k/a President Bush spoke here in February? He did some great plays on words, Bush style, and then he said on the word INFLUENCER: "If I knock you in the head, you have been influenced. Everything we do influences ... impact happens ... for good, for bad, for the devil. I want to be an inspirator!" (And he meant for Jesus!)

Turns out each of us is an INFLUENCER ... for one WAY or the Other.

Bob



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 18

GENE ENNIS: A LIVING LEGACY

By: Jzyk S. Ennis, PhD.

Raymond Eugene (Gene) Ennis, was born around the Phenix City, Alabama area in the mid-1930's. Like most at the time, he grew up in meagre means. In dad's own words, "I grew up and was rough as a cobb. Me and my friends would be walking down the street and people would cross to the other side in order not to meet up with us." Of course, this was before he was saved. Dad graduated from a very small rural high school that had a graduating class of around eighteen. As such, his educational background was limited. Many don't know, but dad was a witness in the murder of Albert Patterson in the rough mob-led streets of Phenix City, Alabama. According to dad, his father probably saved his life because law enforcement (involved in the murder) wanted dad to get in their car so they could take him to answer questions. Dad's father wouldn't allow it, and it probably saved his life.

Dad was later saved and tells of his call to enter the ministry. He was sitting in the balcony of a church in Detroit, Michigan, where he had gone to search for work. He didn't think the minister was all that impressive. In the sermon, the minister pointed his finger up to the balcony and directly at dad and said, "some of you think that you can do a better job of preaching than me. Then why don't you?" That was dad's "calling" to preach.

Dad met his future wife, Opal, in and around the Phenix City area. Dad was pals with Opal's brother and saw her at the family home. They later married. Dad graduated from Samford University and later moved to New Orleans where he went to seminary. In the 1960's, they had three boys: Randall, Les, and Jzyk (pronounced Jay-zick). In early 1970, dad was the pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in the shadows of Legion Field in Birmingham. Dr. Richard Francis met dad and a conversation ensued that led dad to be called as the Associate Pastor and first full-time Minister of Education at The First Baptist Church of Trussville in 1972. Dad served in that role until he accepted the call to be the pastor of Bowdon Baptist Church in Bowdon, Georgia in 1984.

All along this time, dad was a Chaplain and member of the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve. He was even a Green Beret. Dad was called up for active duty in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield at Ft. McPherson in Atlanta serving as the Administration Management Director of FORCECOM Chaplains Office in the early 1990's. He was awarded the Legion of Merit for the work he did during this service. He retired in the 1990's as a Colonel from the U.S. Army. After the completion of the military operations, dad and mom returned to their home in Trussville where he again joined the staff of FBC



Trussville. He later "retired" from full-time ministry, but he still served at the "home" church where he and mom were saved and where he was ordained. Mom died of cancer in May of 2008 and dad has remained in ministry at both Philadelphia Baptist Church in Smiths Station, Alabama and FBC Trussville.

Dad is now fully "retired," but he still volunteers with some ministry opportunities with the staff here at FBC Trussville. He continues to live here in Trussville. Dad served FBC Trussville with Dr. Richard Francis, Dewey Corder, Gary Hollingsworth, and now Buddy Champion. You may see him now more active in SAM activities. In May of 2023, dad turned 89 years young. If I could say one thing about my dad for you, it is this. Gene Ennis can be summed up in two words: "Faithful" and "Genuine." The Gene Ennis that many of you have come to love is the exact man that his wife, children, and grandchildren know at home. There aren't two faces to Gene Ennis, one public and one private. He is the real deal. What you see is what you get...and for anyone who knows him, that makes him a living legend! However, don't tell him that. He will quietly deflect you to his Savior and give the credit to Christ for allowing him a life well-lived and the opportunities to serve. Dad many times reflects back on his life and marvels at how God has worked in his life and through him to serve others. If you don't know him, get to know Gene Ennis. I don't think that you will be disappointed.

