

THE TIDINGS

GOD'S MISSION FOR TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO LOVE HIM FULLY AND FOLLOW HIM FAITHFULLY.

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

By now, many of you have heard of the death of John Allen Chau, an American missionary who attempted to take the Gospel to an unreached people group in the Andaman Islands. According to reports, the twenty-six-year old specifically sought to engage the Sentinelese tribe, a native island group that was known for hostile behavior toward outsiders and that had been declared "off-limits" by the Indian government. Chau recognized the risks but was determined to share the love of Jesus with this spiritually destitute people group. Ultimately, some of the fishermen who assisted him in reaching the island reported seeing Chau killed by the tribesmen and his lifeless body dragged across the beach.

Of course, this story has prompted much reaction from both secular and evangelical circles. Much of the national press has dismissed Chau's efforts and condemned him for violating the tribe's cultural identity. Criticism has even been levied against Chau for the possibility of opening up the Sentinelese to possible disease or sickness that theoretically could wipe them out. (Remember that they have little or no immunity to outside viruses, bacteria, etc.) In such a pluralistic society as ours, we should not be surprised by this reaction. After all, these news outlets are built upon the idea that one moral code is as good as another. You might call it a moral equivalency to which they subscribe. The secular press would reject any need for evangelism; instead, they would view it as highly unethical and a breach of people's rights.

But even Christian writers and blogs have debated the wisdom/merit of Chau's actions. Most all uniformly endorse the young man's passion, but some question his methodology and strategy. Even a Baptist Press article, "Crazy' or Called?" set forth different aspects of the conversation. And while I don't want (nor do I have space here) to relitigate this debate, let me affirm two positions: 1) Yes, Chau probably could have chosen a better strategy or method for taking the Gospel to the Sentinelese; 2) Yes, Chau's passion for Christ, His Gospel, and the Sentinelese is to be commended and emulated by all of us. As to this latter reality, we must be challenged to do all we can to take the good news to people who are lost and bound for an eternity without Christ's love. We must pray, give, and go!

This season is a special time for such a reminder of sacrifice and commitment. This week, we will not only emphasize prayer for our international missionaries, but we will also call for their support through the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. Every dime that we collect through this offering goes directly to the field to reach people groups across our globe with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Our church goal this year is \$150,000.** This Sunday in particular, we will March for Missions as we generously give.

As I approach this significant moment in the life of our church, I am especially moved by the words Chau penned to his family in his last note: "You guys might think I'm crazy in all this, but I think it's worthwhile to declare Jesus to these people."

See you Sunday as we declare Jesus . . . not only here in Ruston but to the world itself!

FROM THE RECORDS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Worship Attendance		SS Attendance		'18	'17
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	555	Adults	390	396	
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	116	Singles/Young Adults	109	130	
11:15 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	142	College	17	31	
The Springs Bible Study	13	Youth	74	86	
Combined Morning Total	826	Children	105	118	
6 p.m. Evening Worship Service	110	Preschool	93	113	
		Local	786	874	
		Off Campus	93	93	
		Total	881	967	

Give the Gift to the Lord		Sunday, November 25, 2018	
Budget			\$46,814.27
Share the Light			\$475.00

Extended Session 12/2/18	
9 a.m. Worship	Amy Breaux, Brandi Spurlock, Paige Smith, Doug & Missy Gibbons, Josh & Lauren Fish, Tonya Duggan, Jennifer Paul, Jennifer & Ainsley Riley
11:15 a.m. Worship	Byron & Cheryl Williams, Judith Roberts, Kelly Guerrero, Alisia Thomason, June & Amanda Meng, Hana Le

Neighbors and Nations

Ben Jernigan

When the seventy-two returned from being sent out by Jesus (Luke 10) to proclaim the Kingdom of God, they celebrated! They celebrated the work of the Lord, the power that God gave them to do mighty things. Jesus affirmed the power in His name, but he said that they should rejoice because their “names are written in heaven.” What great joy to know that the names of those who call on the name of the Lord, those who follow Him, are written in heaven! It is this hope that drives us to live on mission with God.

This Sunday, you can help people have their names written in heaven by joining in on our **March for Missions!** This year our goal is **\$150,000**. This collection goes directly to support the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. Because of your gifts, the International Mission Board missionaries can take the Gospel to unreached peoples around the world. Every dollar you give makes a difference because 100% of the money collected goes to the work of reaching every nation. Please pray about your gift as you join the march this Sunday!

