



## Guest Article Continued, by Josh

At this point, had you asked me if I was saved, I would have told you that I believed in Christ, but could not have correctly told you how one is saved, which is a key distinction. If you had asked me for my plan in the event of my death [i.e., when I stand before God to give an account of my life], I would have told you that I planned to be the best person that I could be in this life, and that I was going to throw myself on God's mercy, as I still clung to this notion that it was impossible to attain to a life pleasing to God.

Most of the things that I put myself into were of a positive nature, as education, working hard, providing for your family, et cetera are certainly worthy endeavors [we are called by God to labor and admonished by Solomon to find joy in our labor; and if education facilitates obtaining a better job, more suited to you, then be educated, as it is an honest and worthwhile undertaking], but they should not be undertaken as an end unto themselves, nor should they define our existence, but rather be accomplished for the glory of God. One of these positive habits that I had developed was a great deal of reading; and by the tender leadings of God, I read a book called, "Robinson Crusoe". Unbeknownst to me, Daniel Defoe, who wrote this book in 1719, was a Puritan Moralist, who in short, provides a fictional account of a man for whom the book is entitled, shipwrecked on an island for more than twenty years. One of the things that Robinson Crusoe describes as so crucial to his existence, that he was so grateful to have on this island, was his Bible. He devoted a great deal of time to reading his Bible, to prayer and he even converted a heathen from pagan idolatry and cannibalism, whom he named Friday. In Robinson Crusoe, I discovered a character with whom I could relate – a religious outsider for all intents and purposes, a free spirit, a man with adventure in his heart, a man who disobeyed his father to set sail on the ocean and ended up being ship wrecked on an island; to whom his Bible and his relationship with God was the very core of his existence. In my opinion, a few of the over-arching themes that I found in the novel were the Christian notions of Providence, penitence and redemption. I concluded that if Crusoe could have a relationship with God and be redeemed, perhaps I should read that Bible from my youth and develop my own opinion, as to how a person is saved and how to lead a life pleasing to God.

And that was exactly what I did and moreover, it was what I should have been doing all along, which was read the Bible for myself and arrive at my own conclusions, thereby testing the veracity of the claims made not only by this heretical preacher, but also the claims made about God in the world, that one would encounter in school, on TV or in movies, etc. I started with the Gospel of Matthew, as I wanted to read this first to determine if there were any clues in anything that Jesus said, but he does not outright address this issue [i.e., I am looking for a black and white answer to this question, where the (con't pg 2)



answer is expressly stated]. Through the use of my McArthur Study Bible, I kept getting references to both Romans and Galatians, and so I went there next.

When I first read Romans, it was as though Paul had written this expressly for me addressing this very issue. I started reading things like Romans 3:19–20, "Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin; and v 22 ..."even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.." McArthur's notes also helped to confirm that which I thought that I was reading for this section, where he says, "Doing perfectly what God's moral law requires is impossible, so that every person is cursed by that inability [ref., McArthur Study Bible, NASB, p. 1665]."

"For all those who believe, for there is no distinction... for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God." For all those who believe and I knew that I believed. Reading these words brought tears to my eyes, as what sweet words that these are. This text confirmed for me that my instincts had been correct all this time, that we cannot attain to this perfect, sinless life that my childhood preacher had called us to. But one question remained unanswered: if we are not saved by perfectly keeping the law [i.e., by works] then how are we saved?

Again my handy McArthur Study Bible led me to Galatians and Ephesians, where I found texts such as Galatians Ch.2 v 16, "...nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. Which lead me to Ephesians Ch. 2 v 8," For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." This was fantastic! As I knew that I had faith or belief in Jesus Christ, but now here we are back to this word, grace, again; and since I had faith, I was relatively confident that I had grace as well, but I wanted to be certain. Several of these texts and other related texts imply the meaning of this word, but this is critically important and I wanted to be certain. I suppose most people would tell you the textbook definition of grace, as being "unmerited favor", which is fine but does not thoroughly explain this very critical item to the satisfaction of a curious mind, in search of clear evidence of a substantial truth. I do not work for John McArthur, but once again, he really helped me in this regard also. In the Book of Galatians, Paul refers to, "...the Gospel of Christ" and in his notes, McArthur provides the best explanation of grace that I have seen yet, "God's free and sovereign act of mercy in granting salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, totally apart from any human work or merit." [ref., McArthur Study Bible, NASB, p. 1757].

For the sake of clarifying this very important point, believers are saved, we are justified in the sight of God [ref., Eph 1:4, "...holy and blameless"], through Christ's unblemished record of perfect, unassailable, righteousness being imputed to the account of the repentant believer through God's grace, mercy and kindness, which is extended to all those who believe in His precious name, to all of those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This justification or imputation of God's grace, mercy and forgiveness, was accomplished through the life, the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, that Hymn from my

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my youth was correct, for the sound of this Grace was indeed quite sweet, for I, too, had been lost but was now found.