(Editor's Note: When Jzyk showed this article to Gene, Gene read the part about being a "living legend" and his response was, "it blows too much smoke!")

If you would like to read more about Gene and the "Life Lessons" that he taught his boys, Jzyk wrote a book about Gene a few years ago. It is called, "Life Lessons: A Gift from My Father." It is available on Amazon digitally for less than \$5.00 and in hard copy for a few dollars more. You may even be able to find a signed copy or two at Dee-Dee's Book Rack in downtown Trussville.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING



U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER

Thursday, June 1 • Huntsville
German Cuisine Night • \$100 person
Depart church at 9:00AM

LELAND DOCKERY TRIBUTE CRUISE-IN

Saturday, June 3 • 9:00AM to 2:00PM
Vehicle registration begins at 7:30AM
See you in the parking lot right here at FBCT!

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, June 5 • 10:00 AM • Chapel

Meet in the Chapel or stop wherever you are and join us in prayer.

Email prayer requests to
Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST THURSDAY: MEN PRAYING for their ONE

First Thursday of every month
6:30 am • Worship Center



FIRST THURSDAY: LADIES PRAYING for their ONE

First Thursday of every month
12:30pm • Room D147

Share the first name of your "ONE" and any information you wish by email:
pray41@fbctrussville.org

JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS FIRST & THIRD Thursdays OF EVERY MONTH 10:30 AM • Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)
Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



FIRST DAY OF SUMMER Thursday, June 21

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON Thursday, June 22 • 10:00AM • Worship Center See June 2023 Midweek Services

JUNE 2023 MIDWEEK

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 • 9:00AM • Worship Center
GOAL: 200 Seasoned Adults in the balcony praying for the over 700 boys and girls as the Gospel is presented.
Then at 10:00AM our service ...TBA
Lunch Marco's Pizza • \$6 donation requested

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THURSDAY, JUNE 8 • 9:00AM • High School Space
GOAL: Send a note to every parent expressing gratitude for allowing their child to participate in VBS and extending an invitation for them to join us for a service.
Then at 10:00AM ... Joyful Hearts Choir Rehearsal
Lunch Taco Mama • \$6 donation requested

REV. HEATH HARRELSON, FBC ANDERSON, AL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Worship leadership: SAM Vocal Band
Lunch Chic-fil-A • \$6 donation requested

THE KELLYS, SOUTHERN GOSPEL QUARTET THURSDAY, JUNE 15 • 10:00AM • Worship Center Lunch Fox's Pizza • \$6 donation requested

DR. JOHN ED MATHISON, PASTOR EMERITUS Frazer Church, Montgomery, AL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 • 10:00AM • Worship Center
Worship Leadership: Kevin Grigsby
Lunch Chicken Salad Chick • \$6 donation requested

DR. JOHN ED MATHISON, MONTGOMERY, AL THURSDAY, JUNE 22 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Worship Leadership: Kevin Grigsby
This service replaces our regular SAM Monthly Luncheon
Lunch Full Moon BBQ • \$6 donation or SAM lunch card

DR. GREGORY FRIZZELL, GLOBAL SPIRITUAL AWAKENING, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 • 10:00AM • Worship Center
Worship Leadership: Joyful Hearts Choir
Lunch Jersey Mike's Subs • \$6 donation requested

DR. GREGORY FRIZZELL, OKLAHOMA, OK THURSDAY, JUNE 29 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Worship Leadership: Joyful Hearts Choir
Lunch Jim 'N Nick's • \$6 donation requested

INTRODUCING OUR JUNE MIDWEEK SPECIAL GUESTS



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Rev. Heath Harrelson; Pastor, First Baptist Church, Anderson, AL

Welcome back to FBCT Heath! Heath shadowed our FBCT staff for several months while he was completing his work on a Masters of Divinity at Beeson School of Divinity, graduating just last year. He captured our hearts! Our Joyful Hearts Choir visited Heath's church in Anderson (his first church!) on their choir tour last September. The choir recognized how much Heath's church had already found Heath to be a joy!



