“Behind Enemy Lines” provokes images of paratroopers jumping out of airplanes on D-Day or an amphibious landing by special ops on some shoreline in the South Pacific. It instills visions of hard days and nights for soldiers, soldiers functioning in survival mode. Every move and every sound has monumental implications. Paul lived his spiritual life this way. Now at the end of his life, outside the friendly confines of the church or even the missionary road, he was incarcerated by the Roman Empire awaiting execution because of his confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. While in this precarious environment, surrounded by spiritual darkness, he wrote two letters to a young pastor in Ephesus. In I and II Timothy, Paul wrote a mix of very personal reflections along with practical guidance about church politics. Ultimately, he wrote these words as the mantle of leadership passed from him to this young man. It would seem from these two letters that Timothy found himself uneasy with his very important position in the church. Paul had left him in Ephesus to pastor the most prominent church in Asia Minor, one of the most important churches in the world for generations to come. In these letters, a surprising contrast of Timothy’s wishes and Paul’s encouragement emerged. Timothy was so young that some in the church looked down on him. Paul encouraged him to remain at his post. Timothy struggled with being overly timid. Paul encouraged him to submit to the Spirit’s work of power, love, and discipline. Timothy developed digestive troubles due to the tremendous stress of his calling at the church in Ephesus. Paul tells him to drink some wine to settle his upset stomach.

Despite all of these stresses in his life, what may be most disturbing to Timothy was that his mentor sat languishing in a Roman prison. Surely Timothy dreaded the thought of losing his mentor and friend. The relationship obviously went back many years. Paul referred to Timothy as “my true child in the faith.” It is as if Paul had known this young man since Timothy’s childhood. Or maybe Paul had been so influential that he was a father figure to this young man. Either way, he had known Timothy for some time and was very close to him, calling him a “true child in the faith.” Now, at the end of his life, Paul called on Timothy to “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” What a daunting statement. Paul wrote this letter from a prison in Rome where he awaited certain execution. From Paul’s statements in Acts and his letters, this great apostle seemed destined to die as a martyr for the cause of Christ. It was unlikely, given his status as a Roman citizen, but Paul forced the issue. He
made his appeal to Caesar and seemed to relish the idea of dying in Rome as a final act of his intense fellowship with Christ. In Philippians he declared his longing to know Christ through “the fellowship of His sufferings.” I think Timothy already knew this about Paul. I suspect being around Paul for any length of time you would have heard him speak in these terms. The certainty of Paul’s pending execution permeates this letter. II Timothy 4:6 states, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.” Had Paul already received an execution notice? Had a date been set? This type of information, the time and date of an ordered execution, would not have been granted to the average resident in the empire, but a Roman citizen would have known these things due to the required legal proceedings. There was urgency in Paul’s final advice to young Timothy. The outcome and timing of his punishment loomed over him and Paul challenged Timothy to imitate him in his struggle against the spiritual forces of this present life.

Despite his arrest and pending execution, Paul never seemed intimidated by all of this. He had seen the Son of God. His life had been eternally altered. No mere earthly powers, no matter their persuasion, could sway him in his unwavering love of Christ. Death became the tool to finally realize what he really wanted. Paul wanted to be with Christ. According to Philippians, Paul’s only motive for continuing was his ministry to the church, which he termed “fruitful labor.” It appears from Paul’s comments in II Timothy that his “fruitful labor” had come to an end. “I have finished the race.” Paul may have died before Timothy received this second letter. He died, as it were, behind enemy lines. He died completely surrounded by the people and structures most divergent from the cause of Christ. In the pressing moments of Paul’s last days, he gave Timothy advice on living behind enemy lines. Paul had spent his final days completely surrounded by the structures of the Roman Empire. However, Timothy also lived surrounded by the enemy. We also live in this world filled with sin and the continued assault of the devil and his minions. Paul told Timothy to “suffer hardship like a good soldier.” I believe that is why Paul gave Timothy advice on the vital role of the Scripture in our battle. He provided Timothy parameters for the workings of the church. He gave him specific tools on identifying and developing new leaders. He warned him about life behind enemy lines and that sometimes the worst enemies sometimes dress in the combat uniforms of friendly soldiers. There is much for us to learn from Paul’s charge to Timothy.

