

Discipleship Making and the First Great Awakening

Matthew 28:19-20, the verse that now marks one of the walls of the worship center foyer, provides the final command to the disciples in the Gospel of Matthew. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." This divine task transcends cultures and centuries. It is the church's task today. We are called to make disciples, to baptize them and to teach them to obey the words of Jesus Christ. We are not trying to create greater church attendance, though church attendance may help. We are not attempting to produce emotional worship services, though emotions may contribute to the goal. Our goal is to produce followers of Jesus Christ who "observe" what Christ commanded of those initial disciples. I have found over the years that the most productive way of making disciples is through the regular, bible saturated, personal relationships with others that hold each of us accountable. It is not splashy. It is not exciting. It is, to be frank, quite difficult work. It involves meeting every week with individuals or small groups to discuss the Scripture and then to call each other to account. It means that all participants are committed to discovering the true revelation of God through His Spirit, by His Word, to the honor of His Son. It means reading hard things. It means praying for each other and with each other. It involves years of development. It calls on everyone in the group to then transfer to others what has been learned spiritually, intellectually, physically, relationally, and behaviorally. We teach Christ's words to others in order that they may know Him, that they may become His followers, and that they may teach others the same.

I am a casual student of the American Evangelical story. Modern Evangelicalism began sometime during the 1730s in simultaneous events in England and America. The First Great Awakening, under the personas of Jonathan Edwards on the American side and

George Whitefield on the British side, launched a renewal in the area of personal spiritual experience. "Soul competency" before God called on each and every individual to follow the biblical mandate of pursuing God on the basis of personal faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. This broke the church-state establishment view that good earthly and heavenly citizens acquire their citizenship on earth and in heaven through the ministrations of the intermingled powers of church and state. Prior to the First Great Awakening, individuals came to God through the community of the church, a church that was properly sanctioned by the state. To be heaven bound you simply connected yourself to a state approved church and its religious rites. When the First Great Awakening blossomed, the formal structures of the church as a means of salvation began to crumble in the mind of the public. Edwards and Whitefield preached and wrote with language that was intensely person. Now, spiritual life moved beyond the formality of religion to each individual through a personalal experience with God within their own heart and life.

Jonathan Edwards, in his book *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God in the Conversion of Many Hundred Souls, in Northampton and the Neighbouring Towns and Villages of New Hampshire, in New England* (sorry, but they had really long titles to books back then), described the conversion of the first person "awakened" in the First Great awakening in the following way: "And then it was in the latter part of December that the Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in, and wonderfully to work among us; and there were, very suddenly, one after another, five or six persons, who were to all appearances savingly converted, and some of them in a very remarkable manner. Particularly, I was surprised with the relation of a young woman, who had been one of the greatest company-keepers in the whole town. When she came to me, I had never heard that she was becoming serious in any way, but by the conversation then had with her, it appeared to me that what she gave an account of, was a glorious work of

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Guest Article	1
Students	3
20Somethings	3
Music Ministry	4
PAW Ministry	4
Women's Ministry	5
Children's Ministry	6
Wednesday Night Dinner Menu	7
Special Events	7
May Calendar	8
Spring Discipleship	8
Weekly Events	8
Attendance	8

God's infinite power and sovereign grace; and that God had given her a new heart, truly broken and sanctified. I could not then doubt it and have seen much in my acquaintance with her since to confirm it. Though the work was glorious, yet I was filled with concern about the effect it might have upon others. I was ready to conclude that some would be hardened by it, in carelessness and looseness of life; and would take occasion from it to open their mouths in reproach of religion. But the event was the reverse, to a wonderful degree. God made it, I suppose, the greatest occasion of *awakening* to others, of any thing that ever came to pass in the town. The news of it seemed to be almost like a flash of lightning, upon the hearts of young people, all over the town, and upon many others. Those persons among us, who used to be the farthest from seriousness, and that I most feared would make an ill improvement of it, seemed greatly to be *awakened* with it. Many went to talk with her, concerning what she had met with; and what appeared in her seemed to be to the satisfaction of all that did so."

