

DANIEL'S ARTICLE

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" John 3:1-7

"We Know that You have come from God..."

Opening with such complimentary words, Nicodemus may have anticipated an expression of gratitude from Jesus in return. Instead, Jesus responded to his compliment with a rather striking rebuke. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot SEE the kingdom of God." This retort by Jesus flies in the face of Nicodemus' claim. Nicodemus says, "we know..." Jesus says, "you don't know because you don't see what you think you see." In order for us to see the kingdom of God, we must be born again. Apart from the miraculous work of God through His Spirit, it is impossible for someone to see the work and rule of God. Nicodemus clearly does not understand how this is possible. How could he fail to see God's rule and reign in this world, especially in light of his religious pedigree? Nick was well connected and well educated. He had devoted his life to instructing others on the right way to see and know God. He came to Jesus as a religious man seeking advice from another religious man. Instead, Jesus informed Nicodemus about his blindness to the work of God.

Birth and Re-birth, Physical and Spiritual

Jesus told him, "You must be born again." Confusion rose in Nick's mind. Is this a physical birth? If so, how is that possible? How can an old man be physically born again? There are two realms that coexist within our human experience. There is the physical realm, where we live, work, enjoy our families, struggle with paying our bills. Coexisting with the physical realm is the spiritual realm. Every person possesses both a physical and spiritual life. Our spirit resides within our physical body, but our spirit is not our body nor is our body our spirit. Paul says in II Corinthians 5:6-8 with reference to his life before he dies that he will be "at home in the body we are absent from the Lord." However, when Paul dies he will be "absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." In that same chapter he describes the earthly body as an "earthly tent" that will be torn down. You are not your body and your body is not you. That is not to say that our bodies have no impact on our spiritual lives. God made us as physical and spiritual. We can sin with our bodies or we can do good works with our bodies. If we walk in sin, then our spirit is subjecting itself to our sinful nature. If we walk in good works, then our spirit is walking according to the Spirit of God.

This dual aspect of life – physical and spiritual – comes into focus in this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus. In order to be alive physically, we must be born. In fact, we are not alive unless we have been born physically. However, living physically does not mean we are alive spiritually. As Paul says in Ephesians 2:1-2 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you formerly walked..." "Dead people walking" seems impossible if it were not for this understanding of the twofold nature of a person. Paul says, you were dead spiritually, even though you were alive physically. As Jesus said during a discussion on discipleship, "let the dead (spiritually) bury the (physically) dead." The opposite is also evident in the teachings of Jesus. Jesus describes someone as alive even when they were dead physically. Lazarus died physically. He had been dead four days. And yet Jesus tells Martha at the graveside of Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies."

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Nicodemus was physically alive, but spiritually dead. He thought of himself as alive. Jesus fully intended to shatter Nick's view of himself. He intends to shatter our view of ourselves as well. "You must be born again" in order to enter the kingdom of God. YOU, individually, personally - YOU must be born again by the work of the Spirit of God. Individually, because you cannot enter the kingdom through the faith of a parent, spouse, friend, a church or a nation. There are no group entrances into the kingdom. Personally, because this involves a relationship between you and God which He establishes with you through your faith in His Son. If YOU are not individually and personally born again through faith in Christ YOU are outside the kingdom of God. That is our default position. We are by nature residing outside the kingdom, in a continual state of spiritual death. God must move us from death into life through rebirth. This rebirth occurs when we by faith receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and submit to Him as our Lord. God does a miraculous and mysterious work in this moment of faith.

Have you been born again? Have you personally received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? Now is the time!

Consider today as an opportunity to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ. You may have become a Christian many years ago. If so, reaffirm your faith in Him, with a grateful heart for what God has already done to save you and make you His own child.

~ Daniel

Bob Fu

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER



Bob Fu

<http://www.bobfu.net/>

Sunday Evening, November 13th, at 6:45pm, in the Sanctuary, Bob Fu will share his amazing story of being God's double agent. Tens of millions of Christians live in China today, many of them leading double lives or in hiding from a government that relentlessly persecutes them. Bob Fu, whom the Wall Street Journal called "The pastor of China's underground railroad," is fighting to protect his fellow believers from persecution, imprisonment, and even death. God's Double Agent is his fascinating and riveting story.

