

# 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**

This past Sunday, we recognized our 2020 high school graduates, and we prayed for them as they enter into a new chapter of their lives. No doubt, the last few pages of their story did not read the way they imagined. Canceled prom, abbreviated sport seasons, restricted graduations, and more. Disappointment and even frustration have littered their/our experiences. But how grateful I am that God still has a plan for them and for us! Just as God affirmed the frustrated Moses in Exodus 11:1-3, so He speaks to us and calls us to continue His work.

As a matter of fact, I have been reminded even more how we must reach the next generation with the gospel. Recently, our ministerial staff received a note from Maggie Brakeville, a former *templetech* alum who also served as Louisiana Tech's SGA President. In it, she addressed the rebranding of our College Ministry and reflected on her days here: *"I pray that God uses this name change to greatly impact His kingdom! templetech will hold a special place in my heart because it is where I met Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior! Before my time at Temple, I was simply wandering through life with no cause or purpose. But in typical God-fashion, He showed me the error of my ways and gave me amazing friends to help me grow and understand who He is. I can only imagine how many other people have the same story! So, I am excited to hear of you all expanding to Delta and Grambling!"* Wow! Isn't that awesome! A story of a young woman who saw her life transformed in Christ through the ministry of our church! You see, Maggie just graduated with her law degree from the University of Kansas, but she traces her discovery of purpose

back to our church family. My friends, that is what we must be about. We must be reaching students from pre-k all the way through graduate school! Of course, there is much uncertainty as to what the school year may look like, but in some creative ways, we have to help them grow in Christ.

I know many of us are rightly concerned about physical health right now, but our spiritual welfare is so important. In fact, much more significant! Think about it. Our Daily lives totally disrupted in order to protect our family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers . . . and again, they should be! Yes, we are encouraging you to heed the Governor's mandate to wear masks, even at church. What I am convicted by is whether or not we have been willing to dismiss our traditional stances and practices in order to protect others from spiritual sickness as well. In other words, what would we be willing to do or even sacrifice to help people know life in Christ Jesus? Wouldn't it be a tragedy if we fail to impact another "Maggie" for our Lord because we had become so distracted with the frustrations or perhaps logistics of the present context? We can't afford to neglect our Gospel commitment! If anything, we should be motivated to reflect Jesus Christ more and more . . . especially to the generations who follow us. Our children need to know that our God is the only One Who can bring physical and spiritual healing! They need to see it expressed in our verbal expression and in our deed. They need us to stand strong in conviction. And together in His grace, we will see more "Maggie's" conformed to His image! Let's make that happen, Temple family!

# Youth Ministry

John Nugent

## God is Still at Work

What a crazy time it has been these last few months. There are moments when I get discouraged as I think about all the events and ministry that we had planned that ended up being canceled or postponed. No mission trip to Boston or Austin. Our youth worship services have been postponed at least until August.

I've wondered how many people are being affected spiritually. We had over 100 students go on a mission trip and experience God outside of their normalcy last year. How can we make up for those lost experiences this summer? And what about the people with whom we would have worked? How will they hear the Gospel? How will church plants and ministry centers in our partner cities get the help they need that we would have provided?

As I wonder and stress about these things, God is at work. I'm reminded how insignificant I am and how my plans are not what God needs. Our church plant partners have been sending in news of ways they have been able to minister and reach out to their communities that they would have never been able to do under normal circumstances. Sure, there are still difficult circumstances, but we are hearing some God-sized stories from so many of our mission partners. During all this quarantine craziness, we've had two of our youth baptized; and we have three more waiting right now for baptism! One of our students told his Sunday School teacher that he felt like he needed to start sharing his faith but didn't really know where to start. He thought our mission trip to Austin would be a great way to take advantage of some opportunities to share the Gospel and his story. Obviously, he was upset when the Austin mission trip was canceled and was sharing his disappointment with a neighbor friend. His neighbor had never heard him talk much about his faith and naturally started to ask a few questions. Last Sunday, this student was able to bring this friend to church and realized that there are opportunities to share the Gospel and see God work that are in front of us all the time. Please pray that this friend will come to know Christ as these conversations continue!

I thought God was less at work because my plans were canceled and my normal ministry routine has been upended, but God is not dependent on my plans or expectations. He is always at work. He is at work in big ways. He does not change even when my circumstances do. What an amazing God we know and serve!

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### 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.**

**Please wear your mask.**

Eat at noon and play games until 2 p.m.

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES

(Ruston Mission Opportunity)

Collection Dates: July 15-August 3

We are collecting money to purchase Back to School supplies this year instead of asking you to purchase items. You may drop off or mail a donation of any amount to the church **by Monday, August 3**. Make the checks payable to Temple Baptist Church, with School Supplies in the memo line. Thank you!

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

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are**  
in memory of Kay Hipp,  
given by the Gray Hipp family.



the family of **Richard McCarthy**,  
brother of Mac (Deborah) McCarthy;  
the family of **Mance Allman**,  
brother of David (Ouida) Passon.



**SIMULCAST**

**PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER**

Saturday, August 8 | 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.  
Gathering Space

Registration: \$10 includes lunch  
Register at [events.temple.life](http://events.temple.life)

*A Thank you card has been received from...*  
Fred and Vickie Benefield; Nancy Whittenburg  
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)



(in partnership with The Well)

**Drive-Thru Celebration:** Saturday, July 25 | 9-11 a.m.  
**OR Drop Off:** Monday-Thursday | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
500 W. Georgia Avenue, Ruston, LA

**Gifts:** EACH individual item must be NEW, in original packaging and \$20 or less

**Gift suggestions:** gift cards (food, 2High, Bath & Body Works, Beehive, etc.), Legos/building sets, sports equipment, character toys and action figures, outdoor toys, preschool toys and baby dolls (all skin tones), sports gear

Participants will spend earned "Christmas Cash" to shop in the Community Christmas store on December 11-12 and must participate in one of the partner organizations (ie. Life Choices, DART, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.)

**More information at**

[www.communitychristmas.cc](http://www.communitychristmas.cc)

Facebook: [@communitychristmasurston](https://www.facebook.com/communitychristmasurston)

Instagram: [@thewellmin](https://www.instagram.com/thewellmin)

**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
**Jeremy Asher**

*"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?*

*He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.*

*He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation."* (Psalm 24:3-5)

Have you considered what is required before we can approach the throne of God? As we continue in a season of sometimes frightening and even bizarre realities, I find that I treasure my time with the Lord more and more. Every opportunity that I take to focus on His Word, His truth, His holiness, and His mercies, I find rest – peace – calm. These are precious experiences for every believer. But what is required to experience His presence in this way? Scripture is clear, that apart from the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus, we are separated, far outside of the family, and lost. But we have a roadmap to redemption, clearly presented in Psalm 24. In order for us to draw near to the Lord, we must be pure, we must not honor idols, and we must be truthful. But how can this happen to separated sinners? Scripture makes it very clear that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7). Through Jesus' blood, we can boldly approach His throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). Praise the Lord that He has made a way for us!

I pray that you will consider in your heart these truths. Whether you can gather with us on campus or join us virtually through the livestream, I pray that we will never take for granted the blessings of drawing near to the Lord through singing, praying, giving, and receiving spiritual food from God's Word. Psalm 24:5 gives us the "pay off" – we shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from God. That is a truth worth celebrating! Have a blessed week.

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!

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LUKE 5:17

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Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134  
Website: [temple.life](http://temple.life)

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, July 19

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 22

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.

**Masks are encouraged to heed the Governor's mandate.**

More information about our ReGathering efforts can be found at [update.temple.life](http://update.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

**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))