This narrative is not the byproduct of frontier America. Edwards view of salvation was anchored in God's word. God calls each individual to personally respond to His Gospel. As Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again." Nicodemus was one of the most outwardly religious persons in the history of the world and yet Jesus declares him to be in serious need in the area of spirituality. Simply embracing the religious, external acts like baptism and the Lord's Supper does not make someone a Christian. If salvation could be obtained through the formality of religion, Nicodemus would have been the safest person in all the world. He was a Pharisee and a strict religious follower of Jewish tradition. Jesus determined that Nicodemus was lost and destined for eternity separated from God. Following religion cannot save us from our sins. However, following Jesus Christ with heart, soul, mind, life, and brings a divine transformation. No religious entity can change the heart of humanity. Only God working through His Spirit can change the person's heart. Only God through His Spirit can open our eyes to the beauty of His Son, Jesus Christ. Only God working through His Spirit can alter our eternal destiny. The First Great Awakening was not just some emotional work of preachers nor was this the product colonial America individualism. The Bible speaks this way about spiritual life. It is biblical to speak about a personal relationship with God. It is biblical to speak of the "soul competency" of each and every person before God.

What Edwards used as a measure of the legitimacy of his claims of awakening was the transformed lives of those *awakened*. They met regularly in the study of the Scripture. They pursued holiness in personal life. They called others to a life of faith in Christ and the study of the word of God and a life of personal holiness. They were passionate about ministry to the poor and missions to the lost. In other words, their lives matched their claims that they had been born again. As a pastor, this is my desire for my own life and the life of all associated with Matthew Road Baptist Church. My desire is that we would see individuals have an encounter with God and that encounter would be reflected in a legitimately transformed life. During my childhood, somehow I became confused about what it meant to become a Christian. In order to help with clarity about Christianity, modern evangelicals have embraced simplicity. We sometimes use simple phrases so that even a novice to Christianity can understand. "Walk an aisle." "Say a prayer." "Invite Jesus into your heart." These catch phrases can be helpful in that they tend to remove the clutter of sophisticated theological language. We really want people to know the salvation we have found in Christ. Whatever we can do to remove the clutter and make the message simpler, we are willing to do. However, in the process, my greatest fear is that the message of actually following Jesus Christ may get muted to the point of detriment.

The Gospel is repenting of sins and believing in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and then imitating His life because we love Him more than life itself and we want to honor His Father who sent Him into the world. The measure of a person actually believing in Jesus Christ in a saving way is found in the transformation of life through the work of the Holy Spirit. I love Edwards cautious response to the *awakening* of the young lady within his congregation. He heard her testimony and examined her life. He found that her testimony of conviction of sins followed by faith in Christ matched the transformation of her life. This is what it means to be born again. Being born again means something has changed in a radical way. Just as for the baby that has just been born, that has just breathed life for the first time, their life has been radically altered. So it is with anyone who believes in Jesus Christ. By the work of the Holy Spirit, when we believe in Jesus Christ, God breaths spiritual life into us and we are saved. We are saved to a whole new life. God instills in us a humility toward Him and others. God brings a love for His word and His church. God produces a desire for holiness. God imparts in us a desire to see the whole world brought to saving faith in Christ. If none of these attributes exist then something is seriously wrong with the claims to new birth. A true *awakening* bears fruit.

That leads to the intensely personal question. Have you been born again? Have you seen your sin as the horrific violation of the law and person of God? Have you seen the death of Jesus Christ in your place as the greatest event ever? Have you believed in Jesus Christ by repenting of your sins and trusting in His work of salvation? Has the Spirit of God come into your life and begun a process of transformation? In other words, have you been truly changed by the God of the universe through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ? This is the issue! It is essential, required, necessary, vital, monumental, eternal, and urgent. The moment is now to believe in Him and to follow Him. He loves you. By the power of His Holy Spirit, love Him and believe in Him and He will save you for now and all eternity.

