



Barriers to Beauty

I recently read a quote from an interview a preacher gave with Oprah; I am not a fan of this particular preacher's theology and generally think he falls outside of Christian orthodoxy. However, this quote caused me to contemplate both the truth of this idea and the challenges of his illustration. He describes our desire to encounter God in the following way. He says that God is "like a song you hear in another room, and you think: *Wow, that sounds beautiful, but I can only hear a little bit.* So you start opening doors and rearranging furniture 'cause you have to get in that room to hear that song. And when you get in, you find the knobs, and you turn them all to the right because you're like, *I gotta hear more of that.*"

This illustration is conceptually similar to the quote by Augustine who said, "*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*"

It also reminds me of Paul's statement to the Athenians in Acts 17:24-28: "*The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even*

some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'" There is great truth in all of these statements. Of course there is divine truth in Paul's assertion. God is present everywhere in the world and the glory of God is infinitely beautiful. He is like the greatest song ever played, being heard for the first time, only greater. He is like the most beautiful scenic vista ever, being seen for the first time, only more beautiful. He is like the most splendid sunrise over the most stunning beach, only greater than that. In fact, He is so much greater than music or the beauty of the creation that these experiences simply inspire a greater longing of our hearts to see the Creator behind the beauty of the creation. We instinctively know there is something more, something greater that is behind the grandest experiences of this life.

This all sounds quite appealing. A glorious Creator who invites us to know Him. As Paul says, "He is not far from each one of us." Who wouldn't want such an encounter? What would keep anyone away from our Creator if He is that accessible? What keeps us from getting into "that room to hear that song?" What keeps us then from finding this ultimate song? What keeps us from finding our rest in God? What prevents us from knowing the God in whom "we live and move and exist?" What is not addressed in these illustrations is the great impediment. The problem with trying to find that music in the adjacent room is that the furniture in the room is not so easily moved and the doors and windows are not merely closed or locked but have been welded shut by

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Children's Ministry



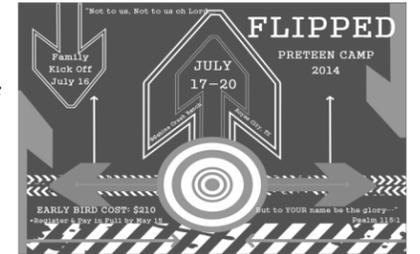
Awana has ended for the summer! See you in August for our kickoff bash when we will resume!

CHECK OUT OUR SUMMER FUN PAGE LISTING ALL OUR CHILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES: matthewroad.org/ministries/summer
Keep up @ [facebook.com/mrbcchildrens](https://www.facebook.com/mrbcchildrens)

Preteen Ranch Camp

Family Worship Rally at MRBC, Wednesday, July 16th;
Camp At Sabine Creek Ranch, July 17th - 20th. \$220

For more information or to register,
matthewroad.org/ministries/summer



CAMP 3:17

FREE Kids' Basic Sports Skills Camp

*For kids who have completed 1st-6th grades

Time: 9:30a-2:30p *Registration/Check-in opens at 9am

Monday, July 7 - Boys' Baseball & Girls' Softball

*Kids must bring their own lunch, water bottle, and equipment if appropriate (balls, gloves for baseball/softball, shin guards for soccer if desired, etc)

"In all that you do, whether word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17



Wacky Wednesdays

All Kids completed Kindergarten through 6th Grade are invited to meet us out on the lawn for Wacky wet and messy games, followed by Bible study. Bring your friends to hear the Gospel every Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm!



Sunday Nights, 6:00pm
Front Lawn of
Worship Center

Meet on the lawn each Sunday night for a fun (and often WET) game followed by girls' and boys' small group studies of 1 Corinthians.

JULY Children's & Youth Ministry Family Fun Days!

*These Fun Days are for only for children accompanied by their parents.

