August 21, 2019
Vol. 72 No. 34

# 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***

"I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase is 'falling away.' By all measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian." And with those words, Joshua Harris sent shockwaves throughout the evangelical community. Harris had been the pastor of a megachurch in Maryland and had even been recognized for his book, "I Kissed Dating Goodbye," which called for sexual purity before marriage. But on Instagram recently, he not only declared his abandonment of Christianity, but he also announced his separation from his wife. And yet, his heart was "full of gratitude." His social media post indicated a new freedom and joy that Harris had found. He even apologized for his previous "fear-based approach to life" and specifically apologized to the LGBTQ+ community for his previous stances/teachings.

Then just a few days later, Marty Sampson appeared to make it a duo when he determined that Christianity is "just another religion." The popular Hillsong songwriter admitted that he was "genuinely losing" his faith, and yet he was happy and at peace with his status. He continued, "How many preachers fall? Many . . . No one talks about it. How many miracles happen. Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it. How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all 'coz they don't believe? No one talks about it." (Sampson later "clarified" his remarks and said he had not renounced his faith yet but that it remains on "incredibly shaky ground.")

As I read through both of these accounts, I could not help but grieve for them, while inwardly wrestling with their decisions. You see, I believe that the true believer perseveres to the end (cf. Matthew 16:16-23; Luke 22:31-34; John 8:31-32; John 17:11-23; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:5; etc.). So, what about these guys? Well, if they are authentic believers, then they will turn back to the Lord. Simon Peter was indeed sifted by Satan and deserted Christ, yet he returned and was used mightily for the Kingdom (Luke 22:31). Of course, there is the possibility that they never knew genuine salvation itself. As John pointed out in his first epistle, false teachers "went out from us" because they "were never of us" (1 John 2:19). Even Jesus pointed out that not all who did works in His name were His children (Matthew 7:23). Either way, I pray that the Lord would work in their lives to illuminate His truth and transformation.

But there is a wider discussion that should be had here concerning the church and its fidelity to God's Word. These stories remind us of the need for both depth and breadth in our spiritual journeys. We need to disciple people in the Scripture! Too many have gravitated to an "experiential" authority in our churches. Does the worship make us feel good? Does the preaching warm our hearts? Does the experience line up with what I want? And while I love great experiences, the Bible is and always will be the final authority of our lives! Although I don't have room here to say all that I want to say about this, I would to encourage you to read John Cooper's full response to Harris/Sampson online. The worship leader relates, "My conclusion for the church (all of us Christians): We must STOP making worship leaders and thought leaders or influencers or cool people or 'relevant' people the most influential people in Christendom. (And yes that includes people like me!)" Cooper then exhorts, "Let us hold on even tighter to the anchor of the living Word of God. For He changes NOT. 'The grass withers and the flowers fade away, but the word of our God stands forever' (Isaiah 40:8)."

My friends, there are a lot of churches/people (even in Ruston) that are straying from the truth. They are emphasizing "feeling" over truth. Let's not fall into that trap! Rather, let's remain faithful! See you Sunday as we gather around the living, powerful Word!

### FROM THE RECORDS OF AUGUST 18, 2019

| Worship Attendance | |
|---|---|
| 9 a.m. Blended Worship Service | 654 |
| 9 a.m. *the gathering* Worship Service | 224 |
| 11:15 a.m. *the gathering* Worship Service | 343 |
| The Springs Worship Service | 42 |
| Combined Morning Total | 1263 |
| 6 p.m. Evening Worship Service | 200 |

| SS Attendance | '19 | '18 |
|---|---|---|
| Adults | 437 | 489 |
| Singles/ Young Adults | 134 | 156 |
| College | 192 | 46 |
| Youth | 116 | 119 |
| Children | 202 | 165 |
| Preschool | 105 | 101 |
| Local | 1186 | 1076 |
| Off Campus | 93 | 93 |
| Total | 1279 | 1169 |

### Sunday, August 18, 2019

Give to the Lord

| | |
|---|---|
| Budget | $32,511.26 |
| Share the Light | $1,150.00 |

### Extended Session 8/25/19

**9 a.m. Worship**—Amanda Barham, Josh & Ashley Walpole, Faith Alexander, Carmen Echols, Teena Doxey, Susan Rasbury, Suzette Stroud, Doc & Brooke Hoefler

**11:15 a.m. Worship**—Lynne Pippen, Sherry McConathy, Seth & Julie Riser

# MUSIC MINISTRY
## *Jeremy Asher*

I want to share a praise with you – God has blessed our church with wonderful A/C! It was so cold in the Chapel for the Senior Adult Bible Study on Monday morning that I saw several wearing "winter wear" – gloves, hoodies, etc. When it is as hot as it has been outside, and yet so chilly indoors, that is such a blessing! God is good!