THURSDAY, JUNE 15

In Concert: The Kellys

Southern Gospel Quartet, Lawrenceburg, TN

NOT JUST A CONCERT! They live in Lawrenceburg, TN, a city that holds the title The Official Birthplace of Southern Gospel Music. The City's history includes the story of James D. Vaughan, a studied musician, composer (considered one of the founders of "southern gospel" music) and founder of Vaughan Publishing Company in Lawrenceburg. Every year for many years now, Lawrenceburg hosts the James Vaughan Quartet Festival (this year July 26-29) with Mark Trammell, Gold City, Karen Peck & New River, and Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, just to name a few. The Kellys are the host quartet this year. The members of the Kellys Quartet are musically trained and experienced. Lead vocalist, Jon Kelly, is the only original member still traveling with The Kellys. The original Kellys began singing in 1959 with Jon's father Sonny and his brother Jim and their wives. Jon began playing drums with The Kellys when he was 5 years old! But notwithstanding their heritage and musical gifts, the quartet considers sharing their music to be their ministry and service for the Lord. They are good Minor family friends. Susan Minor



Learn more about The Kellys at www.thekellysgospel.com

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 & THURSDAY, JUNE 22

Dr. John Ed Mathison, Pastor Emeritus; Frazer Church, Montgomery, AL

JUST CALL ME "JOHN ED"! Besides being a preacher, author, and leader / teacher, John Ed is a people person; loves sports, served as Chaplain for the Jeff Davis Football Team in Montgomery for 10 years, and loves to play tennis and basketball ... in fact, many of us knew when he stepped up to preach in his robe (Frazer is a Methodist Church) he was wearing his athletic gear underneath because he was headed right out the door after church to go play! He is an author of many great books, including "Life Lessons Learned from Sports"! And, I have to say I love his "one-minute messages." He can say more in 5 minutes than most people can say in an hour! Bobby and I were members of Frazer for about 50 years before we joined FBCT last year. Lynda Wilson



Learn more about Dr. Mathison at John Ed Mathison Leadership Ministries
<https://johnedmathison.org>

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 & THURSDAY, JUNE 29

Dr. Gregory Frizzell; Global Spiritual Awakening, Oklahoma City, OK

How To Develop a Powerful Prayer Life is one of the many books Dr. Frizzell has written. This is recommended reading for all of us. Dr. Frizzell's mission is to train, equip, motivate and deepen the prayer and spiritual growth of individuals, laymen and leaders alike. There are societal changes all over the world, and he is committed and feels led to teach and lead individuals and churches to spiritual awakening and revival.



Learn more about Dr. Frizzell at <https://frizzellministries.org>
And on Facebook at Gregory Frizzell Prayer and Renewal Ministries, Inc.

COMING UP!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:

TWO EVENTS AT ONE SPECIAL PRICE (\$30 SAVINGS)

Available to our members at this \$45 special price

UNTIL THE END OF JUNE!

(after June 30, the tickets will be sold separately, at full prices)



Frank Jones
MINISTRIES

First Baptist Church
Trussville

SAM
SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY

A refreshing event for senior adults and their friends!

Thursday, July 13th

First Baptist Church Trussville Worship Center

Doors open @ 12:30 pm

Concert @ 1:30 pm

GENERAL
ADMISSION TICKET
\$25.00



Frank Jones



Allison Speer



Dennis Swanberg

Friday, September 8th

First Baptist Church Trussville Worship Center

Doors open 6:00 pm - Concert 7:00 pm

FALL 2023 Best of the CFAM TOUR



GOLD CIRCLE
ADMISSION TICKET
\$45.00
PLUS \$6.75 Ticket Processing Fee

THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY



Oasis Concert Ticket
AND

Collingsworth Family Concert Ticket

Available in the month of June - From the FBCT church office ONLY

\$76.75 value - ONLY \$45.00

During Regular Office Hours - Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm - Friday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Louisa, Kentucky Mission Trip



July 15 - 20 • Louisa, KY

We will be offering VBS to children at FBC Louisa in the morning and walking in the community in the afternoons to share the Gospel.

