

SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT

I AM

MARCH 2021

If you ask why I follow this Jesus, why I love him the way I do, when this world turns away from his teachings, and those who follow are few. Well it's not rewards I'm after, or gifts I hope to receive, it's his presence that calls my commitment, and Holy Spirit I trust and believe. My God doesn't shelter his faithful, we're not spared suffering and pain. Like many others I'm war torn, and I've walked through my share of the rain. Why do I love the Lord Jesus?? To me that's easy to see, what truly fills me with wonder, is how he loves someone like me.

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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.

REFLECTIONS

As we walk through our 90-Days of Prayer Focus with Dr. Fain, we approach Holy Week and Easter. I encourage each of us to spend this time in God's presence through prayer and reflection. We offer much in this newsletter upon which to reflect.

As you reflect on the life and death of Jesus, DON'T MISS THIS ... He wants a real relationship with you ... a mind, body and soul relationship ... and He wants that relationship with you to be for now and forever.

It is my earnest prayer that each and every one of you experience a closeness with our Lord Jesus ... a penetrating closeness ... a closeness that sees you through every day of your life here on earth and forever in Heaven.

I have had the privilege to travel to Israel to physically walk where Jesus walked. I know many of you have not and may not have that privilege. But, through Bible study and prayer, you too can have that closeness with our Beautiful Savior.

There are some great studies and books available to us to use as tools alongside scripture. One in particular I highly recommend: Secrets From The Via Dolorosa, written by my friend, Pastor Andy Cook. As an aside, Andy will be back in a few months to FBCT to again carry us through more historical and scriptural teachings from Israel. Also, there is a copy of this book in our church library, or you can purchase one online. Anyway, I digressed. Andy walks the reader through the last months of Jesus's life ... His walk to Jerusalem to face the agony of the cross ... all the way through the crucifixion and days after. Well written, easy to read, and full of Ah Hah! moments. I can guarantee you will learn more about Jesus and the Father than you thought you already knew!

The answers to so many of the what, when, where, how and why questions you might be asking will be clearer as you read, reflect and pray over scripture and other tools available to you.

And that's my message to you today. Seek His face! Not just His hands! Focus on Who He is, not just what He can do for you. "Grow in the knowledge and personal relationship with the One Who is our hope. ..." Anne Graham Lotz

*I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked ...
I knelt today where Jesus knelt,
Where all alone he prayed.
The Garden of Gethsemane,
My heart felt unafraid.
I picked my heavy burden up,
And with Him at my side,
I climbed the Hill of Calvary,
Where on the Cross He died!
I walked today where Jesus walked,
And felt Him close to me.*

Bob



Link to Larnelle Harris on YouTube
I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked
[CLICK HERE](#)

"WE ALL STOPPED AND PRAYED RIGHT THEN!"

By Gayle Glenn

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to your own understanding—in all your ways acknowledge Him, He will direct your paths."

This is Sue Richard's "favorite," go-to Bible verse upon which she has relied over the years. I first heard of Sue through a beloved First Baptist Church member, who is now in Heaven, Elizabeth Brown. Elizabeth was Music Secretary and Children's Choir Coordinator in my early time as organist. In working through musical programs, coordinating music and all that goes with it, I heard Elizabeth singing the praises of Sue Richards. "The 'Gospel of Sue', according to Elizabeth" was: Sue Richards was the most organized, awesome, dependable children's choir leader imaginable. She inspired the children and others with whom she worked. I saw Sue in action—for myself—when the children shared their work with the congregation. What a worthy investment in the lives of our sweet children, Elizabeth shared.

Some years ago a church-wide prayer was requested for Sue. She had been diagnosed with severe scoliosis and psoriatic arthritis and would require extensive surgery to be able to continue walking—an anterior /posterior spinal fusion. During the surgery, her vena cava was "nicked" and she "bled out." There was a request for blood donations; they needed 24 units of blood for Sue. I remember James Long was at the front of the line to donate! They had to stop the surgery and Sue was in ICU for several days. I was leaving a church meeting, when I heard a group discussing the concern and need for prayer for Sue's situation. We all stopped and prayed right then. Sue's surgery was not nearly completed and doctors told her she would have to go back and let them finish. She said "NO!" But after encouragement from her daughter, Melinda, rest at home for three weeks, and learning that if she didn't let them do the second surgery what they already had done would be for naught, she had the second surgery. Her surgery required 2 rods and 22 screws! And praise Him, Sue is walking!

Sue is also a ten-year breast cancer survivor. She has used this experience to help others at U.A.B. through the Angel Squad who embrace and encourage those experiencing breast cancer. She has given programs to share her story and was recently recognized as "Squad Member of the Year" for her positive encouragement to others experiencing this devastating time in life.

Sue and Mike became members of FBCT in 1980. They raised their wonderful children Melinda and 8 years younger son David at FBCT. Sue unabashedly loves her children by birth, through marriage, and their 5 awesome grandchildren.