Just as Timothy was called to imitate Paul, so too are we. Two thousand years have passed and yet the mandate is still binding on us today. This is not a call to an easy life. We are at war with the spiritual forces of this present darkness. We are at war with our own sin. We are at war with falsehoods. We are at war against divisity, anger, and hatred in our homes and church. We are at war against silence in the regions of the world and in the homes of our neighbors where the Gospel is unheard. Just as soldiers must say “no” to their own preferences for the greater good of their brothers, we must say no to our own pleasures for the good of our homes, churches, communities, and the nations. Love for Christ and love for our fellow soldiers calls us to a radical obedience and passion for following God’s claims on our lives.

~ Daniel
We Band of Brothers
**BEHIND ENEMY LINES**
This Men's Bible study, led by Daniel Sweet, will be a commitment to read Scripture and pray for each other regularly over the next 12 weeks. Sunday Nights in the man-cave (20Something classroom).

**Ladies Bible Study**
*Covenant: God’s Enduring Promises* by Kay Arthur, led by our own Joy Richards.
Sunday Nights, 5:00pm, Library
Cost: $25

**PHILIPPIANS**
**A BOOK FOR STRUGGLERS**
Taught by Dr. Jerry Poteet, we will see how God’s Word speaks to every one of us.
Sunday Nights, 6:00pm, Sanctuary.

**Titus Tuesdays**
**All Ladies are invited to Titus Tuesdays.**
the second Tuesday of each month.
7:00 - 8:30pm. in the Library.

*Using the Word of God and our own life experiences, we will discuss different topics and encourage each other in the faith. What an awesome opportunity to truly fellowship with one another.*

*Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.*

**He Speaks to Me**
**A seven week study relating 6 characteristics found in Samuel that are applicable to women today as they tune their hearts to hear God’s voice.**
Tuesday mornings.
9:30am, Choir Room.
Cost: $20

**20Something Girls & Guys Studies**
A time for girls to be girls, guys to be guys, while studying the word of God.
Girls led by Christina Moreno.
guys by Alex Dean
we will meet Monday evenings.
See Christina or Alex for details.

**Study in 1st Samuel**
Study the message for today in this Old Testament book.

Led by Phil McGlothlin,
Wednesday evenings, 6:45pm,
in the Library.

**Forgotten God** (in home Bible Study), by Pastor Francis Chan, offers a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Holy Spirit’s direction in our lives.
This study is being taught Fridays, 7:00pm, at two homes; please call to RSVP at the home of your choice:
The Germer’s, 972-262-7975 and also at The Sweet’s, 214-681-4213

So many options, so little space. If you would like more info, please pick up a discipleship brochure at the Welcome Desk.
NEWS FROM THE SENIOR ADULT DEPARTMENT

By the time you read this, Ms. Vivian Wicoff’s Sunday school class will have met for the last time. Ms. Vivian stepped down from teaching on February 27th. She has been a faithful teacher of the Senior Ladies class for many years. Ms. Vivian, on behalf of our staff and members, may I say thank you for your loyal service to Matthew Road.

Matthew Road and the First Baptist Church of Granbury invite you to join us on our 2011 Summer Tour to Branson. We leave via a Dan Dipert, 55 passenger, handicapped equipped bus on Monday morning, June 13, 2011. We will return Saturday, June 18, 2011. The cost of the tour includes 5 nights at the Stone Castle Inn, a hot breakfast each morning and luggage handling, tickets for 6 great shows: Acrobats, of China ~ Baldknobber’s Hillbilly Jamboree ~ Pierce Arrow Show ~ Shoji Tabuchi Show ~ Noah the Musical Plus a special back stage tour of this production ~ Presley’s Mountain Music Jubilee ~ dinner for 5 nights and a bus tour of the city of Branson and a tour of “Hard Work U” (College of the Ozarks). The cost does not cover Lunch and snacks each day, travel insurance, tip for the College of the Ozarks guide, tip for the bus driver, Museum at the College of the Ozarks and your shopping. Cost is $565.70 each person for four to a room, $592.70 each person for three to a room, $647.70 each person for two to a room, $812.70 one person in a room. There is a $100 deposit to book your seat. You may pay the remainder of the cost in monthly payments or in a lump sum. Make checks payable to “Matthew Road Baptist Church” and note “Branson Trip” on the bottom of your check. If you have any questions, call Sid at 972-641-2717 or email sidwheat@sbcglobal.net.

