

THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

Issue 4 April 2014

Easter: Are you fully alive?

In the ancient world, the Romans were famous for perfecting the most brutal torture method imaginable. Crucifixion was *their* thing.

It was so barbaric and demeaning that a law was passed that Roman citizens, no matter how bad, were not allowed to be crucified. It was reserved for the worst kinds of people. Actually, the impact of this invention still lingers in the English language every time we use the word 'excruciating.' A word associated with pain and suffering.



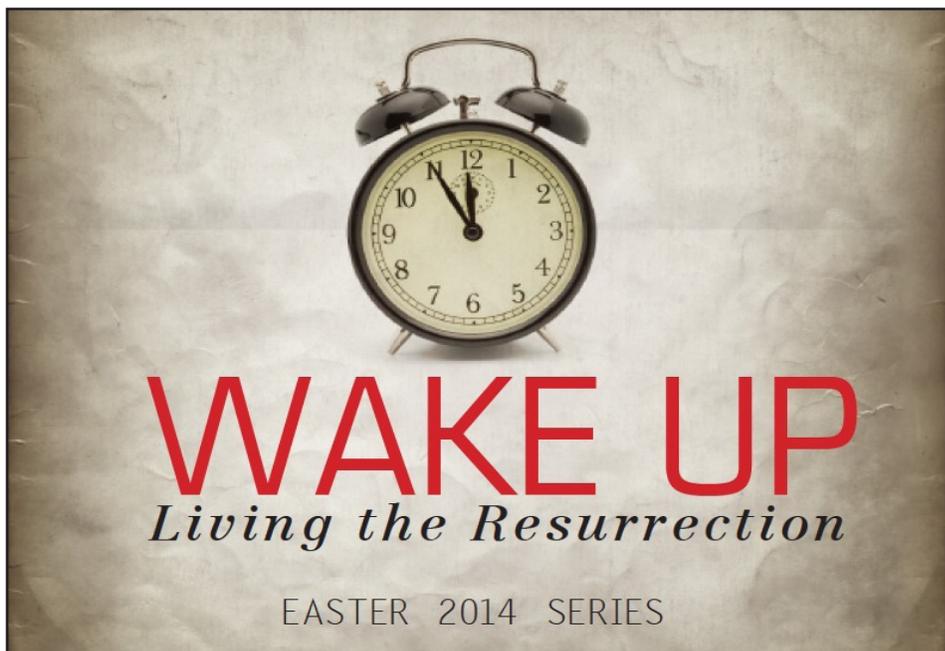
Lead Pastor
Dom Ruso

At Easter we are invited into the darkness of what Jesus went through for us, yet it is important to remember that the Cross did not get the final word.

Paul and the early Christians used a saying that mocked the power of death as the Romans portrayed it. He writes, "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). It's Paul in full sarcastic mode.

I could just see him laughing while adding, "The one you tried to kill was raised from the grave." At Easter the church worships the one raised from the grave. Everything rises and falls on the resurrection. Do you believe that?

Have you learned to live in the promise that death does not get the final word in your life?



The resurrection changes everything!! Years ago, I found myself discouraged at a difficult time in my life. A friend lent me a devotional of *The Message* version of the Bible.

In one of the readings, I landed on chapter eight of the book of Romans that said:

"God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Dad?" (Romans 8:14-15)

I believe that God is preparing our church to live in the power and promise of the resurrection life. A fresh and expectant adventure awaits us. Are you ready to respond? Every time we respond

to God in this way, He is glorified. Actually one of the early church fathers coined the phrase "The glory of God is man fully alive." Are you ready for what it might look like to live fully alive?

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MISSIONS AT TEMPLE: CONTINUED WORK IN ROSS RIVER

by Temple Missions Committee

After a year of many challenges, new experiences, and lots of learning, the Colwells were able to give us a brief update during the Sunday service on their continuing work in Ross River.

It was encouraging to hear all God has done! He continues to work in the lives and community - in part because of the willing service of our committed church family, Rachel Burkhart and the Colwell family.

Having experienced the devastation of losing their home this past year, the Colwells have demonstrated the true meaning of hoping in a faithful God and remaining steadfast in His promise

to provide. Their efforts to spread the Truth of the Gospel and the love of Christ is further advanced by the willing hands that join with them in ministry.

Temple Baptist has had the privilege to not only prayerfully and financially support this ministry in the Yukon, but to join with them through individual and team missions trips.

