



## Guest Article, by Josh

I was raised in a small mid-Western town; and grew up in and came to faith in a small, rural church [Church of Christ denomination]; and having come to faith and being baptized when I was about nine years old, I had an appropriate understanding of both the Gospel of Christ and of sin; and had a child's understanding of the fallen nature both of myself and of mankind in general. I recall very distinctly that in my life leading up to and following my baptism, I very much wanted to live my life for Christ and to please Him; and so I was very eager to learn all of the information that I could in order to live out the life that Christ would have me to live. As a result, I paid very keen attention to every word from the preacher's mouth, learned all that I could in Sunday School and in the youth programs and my own Bible Studies, as now that I was a Christian "formally", I wanted to learn and know how to be a Christian, and how to honor God with my life.

Having grown up in church and been around church long before I myself came to faith, one of my favorite Gospel Hymns both now and then, is "Amazing Grace". I very much liked the words, I especially liked that according to the words of the song, that I was saved, that I once was lost and blind; but now I am found and I see, that my chains were gone and that I have been set free, all of which was bestowed upon me, according to the song, the hour I first believed. AWESOME! This all sounded so very fantastic, but the only

issue was that no one really explained to me exactly what was meant by grace. I knew that we said "Grace" before we ate our supper [in the country you eat supper in the evening], and that on occasion, I would hear people say that a person was "graceful", presumably meaning that they moved with ease. As a result, I was not entirely sure what had accomplished all of these wonderful things that the song mentions, perhaps it was a really awesome prayer, as the song is called, "Amazing Grace", we say Grace before supper and apparently the sound of which is quite sweet? I was not sure and despite my asking, this fundamental concept was not explained to me.

Unfortunately, my confusion over this fundamental Biblical principal only increased in direct correlation to the amount of time that I spent in church, as the church that we went to at this time believed in self-righteous legalism. As an example, the preacher would routinely say that he had not sinned during a given week or month; and as for anyone who had, that they needed to come to the front of the church and be re-baptized for their sins. Regretfully, no one would venture down front to be re-baptized for their sins of the week and the congregation went along with this ridiculous notion that they had spent the preceding week completely devoid of sin. I knew that I had sinned and the only reason that I could formulate in my mind why anyone would go along with this, was that perhaps I was the only

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one in the church who had sinned over the prior week; otherwise, people would be lined up each Sunday to be re-baptized for their sins of the preceding week. As an example of legalism, this same preacher spent a great deal of time telling the congregation how we were going to Hell, for any number of arguably minor infractions, such as but not limited to: watching TV, watching movies, telling jokes, talking to your friends about anything other than God, not wearing your best clothes to church each and every time that you come to church, consumption of any alcohol whatsoever, not being baptized each time that we sin, playing musical instruments in church, et cetera. As you can see from the list, most, if not all of these are items are Pharasitically legalistic in that in His Word God does not tell us that any of these items are sins, rendering this a man-made list created to earn our way into Heaven.

At this point, based upon what I had been repeatedly told in church, if I do not perfectly keep all of the Biblical Law in addition to this list of arbitrary items as outlined by the preacher, the list of which seemingly grew each week, then I do not love God and therefore, He does not love me, I am not a child of God. Worst of all, I was told that without question, I am going to Hell to be eternally separated from God in agony for all of eternity. All of this supposedly because I watched a movie or did not wear my best outfit to church or if I sinned at all, ever. Even worse, we were repeatedly told that you may ask for God's forgiveness for any given sin [e.g., lying] ONCE; and He might forgive you, if you truly repent of that sin; however, if you commit this same sin ever again, then this is evidence that you did not truly repent; and God will not forgive that second sin and you are going to Hell.

