



SEPTEMBER 2021

# STEP INTO THE WATER

STEP INTO THE WATER, wade out a little bit deeper. Wet your feet in the water of His love. Step into the water, wade out a little bit deeper; come join angels singing praise to the Lamb of God. It's time we, the people, stand up for what is right. It's time we squared our shoulders back and raised our swords to fight. For the Bible is my weapon and the Spirit is my shield; the Church needs more of its members to be workers in the field. There is victory for the Christian who walks the narrow way. There has been a prize appointed for the soul who does not stray. Though I want to live for Jesus, and be all that I can, so that I can rest with Him forever, live eternally.

Listen [HERE](#) to Ernie Haase & Signature Sound – Step into the Water August 2, 2012

The Israelites stepped out into the parted waters heading for the Promised Land. Imagine the fear, and the amazement they must have felt! And they made it all the way through a parted sea of water.

Daniel stepped right into that Lion's Den with such confidence in God's power and protection but also with the same "even if he doesn't" trust in his heart that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego took with them into the fiery furnace. God indeed sent His angels to protect them.

Job, with the weight of the whole world on his shoulders, had doubts. His friends sure expressed doubts. Do you know what the difference in Job's doubts as opposed to his friends' doubts was? Job took his doubts straight to God! No one else. And God blessed him for that.

Living a victorious Christian life does not necessarily mean a life of happiness all the time but does mean a life of joy. It means walking with God and trusting Him in all things, not walking around looking like we were baptized in pickle juice! (Not my words, paraphrased.) I'm not talking about wearing a self-righteous, pious smile, but one of deep joy, down in the heart joy, that manifests itself in a grateful and humble spirit. So, go ahead, step out into whatever waters you are facing with confident faith and trust, and do it with prayer and a smile!

*"If you are God's child, you are not alone. Glorious grace has connected you to the One whose power and love don't shift with the times."*  
Paul Tripp

*Bob*

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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](mailto:sam.news@fbctrussville.org). Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.



# THANK YOU, PASTOR BUDDY. YOU ARE A TRUE CHAMPION!

*Lance Pate's remarks and poem in our Sunday morning worship service, August 8, say it perfectly!*

Saturday, August 7 marked 15 years Buddy Champion has been Pastor of FBCT. So, for me, I wondered how do you say thank you to one whose made a difference for that many years. You write a poem! And, if any of you listening to this poem have any problems with it, please email me at [buddychampion@fbctrussville.org](mailto:buddychampion@fbctrussville.org).

*[way to deflect, Lance!]*



## The Buddy I Know

For just one moment will you bear with me and let me celebrate today  
How Buddy Champion has changed our lives with his words and calming ways.  
It's clear he is faithful, to his calling of Christ, and a man's man that's always true,  
But there are other qualities I see in him, these may not be as obvious to you.

The Buddy I know is a problem solver. I've seen it so many times.  
Like when we were in historic Decatur, and had to remove a concreted sign.  
After several attempts the sign wouldn't budge. We all thought that we were stuck  
Until later that morning in a meeting he said, "Did you tie it to a truck"?

The Buddy I know is resourceful with a mind that doesn't dread  
Like the camping trip he forgot the pump for the family's inflata-bed.  
So, with a paper towel tube duct taped to the muffler and air mattress, alas  
He hollered to Lynn in the driver's seat, "Honey, giver 'er a little gas."

And the Buddy I know is a question-er. Always wanting to know the why.  
I shake my head at this one trait, and it brings from me long sighs.  
On the way to lunch it popped into his head - something not eternal but so true  
He said, "In military ranks, why do they spell the word colonel, like they do."

But to transition I use these examples, not to bring out his silliness with glee  
But as it's always been with Buddy Champion, what you see is what you see.  
Fifteen years ago, when you called a man, unknown by many of you  
You brought a family willing to do whatever God wanted them to do.

His work ethic is unmatched. By anyone I've have ever seen.  
His compassion for the hurting is an example to our team.  
His integrity resounds. The same with every person of any age  
Whether it's in his office, at Home Depot, or preaching from this stage.

Buddy's driving force is to win the lost, to do whatever it will take.  
No work too hard or risk too wild if it's done for His name's sake.

So today we honor Buddy and Lynn, to say thank you for the years.  
To appreciate their listening of God's calling to come here.  
May God bless us with many years to come. Winning more lost souls for Him.  
We love you, We honor you, We can't wait to see what's next.  
Happy Anniversary, Buddy and Lynn!



