

# THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

Issue 3 February 2014



## March 2014 Teaching Series AMOS: A MISSION AGAINST INJUSTICE

*The lion has roared--so who isn't frightened? The Sovereign LORD has spoken--so who can refuse to proclaim his message? (Amos 3:8)*

On March 2nd we are starting a series that's been on my heart for quite a while. Actually the lessons in this book have been part of my prayers as we think about our future vision here at Temple. As some of you know, one of the strategic M-words we have started to use is MISSIONAL. To be missional is to remember that each of us is called to be a missionary in our own context. Jesus used language of being the 'salt' and 'light' of the earth to help us understand the important responsibility we have.

God's desire to see his people be "in the world but not of the world" goes all the way back to his dealings with the Israelites in the Old Testament. While the people understood they were blessed to be a blessing, they often fell back into old patterns of selfishness and greed that minimized God's call on their lives. Enter the prophet Amos.

As part of weekend learning in the month of March, we are making a commitment to return to the book of Amos as a reminder of our responsibility to respond to the issues in our own community. What types of injustices lurk in our neighborhoods that often go ignored? How might God be stirring our hearts to respond to the brokenness right here in Lambton County? Am I often returning to my own selfish wants rather than caring for those who need to experience God's love?

Also, you will be encouraged by some of the special guests who will be joining us starting with President Steve Jones (Fellowship of Evangelical Baptists). Also, some of our missionaries from Ross River will share the impact our teams have had in Ross River. Lastly, you don't want to miss the chance to hear from a special pastor friend named Dwayne Cline (Senior Pastor at Hughson Baptist Church in Hamilton). God is preparing us for a renewed season of impact in our community. These are important visionary moments for us as we prayerfully listen to God's leading.

*Dom Ruso, Lead Pastor*

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# Vision matters: Our City & Our Church

A few months ago, the Sarnia Observer gave us a glimpse of a significant change in the spiritual temperature of our city. The article stated, "A total of 25,190 residents living in Sarnia, Point Edward and St. Clair Township said they had no religious affiliation. Just 10 years earlier, only 14,360 people living in the same three communities told the Canadian census they had no religious affiliation."

Changes like these are a reminder that people are not sure why faith communities like the church even matter.

Some have been hurt by the church. Others believe Christianity is irrelevant. Whatever the reason, we at Temple believe that God is preparing us to be a church which re-engages our community and demonstrates the love of Jesus in fresh and new ways.

Over the past few months our staff, elders, and deacons have prayerfully considered how best to engage our community with a God-honoring vision. From those discussions, three key streams of focus resonated with us. If you were with us at our Quarterly Business Meeting in November, you would remember that we've entitled these the **THREE M's**:



Lead Pastor  
Dom Ruso

3  
M's

- **MATURITY:** At every age/stage we will create an intentional approach to growing disciples.
- **MULTIPLY:** In line with our vision and values we will pursue new expressions of church beyond our present location.
- **MISSIONAL:** With servant hearts we will partner with our local community modeling what it means to be a church for the city not just a church in the city.

Over the next few months, we'll be sharing more and more of these ideas with our church. We will be taking time to pray and look at God's word, and how these Three M's have permeated the scriptures, and having been part of the vision of the church from its beginning in the book of Acts.

Although I'm excited, there are times when I feel overwhelmed thinking about the future. Can we really accomplish the things God is stirring in our hearts? What kinds of sacrifice will this take? etc... It is during these moments that I'm reminded of Paul's words to the church in Ephesus.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21.

This is my prayer for our church and for the vision brewing in our hearts. Please take some time to consider your part in the next steps of our future together.

# Putting Feet to the Vision

by Don Dafoe  
Strategic Planning Committee

**Proverbs 29:18**  
**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

In this issue of the Bridge, Pastor Dom has shared the *Three M's* we believe the Lord would have us form our strategic plan around for the future ministry of Temple Baptist Church.

With this in mind, the Elders have asked if I would lead the process to put some “flesh on the bones” on a plan for the areas of *Maturity*, *Multiplication* and *Missional* emphasis.

The most important part of moving forward in attaching the practical outworking to the strategy is the challenge for all of us to call on the Lord for His wisdom.

The Lord promises us that when we need wisdom we can seek it from Him. The Epistle of James says, “*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*” Knowing this, we will be humbly trusting him for clarity and direction as we goes forward.