Tuesday, July 15th -

Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Monday, July 21 -

Hawaiian Falls Waterpark

* See page 4 for more information.



the rebellion of the human heart. As there is great beauty in God and in His creation, there is also an ugliness to life. There is an aspect of life that bars us from seeing the beauty we were meant to see. It's not as easy as simply moving a couch or opening a window. We, in the hardness of our hearts, want to be our own greatest song. We are fine if God wishes to play in the background as long as He doesn't interrupt our musical score. Like a two year old banging on the kitchen pots and pans with a wooden spoon, we drown out the beauty of the symphony of God's character. Somehow we are delusional enough to think that our own musical score is better. We want to be the star. We want to be the center of the universe. When someone speaks to us, it is difficult for us to listen because of our own immaturity and because of the noise we are creating. The beauty of the song of God still plays. We just can't hear it over our own pitiful rendition of His masterpiece.

This is why the ugliness of the cross and the humility of Christ must bridge the worlds between our self-exalting madness and the beauty of God. The cross displays, in such striking terms, the severity of our broken-down furniture and our tightly closed doors and windows. The cross of Christ accomplishes many different things such as satisfying the wrath of God, making a just payment for human sin, providing a means to see God's love and mercy and displaying the everlasting grace of God. One feature of the very public and graphic demonstration by God in His Son's agonizing death is the ability for us to see the seriousness and severity of our own rebellion. This is what sin does to us. This is what sin looks like. Our sin destroys us and everyone around us. It prevents good from being seen as truly good and elevates evil in the place of good. Sin takes language and music and art and transforms these instinctively good things into tools for evil. Instead of seeing God through these mediums, we idolize the medium to our own destruction.

Paul told the church at Corinth, *"I sought to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and Him crucified."* Apart from the cross, we are forever separated from what should be the greatest longing of our heart. We were made to see, know and experience the beauty of God and to enjoy His beauty forever. Our sin creates massive barriers to seeing God as He really is. Christ bore our sin to create a way to fulfill our ultimate purpose.

~ Daniel

Children's Ministry



SAVE THE DATE!

JULY Children's & Youth Ministry Family Fun Days

These *Fun Days* are only for children accompanied by their parents. Carpooling encouraged. CASH payment must be received by July 1st in a Children's Ministry Envelope marked with the amount included and the names of those attending delivered directly to the Children's Ministry Office. Contact Julee Teeples for more information and to register juleeteeples@gmail.com.

Tuesday, July 15th

Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Cost: \$5 (2 and under are free). Parking is \$8 per vehicle. Bring a sack lunch. Carpooling is encouraged.

Monday - July 21

Hawaiian Falls Waterpark

Cost: \$16. Parking is free. Bring a sack lunch. Carpooling is encouraged.

Wednesday Night Dinner Ministry



Wednesday Night Dinner is over for the semester.

We will take a break for the summer and return in the fall.

Thank you for all your support!

Student Ministry



July 27th - August 2nd - High School Mission Trip @Harlingen, TX - Cost \$200 (Sign Up in the Tyrannus Hall - aka in front of Zach's office)

Summer Bible studies:

Tuesdays 6:30pm High School Girls @ Chick Fil A Camp Wisdom Led by Christine & Maggie

Thursdays 6:00pm Athletes Guys Bible Study @ MRBC Led by Zach & Keith Machekanyanga

Hands & Feet of Christ

Many of us are preparing for our vacations or just relaxing on these lazy days of summer, however, the needs in our community continue. Everyday we are presented with opportunities to serve others; mowing yards, picking up trash, working VBS events with Mission Arlington or simply holding the door at the store for the next person. There are many organizations around Grand Prairie that provide needed services such as Mission Arlington, Brighter Tomorrows, Happy Helping Hands food pantry, United Charities and the Pregnancy Resource Center. These groups always need volunteers, why not take the kids for an afternoon?