Come join us as we hear how God is working in and through Bob's life.

Sunday, November 13th

5:00pm - 6:45pm

**Silent Auction & Country Store,
benefitting China Aid**

6:45pm - 7:45pm

Guest Speaker - Bob Fu

7:45pm - 8:30pm

Appetizers & Book Signing

Children's Ministry



AWANA HAS BEGUN!

**Wednesday Nights, for kids ages 3* - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:00pm**

*3 year olds in Cubbies must be potty trained, and have turned 3 by Sept. 1st. A parent must stay on campus through the duration of the program. See our website to see what Adult Bible Study classes we have for you.

Would you pray about joining the Awana team this year?
Or do you know anyone who might be a good fit
for this ministry opportunity?

Contact Brittany at brittanymrbc@gmail.com if you would like to participate in the amazing ministry!



Sunday Nights 5:30pm
Education Building
2nd floor



For kids in kindergarten through 6th grade - Join us for games on the front lawn (weather permitting) followed by girls and boys Bible studies focused on becoming disciples who go into the world to make disciples. This fall we will finish our study on the book of Matthew.



Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45am as we journey through the Gospel Project.

PRE-TEEN RETREAT 2016
FOR 3RD-6TH GRADERS - NOVEMBER 11-12
MT. LEBANON CAMP - \$40



Join us for worship, teaching, food, games, and small groups. Reserve your spot today by emailing brittanymrbc@gmail.com. Information & Registration packets available now and due by Nov. 1.

Music Ministry



The music ministry of MRBC invites you to join us for a special time of worship as we prepare our hearts for the Advent season. JOY! is a special musical presentation that looks to the Biblical prophecies of a coming Messiah and their ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

We hope you'll join us for our morning worship services on Sunday, December 6th, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

"Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation. God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation. What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery! Once a Babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history."

College Ministry



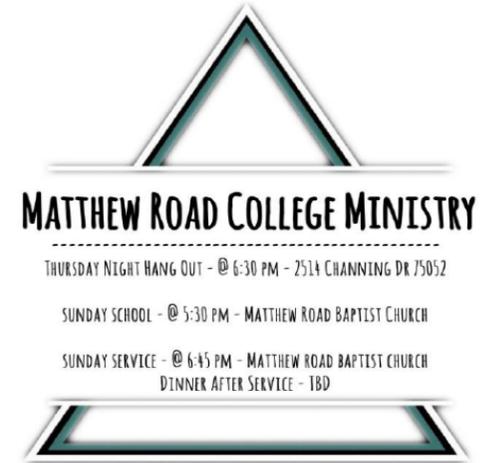
change happens in circles, not rows

Guys, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ MRBC, lead by Zach Van Veldhuizen

Ladies, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ 2514 Channing Drive, GP TX 75052, led by Caroline Van Veldhuizen

Guys, Saturday Mornings, 9:00am - 11:00am @ MRBC, led by Kevin Marek

Ladies, Saturday Mornings, 9:00am - 11:00am @ 1310 N. Cockrell Hill Rd #1028, Dallas TX, 75211, led by Caitlin Marek



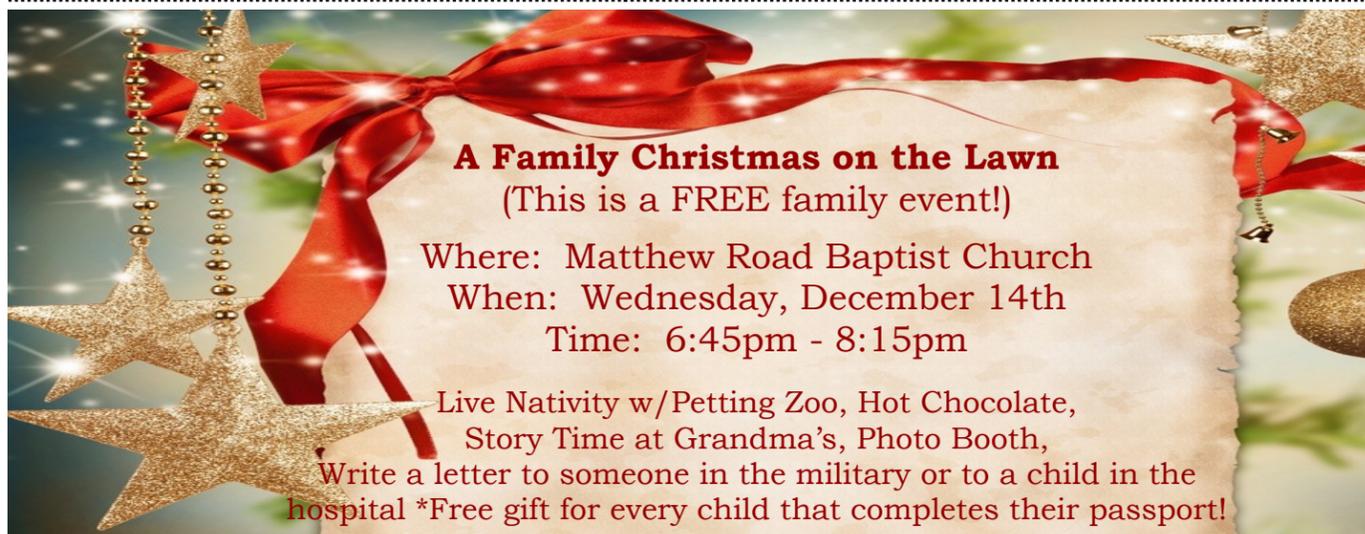
QUESTIONS? TEXT ZACH (210)818-8002

Missions



We will announce shortly our Week of Prayer dates and our church goal.

Be praying for how God would lead you to give in this impactful ministry.

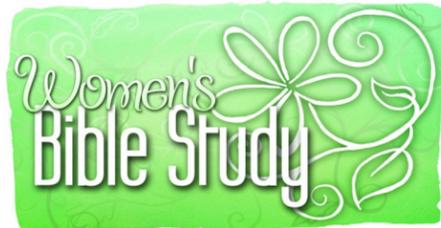


A Family Christmas on the Lawn
(This is a FREE family event!)

Where: Matthew Road Baptist Church
When: Wednesday, December 14th
Time: 6:45pm - 8:15pm

Live Nativity w/Petting Zoo, Hot Chocolate, Story Time at Grandma's, Photo Booth, Write a letter to someone in the military or to a child in the hospital *Free gift for every child that completes their passport!

Women's Ministry



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich
- the book of Acts
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson
- the book of Acts

Sunday nights

Meg Trihus - the Epistles

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King - the book of Luke

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom Location)

Cyndi King - 9:00 am
The book of Luke

RIVERBEND
WOMEN'S RETREAT
FEBRUARY 10TH
COST: \$60
MORE INFO TO COME

Staying Up to Date

Missed a sermon?

**Want to share our sermon series
with a friend or family member?**

**Check out our website and
listen to or download our sermons:
www.matthewroad.org**



Youth Ministry

Small Group Bible Studies have begun!

High School Girls - 6:30pm-7:30pm on Thursdays

Shannon Prater- (214-536-8751), Greg Prater- (214-536-9051)
Address - 4405 Browning Ln Grand Prairie, TX 75052
Leader: Christine Wehrli - (682) 551-9831

High School Guys - Geisendorffs - 6:30pm-8:00pm on Mondays

Ed Geisendorff - (469-236-6052), Angela Geisendorff - (972-602-3866)
Address - 4646 Betts Dr. Grand Prairie, TX
Nick Breedlove (Student Helper) (214-605-3629)
Garrett Halsell (Student Helper) - (972-824-3929)

High School Guys - Kings - 6:30pm-8:00pm on Mondays

Doug King - (214-557-5437), Cyndi King - (214-762-9437)
Address - 4106 Devon Ct. Grand Prairie, TX
Daniel King (Student Helper) - (214-304-0190)

Middle School Girls - 7:00-8:00pm on Tuesdays

Glen McGregor - (318-469-7132), Kim McGregor - (318-469-2186)
Address - 2820 Plume Ct. Cedar Hill, TX
Leader: Chelsea Galbraith- (214-729-8278)

Annabelle McClellin (Student Helper) - (469-503-8449)

Middle School Guys - 6:30pm - 8:00pm on Mondays

Eli Moreno (817-727-9576), Ana Moreno (817-727-9517)
Address - 2235 Tawny Owl Rd Grand Prairie, TX
Leader: Dante James (Intern) - (972) 834-0336



November 11th - 12th:
Fall Retreat @ Mt. Lebanon
See Zach for more info

November 13th:
Guest Speaker Bob Fu,
at our 6:45pm service

Thanksgiving Mission Opportunity

Come join with Matthew Road Baptist Church, at Mission Arlington, to assist the mission in delivering food to those in need on the morning of Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24th, at 8am. We get to serve, we get to be together and we get a LOT of exercise, walking around our assigned apartment complex, delivering turkeys and meals to those in need.

We need to be at the mission at 8:00am. We are typically done no later than 10:00am - 11:00am, which provides us with plenty of time to be with our families for the rest of the day.

If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Joshua Lemmon at 817.617.0472, or Marcy at 817.919.5213, as it will greatly assist us to have a head count in advance, so that we can obtain a proper assignment for our group size. Or if you need more information, please feel free to call us, or read all about it on the mission website below. In the interim, please be in prayer about this event at the mission, that they would have enough food for those in need, and enough volunteers to deliver this food and prepare for this event.

<http://missionarlington.org/sub-pages/thanksgiving/>

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink;** I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ The King will answer and say to them, **‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’** Matthew 25: 34 - 40

20Somethings & College Ministry



Classes:
 ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Jeff Morris leading
 ~ Wednesday Night 6:30pm: Food and Discussion

Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org
 to find out the latest events & activities!



Men's Campout
Nov. 4th - 5th
See William Sullenger



Girls from 20something are going to 1st Monday Trade Days for a day of shopping before Christmas. It's so much fun! Crafts, Christmas items, fair like food, antiques and JUNK. Hope you can make it. Text or email Rachel to save a place in the van.

Date: November 5, 2016
 Time: 8:30am
 Cost: What you eat or buy
firstmonday.com
rachel@matthewroad.org

Quarterly Business Meeting



RESCHEDULED TO
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
6:00PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

(Date moved from November 2nd)

Updated November 2016 Events & Activities

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

- November 6th:** Veterans Day Luncheon, 12:15pm, see Welcome Desk
- November 9th:** Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- November 11th - 12th:** Preteen Retreat, see Brittany
 Youth Retreat, see Zach
- November 13th:** Guest Speaker, Bob Fu, and Silent Auction, beginning at 5:00pm
- November 18th:** Parents Night Out *must RSVP to cyndikking@msn.com
- November 19th:** Women's Ministry Mission Project, see Rachel
- November 20th:** Observance of the Lord's Supper, all three services
- November 24th - 25th:** Church Office closed
- November 24th:** Thanksgiving Mission Event at Mission Arlington, see Josh Lemmon

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ College - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Choir Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ Awana Club for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - Common Grounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ 20Somethings/College Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Study - Library, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 6:45pm

Regular Scheduled Activities

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Sundays | |
| Morning Worship | 8:30 & 11:00am |
| Morning Bible Study (all ages) | 9:45am |
| Evening Bible Study (all ages) | 5:30pm |
| 7:17 Service | 6:47pm |
| Mondays | |
| K2 Primary Academy (during the school year) | 8:45am |
| PAW Program | 9:00am |
| Women's Bible Study (during the school year) | 6:30pm & 7:00pm |
| Tuesdays | |
| MRA (during the school year) | 8:30am |
| Young @ Heart Activities | 9:45am |
| Wednesdays | |
| K2 Primary Academy (during the school year) | 8:45am |
| PAW Program | 9:00am |
| Collide (youth) | 6:30pm |
| Adult Choir (during the school year) | 6:30pm |
| Wacky Wednesdays (children) | 6:30pm |
| 20Somethings/College | 6:30pm |
| Adult Bible Studies | 6:45pm |
| Thursdays | |
| MRA (during school year) | 8:30am |
| Fridays | |
| Chick time at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom) | 9:00am |
| Saturdays | |
| Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP) | 7:30am |

Financials as of October 15, 2016

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Budget Income | \$849,985 |
| Budget Expense | \$(848,876) |
| Net Budget | \$1,109 |

Average Morning Attendance for October: 342

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for October: 163