A number of willing people, all different ages and from all walks of life, have been able to experience being a part of this ministry over the last few years.

Through their stories, we have seen how God has not only used them in impacting the community of Ross River, but also in their personal walks with

God. Here is what a few of them have to say of their Yukon experience:

"I came away having seen God so real, so present and so good in creation, in all the little things, in people who know Him, in the lives of those who don't, in His body (the church) as He unites us, in me and in my life."

— Michelle Wong

"Leaving Ross River and the Colwells is always tough, but God is always faithful. He blessed our work while we were up there and will continue to do so now that we are gone."

A lot of people have been asking when I will be back, the answer is I'm not sure if I'm ever going back, but I know I'm better for having gone."

— Sarah Hotke

As this summer quickly approaches, the opportunity to once again participate in God's work up north presents itself.

The missions committee is currently accepting applications for interested individuals with a desire to spread the Gospel and use their God-given gifts in a variety of ways.

As we pray for God to make Himself known to the people of Ross River, we are confident that He will lead and guide those here whom He is calling to be a part of this year's team.

Is He calling you? Please consider supporting our work in Ross River. For more info email missions@templebaptist.com.

LEADERSHIP

New titles for Pastor Greg & Pastor Dave

James Bekkers
Executive Pastor

Two familiar pastors at Temple are receiving new titles. Pastor Greg Macrobbe, who used to carry the title, "Pastor of Church Ministries" and Pastor Dave Lane, who used to carry the title, "Pastor of Youth" are now going to be "Connections Pastor" and "Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries," respectively.

Pastor Greg's new title recognizes that his job will play an important role in connecting people at Temple.

That role will not only

include adult classes, like our *Equip* classes, but it will include what are generally known as welcome ministries - greeting, ushering, welcoming, lobby decor and management, etc. You have probably already noticed some of the changes Greg has begun to implement with his teams in our lobby.

Pastor Dave's new title represents a fresh burden that God has laid on the hearts of our leaders and Pastor Dave himself.

Dave's specialty in the past has been youth ministries. Moving forward, we want to take a step

in the direction of not just strengthening our youth, but whole families at Temple. Dave will be looking at ways he can connect couples, strengthen dads and moms, and stay attentive to the needs of single parents as well.

Dave will work closely with Katherine Reyes (Director of Children's Ministries) and Fraser Pries (Pastor of Youth and Young Adults), overseeing them as a team.

Thanks for your ongoing support of our whole pastoral staff. We couldn't minister effectively without your prayers and your help.

April & Easter Schedule

Sunday, April 6th

Launch of Easter Series
Wake Up:
Living the Resurrection
Communion

Sunday, April 13th

Baptisms

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday Service 6:30pm

Sunday, April 20th

Easter Sunday
Two Services 9:00am and
10:30am

Sunday, April 27th

Newcomers Luncheon
12:30pm

FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO LIVE A MISSIONAL LIFE

by Dom Ruso, Lead Pastor

As part of our vision, we are making a commitment once again to focus on reaching out to our neighbors, to be a church *for* the city, not just a church *in* the city.

In some ways, this is basic Christianity: love God first and love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27). Over the coming months, especially during the spring and summer months, you might want to consider some of these missional opportunities.

1. Have someone (or a family) in your neighborhood over for a BBQ.

Someone once said that people only care how much you know when they know how much you care. As a church, we have to learn that we don't have the right to speak into the lives of people if we haven't stopped to listen and care. Also, pray for opportunities to share about your own journey.

2. Look for an opportunity to serve someone who can't return the favor.

To be 'missional' is really to be a servant. To serve is to practice being selfless in a world that makes everything about our own needs and wants. In Philippians 2, Paul reminds us of the need to have the mind of Christ who made himself nothing for us.

Jesus was also an incredible example of selfless service to others.

3. Listen and Learn: Read a book on our culture that will stretch you.

Part of embracing and understanding what it means to be 'missional' is to think like a missionary. Missionaries know how hard it is to learn a language of another culture so that they can articulate the Gospel in a way that makes sense. One of the things that we have to learn is the 'new' language that our culture uses. One of the ways to do that is to read a book about a cultural issue that will stretch your thinking. If you are not sure what to read, consider asking your kids or grandchildren. They might be able to help.

4. Pick a time (a day, a week, a weekend) to fast for someone you know that is far from God.

I have many people in my family who are far from God. Years ago, I realized how important it was to bring them before God in prayer. I'm learning that to be 'missional' is to keep my heart aware of those who are far from God. One of the ways you can do that is commit to fasting and praying for someone you know that needs to experience God's love. Write their names down and set a time and place to help you commit to this practice.