Looking back now, God was true to His Word, for He was with me the whole time, walking beside me, leading me back to His flock. Once I read these words and discovered this truth about God, it all made perfect sense to me, for God had not designed some crazy and unjust plan whereby I was doomed to fail – on the contrary, through the Law, He had accomplished in me exactly what He sought to achieve: for me to realize that I cannot fulfill the demands of the Law, that I have no righteousness of my own apart from Christ; and that I was wholly dependent upon Him for my salvation. Once again, in Luke's Gospel, Ch 18 v 13, "God be merciful to me, the sinner." McArthur's Note: "He had no hope but the mercy of God. This is the point to which the Law aims to bring every sinner." [ref., McArthur Study Bible, NASB, p. 1518] I believe that God brought me this way intentionally, knowing that I would glorify and praise Him for His perfect plan, for His grace, mercy and kindness all the more – perhaps the same could be true of your story.

I have heard some people say that, for some, there is no redemptive power in reading the Bible. I wholly disagree with this, as that one simple decision to start reading my Bible, in search of my interpretation of the Truth, radically transformed my life, from the inside out, one day, one chapter, one book at a time. If you are not sure if I am correct in this assertion, or if you think that for you this won't work, then I challenge you to read your Bible and see for yourself, as you won't know until you try. If you want to read the Bible but cannot afford one, I will buy one for you; or if you are not sure that you will understand its words, please talk to Pastor Daniel Sweet, and he will team you up with someone to read it with you.

Through the power of the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ and the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, my life has been radically and forever changed for the better, by studying the Word of God and following Jesus Christ with my life. If He freed me and gave me sight, He will do it for you too, if you give it to Him to be done. ~ Josh

(For Josh's entire testimony you can go to our website.)

## 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 Leadership Training 2013
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Please join us for our Annual Leadership Training  
Saturday, September 21st

We invite all those currently serving on our campus, as well as those who think they might be called to lead in a ministry area or class. Please contact the church office at [christy@matthewroad.org](mailto:christy@matthewroad.org) to sign up or if you have any questions.

Our tentative schedule is as follows:

8:30am: Breakfast  
9:10am: Dismissal to Track One classes  
9:30am: Track One classes  
10:50am: Dismissal to Track Two classes  
11:00am: Track Two classes  
12:20pm: Dismissal to Lunch  
12:30pm: Lunch and Key Note Speaker  
1:30pm: State of the Church address  
2:00pm: Dismissal

## 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 fee 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.



## Youth Ministry



**Back 2 School Bash on August 16th, 7:00pm - midnight!**  
**A one night ceremony featuring food, games, and fun!**  
**Cost: \$ 15. Sign up at Collide or talk to Zach for more details**  
**\*New 7th graders are encouraged to come!**



- ☞ **July 29th-August 3rd** - High School Mission Trip to Harlingen, TX
- ☞ **August 4th** - Youth observe Sunday School/Bible Study Classes
- ☞ **August 11th** - Youth Led Sunday
- ☞ **August 16th** - Youth Back to School Bash
- ☞ **August 18th** - Incoming 7th graders Parent Meeting, 5:00pm Common Grounds
- ☞ **August 25th** - Promotion Sunday (Incoming 7th graders join us, all other grades promote up, see Zack for more info)

### Weekly Bible Studies:

- ✂ Guys H.S. @Geisendorfs @6:30pm Mondays
- ✂ Guys M.S. @Kings @6:30pm Tuesdays
- ✂ Girls H.S. @Chick Fil A @12:00pm Tuesdays w/Christine & Maggie
- ✂ Girls M.S. @Howards @6:30pm Tuesdays
- ✂ \*New Athletes Bible Study @MRBC at 6:00pm Tuesdays see Zach for more info

## 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!

## 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.*



### 20Something Passion Conference February 14th – 15th 2014

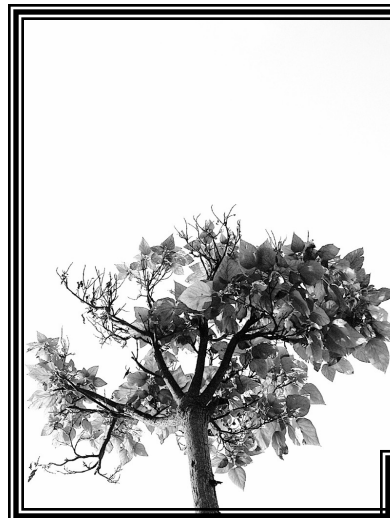
#### Cost?

\$200 (Includes hotel and conference) meals are additional

#### Who will be there besides us?

Francis Chan, Lou Giglio, Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Matt Redmon, Beth More and others

(Deposit of \$100 due September 1, 2013)



### Retreat

**When:** October 11th - 12th

**Where:** Mt. Lebanon

**What:** The Doctors  
Umstattd teaching

**Cost:** \$55

#### Mission Activity:

Do some much needed work on our church campus

See Rachel to sign up or if you have any questions.



