The Light Through Cracks Concert
with
SOMETHINGPOSITIVE

Friday, August 30, 2013 • 7:30 p.m.
Belhaven University Center for the Arts • Concert Hall
Please come and greet the performers after the performance.  
Please refrain from the use of all flash and still photography during the concert.  
Please turn off all pagers and cell phones.

PROGRAM
Shining Light Ministry

Introduction by Kelly Enck featuring Deima Thompson, Spoken-Word Artist

INTERMISSION
(Stage change)

Live it Out
Take Me
Nothing Ways
Shadow Girl

Dark Horses from *Vice Versus*  
Switchfoot

Just a Ride
New Day

We’ve Come So Far

SOMETHINGPOSITIVE:
Roddy Merritt, Vocals; Stephen Fairchild, Lead Guitar; Michael Matthews, Rhythm Guitar; Travis White, Bass; Justin Nipper, Drums

SHINING LIGHT BIO
Imagine standing face-to-face with 50 to 300 incarcerated men or women from the streets of some of America’s roughest places, carrying the message of hope found in Jesus Christ. You can’t be fake or they’ll write you off immediately! They've heard it all before and at the same time, you gain their respect if you really believe what you say. They pay attention to someone who respects them enough to be real and it’s in these situations when you’ll realize the powerful message of Jesus in a whole new way. This message really can change even the hardest of hearts.

Shining Light Ministries seeks to create an environment where real life is under a microscope. We come against some of the best and worst of humanity. We see how God is in it all. It's exciting to see how this “up close and personal” view of the world has changed people’s perspectives on everything else in life. Expanding perspective and impacting lives; we are Shining Light.
BIOS

Meet Michael Matthews
If anyone can ever take credit for starting SOMETHINGPOSITIVE its Michael Matthews. Michael was in the middle of serving as a youth pastor in his local church. He began to pray about bringing worship into his youth group. He put playing drums to the side, something he had done professionally most of his life. Two of his students were interested in music and Michael began playing guitar with them. These two guys were drummer, Justin Nipper and lead guitarist Stephen Fairchild. Michael wears many different hats for SP, from band bus driver to killer rhythm guitar player. “Music has always been part of me and what I do, as well as a unique way for me to really worship God.” - Michael Matthews

Meet Stephen Fairchild
If Michael gets credit for starting the band, Stephen gets the credit for naming it. Stephen was 17 when he started attending a local church with, then youth pastor, Michael Matthews. Stephen and Michael started playing worship music together for the youth group. Stephen had played guitar off and on for 4-5 years, but never seriously picked up playing until Michael asked for his help. Now, years later, “Stevey’s” lead guitar parts are an important part of SP’s signature sound. “Being a Christian is...it’s one of the most liberating things I’ve ever felt and I just want to go out there and share that with everyone.” - Stephen Fairchild

Meet Justin Nipper
Justin is, without a doubt, the “positive” in SOMETHINGPOSITIVE. Shortly after becoming a Christian, Justin found himself learning to play drums under Michael Matthews' teaching. He quickly learned to play and it became part of what he did with nearly every waking moment of his free time. At 18 and a senior in high school Justin had never played drums, but knew, in order to get better, he had to learn anything and everything he could, plus practice as much as he could. “It’s not really about me, or being a good drummer, or showing out in front of people with all these cool things you can do. The whole reason is for Jesus Christ. If you’re not living an example for him and using whatever talent you have for him, then there is no sense in even having the talent.” - Justin Nipper

Meet Roddy Merritt
Roddy came to know the band through a Christian summer camp. One night during the camp, Michael, Stephen, Justin, and Roddy got to play a song together. Michael asked Roddy to consider coming to be a part of his student ministry. A month later Roddy began helping lead worship for the youth with the three guys from church camp. “The biggest thing is seeing how we’ve changed. We see with different eyes, hear with different ears, speak with different mouths and it’s all God...just denying this old lifestyle and becoming wrapped around something that we are ultimately passionate about and that’s my prayer for what I want to do, what people see and what people feel.” - Roddy Merritt

Meet Travis White
Travis White is the living definition of “something positive”, a former atheist who became Christian. Travis was friends with Justin and Stephen and saw something in them he had never seen before among Christians. He saw their lives were different from what they used to be and better than his. They talked about the band and that they needed a bass player. Travis started playing bass in the band and later accepted Christ as his savior. SP was his first band and this was the first time he had ever tried to play an instrument. “I’m able to minister to others now and show people that God equips the called and doesn’t call the equipped. Anybody can do what God calls them to do, and be what God wants them to be in their life, as long as you do it for His glory, everything works out.” - Travis White
BAND BIO

Spontaneous combustion is defined as ignition without cause. SOMETHINGPOSITIVE started much the same way. Some may call it fate, others coincidence, but the guys of the band call it grace.