TEMPLE MISSIONS: CLOTHING DRIVE

The time has come again, the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus right here in our own community! The annual clothing drive is quickly approaching with many things still needing to get finished. This incredible outreach is an awesome way to help provide families throughout Sarnia with a variety of necessities. If you're looking to be a part of this, here are some ways you can get involved!

First priority is dropping off the flyers for the clothing drive. Anyone willing to serve in this way will meet at *New Horizons Church* on Saturday, April 26 at 10am. Drivers will be given further directions at the church.

More help is also needed for sorting the clothes already donated. To find out sorting times please visit the Welcome Center. Here is a list of what is still needed:

- Gently used clothes all sizes
- Household wares in good condition

Hygiene products:

- Shampoo/Conditioner

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream, Razors
- Financial Donations (please specify these are for "clothing donation")

Lastly, the actual day of the clothing drive requires many willing hearts and ready hands for the day to go smoothly! We need a set up crew for Friday, May 2 from 4:30pm until finished.

On Saturday, May 3 we need helpers in the kitchen, as well as workers throughout the day.

We also need drivers to drive people home, as well as a clean-up crew at the end of the clothing drive at about 12pm.

This is such a special way to be involved in something that really makes an impact! If you are available and willing to help in any of the ways listed above, we would love to hear from you.

Please visit our sign-up table in the foyer or contact missions@templebaptist.com.

THE STRENGTH OF FAMILY

The family is woven into the fabric of our society. It determines the future of the generations to come. As a church, we believe that God desires to use us to strengthen the family unit. And because of that, I am so excited about the privilege I have been given to dream about what that might look like for us at Temple Baptist Church.

As we think about family ministry, there are three areas we want to focus on. Our desire is to help develop families who love God, serve others, and grow healthy. Let

me take some time to explain these broad strokes in a little more detail.

To love God is such a vast statement, but it is the key in strengthening any family. Our desire, as a church, is to come alongside our families and help them deepen their love for God as a family. We want to provide resources on prayer, family devotions, and even worship, which



*Dave Lane
Pastor of Youth &
Family Ministries*

would help parents to lead their children into a deeper, loving relationship with Him.

To serve others is also an important part of our focus. When a family serves together, it helps to solidify God's purpose for them as a family. It not only helps them to see how God can use them individually but also as a family. This shared experience only strengthens the family. Our desire is to provide opportunities for our families to serve in our church, within our community, and even around the world.

And finally to grow

healthy is another aspect of our family ministry. There are two areas of growth we want to see within the family. First is growth in marriage.

A healthy marriage only strengthens a family. Second is growth as parents. Parenting can be overwhelming at times. Our desire is to provide support, mentorship, and practical tools to help parents to be Godly examples to their children.

I am very excited to see what God has in store for us as we strive to strengthen families within our church community.

PARKING MINISTRY: LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN OR WOMEN...

Problems in the church are usually bad news. I say 'usually' because there are times in the life of the church when problems can actually be a good thing.

Many of you have probably noticed that since Christmas 2013, we've had an ongoing problem at Temple.

It's the kind of problem that I know many

churches would love to have. It's the problem of a parking lot that has been stretched to its limits. In fact, occasionally we've overflowed into the lots nearby Temple.

That's why, as your Executive Pastor, I really need your help.

I need eight men or women that are willing to step forward to serve one Sunday a month from 10:10-10:35am. Just 25

minutes! It's a small but significant commitment that will really help our guests feel welcome.

And no previous experience is required because our current team members are happy to help you learn the process and direct you as needed.

Parking ministry is an act of hospitality. If you haven't yet found a place to serve at Temple this may be perfect for you.

Every additional person that we have serving on a weekend will help our guests feel welcome and less frustrated.

Please stop me in the hall or email me at jbekkers@templebaptist.com if you want to join the parking team. It's a great opportunity to get involved here at Temple in a very practical way.

— James Bekkers
Executive Pastor

SECURITY AT TEMPLE

One of the things I find remarkable, even in the short time I've been here, is how committed many of our people are to service. Year after year, people have committed themselves to serving in different ways - everything from driving vans to visiting shut-ins to

locking up the building in the evening.

We are at a moment where we need to add another 3-5 people to what we call our "security team" - that team that comes in the evening to lock up the church. For some of our longer serving members on the

security team, it's now time to take a break.