NOTE: A special thanks to those of you who spent the day on Saturday, August 7 and some days since then working at our schools here in the Trussville area. It was HOT! But you all hung in there with the pressure washing, grounds upkeep and painting that needed to be done!

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Monday, September 6: LABOR DAY**  
**Sunday, September 12: GRANDPARENTS DAY**  
**Wednesday, September 22: FALL BEGINS**

## THE CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

**October 11-14 • Pigeon Forge, TN**

Final payments due September 1.

## THE ARK ENCOUNTER

**September 13-15 • Kentucky**

We're off!

## JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

**Restart Thursday September 16 @ 10:30AM**

## EDIBLE EDUCATION LUNCHEON

**Friday, September 10 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall**

"Moving You" (discussing balance and flexibility)

Contact: [kathyb@fbctrussville.org](mailto:kathyb@fbctrussville.org)

## SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

**Thursday, September 23**

**10:30AM • Worship Center**

**Guest entertainers: Doors of the Heart**

*You won't want to miss this talented group!*

**Gary Furr** is retired pastor of Vestavia Hills Baptist and co-founded Doors of the Heart with Mark Weldon. Gary plays guitar, banjo, dobro, mandolin, ukulele, and sings lead vocals.

**Mark Weldon** has toured professionally as a violin and fiddle player including Three-on-A-String and country star Mel Tillis.

**Brent Warren** is a well-known guitar and mandolin picker in Alabama. He has played guitar and mandolin in numerous Bluegrass, Country, and Americana bands.

**Smutty Weldon** is Mark's son and has been playing musical instruments since he was a child.

**Michael Whitner** is a student at Samford studying music. He has been in jazz bands and bluegrass as well.

## FBCT TRUSSVILLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Friday, September 24**

**8:00AM • Grayson Valley Country Club**

4 man scramble with shotgun start

\$110 registration includes green fees, golf cart, prizes, awards, give-aways and lunch.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## Men's Bible Study: The Book of Mark Beginning September 13

**Tuesdays from 8:00-9:00 AM • Room E-204**

This will be a 9-10 week study with homework.

Workbooks are \$20.25.

The most important question you will ever answer is this: Who do you believe Jesus Christ is? Mark's account of Jesus' life gives you the answer, and it is more action-packed and fast-paced than the other three Gospel records.

Contact Larry Payne, [larrycpayne@gmail.com](mailto:larrycpayne@gmail.com), or 205-601-2288 for questions.

## MIGHTY OAKS PRAYER MINISTRY

We are asking our members to commit to praying that each child in our ministries would grow in their faith from an "acorn" to a MIGHTY OAK. If you would like the name of a child for whom you can pray over the next year, pick up an acorn here at the church with a child's name on it.

*If you have questions or need assistance, please call Debbie Arrington in the SAM office at 205-228-1006.*

### Food for thought Susan Hornsby shared with us:

Your grandmother's prayers are still protecting you.

*"God shapes the world through prayer. Prayers are deathless. The lips that utter them may have closed by death, the heart that felt them may have ceased to beat, but the prayers live before God." E.M. Bounds*

**Not receiving our SAM newsletters?** If you haven't already responded to the letter mailed out last February by our SAM Leadership Team regarding your preference for receiving the newsletter, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM office at 205-228-1006 or email her at [debbie@fbctrussville.org](mailto:debbie@fbctrussville.org). Everyone for whom we have an email address will continue to receive the newsletters by email; however, if any of you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!



*Then He said to His disciples "The harvest is abundant but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37*

The new figures from the U.S. Census Bureau came out in August, and they confirm what all of us who live and work in the Trussville area already knew. This is an exciting time of expansion for our city. According to the Trussville Tribune, the population grew by 31 percent since 2010, making Trussville one of the fastest growing cities in Alabama. The number of people living here was put at 26,123.

Same story for many of the towns around us. Over four thousand in Argo, more than ten thousand in Clay, just under five thousand in Springville, well over seven thousand in Pinson, and over 16 thousand in Center Point. Throw in Leeds and Moody and you're talking about a metro area of close to 100 thousand folks.

When I look at these figures, I think about what Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 9:37. He was trying to emphasize the number of so many lost souls all around them that needed to hear the Good News, yet there were so few willing to go out and proclaim it. Our church places a large priority on mission efforts to faraway places, and rightfully so. But the harvest is more than plentiful right in our own backyard. Consider this: How many worshippers are on our campus on an average Sunday morning (without the Covid threat)? A thousand? Two thousand?