In March, we partnered with Brother Bills Helping Hand by doing yard work for a few of their clients. They are holding their Back to School Carnival on Saturday, August 16th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is at 3906 N. Westmoreland in Dallas. Please let me know if you would like to help at this event by emailing me at ps733@yahoo.com. The Back to School event provides fun games, lunch and school supplies. Volunteers will help serve lunch, hand out school supplies or help with the games.

Thank you, Rose

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? Contact us at our email address: womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com.



Music Ministry

What a great spring semester! I am so thankful for all of our musicians at MRBC and their faithful service to our Lord. Here's the latest news as we head into the summer months:

- All of our choirs will be taking a break for the summer. The adult choir will resume on Wednesday, August 6. Watch this space for more details!
We are currently selecting new music for our choirs for Fall 2014 and have some really great pieces on the way. We also started working on the musical presentation for Christmas 2014!

We look forward to where God is leading our choirs this fall. Come join us and be a part of this amazing ministry! -Jeff

PAW FALL



Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality preschool program for children ages 9 months-5 years old. 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. It is a time for both you and your children to enjoy.

Enrollment for Fall Semester has begun!!!

Schedule: We are a Monday & Wednesday preschool. Our hours are 9am - 2pm.

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

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

20Somethings

Who are we?

We are... sinners in need of God's Grace

We are... part of God's plan for the future

We are... going to make an impact on the world for Christ

We aren't... children any more

We are... making the decisions that will affect the rest of our lives.

We matter to God.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Bible Study

Sunday:

9:45am - I Corinthians;
location Ed Bldg
5:30pm- Snack/Evangelism;
location FH

Discipleship

Wednesday:

6:30pm - True Spirituality;
location Fellowship Hall

Meeting for Mexico-bound
20somethings
July 9th FH at 5:30pm



July 2014 Events & Activities

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

- July 3rd:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- July 4th:** Church office closed
- July 6th:** Preteen Camp Meeting, 5:00pm, Ed Bldg, 2nd Floor
- July 7th:** Children's Baseball/Softball Camp, 9:30am, CommonGrounds
- July 9th:** 20Somethings Mexico Meeting, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- July 11th:** 20Somethings "Cooking With Ana", 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- July 13th:** NewComer's Class & Dinner, 4:30pm, Fellowship Hall
Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
- July 14th:** MRA Open House, 5:30pm, CommonGrounds
- July 16th:** Preteen Camp Kickoff, 6:30pm, CommonGrounds
- July 17th - 20th:** Preteen Camp
- July 18th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center
- July 20th:** Buildings & Grounds Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
- July 24th - August 3rd:** Pastors Conference/VBS/Soccer Camp Mission Trip, Via Hermosa

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm (ongoing)
- ◇ The Study of James - Sanctuary, 6:00pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm
- ◇ Men's Bible Study - ManCave, 6:00pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Library, 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:00pm (ongoing), see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:00pm (ongoing), see Zach for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ Wacky Wednesdays for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:30pm (ongoing)
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies - Library & Fellowship Hall, 6:45pm
- ◇ 20Somethings Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:30pm

Regular Scheduled Activities

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
20Somethings Bible Study, FH	5:30pm
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	6:00pm
7:17 Service	7:17pm
Mondays	
PAW Summer Program	9:30am
Tuesdays	
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Wednesdays	
PAW Summer Program	9:30am
20Somethings	6:30pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Wacky Wednesdays for Kids	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
Fridays	
Chic time at Chic-Fil-A	9:00am
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, Grand Prairie)	7:30am

Cooking With Ana



When: July 11th

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 4:00PM

Dinner Served: 6:00PM

Who: 20something that want to learn Ana's secrets —cost \$5.00PP; 20somethings who just want to eat—cost \$8.00PP

YOU MUST RSVP by July 7th so we can have enough supplies.
?s call Rachel, pay Rachel or Jared

Questions or need more info?
Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org
or 972-641-2717.

Average Morning Attendance for June: 450
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for May: 200