Full trip: \$350 per person;

Partial trip: \$75 per person; per night or request financial assistance in the SAM office at 205-228-1006.

For full schedule and more details, please see our SAM ministry page at www.fbctrussville.org



OCTOBER 16-19, 2023

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION OPEN

Annual Celebrators Conference
Pigeon Forge, TN

Make plans now to join us.
See SAM Ministry page on the church website for details.



• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

Ever wonder what it would be like if you could read the minds of others? Imagine walking up to a friend or acquaintance, greeting them, but then hearing their actual thoughts speak to you unfiltered. What do you suppose you would find out?

Would you hear joy and enthusiasm at the chance to see and talk to you again? Or would they be thinking unkind things about your hair, or the way you are dressed? Would they be thinking "Oh no, here he comes again. I really don't want to talk to him. I'll just pretend to be nice." Would they be thinking about you at all? Or would their mind be far away on some other topic, not even really listening to you?

It's probably a good thing we can't read minds. We likely don't really want to know the true thoughts of others. We might get our feelings hurt badly. And we are surely glad that our minds can't be read by those we encounter. There is some sort of comfort in knowing that our mind, some think of it as our soul, is the one place we can always go to release our private thoughts and feelings, without fear of embarrassment. It's where our secrets live. We may be going through pain, heartbreak, worry, panic, things that are deeply personal.

We may have jealousy, hate and resentment toward certain people, but we can keep it harbored within. The heavy sins of our past, even our present, never have to be unloaded from the warehouse of our memories. We care about what people think of us, even if we don't really want to know. So we do our best to act like Christians. We put our real thoughts in a separate place. A safe place. A private place.

I thought about this recently when I came upon a verse in the book of Hebrews. It's in chapter four, verse thirteen: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

When that really sinks in, it's a "wow" moment. God knows our private thoughts. Wow. I mean, I've always heard that God is all-knowing, but I'm not sure I ever seriously pondered that, when I leave this earth, I will have to give an account, not only of the sins I have acted upon, but even the sinfulness of my thoughts!

When Jesus came to earth as a man, he was also God. He knew the thoughts of those around him, and most of those around Him knew that He knew. Is it any wonder the Pharisees, the Sanhedrin, the Roman office holders and soldiers, were uncomfortable being in His company? Such invasion of their intellectual privacy had to be eliminated. I suspect the demand for Jesus' death was not so much because He claimed to be God, but rather because, deep down, they believed He was, and therefore had access to all of their selfish and evil desires and motivations.

Yet Jesus triumphed over death and rose to reign over His creation. In doing so He makes us face an uncomfortable reality: It is one thing to do your best to act like a Christian. It is quite another to train yourself to think like one. In fact, it's impossible to do on our own. Yet in verse fifteen, the scripture offers hope: "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Now there's something to think about.



CALLS TO PRAYER

PRAYER JOURNEY SCHEDULE 2023

From Denny Rogers.

My next Prayer Journey brings me back into Alabama for a second prayer journey, June 18-22. Thank you to all Prayer Warriors who faithfully pray for my safety as I travel and who agree with me in Prayer. NOTE: If you would like to keep up with Brother Denny's Journeys text your home address to 205-258-6096 (be sure to include your first/last name).

By Denny Rogers.