Our winter cruise is set for the Eastern Caribbean. We sail out of Galveston on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Our ports of call are Key West Florida, Freeport Bahamas and Nassau. We return on Sunday, December 18, 2011. Our cruise will be aboard the Carnival ship Magic, which is a brand new ship making its maiden voyage May of 2011. The cost of our cruise with an inside cabin is $738.43 which covers Cruise, inside cabin, most meals, entertainment on board, port charges, taxes and government fees. This price does not cover gratuities or travel insurance. The deposit is $100.00 and needs to be made ASAP to maintain the price above and to insure a place on the cruise. If you have any questions, call Sid at 972-641-2717 or email sidwheat@sbcglobal.net.

Make plans now to go with us on Thursday night, April 7, 2011 to the Texas Opry Theater in Weatherford. The program will feature The Mystery Men Quartet, Crimson River and Texas Grace. Our own Ruth Glover’s daughter, Joyce McGrady, is a member of the Texas Grace trio. Tickets are $15 each and you must RSVP by March 6, 2011. We will leave Matthew Road at 5:30p.m. via van/carpool. The show starts at 7p.m. and ends at 10p.m.
TwentySomething

Rangers vs Yankees

RANGER’S BASEBALL
MAY 6TH @7:05PM
RANGERS VS YANKEES
COST $17 PP

Reserve your ticket today, cause we are only buying 20!

Destin 2011

WEEK LONG
SUMMER MISSION TRIP
ADVENTURE

TwentySomething Spring Retreat

Where: Mt. Lebanon
When: March 11-13
Cost: $45

Destin 2011

What: Passion Conference
Where: Ft. Worth Convention Center
When: April 1st - 3rd
How Much: $149* /$159
268generation.com

*Reserve by Jan 26

20Something Weekly Happenings!

~ Tuesday afternoons @12:30pm: meet for lunch at Chick-fil-A on Carrier.
~ Wednesday nights @ 8:30pm: discipleship time at Pizzaiolo on Carrier (free pizza!)
~ Sunday Nights @ 8:00pm: movie night at one of our group’s homes
~ Monday Nights @ 8:00pm: girl’s Bible Study led by Christina Moreno
   & guy's Bible Study led by Alex Dean
   (They are currently studying the book of Colossians)

For more information on these or any 20Something events, please contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org or 972-965-9970.
AWANA GRAND PRIX RESCHEDULED

AWANA Racers has been rescheduled for March 11 at 7pm!

Hope to see you there!

AWANA Club meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Each week, kids work on scripture memorization, participate in Bible study, and have a game time! The goal of AWANA is “to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.”

Cubbies—Three and four year olds
Sparks – Kindergarten through second grade
Truth & Training – Third through sixth grade

COMING SOON TO MRBC...

VBS BIG APPLE ADVENTURE!

July 17–21 6:00–8:30pm

Theme: This year, we will go on the Big Apple Adventure to New York City! Join us as we visit Times Square, Central Park, the Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Station, Coney Island, and many more famous sights! As we travel around NYC, we will be learning how to connect with faith, love, trust, others, and life!

Workers Needed: We will need a lot of workers to help us in the Big Apple! EVERYONE can help! If you would like to help with VBS in anyway, please attend our VBS meetings on March 27th, May 15th, and July 10th at 5pm in the Sanctuary. We will only have three meetings this year, so it is important for you to be at each meeting. See Maggie or Cyndi for more information.

T-Shirts
This year, we will be ordering VBS t-shirts. T-shirts are $7 each. If you would like a VBS t-shirt, please e-mail Maggie at Maggie@matthewroad.org with sizes by May 1st! T-shirts are available in adult and children’s sizes.
Student Ministry

This Month in the Student Ministry...

