

# 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*

“Faith is reason at rest.” Recently, the statement has echoed in both my mind and my heart. In fact, I am convinced that God has been reinforcing its truth to me. And how I have needed to hear it! Like many of you, I feel like I enrolled in a new course, RL405 REASON AND LOGIC. And the assignments that go along with it? Well, wow! It takes day and night to complete the workload. My mind refuses to rest, and instead, insists on thinking through various issues and scenarios before it. How do we safely return to on-campus, small group Bible study? What will church look like in six months? How can we continue to connect with to our congregation? How do we speak for biblical truth without being perceived as political in an emotionally-charged society? What are some ways we can show love to individuals struggling with self-isolation? How can we minister to the sick when we can't visit hospitals, rehabs, nursing homes? How do we empower all generations to serve effectively when specific age groups are not even comfortable returning to campus for months more? Will international mission trips be possibilities in 2021? What? How? If? When? Where? So? Who?

Hear my mental exercises as I assess, reason, seek, formulate? Sure, you do. And while your questions may not center around the church per se, I believe many of you feel like my classmates in RL405 REASON AND LOGIC. You have been trying to contemplate school, work, and family. Questions abound as to what life may look like for you over the next few months. You have made plans, only to see those logistics change. Nothing appears constant.

I can attest to the fact that people are struggling mentally and spiritually. While COVID-19 has presented severe physical ramifications for individuals, it has also contributed to a mental deterioration to individuals and families. We, as a staff, have witnessed a substantial increase in requests for counseling. I've personally seen some of our senior adults lose more of their faculties because of social isolation itself. I've prayed with fellow believers who are combating severe depression. I've visited with individuals who have experienced

strained relationships. I've talked with law enforcement officers and medical personnel who are burned out. And while these things happen outside of pandemic life, I sincerely hold that this coronavirus has directly attacked the mental and spiritual health of people in our church and community. You see, we need to reason through our approach to physical health, but we must also take into consideration how people are suffering on a different level and help them find rest.

Perhaps just as importantly, we need to allow reason to rest in our own lives. I'm not saying we shouldn't plan. The old adage is correct: “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” And these days, my brother, George, has reminded us that we don't just need Plan A and Plan B; we also need Plan C, Plan D, and Plan E! However, sometimes we need to allow our reasoning ability to rest . . . in Him! This past Sunday, I observed that plagues can remind us how truly human we are and how truly God He is. Daily, I understand that. We are making plans for resuming Sunday School, children's activities, and so much more; but much is dependent upon where we are in the next few weeks. And to be honest, I am frustrated that I can't control those things. I can't bring the coronavirus case count down on my own. I can't stop the spread by myself. But I do know the ONE Who can! And I must rest in Him no matter what the future brings!

Would you join me in **prayer** for **national, state, and local leaders** as they make decisions? Would you pray for **pastors** as they attempt to navigate these days? Would you pray for **school superintendents, principals, university presidents, and teachers** who are trying to figure out what to do in the fall? Would you lift up **business owners, medical personnel, and all those who are seeking wisdom** in how to proceed? And would you pray specifically for **rest in Christ**? Don't forget our Lord's invitation: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Let your reason rest in Him. After all, that truly is faith. See you Sunday brings!

**Raising A College Kid** - I recently read an article about the four phases of raising kids. Tim Elmore had this to say:

**Four Phases of Raising Kids:**

As I have crossed paths with successful parents, several have confirmed that parenting is the ultimate picture of leadership. As we lead our kids, there are different phases where our leadership morphs into a new style, always loving but ever guiding the emerging adult.

1. **Discipline Phase** (Ages 1-5). This is when children learn boundaries.
2. **Training Phase** (Ages 6-12). This is when children learn to initiate good behavior.
3. **Coaching Phase** (Ages 13-21). This is when you guide their own decision making.
4. **Friendship Phase** (Ages 22 and up). This is when you enjoy the fruit of love and respect.