If you read my Call to Prayer in the May newsletter, thank you and please continue to pray for the "If My People Will Pray" metro Birmingham worship and prayer service to be held at the Wright Center at Samford University in October. Also, please join me in praying in our community. My challenge to you is to immediately begin praying over your local community, listening to, and agreeing with, scriptural prayers on a specially prepared CD or Flash Drive in your car as you drive. These CD's and Flash Drives are available at our church's Event Center and are free. This call to prayer, if you choose to accept it, will greatly multiply our prayers for this October 1st event.



From Craig Copham.

Our Men on Mission Team (about 50 men from teen to seasoned adults from FBCT) will be heading to Glen Burnie, Maryland to help remodel an existing church that FBCT worked with back in 1999. An advanced party will be leaving June 7th with the main party going June 10th - 17th. Please pray for safe travel, good weather, good health, and God's blessings on this building project and on Faith Baptist Church.

Anytime you are interested in working with our Men on Mission construction team, please contact me at 205-427-8935 or our church mission offices.

SAM SERVES

By Jack Sittre

Jim Summers' Small Group class will be taking the meal to the CLCC on June 29. If your small group class would be willing to serve a dinner meal at the CLCC on the last Thursday of any month, July forward, please call the SAM office, me or Jamie Chappell in Missions office to let us know.

Please watch for information on our annual Trussville school clean-up projects coming in July and August.

CONGRATULATIONS!

From Denise Dockery.

On May 28, six new Stephen's Ministers were commissioned. Thank you to each for the faithful time you have spent in study and training.

**William Tyner
Jammy Erwin
Susan Minor**

**Myra Dawkins
Brenda Gardner
Yo Taylor**

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Helping you through difficult times

When life gets hard, the Stephen Ministry is here. Trained ministers are ready to listen and walk with you through tough days, cost free.

Let us help.

Contact the Stephen Ministry today:
stephenministry@fbctrussville.org

AGING JOURNAL

"Our Elder Law Seminar held here at the church on May 5 was very well attended ... 80 people. The seminar is available on cd/dvd should you be interested. Inquire with our SAM office. Many thanks to Lynn Campisi for sharing her wealth of knowledge with us." Susan Hornsby



"The audience asked lots of good questions that were helpful for all of us. Campisi was very knowledgeable and gave many examples, along with handouts. Personally, although I have a will, that needs updating, I don't know if I have all the necessary ingredients that she talked about. But it was obvious we definitely need a very detailed will if we want our "stuff" actually going where we want it to." Jan Monski

FROM ATTORNEY LYNN CAMPISI'S HANDOUTS:

What Are The "Must Have" Legal Documents

(Which of these do you have and which do you need?)

1. Durable Power of Attorney – Financial

"A Durable Power of Attorney can be the most important document one will ever sign."

2. Advance Directive and Health Care Power of Attorney

(includes a Living Will and a Health Care Proxy)

3. Medical Records and HIPPA

(know the terms & conditions under which your medical records may be released to someone other than yourself)

4. Last Will and Testament

(be sure you know what will happen if you do not have a will at death)

5. Living Trust

(a trust created f/b/o a beneficiary)

6. Burial Designation

7. Inventory of Assets

CAVEAT: BE SPECIFIC about your wishes in all of these areas.

KEEP your documents UPDATED.

"Dad told me that I should plant trees for others. He said that a good portion of the joy of planting was envisioning how others would enjoy the fruits of his labor and the fruits of the trees. For you see, what Dad was really teaching me was to be unselfish. While he may, or may not, personally receive the joy of the mature trees, he gained the joy of what may be in the future."

--Life Lessons: A Gift from My Father
From June Mathews.



LIFE LESSONS: A GIFT FROM MY FATHER



INSTRUCTIONS FOR
A HAPPIER LIFE

DR. JZYK S. ENNIS

Not receiving our SAM newsletters? How do you prefer to receive our newsletters each month? By email and/or paper copy mailed to you? If you haven't already or you need to update your preference, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM Office at 205-228-1006 or email at debbie@fbctrussville.org. Everyone for whom we have an up-to-date email address will receive the newsletters by email; however, if you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!