~ Daniel

Students

Summer Student Events & Activities

- ⚙ May 3rd, Youth TGIF, see Zach or Nancy & David Howard for info
- ⚙ May 5th, Youth Parent Summer Activities Meeting , 5:00pm, CommonGrounds
- ⚙ May 19th, Graduating Senior Recognition, 4:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- ⚙ June 17th - 22nd, High School Camp, \$250, more info at parent meeting (info above), Deadline to sign up June 2nd
- ⚙ June 24th - 28ths, Jr. High Camp, \$250, more info at parent meeting (info above), Deadline to sign up June 2nd

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Please contact Zach at zach@matthewroad.org

20Somethings



Who are we? We are... sinners in need of God's Grace, part of God's plan for the future, going to make an impact on the world for Christ; we aren't children any more, we are making the decisions that will effect the rest of our lives. We matter to God.

~ May Movie at Maggie's ~

May 18th, 5:00pm

1612 Sandalwood

(Maggie's)

Hamburgers and watching a movie under the stars

?s call Rachel 972.965.9970

- 🌐 Mission trip to the Rio Grande Valley and Mexico, July 28th - August 3rd - see Rachel for more details

Weekly Events:

- * **Sunday AM:** Follow Me by David Platt; 9:45AM
- * **Sunday PM:** Systematic Theology at 6:00pm (Sunday nights we usually hangout after 7:17)
- * **Mondays:** Chik-fil-a at Camp Wisdom & 360, 11:30am
- * **Wednesday nights:** Bible Study in back of Common Grounds. We are studying *Spiritual Gods at War*, 8:30pm.

Music Ministry

I hope you and your family are already planning to join us on Sunday, June 2, as we present "Experiencing God: The Musical" in all three worship services.

This unique worship experience will help us to recognize God's work around us and then respond in faithful obedience.

It's exciting for me to have all of our choirs joining together along with an orchestra on this special day.

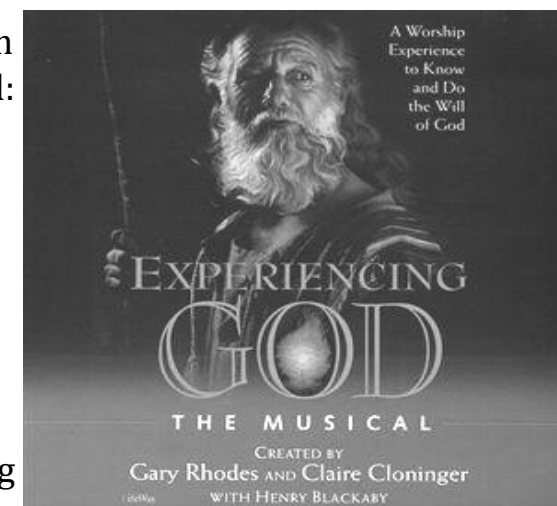
Please consider joining us at one of the following times:

8:30am Early Morning Service

11:00am Morning Service

7:17pm Evening Service

Hope to see you there! ~ Jeff



PAW Ministry

Unplugged!
Unplugged!



Summer Camp

An 8 week camp
offered
for Children Ages
9 months - 12 years

Sponsored by
PAW @ Matthew Road Baptist Church

Unplugged! at MRBC offers a fun and safe program for children during the summer. It is operated as a non-profit ministry to the children and families in our community. As a ministry of Matthew Road Baptist Church since 2001, our classes are open to any child regardless of race or religious beliefs. **Unplugged!** is Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30am - 2:30pm, beginning June 10, 2013, through August 7, 2013. (We will be closed Monday, July 8 and Wednesday July 10 for Vacation Bible School.)

Our camp activities are appropriately designed for the age group and the stage of development of each child. In today's society, our children don't know what it is to be without all their electronics. We want to show them that they can still have fun and be unplugged from all their game systems, TV, computers, internet, etc... **Unplugged!** is our summer semester that offers a fun old fashioned style camp!