Discipleship

Regular Spring discipleship continues this March. There will be three offerings for students this semester: Proclamation, our student choir, Guy Talk and Girl Talk. The guys will look at essential beliefs for the Christian faith and enjoy time being guys and growing together in the faith. The girls will examine the biblical accounts of women in the Bible and how their example is beneficial to us and our faith. It’s not to late to start participating. See Ryan for information on any of the classes for students.

For Parents

We will have our second of four prayer and planning meetings for our trip to Denver this Summer on Sunday March 27. We will meet at 7:00pm in the SMAC right after Sunday night discipleship. I strongly encourage parents to attend these meetings to get info, ask questions, and pray over and for your students who are going to minister in Denver this Summer.

Parents of Seniors:

Your pictures and letters for Senior Recognition night are due April 10. Contact Ryan for any information regarding Senior Recognition.

This Month in Collide...

This March in Collide we will start a new teaching series that will carry us through the rest of the semester. We will spend 12 weeks answering questions about what we believe about Jesus Christ the Messiah. Don’t miss out on Collide. 6:28pm every Wednesday night. See you there.

MRBC Missions & Dessert Social

Dessert Social - Sudan Adventure
March 6th 7pm

You won’t want to miss this amazing opportunity! Bring your favorite dessert to share as we hear from our own Kim Sweet. She will share her adventures and ministry experiences from her trip to Sudan.
March 2011 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717. If you have an event not listed, please contact the church office at christy@matthewroad.org.

March 3rd: Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
March 5th: Counseling Training, 10:30am, Conference Room
March 6th: Dessert Social, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
March 7th: Kindergarten Information Meeting, 7:15pm, Worship Center
March 8th: Titus Tuesdays, 7:00pm, Library
March 9th: Counseling Training, 6:00pm, Choir Room
March 11th: AWANA Racers, 7:00pm, Worship Center
20 Something at Mt. Lebanon
March 13th: Daylight Savings Time begins, move clocks ahead one hour
Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Fellowship Hall
March 14th: Preschool Playdate at Ft. Worth Zoo, see Cyndi for more info
March 20th: B&G Committee Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
March 21st: Kindergarten Fall Registration for PAW/Church families begins, see Cyndi for more info
March 25th: PNO (Parents Night Out), 6:30pm, see Cyndi for more info
March 27th: Ruben DeLaTorre Class Lunch, at the DeLaTorre home, see Ruben for more info
VBS Meeting, 5:00pm, Sanctuary
Student Mission Camp Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, SMAC
March 28th: Kindergarten Fall Open Registration begins
PAW Family Night, 7:00pm, Worship Center

New to Matthew Road Library!

John MacArthur’s Commentaries on the New Testament
(These are the commentaries Daniel takes to Mexico to leave with the new Pastors he’s training.)
The Enduring Classics of Billy Graham
J. I. Packer Classic Collection – Devotions
Out Live Your Life - Max Lucado
Don’t Waste Your Life - John Piper
If God Is Good– Randy Alcorn
Coming Economic Armageddon – David Jeremiah
Choosing to See – Mrs. Steven Curtis Chapman
Outstanding Fiction by:
B. J. Hoff, Karen Kinsbury, Jan Karon, Frances Rivers,
Lynn Austin, Lori Wick & Terri Blackstock
Several new books for Junior readers, and DVDs and books for children.
See church calendar for library hours

Spring Childrens Clothing Swap

What: Spring Children's Clothing Swap
When: Thursday, April 7th, drop-offs beginning at 6:15 and shopping beginning at 7pm
Where: MRBC Fellowship Hall
Food: $2 per person

If you do not wish to participate but would like to donate items, please feel free to drop-off those items by 6:15 Thursday night. All unclaimed items will be donated to the April 29th garage sale. Please be here at 6:15 so that we have time to sort all items before shopping begins at 7:00. We will draw names to determine shopping order. We will be accepting spring and summer clothing and shoes to fit Newborn to age 17. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 6th so we can prepare enough food.
Contact Kristian Ethridge at 972-602-0123 or kriscele@aol.com or Tiffany Halsell at purpletiff@sbcglobal.net or 972-824-8932.