

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

Throughout the years, God has allowed me to be a part of various studies that have impacted my life. Through both formal training and informal reflection, I have been challenged by God's Word and shaped by its application. But I must admit that one of the most significant studies I have ever undertaken was Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God*. I was in high school myself as I launched out to lead the student version of the study with a group of my peers. I had heard about the work for some time; and with the encouragement of some seasoned saints, I felt that it would be a great study for my fellow "youth." Never did I realize that the leader of the study would be most gripped by its truth. (By the way, I am still reminded of how the biblical teacher often gets more out of study than the student does!) As I mulled over the Scripture presented by Blackaby and as I sought to process his "Seven Realities of Experiencing God," I began to walk intentionally in His will. To me, it was powerful and liberating! And of course, it all began with recognizing the first reality: **"God is always at work around you."**

The truth of God's ongoing work around us sets the context for understanding His will for our lives. No matter our feelings of disappointment or discouragement, we must believe God is at work. He has a plan! And as Moses himself found out, the Lord is hearing His people's cries even when we begin to question His concern and effort. Not only does He care for His people, He is working on their behalf for their good and His glory. What's more? He even invites us to join Him in that plan! His will for His people intersects with His will for us personally. In other words, God has a plan bigger than us individually, but He calls to us in an intimate way to be a part of His larger agenda. To quote Blackaby, **"We look where God is working, and we join Him in the work."**

What an awesome responsibility and opportunity we have! In truth, God is active all around us. Take our LoveLincoln event this past Saturday. We ministered to over 155 families as we blessed them with some meal cards, gas, and Christian resources. More importantly, we were able to meet spiritual needs through gospel conversations and personal ministry. One of our volunteers commented, "God opened my eyes

to the many needs of and heartbreaks of our community. I saw God use this outreach to encourage single parents by the outpouring of love from the church and the power of prayer." Another volunteer stated, "I was able to pray with almost everyone who received gas at my pump. I prayed for J— who is addicted to drugs, with a heartbroken mom whose son is in jail, with C— who is taking care of her two little girls as well as her aging mom, with L— whose three-year-old son had his leg amputated, and with A— who is raising his three kids and a grandchild." Friends, that is God at work!!

As we move to next week, I also see God working in our **Staycation Bible School** efforts. Already, we have many children signed up to participate . . . many whose families are not members of Temple. In other words, these Bible study efforts are spreading across communities and incorporating families that we might not have reached here on our campus. And isn't that our intent? To me, God is demonstrating how He can rearrange our plans even through difficult times and redeem our efforts for something different and powerful. He is at work! My prayer is that you and your family will join Him in this opportunity this week. And what is also incredible? Two other churches are partnering with us to expand our collective ministry. In particular, we are working with our brothers and sisters at Mineral Springs Baptist Church to assist them in their Bible School this year. Many of you know that their building was devastated by a fire recently, and we wanted to come alongside of them in this ministry moment. After all, we are all on the same team!

Every week, I have more difficulty limiting the length of this article because I want to tell you about so many areas in which I see God working. There are so many more stories I could tell. But for now, let's just pause and give Him thanks for His faithfulness! And let's ask Him to open our eyes so that we can see His work clearly so that we can join Him!

I'm looking forward to seeing you this Father's Day as we worship the Heavenly Father above! We will praise Him together, **take our annual special offering for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home**, and study His Word! What a day Sunday will be! See you then!

From The Minister of Pastoral Care

Dale Oden

In the past few weeks, it has been good to see some of our senior adults able to come back to church. I realize that many of you have not felt like being in the Sunday Morning Service or the Wednesday Night Bible Study in person yet. And that is okay. During these days of being safe and staying healthy, there is nothing wrong with that. I am thankful that some have come and followed the guidelines of social distancing and some have worn their masks. Hopefully, we will see an end to the pandemic soon and get back to some type of normal. I do miss the handshakes and the hugs.

I have been in contact with Dr. Argile Smith, and he is planning to be with us for our **Senior Adult Summer Bible Study, August 16-19**. He is going to be teaching from the book of Jeremiah. I will try to have all the details about the week as we get a little closer to the date. Please be praying for him as he prepares to be with us. By the way, Dr. Smith is the writer for the *Explore the Bible Leader's Guide* this quarter on Proverbs and Song of Songs.