God has also been good to our Worship Ministry as several new singers have rejoined us these last two weeks. It is always a joy to lead worship with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra each week, and I am so thankful for those who give their time and talents to the Lord as they participate in the Worship Ministry. Have you prayed about getting involved? I hope that you will do that! And if the Lord says "yes," then come join us this week! **Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6:45-8 p.m.** We gather on **Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. for a final run-through**, so feel free to jump right in!

I pray you are having a great week. May the Lord bless you in very special ways as you follow Him. See you Sunday!

**Where Moms Connect:**
**A Time of Encouragement**
Monday, September 9, 9:30 a.m., *The Journey Place*
Moms, come and enjoy meaningful conversation, laughter, and friendship!

BLOOD DRIVE
GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE!

Wednesday, September 11
4-8 p.m. | Rooms 76 & 81
Goal: 15 Units

If we meet our goal, Temple members who need blood will move to the top of the list.
Everyone come and give.
Let's make and even exceed our goal!

## TUTORING OPPORTUNITY

If you have 30 minutes during the school day once a week that you could help a first grade child with reading or math, please *contact Edith Hawkins, emhawkins@suddenlink.net or 255-1962* or sign up in your Sunday School Class by **Sunday, August 25**.

THE COMPASSION EXPERIENCE

**SAVE THE DATE**
Friday, September 20-
Monday, September 23

## The Springs' Newest Membership Candidate:

Deshantey Coleman
*(No picture available)*

## SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

**September 4 | 6 p.m. | Fellowship Hall**
**To establish a new full-time ministerial position, Minister of Community Engagement**

## Leadership Meetings

**Preschool Sunday School Leadership Meeting**
Sunday, August 25 | 4:30 p.m. | *The Journey Place* Multipurpose Room

**Children's Sunday School Leadership Meeting**
Sunday, August 25 | 7 p.m. | *The Journey Place* Multipurpose Room

## CHAA Skeet & Trap Shoot

Saturday, August 31 | 9 a.m. | Arcadia Gun Club
Cost: $6/round
Lunch included (***Please RSVP to Jason***)
Guests are welcome!
*Contact: Jason Walsworth, jason@temple.life, 255-3745*

the family of **Vernita Andrews,** mother of Bobby Andrews.

**Church Offices Closed**
in observance of Labor Day
Monday, September 2

## Sugar for CCA

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

## College Connection

***Casey Casady***

We had a great time at **Beach Retreat**! Many new faces, and many new friendships were formed. I am eager to see what God will do in the lives of these young men and young women. I am especially excited that we will be baptizing three young men in our first Midweek this fall.

We are looking forward to our *temple-tech* students returning in a few weeks and all the exciting things God will bring our way this year.

*temple-tech* tailgates will resume soon! Join us on September 7 for the first LA Tech football game versus Grambling State. As usual, you will find us under the blue and white tent near the TAC as we kick off the fall in Bulldog style.

## Junior High School & High School Worship Schedule (Beginning September 4)

**Junior High School Worship (Grades 6, 7, & 8)**
Wednesday | 6 p.m. | Youth Rooms

**High School Worship (Grades 9-12)**
Sunday | 6 p.m. | Youth Rooms

## New Schedule for Youth Sunday School (Beginning September 1)

**9 a.m. Sunday School**

- Junior High Boys Class
- Junior High Girls Class
- High School Boys Class
- High School Girls Class

**10:30 a.m. Sunday School**

- Grade 6 Co-Ed Class
- Grade 7 Boys Class
- Grade 7 Girls Class
- Grade 8 Boys Class
- Grade 8 Girls Class
- Grade 9-10 Boys Class
- Grade 9-10 Girls Class
- Grade 11 Boys Class
- Grade 11 Girls Class
- Grade 12 Co-Ed Class

THE TIDINGS (USPS #020005), Published Weekly except Christmas by:
Temple Baptist Church, Periodical Postage Paid, Ruston, LA 71270
Postmaster send address changes to:
Temple Baptist Church, 1515 South Service Road West, Ruston, LA 71270

Label here

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

# Week-at-a-Glance

**South Asia Mission Trip ~ August 19-29**

**Sunday, August 25**

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Parent/Child Dedication (Sanctuary);
*the gathering* Worship (GS)

10:15 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

11:15 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (GS)

4:30 p.m. - Preschool Sunday School Leadership Training (JPMR)

5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)

6 p.m. - Evening Worship (Chapel)

7 p.m. - Children's Sunday School Leadership Meeting (JPMR)

**Wednesday, August 28**

9 a.m. - Quilting/Sewing (FH); Friendship International Teacher Meeting (GS)

5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Menu: Chicken Tenders; Cost: $4/person, $2/child under 8, $12 max/family); The Springs Small Group (The Springs)

5:30 p.m. - *temple-tech* Wednesday Night Bible Study (Rm 76)

5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP); Christ-Centered Parenting (Rm 49); Financial Peace University (Rm 275)

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - WHITE TEAM (FH); Youth Wednesday Night Worship (Youth Rm)

6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

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

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 Playscape 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 a.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1:30-5 p.m.
Broadcast: Sundays at 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY)