



In this world you will have trouble

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." James 1:2-8

Before dealing with the rather strange thought process of "consider it all joy" to encounter trials, we must acknowledge the great certainty of this passage. "When you encounter various trials," speaks to the reality that this life is filled with trouble and that followers of Jesus are not exempt from that reality. Even right now, even as we approach the celebration of advent, it is possible that troubles are encircling our experiences. If so, God knows about it. He has full knowledge about our troubles, before they occur. He not only knows, but He allows troubles to come into our lives. He permits trials and then, He uses the trials to our greater benefit and for His greater glory. Knowing that God is at work in our lives during trials can be tremendously helpful. In fact, James says we should consider the testing of our faith that comes through trials to be a joyful thing. It can be joyful. However, trials can also make us bitter. Trials can make us bitter toward ourselves if we feel our own incompetency caused our difficulties. Trials can make us bitter toward others, if we feel they are the cause of our suffering. Trials can make us bitter toward others because we perceive that their life is better than ours. We become jealous and bitter as we sense the trouble free lives of our friends and neighbors. Trials can also make us bitter toward God Himself. If God is sovereign, then He allows trials to come into my life in the same way that He allows blessings to come into my life. When trials come, and we reflect on the divine control over our circumstances, we can become angry with God. However, the Bible states that God not only allows trials to come into our lives, but that He uses trials to produce greater dependence upon Him and greater character through Him. Trials can also be completely wasted. If we respond with bitterness toward God, others or ourselves, no "perfect and complete" work will be accomplished, as James described in these verses. Instead of "lacking nothing" we will have nothing. Joy and sorrow can function simultaneously in a life. James is not suggesting that we live in denial about trials as some type of stoic philosopher. He does not reprimand the tearful response to tough times. Sorrow and bitterness are enormously different. God uses a broken heart that remains teachable. God does not work through a bitter heart. Joy and sorrow can exist in the same person at the same time. Understanding the delicate balance between joy and sorrow can be challenging. This is why James turns to the most fundamental prayer need in the midst of "various trials." We need wisdom. If God is at work, we need wisdom to understand what He is doing in the midst of our difficulties. If we struggle to abide in His joy, it is often because we cannot see what He is doing through our trials. Suffering just for suffering sake is not joyful and does not honor God. Suffering graciously and joyfully under the knowledge that a sovereign God loves us and is using this to make us more like Him produces character. When trials come we should approach them with some of these attitudes. First, acknowledge that God is sovereign and that the trial comes from His permissive hand. Two, acknowledge that the trial is a real difficulty requiring God to help us. Three, pray for God to protect the heart from bitterness, anger, resentment, jealousy, and fear. Four, pray for God to perfect the character of the heart. Fifth, pray for wisdom, so that decisions and attitudes will maximize the eternal benefit of the trial. Six, trust in the Lord completely as He works in us and through us during various trials.

Christmas Eve Services



Newcomer's Class & Lunch

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.

Our next class is Sunday, December 3rd, 12:15pm, in Fellowship Hall. Please contact mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org if you have any questions, or wish to rsvp for the class, and childcare if needed.





AWANA Club

**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?
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!


**WE NEED
YOU
TO
JOIN
US**



Sunday School

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

***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 spring we will finish our study on the
book of Matthew.

Want to stay up to date with us on facebook?
Like our page at facebook.com/mrbccchildrens

Questions regarding the children's ministry
or how you can join the leadership team?
Email brittanymrbc@gmail.com.



Youth Ministry



December is a busy month for all of us, and that is the case for the student ministry as well! We have several different events that we are very excited about.

During the month of December, we will continue in our study over the book of Acts! I have really enjoyed studying Acts and seeing the church start from its humble beginnings to seeing the Spirit move in amazing ways!

On Sunday nights we have been and will continue studying the seven letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation.

We have three different events this month:

Our Christmas party which will be on Wednesday, December 13th, in the Fellowship Hall, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. The theme of this party is based off of the movie *Elf*. We will have a great time of eating food, playing games, and fellowshiping with one another. We also are having an ugly sweater contest, in which the top three students with the ugliest sweater will receive prizes! Towards the end of the night we will have a white elephant gift exchange.



However, this would not be a Christmas party without hearing about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will take some time to study the birth of Christ, and have a time in which we honor Him and His sacrifice to come down from heaven to earth. While we will have a lot of fun at this Christmas party we also want to remember why we come together and celebrate this time of year. This would be a great time for students to invite a friend to not only have fun, but also to hear about Jesus coming to earth and then why He came to earth.



December 16th we are hosting "Last Minute Shoppers Childcare and Present Wrap". This will serve as a fundraiser for youth camp this upcoming summer. We are willing to wrap gifts if needed for \$1 per gift and \$2 per over-sized present. We will also be providing childcare for \$20 per child and \$10 for each additional sibling. The event is 9am -2pm. The last day to sign up to help and to drop off a child for childcare is December 13th. To register for this event please email avenewstudents@gmail.com

On Thursday, December 21st, we have a missions opportunity. We will be going to Mission Arlington, from 3-6pm, to help out with the craziness that comes with this time of year. During this time of year, Mission Arlington is overwhelmed with gifts, food, and other items. We are going to help them get all of this organized. We are going to meet at Mission Arlington for this mission event, so please help your student setup a ride to be there, and to be picked up from this event as well. We look forward to seeing your student we work together to help out an awesome ministry.



I hope that you take some time as a family to reflect on why we are so joyous during this time. Many times we get wrapped up in the presents, family coming into town, and all the awesome food that comes with Christmas. Let us take some time to look at the birth of Christ Jesus. His coming to earth is the reason why we should have so much joy, not only during this time of the year but all year round. However, Christmas provides us with a yearly opportunity to really focus in on Christ coming down from heaven to earth and humbling Himself to be a man. I pray that you spend some quality time really going over this with your students to help them remember why we as Christians are so joyous during this Christmas season!

