



temple  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

**Pro-mortalism.** I admit that the term never appeared in our North Mississippi jargon when I was a child. In fact, I had never come across the word until last week when it appeared in an article concerning the Palm Springs bombing. You may have seen the reports as well. A car bomber targeted a fertility clinic in Palm Springs to impose death and destroy the stored embryos. Some were injured in the explosion, and trauma was inflicted on the community; however, the terrorist failed in his ultimate goal, and many lives were spared. The subsequent investigation has led to the identification of twenty-five-year-old prime suspect who supposedly subscribed to a philosophy of pro-mortalism. But again, what is pro-mortalism? **According to one source, "Pro-mortalism, at its most simple, is the belief that death is preferable to life."** Such a worldview embraces the idea that the planet should not be populated by humanity, and that the only way to alleviate future suffering is through death. Even more so, **pro-mortalism is often paired with its twin, antinatalism, a position that regards having children as a morally wrong practice.** According to law enforcement officials, the prime suspect in the attack had expressed both pro-mortalistic and antinatalistic sentiments in a manifesto he had written, and those beliefs guided him in violent actions.

As I read more about pro-mortalism and antinatalism for myself, my heart sunk and my spirit grieved. What a bleak, barren view of our existence! Death is preferable to life? Causing the death of others is the only way to prevent human suffering? The rejection of children will help the world experience some type of utopic healing? Really? How dark! How tragic! And yet, I was reminded of **Satan's manipulative tools work to blind the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4) so that they readily accept such vile and distorted thoughts.** In fact, Jesus reminded us of the adversary's lethal strategy: "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10a NKJV). The devil himself is synonymous with death and the death culture of our society. **He is the architect of philosophical systems like pro-mortalism and antinatalism. He desperately wants humans to discount the image of God within humanity—and thus, the value of life—so that they will steal, kill, and destroy.**

But oh, what good news we have! For you see, **Christ came to show us that there is a radical alternative to Satan's hopeless, terroristic ideology and experience. The Son of God triumphantly declared, "I have come that they may**

**have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10b NKJV).** The devil wishes humanity's death, but Jesus desires life! That shouldn't surprise any of us. After all, Jesus created the very life we know (Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2-3), and He entered His creation through the Incarnation in order to bring us eternal, abundant life (John 3:16). We don't subscribe to the notion that life is meaningless; we know that God has given us purpose (Genesis 1:27; 1 Peter 2:9). We haven't given in to futility; we live in hope (1 Peter 1:3-6). We never see children as the problem; we celebrate them as the reward/fruit of the womb (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 127:3). We aren't troubled by nihilistic or pessimistic outlooks on the future; we are confident that there is eternal life that never ends with Christ in paradise (2 Corinthians 5:1; 2 Timothy 4:8). And I can go on and on! (I see some of you nodding in agreement with that last statement.) **The point is this—Jesus Christ is life itself and changes our whole perspective.**

**The gospel we proclaim must be one that helps people see life.** Even our actions should be life-giving to others. I have always been challenged by Paul's words to the Corinthians that contrasted the first Man with the God-Man: "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45 NKJV). Adam just existed; Jesus gave life. And there it is . . . the model for us. We ought not to be people just existing, but rather, we should be giving life to others. You say, "But there is one Jesus!" You are correct. I can't be someone else's Savior. Jesus already demonstrated that He alone is worthy to assume that role. Yet, if I am like Jesus, I will give life through my speech and works. So, let me ask you, "Do take life from others, or do you give life?" I'm not talking about the physical taking/giving of life alone. I am asking you if you take life emotionally/mentally/spiritually from people or if you give life emotionally/mentally/spiritually to people. Have you taken vitality away from your wife? Your kids? Your grandkids? Your friends? Your coworkers? Or do you determine to speak life into your relationships as you go about your daily schedule? My prayer has been that I would give life like my Jesus.

This coming weekend, I am grateful for those who gave themselves to provide life for us. Specifically, I am thankful for those who died in military combat to secure my freedom. But I am most appreciative for the ONE Who died on the cross to grant me eternal life! Let's be people of gratitude, and let's also be life-giving spirits as we serve Him! See you Sunday!

# MINISTER OF YOUNG ADULTS

## Andrew Thompson

Hello Temple family,

Summer is quickly approaching—as the sweltering heat and heavy humidity remind us! But there's another sign of the season: mission teams preparing to go out.

**One of the things I've always loved about Temple is how many of our members engage in missions each summer.** In the coming months, we have teams heading to Boston, Mexico, the Pacific Rim, West Palm, Germany, Montana, Honduras, and more. And it's not just the destinations that are diverse—the people going are just as varied! College students, youth, and adults of all ages will be serving in a wide range of roles.

