



temple  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

"I'm finished. I am done. No more. I have simply had enough." Ever uttered those words? Felt like you couldn't go one more step? Maybe thought you didn't even have a purpose? Well, you share some good company. Believe it or not, some strong, godly leaders have experienced those thoughts as well—Moses, Job, Jeremiah, Jonah, Elijah, and Reggie. You are right. That last name doesn't belong on the list with the others, but I need to confess that I also struggle with distress and disappointment also. I am convinced we all do!

As I read through Elijah's personal struggle in 1 Kings 19:1-19, I am especially heartened. Remember the story? The great man of God who had shut up the heavens and called down the fire was at his physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational end. Or so he thought! He asked the Lord to take his life, but God desired for Elijah to know life in fullness. So, God took steps to renew and rejuvenate the prophet. In essence, **Elijah discovered a truth that continues to reverberate today: "When you have simply had enough, God is still enough."**

**God is enough to renew us physically.** Elijah was spent. He was so tired. He had run from Carmel to Jezreel (approximately eighteen miles) and had continued to a city named Beersheba in the southernmost part of Judah (another ninety miles or so). What did he need? Rest and recovery! The Lord didn't rebuke Elijah for his depressed state. Rather, He sent an angel to his child. He provided him with a cake (angel food cake or lemon ice box?) and water. He also let him sleep. Sometimes, that is what we need! Refreshment and rejuvenation! You are exhausted. You are drained. Let the Lord give you physical rest. As the old adage says, "The bow will break if it is always bent." Sometimes, the most spiritual thing you can do is take a nap. Can I get an "Amen"?

**God is also enough to renew us spiritually.** Elijah ran to the mountain of God—Horeb or Sinai—the place where the people met with God. He was in a spiritual battle, and he needed a spiritual answer. The wicked, pagan queen wanted to kill him. But even worse, he had bought into Satan's lies that the people had broken the covenant, all the altars were demolished, and that there wasn't another prophet around. These were, at best, "half-truths" which should be more properly labeled "whole lies." And there at the mountain of God, Elijah heard the small, still voice of God. Not in the thunder or fire as before . . . but in a quiet moment. That whisper of God meant He was close! And He always will be when we struggle! He confronts the lies that we tell ourselves with His truth.

More than that, **God is enough to renew us emotionally.** Often, our emotions are connected to purpose. The Lord reminded Elijah that He had a purpose for him: "Get yourself up and get out there for the work! Anoint Hazael as king over Syria. Anoint Jehu king over Judah. Anoint Elisha the prophet-in-waiting. You've got a purpose" (Reggie's paraphrase). And my friends, God still has a purpose for you! Never forget that!

**Finally, God is enough to renew us relationally.** Have you ever noticed that it was in this crisis moment that the Lord gave Elijah his best friend, Elisha? He allowed him somebody with whom to share ministry and work. Indeed, it is a reminder that you and I need people. Satan will try to isolate and alienate you from His people, but that only perpetuates the desperation. Find that friend. Join a small group. Get out of bed and get to church. You need community.

Some of you may feel like you are hanging on by a thread. Let Him take that thread and weave it into something beautiful in your life. Let Him show you that He is enough when you have simply had enough! Love you guys! See you Sunday!

# Neighbors and Nations

Dr. John King

Have you ever wanted to go on an international mission trip, but didn't know where to start? Our Panama GO Team (First Step) could be the right fit. Serving from September 19-26, this team is designed for adult believers of any stage who want to take the first step (or step back in) to cross-cultural ministry. While not restricted to first timers, this trip will have a significant amount of vision casting and training, not to mention lots of practical helps. When they arrive in Panama, the team will engage in strategic activities leading to church planting such as prayer-walking, evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, and community outreach. If you're considering it, come check out our interest meeting on March 18 at 5 p.m. in Room 82. Stay in the loop about this or many of our other GO Team opportunities at [missions.temple.life](https://missions.temple.life).

It's hard to believe, but our Upward 2026 season is already finished! We had a great year, with over 180 first through sixth grader participants (cheer and basketball). This program wouldn't be possible without amazing team of volunteers. David Lofton and Tracy Houck were the key people in our Lead Team, but it took many more to pull this off. Here are (most) of them: Anna Asher, Chris Broom, Olivia Broussard, Brie Brown, Hudson Bruce, Sawyer Bufkin, Alijahnuque Cain, Casey Casady, Kaden David, Josh Dean, Kenneth Dickson, John Easley, Luke Easley, Isabella Ferguson, Ty Feaster, Cire Flowers, Cole Fookes, Jackson Grigg, Baylee Guillory, Hannah Hammond, Toby Hammons, Gavin Hammons, Sally Hearn, Kelly Hodge, Briley Howard, Tedd Hull, Zach Husser, Phil Jackson, Ella Jones, Peyton Kelly, Troy Ketchum, Andrew King, Gary Kleinpeter, Tommy Ledford, Rusty Mabry, Joshua McCarthy, Adam McGuirt, Jake McKenzie, Zachary Newton, Kadie Norsworthy, John Nugent, Will Payne, Cassie Pearce, Zackley Pearson, Jeremy Pendergrass, Aryana Petite, Andrew Phillips, Shadd Pittman, Jack Prejean, Noah Robbins, Addie Robinson, Will Rockett, Jordan Rome, Lindsay Rome, Michael Shelton, Ellie Simmons, Emma Smith, Kyleigh Stephens, Sam Stewart, EK Sullivan, Jennifer Sullivan, Sean Sullivan, Jill Sutton, Gary Terry, Landon Thames, Madalyn Townley, Ben Turner, Galen Turner IV, Luke Turner, Jase Walsworth, Jason Walsworth, Aiden Weaver, Alyssa White, Dustin Whitlock, Todd Whitlock, Evan Yuhaz