For more information about pricing and registration, please contact Cyndi King at 972-641-7380 or by email at cyndikking@msn.com.

Women's Ministry



Sisters of Strength

Be a Sister of Strength!

*Take the time to
strengthen a sister!*

Make a phone call! Send a card! Pray!

Let us walk this life together!!!

Have a prayer request? Need more
information about our Women's Ministry
classes or events? Need to get in touch with
our Women's Ministry Coordinator?

Then contact us at our email address:
womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com



May's Ladies night out.....

For more information, please see the Women's Ministry Bulletin

Board or contact Jennifer at

womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com.



Ladies Tea Saturday, June 1st

"From Flip Flops to High Heels -

We are all made in His image!"

More information to come!!!



- † Ladies Sunday Night Bible Study, 6:00pm. Please see the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board, down the nursery hallway, for more information. This is open to ladies of all ages!
- † Ladies Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:30pm. Please see the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board down the nursery hallway, for more information. This is open to ladies of all ages!



Thank you to all who helped with our Pamper Day. You were a big blessing to these ladies, as well as to the Women's Ministry. We are prayerfully thank for each of you!

Children

Who: Completed 3rd-6th Graders

When: June 24-28, 2013

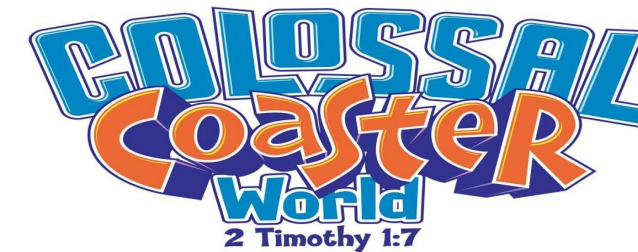
Where: Mt. Lebanon, Cedar Hill

Cost: \$200

FORMS AND DEPOSIT DUE ON MAY 12TH!

(Scholarships available. See Maggie about the deadline.)

Join us for a week away from home as we participate in Bible study, recreation, games, worship, and much more!



Colossal Coaster World will challenge kids to face their fears and trust God as they zip along the roller coaster of life. Through every twist, turn, and dive kids will learn that God has not given them a spirit of fearfulness, but a spirit of power, love, and sound judgment. At the end of the week, kids will want to do it all over again!

VBS Meeting: June 30 @ 5pm in the Choir Room.

Please email Maggie if you would like to help!

We need A LOT of workers :)

T-shirts are \$7. Email Maggie at

maggie@matthewroad.org, if you would like one.



Join us each Wednesday evening as we memorize God's Word, hear Bible stories, play games, and have a lot of fun!

Cubbies - 3&4 year olds

Sparks - Kindergarten through 2nd grade

T&T - 3rd through 6th grade

Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm.

AWANA AWARD NIGHT IS MAY 29th! Pizza at 5:15pm, Awards at 6:30pm. SEE CHARLES OR ANITA FRY FOR MORE INFO!



Don't miss out on MD² this summer!

We will begin our summer MD² classes on Sunday, June 2nd! Each week we will have games, large group lessons, and small group discussion!

Boys will be learning about "Bible Heroes and Bad Guys".

Girls will be completing "The Official Princess Handbook" as we learn about beauty, poise, and righteousness.

Sundays, 6-7pm for Kindergarten through 6th Grade

Boys meet in Area 56/Girls meet in 4th Grade Room

Small groups broken up by age

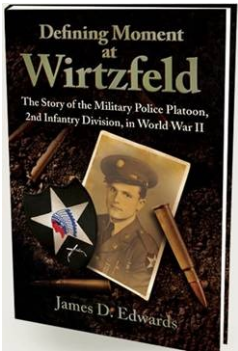


Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

Join us on Wednesday evenings, at 5:30pm, for a time of food & fellowship. Not only are these dinners a wonderful time saver for our Wednesday night leaders, their families and our guests, but all proceeds are donated to the World Hunger Fund. Reservations are needed and greatly appreciated. Please place your reservation at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office at christy@matthewroad.org. *If you have signed up and are not attending, please contact the church office at 972-641-2717 and let us know.