I must confess that this sounded awful, it made me sick to my stomach and despite my repeated questions to my parents they were unwilling to discuss this issue. Not knowing any better and having not yet developed an adult's ability to question this, I believed what the preacher had said and assumed that perhaps he had derived this arcane knowledge that if I am going to Hell for committing the same sin twice, watching a movie, telling a joke or not wearing my best clothes to church each week, then it was most likely that I was going to Hell regardless, rendering church obsolete and living a life that was pleasing to God unaccomplishable. Moreover, I concluded that neither I, nor anyone else could attain to any of these things, despite their claims. I was very confused by all of this and wondered, "Why would the God who loves me, who sent His Son to die for me, devise such a system in which we are doomed to eternally fail?" This one thing I was certain of: if I were to be saved on the basis of my ability to not sin, saved based upon my ability to adhere to all of God's Law, all of the time, let alone this preacher-concocted list of items, then I could not be saved nor could anyone else, despite their claims of a sinless life.

Thankfully, we left that small town and came to live in Mansfield in 1986. After finding a place to live, our next order of business was to find a church. We exhaustively tried several churches but unfortunately, they too were steeped in heretical teaching, self-righteousness and legalism. My parents being unwilling to consider another denomination, decided that we would have church at home and so on Sunday mornings, we would conduct a family Bible Study. In retrospect, this was my first step away from walking with God, as now we were facing all of the trials and pressures of life in a new place, in what we regarded as a big city, life as a young adult; and my parents had elected to take us out of church in light of the fact that we could not find, "a good church", in the area. I loved God but thought that no matter what I did or how hard I tried, that based upon my understanding of His expectations that I could not please God with my life. As I got into high school, this Sunday morning Bible

study slowly became replaced with work. Slowly, the ways of the world came to be part of my life and influence my thoughts, behaviors and expectations about life. I started driving, and coupled with being an athlete, I faced the temptations associated with that; and in my experience, I could not speak to my parents about any of this, as they could not handle discussing these topics very well and merely turned a blind eye. As a result, I was a teenager facing the temptations and pitfalls of an adult world, without God in my life or the listening ear of my parents. Perhaps my parents were facing a similar struggle, as their relationship with each other and with my brother and I, began to degrade severely as well. I made good grades in school, graduating at the top of my class; and I was an accomplished athlete, as well as, holding a job throughout High School. Unfortunately, with instability at home, I was not able to attend college immediately. I was uncertain about what I wanted to do with my life; and as a result, I ended up joining the United States Marine Corps, at the age of seventeen. So, I went on with my life, I always loved God and sought to please Him with my life, but was convinced that I could not, based upon what I had been taught about His expectations of me. Additionally, other than this misconception about what God wanted of my life, I had been taught very little about how to be a Godly person, let alone an adult. So, I served in the Marines, made my way through college and graduate school, earning degrees with high marks along the way, with nothing really changing, other than to say that in retrospect I was growing ever farther away from God. I sought myself in any number of worldly things like academic accomplishments, physical accomplishments, professional accomplishments, promotions, positions and the accumulation of material wealth and material items.

No matter what I achieved, no matter how much I worked or endeavored, no matter how much I put myself into a given thing irrespective of how difficult it was to achieve, no matter what thing I pursued for short-term pleasure or enjoyment, I began to realize that all of those things were empty, shallow and devoid of meaning or composition. They were ALL an illusion, in that I thought that once I had achieved a given item or degree or honor or promotion, that THEN I would be satisfied with myself and with my life. I often wondered if perhaps the meaning of life was in the journey and not necessarily in the objective. I began to try to enjoy the journey more and not simply strive ceaselessly for the finish line, but still satisfaction, joy and any sense of accomplishment always eluded me; and so, I would always think that perhaps after the next given goal or achievement, then I will be satisfied. I was wrong, for it was not to be, as that joy and satisfaction which I so eagerly sought in the things of this world ALWAYS eluded me. ~ Josh

(For the rest of Josh's testimony you can go to our website or wait until the August newsletter.)

## Leadership Training

Save the date:  
Leadership Training 2013  
September 21st!