**PANAMA**  
GO TEAM INTEREST MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19-26

INTEREST MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 5 P.M. | RM 82

COME LEARN ABOUT OUR TRIP PLANNED FOR  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

LEARN MORE AT [MISSIONS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://missions.temple.life)

## Missions Market 2026!

FUNDRAISER OF  
CONCORD UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION WMU/WOM



SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, RUSTON, LA

Shop handcrafted items, baked goods, and more at Missions Market 2026, supporting local missions through the Concord Union Baptist Association WMU/WOM.

[LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



**NIGHT OF WORSHIP**

WITH MACK BROCK  
AND FIRM FOUNDATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 6 P.M.  
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY

COME JOIN IN A FREE NIGHT OF WORSHIP | [LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
**EASTER COLLECTION**  
PRE-FILLED EGGS OR WRAPPED  
CANDY TO FIT EGGS

DROP OFFS LOCATED AT  
ENTRANCES

## Welcome to the Family!



Sarah Appalucci  
(The Springs - Baptism)



Darrian Jones  
(The Springs - Baptism)



Dalitso "Tobias" Nyirenda  
(The Springs - Baptism)



Amyah Rivers  
(The Springs - Baptism)

Christ  
in the  
Passover

**Wednesday, March 25 | 6 P.M.**  
**In the Sanctuary**

An Exploration of Passover, the Last Supper, &  
Your Communion Experience.

**Learn more at [events.temple.life](https://events.temple.life)**

**WinShape  
Camps™  
for Communities**

**Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10**  
**Temple Baptist Church**

Come be a part of an incredible adventure as we combine sports  
recreation, arts, Bible study, and worship into one amazing week.

Register at [winshape.temple.life](https://winshape.temple.life)

MISSION TRIP **HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MISSION TRIP**  
**MIAMI, FLORIDA**  
**JUNE 13-19**  
Work with church planters as they reach their  
communities with the Gospel.

**REGISTER AT [MIAMI.TEMPLEBCSTUDENTS.ORG](https://miami.templebcstudents.org)**

MISSION TRIP **JUNIOR HIGH**  
**MISSION TRIP**  
**NEW ORLEANS**  
**JULY 5-10**  
Make a difference in the city of New Orleans in  
partnership with New Orleans Baptist Theological  
Seminary and Mission Lab!

**REGISTER AT [NOLA.TEMPLEBCSTUDENTS.ORG](https://nola.templebcstudents.org)**

Congratulations to:  
Bob and Sally Hearn on the birth of their grandson,  
**Shepherd "Shep" Ward Hearn.**  
Proud great-grandparents are Robert and Margie Hearn.

---

## College Connection Casey Casady

What a wonderful week we had at Beach Reach with our sister churches, Calvary Baptist and Cook Baptist, along with other churches around the country. During the time we were there, God moved in incredible ways. Some numbers from our week we would like to report:

People Transported—2323

Gospel Conversations—269

Salvation decisions—30

I want to give a special thanks to our cooking team, the Murads, the Mabrys, the Posts, and the Hogans. I also want to thank the Cavins, the Felders, the Gibbons, Preston Slaton, and Ethan McCarthy. Thank you, church family, for your prayer support, financial support, and thank you for loving us as we love college students around the world. Can't wait for 2027 to see what God is going to do!

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

**March 15-24 - South Asia GO Team Mission Trip**

**March 21-22 - RA Congress**

### **Sunday, March 15**

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);  
Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);  
Sunday School for all ages
- 3:30 p.m. - Men's Retreat Reunion (FLC Snack Area)
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JPMR)
- 4:45 p.m. - God's Glory Among the Nations (Rm 216)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel (Chapel)

### **Monday, March 16**

- 9:30 a.m. - Moms Connect (JPMR)

### **Tuesday, March 17**

- 11:45 a.m. - Senior Adult Luncheon (FH)

### **Wednesday, March 18**

- 4 p.m. - LifeShare Blood Drive (Mobile Bus in Parking Lot)
- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,  
\$15 max/family; Menu: Hamburgers); Panama GO Team (First Steps)  
Interest Meeting (Rm 82)
- 5:15 p.m. - Boston Advocacy Prayer Time (Rm 76)
- 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 270)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Women's Bible Study - When You  
Pray (Rm 275); Children's M3 (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Coed Bible Study - Judges  
(FLC Glass Classroom)
- 6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
- 8 p.m. - Temple College Midweek (Sanctuary)

### **Saturday, March 21**

- 8 a.m. - Missions Market 2026 (FH)

**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.