As people step down, we have to fill their shoes with a person or couple that is willing to come to the church to lock up.

If you can help fill this important role, please contact me, Pastor James Bekkers, and let me know.

Many hands make light work and by adding a few more people to our team we will make sure that we don't overextend our team.

Thanks in advance for thinking about helping with this important opportunity.

— James Bekkers
Executive Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRIES

I was asked to write an article on the three most important things that I've learned in youth ministry. To be honest, it is really tough to narrow it down to three! So, after some consideration, here are three significant things that I've learned in my time here at Temple that have been really eye-opening and helpful for me.

The first is the power of listening. Being mentored by someone older, I've experienced this first hand. So many times young people just need someone to talk to.

The things they're struggling with, the pressures they're facing and the reasons for some of the deep questions they have need to be talked out.

In my experience from being mentored as well as being a mentor to younger guys, I've seen many times how it really only takes a few thoughtful words to help steer a young person's dialogue toward a progressive direction, to really help bring relief and answers.

The rest is being a good

listener! I think for youth leaders and youth pastors we can be really good at exporting

- exporting truth, wisdom, knowledge, advice, etc., but at a relational level it's so important for us to develop our importing skills as well! To be learners of people.

We learn much about others by listening and as we desire to effectively minister to young people we need to first show them that we care for them by listening and remembering things about them.

Also, we need to realize that youth culture is constantly changing and with that our approach to helping them navigate through the issues they face is subject to change as well! Listening is an important part of being a good leader!

The second important thing I've learned is that age does not limit God's



*Fraser Pries
Pastor of Youth
and Young Adults*

work in a young person's life.

For a long period of time I believed that there was a certain age bracket where God would begin to really do significant work in the life of a student. A certain age of maturity that unlocked something in them to really open them up to God.

We probably do tend to see more teenage students making significant commitments to the Lord than we do at younger ages but that doesn't mean that He's not working in them prior to that! I've seen this particularly in our Junior High students, in the questions some of them have asked me, and in the conversations I've had with some of them individually.

To hear about a junior high student faithfully getting up early in the morning to read his Bible and pray for his friends and classmates who don't know Jesus is pretty incredible!

To hear stories of how God has made some of our Junior Highs sensitive to the opportunities of

obedience that He places before them every day and has helped them to step into those opportunities and be used by Him to do some amazing things is pretty mind blowing! God is at work in these young peoples' lives and there is nothing that limits Him from doing so.

The last thing I've learned that has really helped me in my preparation for teaching youth is that to really effectively communicate a truth, that truth needs to take root in me.

Our youth have a pretty good read on other people and they can tell whether or not you really believe what you're telling them! It's one thing to study something, know it intellectually, and talk about it, but it really brings it to another level when you allow that truth to change your heart.

They know if you really believe it! Taking that extra time to meditate on what the implications of what I'm teaching are for my own life has helped me so much!

FOREVER YOUNG @ HEART

Forever Young @ Heart will be celebrating another worshipful, fun-filled evening of fellowship on Friday, May 9 at 7pm. Our June event is our bus excursion to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to see the play *Moses*, and to visit the Amish countryside as well as a couple of villages. This excursion will take

place from June 16-19. The bus is sold out, but I am still taking names on a waiting list.

This ministry will take



*Jim Train
Congregational
Care Pastor*

the summer months off and start up in late September.

In the fall, we will be offering *Celebrate Recovery*, a ministry for those seeking victory over issues in their lives such as anger, forgiveness, relational struggles, co-dependency, addictions, etc. Join others in this confidential

ministry on Mondays at 7pm in the Temple Chapel to discover how to use the power of God to overcome.

If you have any questions on these ministries please contact Pastor Jim at train@templebaptist.com or contact the church office at 519.542.1427.

MUSIC MINISTRY

As a kid, I remember when Easter would be approaching. Colourful chocolates would make their way to the store shelves, and we would colour pictures of the Easter bunny at school.

We would anxiously await the arrival of a mythical creature that visits the entire world, and hands out eggs, candy, and chocolate.

When Easter finally came, we would experience the fun of an Easter egg hunt in the morning, church in the late morning, and probably one of the best memories, getting together with the family for a big lunch.

It's funny, now that I'm

older and wiser, how easy it is to forget what the

Easter season is really about... the death, burial and resurrection of our Saviour.