Sounds like a lot of people, doesn't it? Now let's estimate how many people are attending other churches in our area on a typical Sunday. Let's put the figure at roughly ten thousand (although that is probably too high). That would mean a total of around 11 or 12 thousand souls are in God's house in our area on the Lord's day. Think about that. That would mean about 88 thousand folks are not in church. 88 thousand! My questionable math skills tell me that is 88 percent of the population.

That, my fellow Christians, is a potential harvest. Who's going to reach them? They're not going to waltz in here on their own. Someone has to invite them. Maybe even come with them. Maybe even transport them. I'm willing to bet at least one of them is someone you know.

The workers may be few, but you and I can be one of them. Just like the Marines, God is looking for a few good men..... and women. The abundant harvest is worth it.

# HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

God has given us the capacity for feelings ... pleasant, painful, and otherwise, to help us understand and live life in the best ways possible. Our emotions can help us recognize how our surroundings, interactions, and experiences are affecting us, in both positive and negative ways. As we come to understand our feelings and respond to them in productive ways, we can become more authentically the people God created us to be.

*Opinions, Evaluations, Instructions, Commands, Interpretation all have one point in common, they're thoughts that come from our head. Feelings are not something that comes from the head.*

**"A person with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an opinion." Unknown**

*Feelings in contrast, come from the heart.  
Feelings are our Internal Responses to Life.  
Feelings are Personal.  
Feelings are shaped by our Unique Personality and Experiences.  
God gave us feelings for our benefits.  
Feelings are meant to be expressed.  
Feelings can help us identify areas where we might need to make a change of some kind.  
Feelings can be a catalyst for taking steps toward personal growth or reconciliation.  
– Stephen Ministry*

Luke 7:36-50 gives us a beautiful glimpse into the Kingdom of Heaven, between Jesus, Simon the Pharisee, and the Uninvited Guest, a woman with no name but identified as a sinner. Her reputation preceded her that evening as Jesus was reclining at the table as a guest in Simon's home. She brings with her an alabaster vial of perfume and standing behind Jesus at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears and kept wiping them with the hair of her head and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. No words, just tears of "repentance" in the Presence of Jesus, God incarnate. Broken and poor in spirit who was clearly mourning over her sin because Jesus words confirmed it, "Yours sins have been forgiven" "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." Why? For she loved much. Such a contrast from Simon who questioned to himself, "if Jesus the Prophet only knew who this was touching Him, that she is a sinner." With a lesson from a parable Jesus is able to communicate in depth "For this reason, I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little. "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Do you see the **opinion** of this man versus the **experience** of this woman? This woman was touched by Mercy.

Express your feelings to God!  
*"My Sacrifice, O God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, you, God, will not despise." Psalm 51:17*

# CALIFORNIA—HERE WE COME!!

By Suellen Edmondson

FBCT has several church plants in the United States and in locations overseas. Seven of us just returned from Oakland, California (outside San Francisco) where we spent a week working with our plant The Movement Church. Unfortunately, last year was a no-fly time so we were all excited that we could return to visit the friends we had made and offer our support once again.

Chris Chambers, Robin Foshee, Bobby Hosey and myself began bright and early Saturday morning with a 5:30 a.m. flight to Atlanta. We arrived in Atlanta a little early, but life in an airport always happens, and we ended up having to run about a football field to get to our gate on time. It was like a scene right out of a movie, but we made it and luckily so did our luggage.

There are two schools that The Movement congregation is involved with—Elmhurst Middle School and Life Academy (9th grade science and math). The Movement actually holds its worship services on the campus of Elmhurst Middle School. Immediately after arriving in Oakland on Saturday we reported to Life Academy where we worked to clean out a teacher workroom. Students nor teachers had set foot in their school since March 2019 (18 months); we could sense the excitement of the administrators for school to be in session again.

Sunday was a special treat for us as we got to attend The Movement Church service. It was held outside in a parking lot and attended by about 100 people. They had a praise team and then Pastor Chris Stites brought the message. Their church had just started a home visitation program wherein they had several host homes and people in the congregation went to their homes, ate lunch, and had a time of fellowship. Pastor Chris invited us to their home so it was great to get to spend some one-on-one time with those there—some we knew from our previous trips. Then Sunday night the Haneys (Brook and Stephen) who came to our last FBCT GIC invited us to their house for a cookout.