## The Cost of Discipleship

Join us Wednesday, August 14th, as we watch a simulcast of David Platt, *Follow Me*.

We will meet in the sanctuary at 4:30pm for the simulcast that begins at 5:00pm CST.



## Children



**Children's Worker Meeting**  
(all workers in Sunday school, MD2, and Awana)  
Sunday, August 18th @ noon  
in the Fellowship Hall.  
Please RSVP to Rachel.



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

This Fall, we will be studying the book of James. Children Kindergarten through 6th grade. Boys and girls meet separately. Join us for games, large group lessons, and small group discussion.

**AWANA Registration Night**  
Wednesday, August 21st from 6:30-8:00pm.  
Hot dogs, water slide, and registration!  
**1st Day of AWANA is**  
Wednesday, August 28th, 6:30pm



## Church Family,

*It has been a joy to serve as the Children's Minister at Matthew Road over the past four years. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this way. I would like to thank all of you who have served in VBS, Sunday School, Awana, MD2, Children's Choir, and Children's Church. I have loved watching you teach our children about Christ's love for them.*

*My decision to leave this position has been bittersweet. I have really enjoyed working with and serving alongside the staff at Matthew Road. I love being able to teach children about Jesus. However, over the past year, I have felt a strong calling to go out into the lost world and continue to love on children. I ask each of you to pray for me as I begin teaching at a local elementary school.*

*Fortunately, this is not good-bye, as I will still be attending church at Matthew Road. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for our church in the future!*

*Joyfully, Maggie*

## 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



### Ladies Night Out is back!

Join us Monday, August 26th, at 7:00pm

For Bunco in the Fellowship Hall.

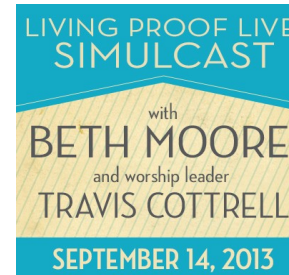
Bring a dish to share. If you have never played Bunco before, no worries as we will show you how.

(September - November we will enjoy the same!)



‡ 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!



You're invited to be part of this global, one-day simulcast that will inspire women to dig deep into God's Word. Join Beth Moore, Travis Cottrell, and 250,000 women around the world for this live streaming event. Beth follows the leading of the Holy Spirit to prepare a specific message for each of her events, and the simulcast is no exception. Don't miss this special event!

The event will take place Saturday, September 14th, 8:30am - 3:30pm at First Baptist Mansfield. Lunch from Jason's Deli is included in the cost. Please meet at the church at 7:30am. We should be back at the church by 4:00pm.

Cost: \$10

Email Jennifer Howard at [womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com](mailto:womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com), call the church office, or Jennifer Howard at 443-717-4152. If you are interested in attending. We need to know by August 10th to be able to purchase tickets early.

## Week of Prayer for Texas Missions

Last year WMU of Texas launched the tag line, “I am Texas missions” as part of the Mary Hill Davis Offering® promotion. The idea is that every Texas Baptist has a role to play in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in our state. It doesn’t matter your age, sex, ethnicity, or if you live in one of our huge cities or small rural towns. God can use everyone in his mission.

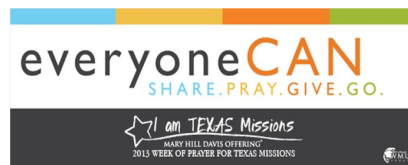
How do we know that? Because He tells us in Ephesians 2:10 – The Message

**“He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, The good work He has gotten ready for us to do, Work we had better be doing.”**

The effectiveness of Texas Baptists in proclaiming the good news of Jesus is enhanced when everyone does what God has planned for them to do in:

Prayer  
Giving  
Sharing  
Going

Our church will observe the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions in September. A part of that emphasis is collecting the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. Ask God how He desires you to be “Texas missions”.



## August 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.

**August 4th:** Youth Observation Sunday, see Zach for more info

**August 9th:** Youth TGIF, see Zach for more info

**August 11th:** Youth Led Sunday

Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room

**August 14th:** Follow Me Simulcast, see ad for more info

**August 15th:** MRA Orientation, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall

**August 16th:** Back to School Bash, see Zach for more info

**August 18th:** Children's Workers Luncheon, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Incoming 7th Graders Parents meeting, 5:00pm, CommonGrounds, see Zach for more info

B&G Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room

**August 20th:** 1st Day of MRA

**August 21st:** AWANA Registration Night, 6:30pm, Education Building

**August 23rd:** Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, see Cyndi for more info

**August 25th:** Promotion Sunday (for children and youth)

**August 26th:** Ladies Night Out, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

**August 28th:** AWANA Begins

Children's Choir, Proclamation  
and Adult Choir  
Coming Wednesdays this Fall!

## 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.

## 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

Average Morning Attendance for July: 400  
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for July: 170

## 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)