SEPTEMBER 2013						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



## PAW Fall



**The Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW)** is a quality preschool program for children aged 9 months-5 years old. It is a time for both you and your children to enjoy. While in our care your children will enjoy their classroom activities planned around our curriculum, "Wee Learn" (published by LifeWay). At our program, your child will learn about sharing, healthy living, academics, music, American sign-language, the Bible, manners, cooperation and giving.

**Admission Age:** Classes are provided for children between the ages of 9 months and 5 years old.

**Schedule:** We are a Monday & Wednesday preschool. Our hours are 9am - 2pm. We begin school for the 2013-2014 school year on Monday, September 9th, and go through Wednesday, May 14th. During that time, we will follow the GPISD schedule.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition is \$130.00 per month. There is an annual supply of \$75.00 and a registration fee of \$35.00 (non-refundable). Supply and registration fees are due upon enrollment. Sibling discounts are available.

**Daily Routine:** Each teacher will be ready to greet your child and begin the day at 9:00 am. They will have a busy day planned which will include center activities, outdoor play time, cooking experiences, rest time, snacks, and special day activities (visits from the petting zoo, the local fire station, picture day and more). We do our best to provide a fun and safe learning environment for your child.

Please call Cyndi King, at 972-641-7380, for more information.



## Music Ministry

The summer months always seem to be accompanied by travel plans. Bailey and I both still operate in semesters; it always seems that either Christmas or Easter is coming very, very soon! Even in the years that we don't travel, my wife and I still work to find time together during the summer. We recently had the opportunity to attend the Southern Baptist Convention last month. We had a great time enjoying the fellowship, preaching, music, and encouragement. The convention also served as a powerful reminder of the critical work that Southern Baptists are doing around the world.

I am so thankful to be part of a church family that is actively involved in missions. It's great to hear the stories from so many of our college students who are serving at Camp WOW. I've had the opportunity to visit our students at youth camp and to see the adult sponsors who are investing in the next generation. I am praying for friends who were deployed to the mission field in a vocational capacity for the first time just last month. It is energizing to hear the passion of those preparing for various international trips.

Let's all be faithful to support our missions efforts however we can. Some may serve in VBS, others might provide critical financial support, and all of us should be faithful to pray for our role in the mission to spread the Gospel to a world in need. ~ Jeff

## Mexico Mission Trip

# Harlingen Mission Trip Needs

There are several ways to go on mission trip. You can go. You can pray. You can give. Whether or not you go, please pray for us. If you would like to give, we ask you to make a monetary donation. You can give the money to buy a case of something or give any amount you would like to give. Please mark your envelope Harlingen Mission Needs. We can only take monetary gifts. Our space is extremely limited. Thank you for helping us live out Matthew 28:19 - 20. These are only some of the needs your monetary gifts could help provide:



Backpack: \$8.00 each



Yellow #2 Pencils, 1 case: \$32.00



Loose Paper, 1 case: \$30.00



Construction paper, 1 case: \$45.00



Feed Family of 4 for a week: \$100.00



To send someone: \$200.00

Reaching the lost for Christ... Priceless!

## Students

## Summer Student Events & Activities

Hey Youth Families! July is going to be fun as we are going to help participate in Vacation Bible School July 8th-12th while also preparing for our Mission Trip July 29th- August 3rd. High Schoolers who are interested in going, please contact Zach as we head to Harlingen, Texas to help with construction and other services to First Baptist Church LaFeria.