Take an ornament off one of the **Life Trees** and bring a gift. This December we will be collecting items for the Life Choices' Life Tree Project from **December 5-19**. **The trees are in the Gathering Space foyer, across from Guest Services** (Church Office entrance) **and across from the Missions Hub** (Fellowship Hall entrance). The Life Tree Project is a concentrated effort during the Christmas season to re-supply their Hope Shoppe with material needs for babies that many women are unable to afford in a crisis pregnancy situation. By being able to lessen some of the financial burden of becoming a new parent, the option of abortion is lessened. Life Choices is doing amazing things for our community and the Kingdom of God. Let's be a blessing and support them this Christmas season!

Temple Baptist Church is on mission, what can I do? Here is a directive: **Love your neighbor**. How can you intentionally share the hope of Christmas (the hope of the Savior coming to earth) in your neighborhood this month? Here is another: **Join a mission team**. Time is short but it is not too late to join the Puerto Rico mission team (disaster relief/rebuild) serving this January 26-February 1, the Calgary mission team (community outreach, block party, church planting) February 21-25, or the Heart of India mission team (church planting, evangelism) March 15-24. Contact the Church Office for more info!

For more TBC missions stories, read our blog at tbcommission.wordpress.com and follow us on Instagram at temple.go



Upward Basketball and Cheerleading!

Volunteers Needed: Coaches (Cheer & Basketball), Referees, Greeters, and Half-time Devotion Leaders.
To volunteer, contact John or Emma in the FLC, 255-6184, or john@temple.life.

A Thank You card has been received from...

Tom & Martha Stinson

(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

Women on Mission Groups

Mary Martha Women on Mission

Monday, December 3 | 6:30 p.m.

at the home of Ann Windsor (304 Frazier Rd, Ruston)

Myrtle King Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 13 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Bring a sandwich. Mission Project: Meat for CCA

Guest Speaker: Andrew Ryzhkov,

Founder of Byelorussian Mission (a Charitable Mission)

Our speaker would like all mission groups to attend.

Missionary Round Table

Friday, December 14 | 9:30 a.m.

at the home of Shirley Crump (2220 S Vienna St, Ruston)

Co-hostesses: all members; Reviewer: George Lee, IV

Guests are cordially invited.

ANNUAL EVENING WORSHIP CELEBRATION WITH ZION TRAVELER BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 9 | 6 p.m. | Zion Traveler Baptist Church
1201 Martin Luther King Drive, Ruston

Come and worship together as Temple leads. Meal to follow.



Welcome Reception for Zach & Marissa Husser (Associate Minister of Music)

Sunday, December 16
4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Pizza will be served.

(Church-wide Caroling to follow)

If you would like to give them a gift card to help these newlyweds acquaint themselves with our area businesses/restraurants, a basket will be available.

Our Newest Membership Candidate:



Celia Wall

KIDS NIGHT

Friday, December 7 | 5:30-8:30 p.m. | *The Journey Place*

Cost: \$3/ child (Payment due when you sign up)

Deadline to sign up: Sunday, December 2

Sign up online at kidsnight.temple.life



Princess & Warrior Weekend ~ January 18-21 Youth Group Event

Sign up online at pww.templebcstudents.org
Registration Closes Sunday, December 2

Want to help? Provide a student scholarship for
Princess & Warrior Weekend or Upward Basketball and Cheerleading.
Contact: John Nugent, 255-6184, john@temple.life



the family of Charles Hoffman,
father of Kathy Shealy and grandfather
of Andrew Shealy and Lindsey Purvis.

December Schedule

December 2

9 a.m. Blended Worship | March for Missions
& *the gathering* Worship | March for Missions
10:15 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. *the gathering* Worship | March for Missions
6 p.m. Evening Worship | Children's M³ Christmas Program

December 9

9 a.m. Blended Worship & *the gathering* Worship
10:15 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. *the gathering* Worship
6 p.m. Evening Worship & Meal at Zion Traveler Baptist Church

December 16

10 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
11 a.m. Combined Worship | Christmas Music Program
4 p.m. Reception for Zach & Marissa Husser
5 p.m. Church-wide Caroling

December 23

9 a.m. Blended Worship & *the gathering* Worship
10:15 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. *the gathering* Worship
4 p.m. Retirement Reception for Loy Seal
Evening Worship is canceled.

December 24

5 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 25, & 26

Church Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays

December 30

10 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
11 a.m. Combined Worship | Lord's Supper
Evening Worship is canceled.