We began Monday on a list of work projects teachers at Elmhurst Middle School had submitted, including putting furniture together, setting up kindles, making bulletin boards, assembling backpacks, painting rooms, moving textbooks, and other tasks as they asked. The rest of our team joined us on Monday afternoon: Denise Dockery, Becky Grimmett, and Suzie Burkette. They wasted no time rolling up their sleeves and painting a room and bookcases along with the guys.

Our last day was spent at Life Academy helping with their wish list. The teachers were most appreciative of our help and thanked us over and over again. Friday we were in airports all day—flying out again at 5:30 a.m. and arriving in Birmingham 9:00 p.m. that night.

Our take-aways from the trip: (1) being there on Sunday to worship with the people and the fellowship was one of my favorite memories, as we got to renew friendships and make new ones; (2) being able to be the hands and feet of Christ and share our time and energy to make the start of their school year a little easier; (3) of course, we ate good; and last but not least, (4) getting to spend that time with our team. And I note: there were kids all around us while we worked ... Pastor Stites had two and Brook had her two. Bobby Hosey is the "child whisperer." He was so good with those kids, and they absolutely loved him. They were so sad to say goodbye to Bobby and really wanted him to stay!

This and other missionary trips are open to anyone who wants to go and serve. Contact Chris Chambers and/or watch the helper helper app for upcoming mission opportunities. We are so looking forward to next year when we can say again, "California, here we come!"



Betty Penuel shares with us a poem from the collection of her Grandpa, William Walton Bryant. Mr. Bryant was born in Flatcreek, TN on Groundhog Day 2/2/1885. When he was sixteen his mother died. Soon after that he moved to Bessemer to live with his married sister. He met his wife there and later they moved to Ensley and lived there for years. Mr. Bryant passed away in November 1985.

## SMILE

**Sometime when the sun quits shining,  
As the dark clouds hide it from view,  
If you'll look for the silver lining  
The sun will come peeping through.**

**As the sunshine dispels every trace  
Of the clouds that darken the days  
So, a smile, when it lights up the face,  
Will drive all your troubles away.**

**A genuine smile is never cold,  
It is like the warm breath of spring.  
And when it comes from a heart of gold,  
It becomes a beautiful thing.**

**So, if you're inclined to wear a frown,  
You'll find it is never worthwhile.  
And by simply turning it upside down,  
You can change it into a smile.**



# MR. BONES

By Sandra Bearden

My husband Bill developed a "buying hobby" during the late 1970s, and continued it through his early retirement years. This buying involved dealing with various branches of the U. S. Government through a newsletter describing Federal surplus items for sale. Bill was able to re-sell many items, especially vehicles and office furniture. Other "bargains" often landed in our basement or driveway. Included among these purchases were boxes containing 10,000 "O" rings from NASA, two pick-ups from an Indian reservation, and countless other items, both useful and useless.



*Not the real Mr. Bones!*

One batch of miscellaneous purchases came from a hospital in Nashville. The collection included a human skeleton, used as a teaching tool for medical, nursing and other students. When Bill drove his pick-up truck north to collect his bargains, he placed this boney purchase in the passenger seat. Apparently he thought this would ward off hijackers. It also kept away gas station employees, as Bill discovered when he stopped to fill up.

Art Linkletter was right. Kids DO as well as SAY the darndest things! When Bill got home with his bargains, our daughter, then about 7, and her next-door friend took Bill's sidekick out in the yard to play. Believing that this was somewhat an insult to once-human dignity, I demanded that we "do something with that skeleton!" We swiftly donated it to a friend who worked at a local hospital, and Mr. Bones resumed his teaching career.

NOTE: Indeed our kids DO the darndest things! There was a great story published by the IMB about our FBCT kids running a lemonade stand at VBS this summer to raise money for missionaries. The story, titled "Dog hugs, cookies and lemonade help Alabama kids give thousands to IMB," written by Catherine Finch, was published on July 14, 2021 at [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org).

[CLICK HERE THE ARTICLE](#)

**Amal and Juan are identical twins. Their mom only carries one photo because if you've seen Juan you've seen Amal.**

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

*At the bottom.*



## WE NEED TO KNOW THIS ...

Seriously folks, you will notice something new in weather alerts from the National Weather Service. Beginning in August, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are being described in one of these three categories, which will trigger alerts on mobile devices.

DESTRUCTIVE 80 mph winds.

CONSIDERABLE 70 mph winds.

BASE severe thunderstorm 58 mph winds.

Be sure to check out [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for more detailed information.