May 1 Salad and Baked Potato Bar, Red Velvet Cake	May 15 Pulled pork sandwiches, slaw, beans, dessert
May 8 Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, cookies	May 22 Taco Salad, dessert

Special Event



Bring the whole family to see this amazing award winning true story relived by the grandson of a WWII Veteran.
Pfc. James Edwards captures much of it on film
in this exciting chronological turn of events from Texas to Omaha Beach, the Battle of the Bulge, and the 2nd Infantry Division's final destination-Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.
Memorial Day Weekend

Friday, May 24, 7:30 PM and
Saturday, May 25, at 2:00 PM and 6:30 PM

Admission is free, but you must have a ticket to reserve a seat.
(see Dan Edwards or the Welcome Desk or display in Worship Center hallway for more info)

May 2013 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- May 1st:** Youth Teacher Dinner & Meeting, 5:30pm, CommonGrounds
- May 2nd:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- May 3rd:** PAW Teacher Appreciation Dinner, see Cyndi for info
Youth TGIF, see Zach or David & Nancy Howard for info
- May 4th:** Orchestra Rehearsal, 9:00am, see Jeff for info
- May 5th:** NewComers Class & Dinner, 4:00pm, Fellowship Hall & Library
Youth Parent Meeting, 5:00pm, CommonGrounds
- May 11th:** Pamper Day, see Jennifer Howard for info
- May 12th:** Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Library
Special Called Business Meeting, 5:55pm, Sanctuary
- May 13th:** PAW Graduation, 7:00pm, Worship Center
- May 16th:** Last Day of MRA
- May 17th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center, see Cyndi for info
- May 19th:** Graduating Senior Reception, 4:00pm, Fellowship Hall
B&G Meeting, 5:00pm, Library
- May 25th:** Orchestra Rehearsal, 9:00am, CommonGrounds
- May 27th:** Church office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- May 29th:** AWANA Award Night, 6:30pm, see your AWANA Leaders for info

Coming
June 2nd
Experiencing God:
the Musical!
(see ad for more info)

Discipleship

- Sunday Nights:**
- ◇ The Study of Acts - Sanctuary, 6:00pm
 - ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm
 - ◇ Adult Bible Study - Library, 6:00pm (ongoing)
 - ◇ 20Somethings - 2nd Floor, Education Building (ongoing)
 - ◇ Guy Talk for youth - classroom behind coke machine in CommonGrounds Bldg. (ongoing)
 - ◇ Girl Talk for youth - classroom to the right of the stage in CommonGrounds Bldg. (ongoing)
 - ◇ MD² - Education Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)

- Wednesday Nights:**
- ◇ 20Somethings Bible Study, 8:30pm, CommonGrounds

- Thursday Nights:**
- ◇ Men's and Ladies Bible Studies: Walking with the Israelites through Exodus, 7:00pm, Ladies in the Library, Men in the Conference Room, Cost: \$5. (childcare provided)

- Friday Nights:**
- ◇ Bible Study at the Germer's home, 7:00pm, see the Germers for more info

Regular Weekly Calendar

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Trek/Journey (Jr. & Sr. High)	4:00pm
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	6:00pm
7:17 Service	7:17pm
Mondays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Tuesdays	
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Counseling Classes	6:30pm
Wednesdays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Proclamation Choir (youth)	5:45pm
Children's Choir (K - 6th grade)	6:00pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
AWANA Club	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
Adult Choir	6:45pm
20Somethings	8:30pm
Thursdays	
Bible Study (men & women)	7:00pm
Fridays	
In-home Bible Study (at the Germer's Home)	7:00pm
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for April: 425

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for April: 154