

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

A few years ago, I was privileged to speak to the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College just outside of Calgary. The Canadian Rockies provided a breathtaking backdrop for this ministry, but it was the reality of spiritual lostness that eventually consumed my thoughts. In the midst of one of the world's most beautiful scenes was brokenness that only sin can bring. And yet, God had placed this theological school of faculty and students right there to advance the spiritual restoration that can only come through the Gospel. To me, this was a tremendous demonstration of God's gracious favor and power.

One night, I ate dinner with one of the professors and his family at their home in Cochrane. As we talked about the Lord's work in the area, he related how we were in a "Lottie House" and how we had driven over in a "Lottie Car." At first, I look puzzled (a rather natural look for me), but then I recognized that he was speaking about resources that had been bought through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). The professor then proceeded to tell me how the house had been purchased before the real estate boom with Lottie Moon funds and had been used for housing his family. Why? Because this professor and others are actually IMB missionaries that have been there for some time. They live modestly and efficiently, but they have a significant impact on their area and the world. Even as I surveyed the diversity of the Chapel audience, I knew that these missionaries/professors were

touching the nations. And I had a part! We had a part! Through our faithful contributions to the LMCO, we have helped advance the Gospel in Calgary and beyond.

You see, our gifts to the LMCO help *real people* (missionaries) with *real needs* so that they can make a *real difference*. We are helping that Canadian seminary professor; Kyle, Kate, and Craig in South Asia; Mike, Marcie, Will, and Caroline in Central Asia; Chris and Shannon in Germany; James in Southeast Asia; Maggie in the Middle East; Jonathan and Bethany in Portugal; and many, many more! We are providing for their practical needs like housing and transportation while also paying for ministry and training materials. The result? **Real lives are changed** as the power of the Gospel sweeps over them, and brokenness is replaced with restoration.

This past Sunday, you once again exemplified generosity and faithfulness to the Gospel. On Sunday alone, we collected over \$80,000 in our March for Missions, which means to date we have given approximately \$86,000 to support our international missionaries through the LMCO. I am praying that we continue to advance toward our **\$150,000 goal** as we demonstrate our commitment to the Christmas mission in the coming weeks. He has provided us with such resources so that we can undergird His mission. How we should praise Him for that! See you Sunday as we do just that!

FROM THE RECORDS OF DECEMBER 2, 2018

| Worship Attendance | | SS Attendance | | |
|---|------|----------------------|------|------|
| | | '18 | '17 | |
| 9 a.m. Blended Worship Service | 601 | Adults | 459 | 487 |
| 9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service | 148 | Singles/Young Adults | 145 | 144 |
| 11:15 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service | 355 | College | 127 | 103 |
| The Springs Bible Study | 6 | Youth | 108 | 92 |
| Combined Morning Total | 1110 | Children | 132 | 123 |
| 6 p.m. Evening Worship Service | 595 | Preschool | 113 | 127 |
| | | Local | 1084 | 1076 |
| | | Off Campus | 93 | 93 |
| | | Total | 1177 | 1169 |

| | Sunday, December 2, 2018 |
|--|--------------------------|
|  Budget | \$79,584.00 |
| Share the Light | \$2,200.00 |
| Lottie Moon Offering | \$86,608.00 |

Extended Session 12/9/18

9 a.m. Worship—Kristie Frasier, Rene Davidson, Donna Hood, Mary Lou, Morgan, & Mary Lindsay Funes, Stacey Casady, Alicia Ball, Jared & Kim Little, Chris & Angie Taylor

11:15 a.m. Worship—Chares & Jon Anne Winstead, Dale & Salel Oden, Mitchel & Missy Jones, Patrick Patton

Education & Administration News

Loy Seal

This will be my last column for The Tidings, and I look back on not only the last 13 years at Temple but on the last 33 years of ministry. I began seminary when I was 35 and had a wife and four children. It was difficult, but God was so good to us. Deborah has been my encourager and partner through all of these years. Since then, I have served two churches in Texas and two churches in Louisiana (both in Ruston) as Minister of Education and Administration. I also served as Director of Church Growth for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, which provided different opportunities for service of which I had never dreamed possible. Then I went to the Louisiana Baptist Convention and served as the Director of Men and Volunteer Missions, which included being Disaster Relief Director for our state convention. I would like to share some of my ministry memories with you.

- Having our Sunday School grow so fast in Texas, that we were recognized by the state convention.
- Going to two Sunday Schools due to lack of space.
- Leading children's camp at the Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment when it was 107 degrees all week.
- Leading a "themed" Vacation Bible School before the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) developed annual VBS. It was unheard of at that time, and there was resistance from some in the church.
- Having 500 in VBS in a church which ran 600 in Sunday School.
- Beginning children's sports programs (before Upward was invented) and seeing dads saved because they came to watch their kids.
- Beginning 18 new Sunday School classes in one year in another church. (Yes, we grew a lot).
- Starting more Sunday School classes in another church.
- Baptizing my children over a period of years.
- Organizing 1100 volunteers for Crossover New Orleans before the SBC Annual Meeting. There were over 1300 professions of faith.
- Organizing 800 Baptist volunteers to help with Super Bowl XXXVI.
- Four Florida hurricanes in one summer with Disaster Relief.
- Leading Disaster Relief in Louisiana for hurricanes Katrina and Rita!
- Moving back to Ruston and finding a loving church in Temple.
- Watching Temple's average Sunday School attendance grow from 783 to 1050 in twelve years.
- Most of all, being able to serve God in such a remarkable church as Temple. God has truly blessed us!