Don't forget: Collide meets every Wednesday at 6:30pm, High School AND our weekly Bible Studies will continue throughout week -

- ☞ Guys H.S. @Geisendorfs @6:30pm Mondays
- ☞ Guys M.S.@Kings @6:30pm Tuesdays
- ☞ Girls H.S.@Christines/Maggies@7:00pm Thurs
- ☞ Girls M.S.@Howards @6:30pm Tuesdays



Also, our Facebook page, Collide MRBC, and our Twitter are being updated weekly with new information every week, so if you have any questions please email me or message me on one of those resources!  
Love you all in Christ! ~ Zach

## 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.*

## Mission Trip to Mexico & Harlingen

20somethings are at a unique time in life. God's calling on your adult life is just beginning. A trip to south Texas or across the border could make a huge difference in your vision of the world at large. This is your chance to get a glimpse. Ten of us will be headed across the border to do VBS with a sister church in Mexico. The rest of us will participate in light construction on the Texas side of the border. Mark your calendars now - Begin the adventure!!!

**When:** July 29th (arrive 5:30 AM at church) through August 3rd

**Where:** Harlingen/Mexico (<http://vbme.org>)

**Cost:** \$200.00 (Balance due 7/24)

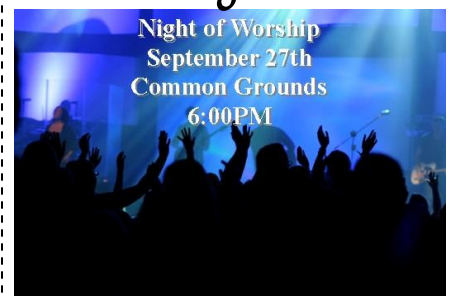
**Why:** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

If you would like to go contact Rachel at [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org) or call the church at 972.641.2717.

## Weekly Events:

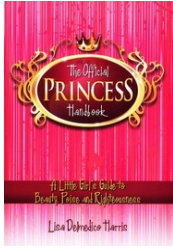
- \* **Sunday AM:** We are studying I John, 9:45AM
- \* **Sunday PM:** Systematic Theology at 6:00pm (Sunday nights we usually hangout after 7:17)
- \* **Mondays:** Chik-fil-a at Camp Wisdom & 360, 11:30am
- \* **Wednesday nights:** Bible Study in back of Common Grounds. *The Reason for God*, 8:30pm.

## Coming Soon!





## Children



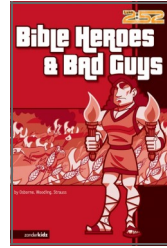
### Don't miss out on MD<sup>2</sup> this summer!

Each week we will have games, large group lessons, and small group discussion!

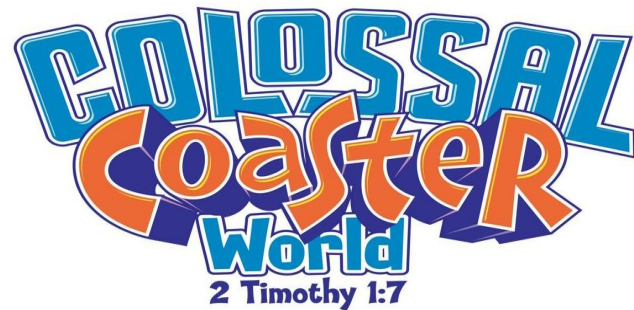
Boys will be learning about "Bible Heroes and Bad Guys".

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



**KIDS ON MISSION!**  
WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM  
UPSTAIRS, EDUCATION BUILDING  
(completed Kinder thru 6th grade)



Matthew Road Baptist Church  
Vacation Bible School  
July 8-12  
Monday-Friday  
6:00-8:30pm  
972-641-2717

**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](mailto:maggie@matthewroad.org), if you would like one.***

## VBS DECORATING AND CANVASSING DAY!

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, JULY 6TH, 9AM - 2PM

**WHERE:** MRBC CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS

**WHAT:** DECORATING FOR COLOSSAL COASTER WORLD VBS AND  
HANDING OUT FLYERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**WHO:** EVERYONE!

**QUESTIONS:** SEE MAGGIE OR ROSE

## Women's Ministry



**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](mailto:womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com)



***Ladies Night Out will return this fall!***

***Information will be posted on  
the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board,  
located in the nursery hallway of the Worship Center.***



† 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!