YOUNG ADULT News

Jason Walsworth

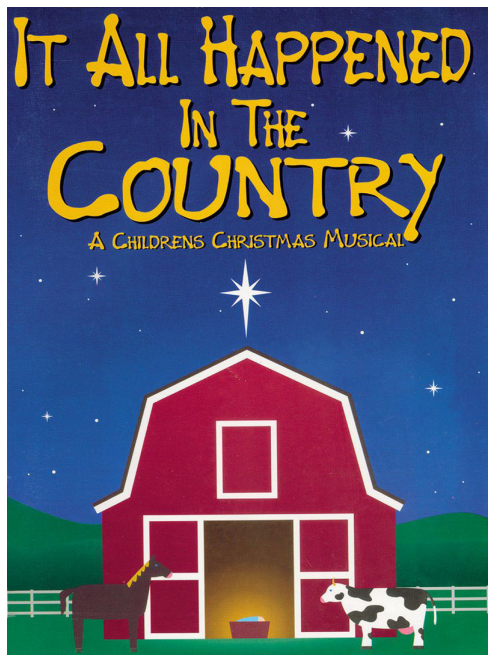
There is a loneliness epidemic in America according to recent research. Cigna, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the AARP have all done separate studies and come to some conclusions I think we need to keep in mind as the church and family of God. Many people are lonely and looking for relationships, friends, and a place to connect. What better place can we provide for them than the church?

We need to open our eyes to those in our community who are lonely. I want to challenge you when you meet that new neighbor or see someone new who is a guest in our church, spend a little extra time talking with them instead of just saying "Hi." Go out of your way during the welcome time in our worship services to meet that new couple you have never seen before. Invite them to come to your Sunday School class with you or help them find a class. Encourage them to come to the same event or mission trip interest meeting you are planning to attend. Below are just a few snippets from these studies I found interesting.

- ~ Anywhere from 1/3 to 1/2 of adults are lonely regardless of their marital status.
- ~ Divorced adults are lonely at a significantly higher percentage.
- ~ Loneliness has a direct correlation to health and mental health issues.
- ~ 63% of adults dealing with alcohol/drug abuse said they were lonely.
- ~ 60% of adults dealing with depression said they were lonely.
- ~ 56% of adults dealing with anxiety said they were lonely.
- ~ Use of social media did not have a positive affect on loneliness.
- ~ 61% of people who had never spoken to their neighbor were lonely compared to 33% who said they were lonely and have spoken to their neighbors.

M³ Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 2 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary



Deacons of the Week—December 2-8
Robert Davis & James Davison

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Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Week of Prayer for International Missions ~ December 2-9
Senior Adult Mission Trip - Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Distribution ~
December 3-4
Life Choices Tree Project ~ December 5-19

Sunday, December 2

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | March for Missions | Advent (Sanctuary);
the gathering Worship | March for Missions | Advent (GS)
10:15 a.m. - Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | March for Missions | Advent (GS)
4:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Handbell Rehearsal (Rm 216B)
5 p.m. - Men's Fall Bible Study (Rm 216)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship | Children's M³ Christmas Program (Sanctuary);
temple-tech Sunday Night Supper
7 p.m. - *temple-tech* Volleyball (FLC)

Monday, December 3

5 p.m. - Upward Evaluations (FLC)
6:30 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Missions

Tuesday, December 4

5 p.m. - Upward Evaluations (FLC)
6 p.m. - The Crossing Bible Study (JP)

Wednesday, December 5

9 a.m. - Friendship International (FLC); Quilting/Sewing (FH)
12 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Menu: Red Beans and Rice;
Cost: \$4/person, \$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family)
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Christmas Parties (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - GREEN TEAM (FH);
Youth Wednesday Night Worship (Youth Rm)
6:45 p.m. - Orchestra and Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7 p.m. - CORPS Meeting (Rm 270); Ensembells Rehearsal (Rm 213B);
temple-tech Freshman Bible Study (FH)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Friday, December 7

5:30 p.m. - Kids Night (JP)

Family Life Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
The Journey Place Free Play Hours: Monday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday: 2:30-5 p.m.; Friday: 8-11 a.m.
Media Center Hours: Sunday: 8:15-9 a.m.; 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1:30-5 p.m.
Broadcast: Sundays at 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY)

Vision:
To become authentic, loving followers of Jesus,
who are experiencing life transformation through God's Word,
For the purpose of impacting our world.



TEMPLE

BAPTIST CHURCH

COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

Core Values:

Authoritative Truth • Strengthening Worship
Authentic Community • Intentional Transformation
Hands-On Missions • Relational Evangelism
Compassionate Servanthood