Rhythm guitar player, Michael Matthews, had played drums all of his life. He put down the drum sticks and picked up a guitar, even after being a successful drummer most of his life. There was no reason for him to leave drumming and try his hand at playing guitar. Michael was the youth pastor and taught drummer Justin Nipper and started jamming together with lead guitar player, Stephen Fairchild.

Two months later, they met lead singer Roddy Merritt. Roddy had been singing and performing most of his life but his musical career had not been widely accepted nor successful. His uphill battle almost caused him to abandon music, but after a local Christian youth camp, the four began leading worship at church. Worship soon became show, after show, once the band began performing DC Talk’s classic hit “Jesus Freak.” Soon the band went from leading worship to playing concerts.

The band desperately needed a fifth and final member to play bass. Travis White, a high school friend of Justin and Stephen, had been hanging around the band in December of 2009. Travis expressed interest in playing bass, but had never played an instrument, was a professing atheist, and these guys were in a Christian band. Travis still decided to try it all out, got a bass, and eventually accepted Christ into his life. One month later, January 28, 2010, SOMETHINGPOSITIVE took the stage in front of fifteen hundred people and took the first, big step into becoming an internationally known band.

Five years later they are a band with a new EP under way, produced by Christian music's Third Day keyboardist Scotty Wilbanks, internationally known and selling music, opening for some of music's most known artist, national tours, and hundreds of shows. “We want to help shed light into a world that grows dark with negativity.” (Lead singer Roddy Merritt) This is a band that shouldn’t exist, a band that has faced circumstances that could not be overcome in four years. This is a band that seeks to show truth and be a part of sending out a message greater than themselves. A message of hope, of truth, and of a loving faith. This is SOMETHINGPOSITIVE.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department seeks to produce transformational leaders in the musical arts who will have profound influence in homes, churches, private studios, educational institutions, and on the concert stage. While developing the God-bestowed musical talents of music majors, minors, and elective students, we seek to provide an integrative understanding of the musical arts from a Christian world and life view in order to equip students to influence the world of ideas. The music major degree program is designed to prepare students for graduate study while equipping them for vocational roles in performance, church music, and education. The Belhaven University Music Department exists to multiply Christian leaders who demonstrate unquestionable excellence in the musical arts and apply timeless truths in every aspect of their artistic discipline.

The Music Department would like to thank our many community partners for their support of Christian Arts Education at Belhaven University through their advertising in “Arts Ablaze 2013-2014.” It is through these and other wonderful relationships in the greater Jackson community that makes many of our concerts possible at Belhaven. We praise God for our friends and are truly thankful for their generosity. Please mention The Arts at Belhaven University when you visit our community partners.

For a complete listing of Music Department scheduled spring semester programs, please visit our website at http://www.belhaven.edu/music/recitals.htm. A complete listing of major Belhaven University arts events may be found at http://www.belhaven.edu/arts/schedule.htm.

Thank you to those working behind the scenes to make today’s program a success: music faculty supervisor, Dr. Christopher Shelt; student workers –house manager, Lydia Jones; ushers, Elizabeth Walczak & Rachel Walczak; stage manager, Scott Foreman; stagehand, Brandon Smith; recording/sound, Joy Kenyon; lighting, Frank Dolansky; videographer, Frank Dolansky; photographer, Jenae’ Brown.
BELHAVEN MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:
THE LIGHT THROUGH CRACKS CONCERT
WITH
SOMETHINGPOSITIVE
AUGUST 30, 2013
FRIDAY, 7:30 PM
BELHAVEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
CONCERT HALL

FOR DIRECTIONS SCAN QR CODE.  COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 601-974-6494

CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS LOCATED AT
835 RIVERSIDE DRIVE IN JACKSON