I was challenged with a question this week about Easter: what is it about the Easter story that STARTLES, SHOCKS, TERRIFIES, and EXCITES us?

I try to look at how these questions can affect our worship. We sing songs about how Christ rose from the



Andy Sherlock
Director of Worship

dead, defeated death, made us new, but do we really think about what we are singing?

Good Friday is a more solemn, reflective kind of worship time.

We need to keep in mind that on that day our Saviour was arrested, tried, condemned, beaten, ridiculed, humiliated, tortured, spat on, hung on a cross, and eventually died. This time is not to be taken lightly.

Easter Sunday is the day that I like to call party time. Our Saviour rose from the dead, defeating death, defeating the evil one, and is now seated at the right hand of God. Songs of celebration are sung, as we are no lon-

ger caught in the snares of death. We have been washed clean. We have been made new.

What do you do to prepare for the Easter season? Perhaps you read the Easter story from scripture. I pray that this year you, as well as myself, can read that story with a fresh mind and heart.

That it's not a yearly routine, but a chance to re-familiarize ourselves with what happened on that weekend so long ago.

That we are able to express to our children, that although Easter egg hunts are fun, the real story of Easter is why we worship Jesus.

WELCOME TO TEMPLE

Spring is in the air! New life and new possibilities are coming into view. We are excited about all the new ways God is at work in our midst at Temple, and we are working hard to make your Sundays the most memorable and helpful experiences possible.

If you have been here for a little while, you may have noticed that things are changing a bit in our lobby. We have relocated the Welcome Center so that it is more easily accessible to our guests when they arrive, we have set up an information kiosk where we can highlight ministries and

opportunities as they arise, and we have refreshed our

space with video screens that highlight key pieces of information. These are all little steps toward making guests feel welcome and informed.

The people on our Guest Services Team love to help! If you are interested in being part of the team as an Usher, Greeter, Welcome Center Host, or Parking Team member, please let us know by contacting the



Greg Macrobbe
Connections
Pastor

office. We look forward to finding new ways to improve and serve people.

NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON

Get to know the people, plans and passions of Temple!

If you have been worshipping with us for a while, and are wanting to get to know Temple Baptist better, we would love to have you attend our next *Newcomer's Luncheon*.

It's a great place to meet people and get to know our church leaders over a relaxing meal. It's also a great time to hear

a bit about who we are as a church and how you can get involved.

If you have not been to a *Newcomers Luncheon* before, please plan to come and bring your family!

There is no charge for the luncheon, but we want to know how many to be ready for.

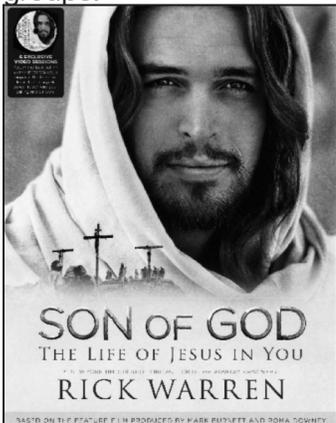
You can register by email at choffice@temple-baptist.com or talk to our hosts at the Welcome Centre.

The next *Newcomers Luncheon* takes place on Sunday, April 27 in the Chapel at from 12:30 until 2 pm.

SMALL GROUPS, BIG INFLUENCE

I am so glad to be in a small group! I can't think of a better place to build relationships and work out our Three M's – maturity, missional and multiply! One of the things I do as director of group ministries is keep my eyes open for new teaching and equipping materials that our groups would find helpful. Here are a few of my latest finds. Perhaps one of them will fit your group!

If you have yet to join a group, keep your eyes open for the next *Meeting Place* coming April 22-May 13. It's a great place for you to meet people and check out small groups.



Son of God: The Life of Jesus in You

What would happen if you applied the lessons from events in Jesus' life—temptation, suffering, death, resurrection—to your own? Would you come to know Him more intimately and with a greater understanding of your purpose? Would you embody more completely the mission, love, and

mind of Jesus?

This DVD small group study, based on producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey's major theatrical release, *Son of God*, features New York Times bestselling author Pastor Rick Warren as he explains how you can find your purpose in studying the life of Jesus.

Whether you're exploring the life of Jesus for the first time, or ready to take your faith to a deeper level, this study gives you practical steps to overcome temptation, suffering, and persecution and leverage these challenges to discover and fulfill God's plan for your life. This study guide is designed to be used with the *Son of God: The Life of Jesus in You* Bible study DVD, and will guide you through 6 sessions.