Many of you may remember Everette Jones, Sr. from his years here at FBCT. His daughter, Jeannie Nabers, shares one of his writings with us.

CHRIST DIED IN OUR PLACE

Upon a cross at Calvary
Christ Jesus died for you and me.
He took our place upon that tree
And became a Curse for you and me.

In gracious love without reserve
He died the death that we deserve.
He paid our awful Ransom Price.
He was the sinless Sacrifice.

The entire sinful human race
Should have been there in His place
But in His love so absolute
He became our Sinless Substitute.

He gave His life that we might live.
He died on that cross that He might give
To us the gift of saving Grace.
He removed our sins without a trace.

Yes. On that cross at Calvary
Christ Jesus died for you and me.
But we must also do our part,
Believe in Him with all our heart.

*By Everette E. Jones, Sr.
April 1992 ©*

90 DAY PRAYER FOCUS

SAM
SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY

We are four weeks in to our 13-week prayer focus/spiritual journey with Dr. Johnny Fain. Dr. Fain's weekly challenges to us:

Session 1:

Pray God's will ... not what I am going to do, but Lord what you are going to do! Refer to Jeremiah 9:23-24. "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches. But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Focus on God – knowing God – pray that you and they will see him differently than ever before.

Session 2:

Pray at least 15 minutes each day, seeking God, seeking to know God. Pray for others that they will see the importance of meeting God ... to see what God has for them.

Session 3:

Pray for others. Pray they become heavenly minded; that their eyes are open to see what is happening in Heaven while they are on earth.

Session 4:

God is waiting to make the invisible in Heaven visible on Earth. Read Revelation 4 and 5. Ask yourself, am I obeying what God is sharing with me in that secret place? Pray for others that they will just trust and believe in the awesomeness of the supernatural God of Heaven.

Every week we have the opportunity to send in prayer requests. Our requests are then shown on the screen during our prayer time. Our prayer requests are also being put on prayer cards to be placed in the prayer room for those praying in there and also at the altar for Sunday morning prayers at the end of services. Send your prayer requests to sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS UPDATE

At this writing, those 65 years of age and older are qualified to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This is just one of the sites where you can register ahead of time. There are many others coming open every day. Watch the local news media for more information. Word of mouth also works!

WANT TO SELF REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINATION?



➔ **GO TO WWW.JEFFCOEMA.ORG**

➔ **CLICK ON THE "VACCINE SELF-REGISTRATION FORM"**

➔ **ENTER YOUR INFORMATION**

ONCE ELIGIBLE, SOMEONE FROM JEFF. CO. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL CONTACT YOU ABOUT APPOINTMENT INFORMATION.

MUST WORK OR BE A RESIDENT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY TO BE ELIGIBLE



Coming Soon!

• HOW TO BE •

SAM **SATIONAL!**
with **KEN LASS**

Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited His people."

When I was a child, my family raised me to believe that Lent was a big deal. The Lenten season consists of the 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. It was to be a time of repentance and sacrifice to prepare ourselves for the resurrection of the Savior.

We children were "encouraged" (actually our parents made us) to give something up for Lent, something important, something that would demonstrate our sorrow for our sins. Usually this resulted in giving up candy, or chocolate, or sodas, or maybe our favorite TV show for these five to six weeks. As you might imagine, I dreaded Lent. I was much too self-centered to comprehend the concept.

Now, some sixty years later, I wonder if anything has really changed. As we approach another Easter, do I really grasp the concept? Do I get that Jesus modeled the Christian walk for us? That he gave up all personal comfort and convenience to live a life of ministry and hope? That he endured crucifixion and rose from the tomb to prove to us that He can and will give us victory over sin?

What can we do during this lead-up to Easter that might involve a little sacrifice in order to refocus our lives away from ourselves and on to Jesus? A daily random act of kindness would be a SAMsational way to start.

And that way you wouldn't even have to give up chocolate!

*Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited His people."
Luke 7:16*

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

In the book of Revelation we learn that God in the great day will recompense His people before all the world, for every secret prayer, tear, sigh, and groan from His people. In that day, He will declare to men and angels how often His people have poured out their souls before Him in secret places and accordingly He will reward them.

The Bible portrays people suffering realistically; we read of their struggles and cries to God. They faced the full gamut of human experience and emotion, from glory and joy to struggles, despair and ruin. Real challenges, heartaches, suffering. Then there was Jesus a man of sorrows, well acquainted with pain and suffering, who sweated drops of blood when He prayed. We are heirs of God and Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

Prayers of God's people set in motion the coming consummation of history. "More potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world ... is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God and cast upon the earth." (T.F. Torrance, 1959)

"When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." Revelation 5:8

"When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." Revelation 8:1

"Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of ALL the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake." Revelation 8:3-5

The ending of all laments -- your prayers will not be wasted.