Well, it's official! I have now joined the ranks of the eighty-year-old group here at Temple. And what a birthday it was! I have received greetings of every type over a period of days - phone calls, text messages, Facebook comments, cards, three birthday cakes, and lots of ice cream. I had a delightful experience on the afternoon of my birthday as many folks did a "drive by" birthday parade. Thank you to all who were able to participate. It was so good to see so many friends and neighbors drive by with greetings. What a fun day I had! Thanks to all of you who had a part in making my birthday so special!

Please continue to pray for our church and our nation. Next week is SBS (Staycation Bible School). Since our annual Vacation Bible School was canceled, there will be several Bible schools meeting in neighborhoods across the city. This will give us an opportunity to share God's love with children around the community.


Our annual Patriotic Program will have a different look this year. Check out the details here in *The Tidings* or on our website.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are
in memory of Harold Atkins,
given by the John Ed Colvin family.



WAYS TO GIVE
IN PERSON ONLINE AND TEXT

CHURCH OFFICE: Mail or Dropoff
ONLINE: giving.temple.life
TEXTING: Text any amount to 84321 to give


“You’re changing their stories...”
Sunday, June 21, is our annual Children’s Home Offering.
Ways to give: online, mail/dropoff, or in person

Congratulations to:

Braxton and Kalea Trull on the birth of their son, **Otis James**; Kyle and Sarah Prather on the birth of their son, **August (Gus) Keyes**; Bruce and Gaye Carter on the birth of their grandson, **Briggs Hayes Carter**; David and Jerri Abernathy on the birth of their grandson, **Briggs Landry Ledet**.



the family of **Patricia Durbin**,
sister of Gloria Gullatt.

A Thank you card has been received from...

Lynn Williams & family; Isreal Frank & family
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

If you have not heard, Temple Tech will now be called **Temple College** in hopes of reaching students not only at Louisiana Tech, but also Grambling and Delta. To make room for our new Temple College shirts, we are selling the last remaining Temple Tech shirts for **\$5** in the FLC Office. Stop by today and grab your Temple Tech shirt before they are gone!

Youth Ministry News:

Check out our ministry adjustments/trips/plans
at www.templebestudents.org

Lunch with John

Tuesdays ~ Junior High Students
Thursdays ~ High School Students

Bring your own lunch
Eat at noon and play games until 2 p.m.

**17th Annual Beach Retreat ~ August 13-17
Panama City Beach, Florida**

For all college students!
Details available at beach.templecollege.life

Contact Casey at casey@temple.life
to help financially.

Minister of Community Engagement

George Lee

What's LoveLincoln?

LoveLincoln will be our intentional effort to show and share the love of Jesus in our community, Lincoln Parish. God has called us to reach the nations (there's no doubt about that), but it's also important that we intentionally reach our local community. Many of you know that we've already been doing this over the years through various events and support of our local missions partners. Through LoveLincoln, we will continue to serve our community through outreach efforts, sharing resources, and being a blessing through giving. The most amazing thing is that as we continue to connect with our community and build relationships, we'll see more and more opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

This past weekend, we hosted our first LoveLincoln event. We served over 150 single-parent families in Lincoln Parish. Families that attended this event received free gospel-centered resources to encourage them. They also received a free meal gift card to either Chick-fil-A or Brister's Smokehouse and \$20 worth of gas. So many expressed how much of a blessing this was for their family. Our volunteer team had a chance to pray with folks and share the Gospel. What a great event! There will be many more opportunities for our church to be involved with LoveLincoln in the future!

How can we help? Our staff is here to serve. You can contact them by calling the Church Office (255-3745)!

We are navigating unprecedented times, but we believe our God is still in control and can use us to share the Gospel in creative and powerful ways!

Church family, we LOVE you and are here to serve you!

**5: PR
17 AY
ER**
LUKE 5:17

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

Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day)

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary);
livestream at live.temple.life (Blended Worship);
the gathering Worship (GS)
10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (GS);
livestream at live.temple.life (*the gathering* Worship)

Wednesday, June 24

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary),
livestream at live.temple.life

The Church Office is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, but we encourage you to come to the office only if it is completely necessary. To stay within the guidelines given by the CDC and our government leaders, more information about our ReGathering efforts can be found at update.temple.life

Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9:30 a.m. 94.1FM (KRLQ); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (live.temple.life)

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