In Christ, Matt Brown
email: matt@matthewroad.org
cell ph #: 832-955-4954

Women's Ministry

Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

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

Sunday nights

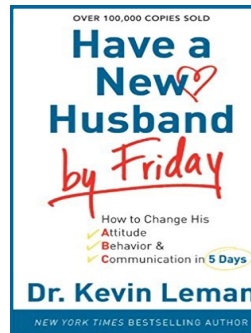
Meg Trihus - the Epistles

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King - Book of Acts

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom Location)

Cyndi King - 9:00 am - Book of Acts



**COMING IN
JANUARY!**
**HAVE A NEW
HUSBAND BY FRIDAY
LADIES BIBLE STUDY
CLASS**
**MORE INFO TO
COME!**

**RIVERBEND
WOMEN'S RETREAT
FEBRUARY 2ND - 3RD**

COST: \$60

rachel@matthewroad.org

Choice of rooms is on a first come basis. There are hotel style rooms and bunk rooms available. Reserve your spot today with your \$40 deposit!

NIGHT OF PRAISE

**December 1st, 7pm - 9pm
with Pie Bar!**

Join us as we begin
the Christmas Season
with Worship!



College Ministry



change happens in circles, not rows

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

Ladies, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
@ 2514 Channing Drive, GP

TX 75052,
led by Caroline Van Veldhuizen



MATTHEW ROAD COLLEGE MINISTRY

THURSDAY NIGHT HANG OUT - @ 6:30 PM - 2514 CHANNING DR 75052

SUNDAY SCHOOL - @ 5:30 PM - MATTHEW ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICE - @ 6:45 PM - MATTHEW ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
DINNER AFTER SERVICE - TBD

QUESTIONS? TEXT ZACH (214) 818-8002

Friendly Reminder

The last Sunday to turn in offering for the 2017 tax year is Sunday, December 31st. Statements will be mailed at the end of January to the address we have on file for you.

If your address has changed, please email the church office at christy@matthewroad.org.

***If you are unable to drop your giving in the plate by Sunday, December 31st, then you may also mail it but it must be postmarked by December 31st in order to be credited to the 2017 year.**

If your giving is postmarked after December 31st, it will be credited to the 2018 year.



Family Christmas



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

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LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

NATIONAL GOAL: \$160 MILLION

Church goal: \$13,000

Week of Prayer: December 3rd - 10th

20Somethings



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

A NEW
GENERATION
WITH
THE TRUTH
TO SUPPORT
BELIEVERS
THROUGHOUT LIFE

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of
many witnesses to reliable people who will also be qualified to
teach others." ~ 2 Timothy 2:2

Class Sunday Mornings 9:45am upstairs in ED Bldg.

BOLD TRUTHS

When our *Jesus Among Other Gods* study
finishes, join us on Wednesday nights
at 6:45 for
BOLD TRUTHS -
What do they mean to us !!!

After that generation died, another generation grew up
who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the
mighty things he had done for Israel.

In the beginning God...

AND WE KNOW THAT
GOD CAUSES
EVERYTHING TO
WORK TOGETHER
FOR THE GOOD OF
THOSE WHO LOVE
GOD AND ARE
CALLED ACCORDING
TO HIS PURPOSE
FOR THEM.

His
mercies
begin
afresh
each
morning

No one can come to the Father except through me.

Christmas & New Years Schedule

Special Schedule for Christmas & New Years

Wednesday, December 20th -

~ A Family Christmas on the Lawn
6:45pm - 8:15pm

Sunday, December 24th -

~ Regular Sunday Morning Services
~ Candlelight Service, 5:30pm
with childcare (for 3 & under)
~ Candlelight Service, 7:00pm
no childcare available

Monday, December 25th -

Monday, January 1st
~ Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27th -

~ No evening Bible studies or Activities

Sunday, December 31st -

~ Regular Sunday Morning Services
~ Regular Sunday Evening Services

Tuesday, January 2nd -

~ Church Office reopens
~ Young @ Heart resumes, 9:45am

Wednesday, January 3rd -

~ Regular Evening Bible Studies & Activities

December 2017 Events & Activities

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

December 1st:	Women's Ministry Night of Praise, see ad on pg 5
December 3rd:	Newcomer's Class & Lunch, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
December 4th:	PAW Christmas Program, please see Cyndi
December 6th:	Mission Committee Prayer Time, 8:00pm, Library
December 7th:	Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
December 10th:	Deacon Meeting, 4:00pm, Conference Room Deacon Ordination Service, 4:30pm, Sanctuary
December 12th:	MRA Christmas Play, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
December 16th:	"Last Minute Day" for Christmas Shoppers, see ad on pg 4
December 20th:	Family Christmas Event, see ad on pg 6
December 24th:	Regular Morning Services and Bible Study Candlelight Service, with Childcare (3 & under), 5:30pm Candlelight Service, no Childcare, 7:00pm
December 25th - January 1st:	Church Office Closed
December 31st:	Regular Morning and Evening Services and Bible Studies
January 2nd:	Church Office reopens, Young at Heart Resumes



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 Matt for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm,
see Matt 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
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies, 6:45pm

Regular Weekly 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

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
AWANA Club (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Studies	6:45pm

Thursdays

MRA (during school year)	8:30am
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Fridays

Chick time at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00am
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Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am
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Average Attendance for November

Morning Service: 349 717 Service: 127

Financials as of November 10, 2017

Budget Income	\$ 798,785
Budget Expense	\$ (808,846)
Net Budget	\$ (10,060)