Thank you so much for all the love that you have shown Deborah and me during the past 13 years, especially through our physical issues. Words cannot begin to express how much you mean to us. We look forward to being "regular" members of Temple in the years to come.

Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

We are responsible for **75 bags** of sugar each month.



Women on Mission Groups

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

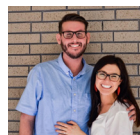
Friday, December 14 | 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Guests are cordially invited.

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/restaurants, a basket will be available.

The Journey Place Playscape Holiday Play Hours

December 17-20 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

December 21-26 | *The Journey Place* will be closed for the holidays.

December 27 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

December 28 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

December 31 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

January 1 | *The Journey Place* will be closed for the holiday.

Our Newest Membership Candidate:



Paige Hoefler



the family of Lucille Thompson, grandmother of Markay Brown; the family of Harold Roberts, grandfather of Kyle Roberts; the family of Clifford Reis, grandfather of Jacob and Allison Brister; the family of Brenda Fortune, sister of Deborah Seal; the family of Janice Finley, sister of Hilda Estes.

Congratulations to:

Pam Garbarino on the birth of her twin granddaughters, **Lila Marie and Mae Elizabeth** Garbarino; William and Penny Clower of the birth of their son, **Benjamin Alexander**; to Parker and Sunny Mitchell on the birth of their son, **Walker Mason**. Proud grandparents are Johnny Mitchell and Randall and Jan Murphy.

The Life Tree Project

(to benefit Life Choices of North Central Louisiana)

Wednesday, December 5-Wednesday, December 19

Life Trees are located by Guest Services, across from Missions Hub & the Gathering Space foyer.

To Participate: choose an ornament, purchase item listed on back, and then return item and ornament to the box located outside the Church Office or to Life Choices.

Retirement Reception for Loy Seal Minister of Education/Administration

Sunday, December 23 | 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall.

Join us as we celebrate Loy and Deborah's service to Temple.

Presentation will be made at 4:30 p.m.

(Evening Worship is canceled)

December Schedule

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.

A Thank You card has been received from...

Cypress Springs Elementary Faculty & Staff

(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

The Journey Place **Tiny Trekkers & Summit Kids** *Sally Hearn*

If you missed Sunday night, you missed a real treat! Our children led in worship and did a tremendous job! It was so sweet to hear our preschoolers sing songs to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Grades 1-6 reminded us of the reason we celebrate this season through the musical, "It All Happened in the Country." **Thank you, boys and girls, for leading us so well in worship!** I am so thankful for our outstanding teachers who give their time and energy in our Music and Missions program. Thank you, M³ leaders for all you do each week.

Bible Drill for Grades 4-6 will begin in January. We will have an **Information Meeting for parents and students on Sunday, January 6, at 5 p.m. in The Journey Place Multipurpose Room.** Bible Drill will begin on Sunday, January 13. If you have a 4th, 5th, or 6th grade student, I hope you will encourage them to participate. For the rest of their lives, they will be able to recall the scriptures they will learn.

Family Advent Guides are available in *The Journey Place*. Be sure to pick up one for your family.

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Temple Baptist Church, 1515 South Service Road West, Ruston, LA 71270

**ANNUAL EVENING WORSHIP
CELEBRATION AND MEAL
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.

Deacons of the Week—December 9--15
Bill Cox & Jim Davison

Label here

Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134
Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Week of Prayer for International Missions ~ December 2-9
Life Choices Tree Project ~ December 5-19

Sunday, December 9

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Advent (Sanctuary);
the gathering Worship | Advent (GS)
10:15 a.m. - Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Advent (GS)
4:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Handbell Rehearsal (Rm 216B)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship and Meal with Zion Traveler Baptist Church
(Zion Traveler Baptist Church, 1201 Martin Luther King Dr, Ruston);
temple-tech Sunday Night Supper
7 p.m. - *temple-tech* Volleyball (FLC); Christmas Program Tech Rehearsal
(Sanctuary)

Monday, December 10

9:30 a.m. - Where Moms Connect (JPMR)

Wednesday, December 12

9 a.m. - Friendship International (FLC); Quilting/Sewing (FH)
5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH); Menu: Chicken and Dumplings;
Cost: \$4/person, \$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family)
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - ORANGE TEAM
(FH); Youth Wednesday Night Worship (Youth Rm)
6:45 p.m. - Christmas Program Final Rehearsal #1 (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)

Thursday, December 13

12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)
6:30 p.m. - Christmas Program Final Rehearsal #2 (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 14

9:30 a.m. - Missionary Round Table (Shirley Crump's Home)

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: 9 a.m.-12 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