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

"It is only through the cross that the cries of humanity become the sweetness of prayers." From Streams in the Desert.

1821 – 2021: 200 YEARS

Table Tussle Turns to Turmoil: A Lesson from the Past

By Sandra Bearden

"I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue." 1 Cor 14: 18-19 (NIV)



Have you ever lost a friendship, a job, or other relationship because of a breakdown in communications?

Paul, the multi-lingual speaker and scholar, was speaking of such a situation in stressing the importance of clear communications to members of the Christian congregation at Corinth. And because even Christians are human, failure to communicate effectively continues to this day. It hit the Baptist church in Trussville in an unusual and somewhat comical way, according to a passage in Katherine Hanlin's book, *The Steeple Beckons*.

During the early and mid-1920s, Trussville had continued to benefit from the industrial development of nearby Birmingham, and so did Trussville's Baptist church. A series of pastors served the church during this period, none of them remaining very long. Roswell Edward Owen was pastor from 1920-23, later becoming a Southern Baptist missionary. Later H.S. McMillan served during 1924-25 while also pastoring in Pinson. James E. Griffin, a self-educated man who had become a minister at age 28, led the church in getting out of debt in 1925-26. Then E.E. Melton served as interim pastor until the church called Noble Young Beale, a Southern Baptist Seminary graduate with a master's degree from Emory. Probably the best-prepared of the 20's pastors for the job, he lost it in 11 months because of an inanimate object.

In *The Steeple Beckons*, written in the 1970s, Hanlin relates the story, not from official minutes, but possibly from long-time members who remembered the episode as follows:

Beale met his Trussville Waterloo because of a table. A few months after Beale's appointment, several members removed the heavy table used to hold Lord's Supper materials from its prominent position in front of the speaker's rostrum at the front of the church. The move was made temporarily to make room for a Mother's Day children's program. What movers apparently didn't know was that the table had been donated by the Dew and Talley families, leaders and fixtures in the church for several generations.

A group of deacons spotted the iconic table elsewhere and returned it to its original location. A "tug of table" ensued, with back-and-forth, back-and-forth moves that culminated when Beale nailed the table legs to the floor of the temporary location. A deacon then invited Beale outside for fisticuffs, but cooler heads prevailed, and no fight actually took place. But Beale resigned soon afterward.

What's the moral of this story for the 21st century? Maybe to table "our side" of the story and listen more often.

PRAYER

From a 1903 devotional book called "Daily Cheer" by M. Allette Ayer

The fact is -- though we talk very often as if we did not know it, or at any rate did not understand it -- God loves us, and He behaves toward us as if He loved us. He not only once sent His Son to die for us because He loved us, but He keeps doing things all the time for the same reason. He wants us to pray to Him because He loves us. He does not drag us by violence into His presence, thrust us down upon our knees, command us to pray, to feel, to adore, to have such and such emotions on peril of His wrath. He opens His arms to us. "Come, My children, you are weak and weary. The way before you is long. Come, rest with Me a while and get strength. Come for a little peace and patience and joy. I have enough of everything you need. I can give you all you want. Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." And suppose we do come after a hard day's work, exhausted, void of emotion, almost of desire, will God be angry with us if we only whisper a good-night prayer? Is a mother angry with her baby who falls asleep in her arms in the middle of her lullaby? And does not God Who made us know our frame and remember that we are dust? And if He is not strict to mark our iniquities will He be strict to mark our weaknesses? O! Let us be simple and sincere. Let us not make prayer a complicated, uncertain and difficult and elaborate thing. It is too precious, too delightful, too heart-healing to be turned into a bugbear (a cause of obsessive fear, irritation, or loathing).

LOOKING FORWARD

Sunday, March 14: Daylight Savings Time Begins
(set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night!)

Saturday, March 20: Spring Equinox ... Start of Spring

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday) **through Saturday, April 3**

April 2: GOOD FRIDAY

April 4: EASTER SUNDAY

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, March 25 • 10:30 AM

Worship Center and LiveStream

Special Guests: The Larry DeLawder Family

(including a special guest appearance by "Deputy Barney Fife!")

"We pray that our ministry would be one of great love, showing people the heart of God, and that they would see Jesus in us."

The Larry DeLawder Family (Larry, Sara, and their daughters, Hannah and Faith)

Read more about this talented family at www.itslarry.com.



NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

While our FBCT library is still closed to patrons due to COVID, I continue to offer carryout and delivery service. You can reach the library by calling 205-228-0285, or emailing me at connieh@fbctrussville.org.
Connie Horsley, Library Director



SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 5, 2021**

128 N. Chalkville Rd. • Trussville, AL 35173
(205) 655-2403

www.fbctrussville.org/seasoned-adult



**For more information call John Patterson at
(205) 337-5418**

BRRRR! SNOW DAY IN TRUSSVILLE

Tuesday, February 16



Just enough snow to make
a little snow ice cream!
John & Elaine Copham