Altar Ego

Most people are obsessed with the approval of others. The problem is that living for what people think of you is the quickest way to forget what God thinks of you. In *Altar Ego*, a six-session DVD Bible study, pastor and bestselling author Craig Groeschel teaches that if there is any part of your life that is not pleasing to God, God can change it. If you battle with insecuri-



Greg Macrobbe
Connections
Pastor

ties, self-doubt, or spiritual inconsistencies, Jesus can make you new.

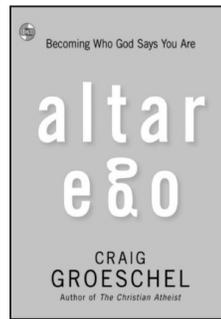
You are not your past. You are not what you did. You are not who others say you are. You are who Christ says you are.

You don't have to get caught up in your self-worth or lack thereof. Your worth is not based on your opinion of yourself. You are valuable because God says you are His.

This DVD Bible study will help you sacrifice any old, unhealthy, untrue, unbiblical thoughts about yourself and introduce you to your altar ego – who you are in Christ.

The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community

Everyone is talking about community. Everyone seems to want it, but most struggle to find it.



The Tangible Kingdom Primer is an 8 week, daily Workbook/Journal.

A great resource for existing churches, small groups, or new communities. Matt Smay and Hugh Halter have written *The Tangible Kingdom Primer* with two specific purposes.

First, to be a spiritual formation tool to prepare your heart for mission. We want you to grab a few friends to go through this with, there is no big commitment required to becoming an incarnational community.

You can simply be friends going through an 8 week spiritual exercise together. You can challenge each other as you build a community, and you will have a much better experience as you process your struggles together.

The second purpose is to be a field guide for starting missions together. Some of you are ready to go and have friends that want to go with you. If that is you, then dive right into the *Primer* as both spiritual formation and missional practice.



TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH SUMMER DAY CAMP

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Sarah Hotke and Temple has asked me to be the 2014 *Day Camp* Director this summer.

I'm really excited about this opportunity to serve the kids of our community in Sarnia. Currently I am pursuing my Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies at Prairie Bible College in Three Hills, Alberta.

The program is a lot of classroom learning paired with a significant amount of overseas work. I just got back two weeks ago from a six-week trip to Southern Africa and in September I will be leaving for a nine-month internship of very focused work in Cambodia.

I thank God for these opportunities and adventures, but for now I'll be a little closer to home with the adventures of *Day Camp*! I hope many of you will get involved this summer, whether that's volunteering, baking cookies, visiting us throughout the week to see what we're up to, or most of all praying!

When I was young, I attended *Day Camp* as a camper. I volunteered when I got a little older, and I went on staff as soon as I was old enough. *Day Camp* has made a considerable difference in my life, and I would love to share my



love of it with my church family. See you all this summer!

Hi everyone, my name is Jessica MacRobbie and this year I have been asked to be the assistant director at *Day Camp*!

After being on core staff for two years, I am definitely looking forward to continuing my time working with Temple towards providing a fun, safe, and creative *Day Camp* experience that brings both the staff and the campers closer to God.

This past September, I was able to attend Torchbearers Bible School located in Schladming, Austria.

During that time, I

experienced so much of the beauty of God's creation, the welcoming environment of a Christian community, and saw the power of God at work in my life and in the lives of those around me.

I am so thankful that God blessed me with that time in my life! This summer will be a terrific opportunity to share the love that I have for God and the wonderful ministry that is *Day Camp* with my Temple family as well as with the campers.

I thank you so much for all of the support you have provided for *Day Camp* in past years, and I know that this summer we can work together to make *Day Camp* the best it can be!

'THANK YOUS' FROM YOU!

“Thank you to my church family for their prayers, visits, cards, hugs, phone calls, meals and acts of kindness to our family over the past 6 months.

It is awesome to be part of this church family and for God to use people to help our family move forward from my accident.

I am progressing slowly and thank God for His provision and healing.”

— Vana Leonard

“We want to thank our family for your prayers, phone calls, visits and support.

We are both back on our feet and have been so touched and blessed by our church family.

It has been a rough patch but our God is a good God who answers prayer!

And we want to thank God for his healing power!”

Many blessings

— Jim & Helen Watson



1410 Quinn Drive
Sarnia, ON N7S 6M8

www.templebaptist.com
519.542.1427
choffice@templebaptist.com