## New Comers Class & Dinner

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We request that all new members attend this class. We also invite those who have not yet joined our church or rejoined our family, and wish to learn more about our church home. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little of the background of our church. This informal setting will allow the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church.

Dinner and childcare are included. Our next class is scheduled for Friday, July 19th, at 6:30pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the Welcome Desk, email [christy@matthewroad.org](mailto:christy@matthewroad.org), or call the church office at 972-641-2717.



## Icecream Social



### Ice Cream Social

Join us as we beat the heat with a good old fashion Ice Cream Social  
Sunday, July 21st at 6:45pm!

Please bring your favorite ice cream to share  
and we'll enjoy a time of great fellowship together.

## Matthew Road Kindergarten



Are you looking for an educational alternative other than  
traditional 5 day a week kinder?

Do you want to instill a love of learning in your child?

Are you looking for a kindergarten  
that still values \*developmental learning?

Do you value a classroom with a low ratio and a teacher  
with 30+ years experience with kindergartners?

Are you wanting your child to learn Biblical principles?

Then we may be the kindergarten for you!!!

Matthew Road Kindergarten is a Tuesday and Thursday program.

Hours: 8:45am - 2:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Cost: \$175.00/month

Curriculum: Academically integrated and developed to the individual needs of your child

Maximum Class Size: 12

For more information, contact Cyndi King @ 972-641-7380 or by email at [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)

\*"Developmental" or "child-centered" kindergarten involves a focus on inspiring a love of learning. Learning is still a big part of developmental programs, but it is learning in a more general sense. The organization of the physical space is very important and students learn through engagement with sand boxes, crayons, and other items in the room. In general, students are steeped in "experience" and learn through their senses. In addition, communication and social interactions are valued and important.

## July 2013 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, [www.matthewroad.org](http://www.matthewroad.org), or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

**July 4th:** Church Office Closed

**July 6th:** VBS Decorating Day, 9:00am, see Maggie  
Choir Fellowship, see Jeff

**July 8th - 12th:** VBS, 6:00pm (for children age 4 yrs by June 1st through completed 6th grade), see Maggie

**July 11th:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am, see Phil

**July 14th:** Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room

**July 19th:** Newcomers Class & Dinner, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall, contact church office for reservation  
Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, see Cyndi

**July 21st:** B&G Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room  
Ice Cream Social, 6:45pm

**July 22nd - 25th:** Children's New Christian Class, 11:00am, see Maggie

**July 24th:** Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, place TBA

**July 28th:** Quarterly Business Meeting, 5:00pm, CommonGrounds

**July 29th - August 3rd:** 20Somethings/High School Mexico Mission Trip, see Rachel or Zach

## 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 Flr, Ed. Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - classroom behind coke machine in CommonGrounds Bldg., 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - classroom to the right of the stage in CommonGrounds Bldg., 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ◇ MD<sup>2</sup> - Education Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)

### Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ Kids On Mission, 6:30pm, Ed. Building
- ◇ Collide (for youth), 6:30pm, CommonGrounds
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies, 6:30pm, Worship Center
- ◇ 20Somethings Bible Study, 8:30pm, CommonGrounds

### Friday Nights:

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

### Regular Weekly Calendar

<b>Sundays</b>	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	6:00pm
7:17 Service	7:17pm
<b>Mondays</b>	
PAW Summer Program	9:30am
<b>Tuesdays</b>	
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Counseling Classes	6:30pm
<b>Wednesdays</b>	
PAW Summer Program	9:30am
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Kids On Mission	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
Adult Choir	6:45pm
20Somethings	8:30pm
<b>Fridays</b>	
In-home Bible Study (at the Germer's Home)	7:00pm
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Men's Coffee Group	7:30am

### Financials Thru June 27, 2013

Budget Income	\$445,774
Budget Expense	(459,952)
Net Budget	(14,178)

Average Morning Attendance for June: 428  
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for June: 158