If you've been around Temple for any length of time, this probably isn't news to you. But it's worth pausing to recognize how unique this is. **I've never been part of a church more committed to sending people out on mission than Temple.** It's not just something we talk about—it's something we do, year after year, in a big way.

So as the summer unfolds, let's be faithful to support these teams—through prayer, encouragement, and whatever else the Lord leads. If you know someone going out, take a special interest in following their progress and lifting them up! And let's thank God for the privilege of being a church that goes.

-----



### Needs for VBS

Requested food items are needed for kids snacks.  
Contact *The Journey Place* for more information.  
(318) 255.3745

Crafts needs are regular-size Pringles cans,  
toilet paper and paper towel tubes.  
Please drop off in *The Journey Place* Office.

Temple is currently looking for a **Supervisor of Buildings and Property** and is accepting resumes through the end of May. We are looking for an individual who will support and serve well with our ministerial staff, lead our custodial staff, and oversee all aspects of maintenance on our building and property. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them send a resume to Jackie Sharp at [jackie@temple.life](mailto:jackie@temple.life).

The following qualities are important to us in this position. We are looking for:

- Someone who will be a working supervisor alongside the maintenance/housekeeping team
- Someone with a heart for ministry to work alongside our staff and volunteers
- Someone with mechanical/maintenance knowledge, skills, and experience





the family of **Buddy Smith**,  
husband of Betty,  
father of Sheri (Kevin) Herren,  
grandfather of John Herren;

the family of **Bill Mitcham**,  
husband of Judy and brother of Robert;

the family of **Shelby Allen**, sister of Tru Cartwright;

the family of **Manuel Funes**,  
father of Randy (Mary Lou),  
grandgather of Morgan and Mary Lindsay;

the family of **Linda Bamburg**,  
mother of Jenny (Bobby) Ensminger,  
grandmother of Lauren (Ty) Lolley,  
Jack and Julianne Ensminger.

*Congratulations to:*

Melissa Hardman on the birth  
of her granddaughter, **Willow Sage Payton**.  
Proud great-grandparents are James and Gale Hall.

Welcome to the Family!



Fletcher Boyet  
(Baptism)



Luke Copeland  
(Baptism Only)



Andrew Paul  
(Baptism)



Courtney Newcomer  
(Letter)



## From the Minister of Contemporary Worship

*Zach Husser*

This summer, I have the privilege of leading a mission trip to Southeast Asia with nine college students from our church. We will be working with local missionaries to share the gospel in a place where the name of Jesus is rarely known. Our goal is to encourage their ministry, assist in evangelism efforts, and build relationships with the local people they are serving. The trip will take place June 2 - 13, and six of our students will stay for a full eight weeks!

We would greatly appreciate your prayers. The people group we are trying to reach is 99.7 percent Muslim, and the cost of following Jesus in their culture is extremely high. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and protection for our team. Ask God to open hearts to the gospel and to strengthen our partners as they continue to be faithful in their work.



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, May 25-Thursday, May 29 - Senior Mystery Trip**

**Friday, May 30-Saturday, May 31 - Astros Trip**

### Sunday, May 25

8 a.m. - Blended Worship (Chapel)

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Chapel); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);

Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space); Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life); Sunday School for all ages

4 p.m. - Church-Wide Picnic (Lincoln Parish Park, Pavilion L-6;

Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family;

Menu: Polish Sausage and Hotdogs)

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

### Monday, May 26

Church Offices Closed for Memorial Day

### Wednesday, May 28

5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family; Menu: Mini Meat Pies with Salad)

5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264)

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting | Bible Study (FH); Women's Bible Study (Rm 275)

7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (FLC)

## RENOVATION SCHEDULE BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 25



### CHAPEL

8 A.M. - Blended with Live Preaching

9 A.M. - Blended with Simulcasted Preaching

10:30 A.M. - Contemporary with Simulcasted Preaching

### THE GATHERING SPACE

9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. - Contemporary with Live Preaching

Learn more about these Worship Services at [sunday.temple.life](http://sunday.temple.life)

## LOADS OF LOVE

NOW THROUGH MAY 31

We're collecting laundry detergent (84oz or smaller; All Free & Clear, Dreft, or Tide) for local partner ministries, The Well, CCA, F13, and Life Choices. Drop off donations in the Church Office.



**Broadcast Hours:** Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream ([live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life))  
**Family Life Center Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**The Journey Place Playscape Hours:** Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 2:30-4 p.m.