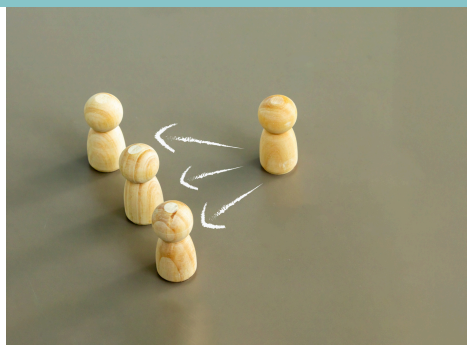
OCTOBER 29 2026

THURSDAY BLOG

Influencers

BY BOBBY DUNCAN



Influencers come in all sizes. Adults and teens. Some use social media platforms. Others use word of mouth. Some have millions of followers on social media accounts. Their followers are global. Others, less well known, may not even have a smart phone or computer. Both of these type influencers can have a larger reach than we're able to measure. Numbers of followers never tell the whole story. Let me explain.

Just this morning, I received news of the passing of a close Journey friend. He has been in Hospice Care for just a few days. I was with him yesterday afternoon. We prayed for God's mercy. My friend was ready for this transition from our world; joining Jesus in heaven. He has been a regular contributor at Journey Church for over a decade. Once he arrived, he began immediately inviting—influencing others.

He kept a whole row filled for many years of new people he invited. As one of our Journey leaders said about him: "He was one of Journey's biggest cheer leaders. He will certainly be missed."

Everyone has influence. Not everyone uses it wisely. Some, however, find ways to make the greatest impact, even bigger than expected. My good friend at Journey got the most out of every opportunity, sharing Jesus & Good News for everyone. He was still doing THIS daily until his failing health began a few weeks ago. He was never wealthy, nor famous. Yet, he made the most of his time on earth—influencing others for God.

A shout out to his life and influence. "Well done, Gary Slade, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23. Because of Jesus, His mercy and grace— we will meet again. He would want me to invite you to our Journey weekend. Why not show up in his honor? Just saying!

This weekend at Journey Church we're checking things out in Titus 2:9-10. Our fall series fits with this topic of being God influencers. At Journey Church we are weekly growing a younger church family. We are using the Bible as our guide. How can every Jesus follower get organized and grow momentum? Good question.

The secret sauce (no longer a secret) we're discovering is the power of leveraging our influence for God and our community—partnerships together. All age groups and backgrounds. We are Better Together.

Join us this weekend Journey Sat@6pmSun@10:30am. Learning about a deeper faith—leaning in—all ages—growing human connections, strengthening God connections—through deeper relationships with God and people.

Every Jesus Church desires to grow. Let's do this—using influence together! Go God.