As I reflected on this upcoming Sunday and the high school seniors who will become incoming freshmen, I thought about how often parents leave the Coaching Phase and move straight to the Friendship Phase. Your kids' college years are some of the most foundational years in their lives. In these four short years, they develop thinking skills, relationship skills, and faith skills which will last a lifetime. As a college staff, it is our prayer, that parents would continue to coach their kids in matters of faith so that they will develop great spiritual skills. Encourage your kids through this difficult transition. With our current COVID culture, kids need coaching more than ever. Encourage your kid to do three things in preparation for college.

1. **Pray and read God's Word daily.** I know it seems simple, but so is washing your hands and brushing your teeth after every meal.
2. **Become involved in a faith community.** We all have felt the effects of isolation. Faith isolation is also harmful.
3. **Embrace the challenge and change.** All of us have questions these days. Placing our plans and our future in God's hands is helpful and fruitful.

Keep coaching! The Friendship Phase will come, but it will be so much more sweeter if you guide your kids from the sidelines until the whistle blows.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are**  
in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Leo Hyde Sr.,  
given by the Leo Hyde family.

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Check out our ministry adjustments/trips/plans  
at [www.templebcstudents.org](http://www.templebcstudents.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.

**WAYS TO GIVE**  
IN PERSON ONLINE AND TEXT

CHURCH OFFICE: Mail or Dropoff

ONLINE: [giving.temple.life](http://giving.temple.life)

TEXTING: Text any amount to 84321 to give

If you have not heard, Temple Tech is now 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!

*Congratulations to:*

Keith and Pam Walley on the birth of their granddaughter,  
**Kamley Ryan Frinks.**



the family of **Blane Kelly**,  
brother of Judy Mitcham.

*A Thank you card has been received from...*

**Leslie Bridges**

(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Retreat ~ August 13-17 Panama City Beach, Florida**

For all college students!

Details available at [beach.templecollege.life](http://beach.templecollege.life)

Contact Casey at [casey@temple.life](mailto:casey@temple.life)  
to help financially.

We are making every effort to meet incoming freshmen and prayerfully get them involved in a church home when they come to college! One of the ways we are doing this is through **Pop-Up Parties**. We will be going to the following cities this month: Benton, West Monroe, Zachary, Shreveport, Lake Charles, and Ruston. If you have connections to another part of the state and would like to help host one, let Emma or Casey know at [emma@temple.life](mailto:emma@temple.life) or [casey@temple.life](mailto:casey@temple.life).

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## **Neighbors and Nations** *Ben Jernigan*

Paul teaches us in Romans 12:9-21 how to live out our faith. I love how the first five verses read in the NIV, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." It is with this attitude that we commit ourselves to serve the Lord who gave His all for us!

Thank you to all who participated in our **LoveLincoln** outreach to single parents last month! What an incredible outpouring of love and service to our community! We are still praising God for the 150+ families we touched in the name of Jesus, most of whom were not involved at TBC or The Springs and for the two who recommitted their lives to Jesus as Savior! It is humbling to be a part of a church who is eager to move outside the walls to reach people for Jesus!

**Bahamas Rebuild.** Covid-19 has delayed and postponed many of our mission trips this year. With that being said, there are still many opportunities in the world that need our help. The Bahamas Rebuild project with Louisiana Baptists is one of those needs. Our church is involved in rebuilding the St. Matthews Baptist Church buildings (in Freeport) that were destroyed in Hurricane Dorian last year. Please join us in prayer for this effort!

Temple has been involved in the **Lincoln Parish Backpacks for Kids** project for over three years now. This initiative provides a backpack of food to feed insecure children in our parish so they are able to eat over the weekend during the school year. On August 31, from 9-10 a.m. our church will prepare the backpacks for September's distribution. We need your help! If you would like to be involved in this one-hour mission effort at the Food Bank in Monroe, please contact the Church Office.

Lastly, please pray for our **mission partnerships in Asia**. Our mission partners in South Asia have asked us to pray for their work in reaching people for Christ during these unsettling days. The work in East Asia is especially difficult as well. Many of our missionaries have been forced out of the country as persecution of the local churches has elevated significantly. Pray for God to move in our missionaries and in our national partners so that more people may know His grace and mercy!

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!

**5:17 PRAYER**  
LUKE 5:17

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Website: temple.life

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, July 12

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

### Wednesday, July 15

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