When we think of Maturity – we can think of younger men and women being mentored by older men and women more mature in the faith – of married couples sharing wisdom with newlyweds or those preparing for marriage – of young parents getting help in the new job of raising children – of helping people finding the gifts God has blessed them with and helping them to “find their place” in exercising these gifts – of practical studies in the Word that address the day to day challenges of life we all face.

When we think of Multiplication – we can think of how we convey ourselves to the community through radio, television, and social media.

What would it look like if we shared our resources in other areas of the county to reach the lost? Satellite locations, joint ventures with other churches, different times of services, different types of services – we can think of how to make room for others to join us in considering all the practical issues of parking, room for children and facilities for meeting needs.

When we think of Missional – we need to think of how we impact our community for Christ – loving our neighbours – reaching hurting families – lost teens – the disadvantaged and poor – widows, single parents and children – giving them a place where they can come that is not threatening but encouraging – where they are cared for first and Christ is modeled in such a way that they see their need for His grace.

God does not call us to be everything to everybody, but He does call us to be effective in what He specifically lays before us with the resources He provides. As well, He calls us to service and sacrifice as we make our vision practical.

As I meet with various groups and individuals over the coming months, I want us to share ideas and get a sense of your passion for the community God has placed us in.

I want you to pray about what you think God is calling Temple Baptist to be in the years ahead.

He has blessed us so abundantly in years past and now we sense He is calling us to be even more effective as we move forward.

How we do that will be directed by His leading but not without our prayers and sense of peace as we venture forward in faith.

After praying, please share your dreams and ideas on God’s calling for the future of Temple Baptist Church.

*You can share with us by emailing [planning@templebaptist.com](mailto:planning@templebaptist.com).*

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

# Family Ministry

As a youth pastor, I have been reminded again and again just how important family is. Family shapes our development and personality. Our family protects our dignity and takes care of our well-being. Family also gives us teachings that guide us through our lives and values that we carry everywhere we go. In addition, our family walks by our side during hard times. God created the family to be an anchor in our society, but unfortunately over the years, we have seen



Dave Lane  
Youth Pastor

this anchor start to give way. I believe that God is calling us, His church, to reinforce the role of family in our society.

With this in mind, I'm excited to share an important change in my role here at Temple Baptist Church. Up to this point, my title has

been Pastor of Youth Ministries. Coming this February, my role will change to Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries.

My responsibility will be to oversee children, youth and family ministries. I am so thankful for Katherine Reyes who is doing an amazing job leading and directing our Children's Ministry.

I am excited for the opportunity to join Katherine and to be a support and encouragement to her. Fraser Pries continues

to do an incredible job with our Junior High and College Ministries.

My role will be to continue to support and encourage Fraser as he leads these important areas.

As for me, I will continue to lead our Senior High Ministry and develop ways to encourage and support families as they grow and serve in the communities that God has placed them in.

Please pray as God has some exciting things in store for us as a church family.

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## NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES AT TEMPLE

With the start of a new year there's always excitement about new things to come.

There are new resolutions, new goals and so many possibilities on improving ourselves and gaining some sense of progress in our lives. As we kicked off our junior high ministry this year, my desire was progress.

As we go forward in our learning together in 2014, my hope is that our students won't forget some of the important things we talked about in the months leading up to Christmas and that they build upon what they've already learned.



Fraser Pries  
Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

From September to December, we had been talking about the life of Jesus, the example that He has given us and what it means to be a true follower of Him. Jesus tells us in John 15 that we can do nothing apart from Him.

As we abide in Him and He in us, we will bear much fruit! As we continue our learning together in *Sonic* and as

we look at some specific ways in which we can honor God and be more like Jesus, I wanted to take it to the next level and really focus on the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives.

Spending time talking about each fruit as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, my hope is that our students will gain a better understanding of how God desires them to live and what role the Holy Spirit plays in their lives.

In our Senior High ministry, we've been looking forward to one of the best events of the year, *Sno Camp!* It's an amazing time

for students to retreat, have some fun, make some new friends and most importantly, be challenged in their faith.

Our prayer is that the Lord would speak powerfully to the lives of our students and produce a lasting change that not only affects them individually but a change that affects many of those within their spheres of influence!

God has done some amazing things at these retreats in past years, so we're excited to see what He has in store for our group this year!

Please keep us in your prayers as we travel and learn together!

## TECHNOLOGY AT TEMPLE

### *Free Bible Apps Worth Downloading*

by James Bekkers, Executive Pastor

With the presence of so many tablets and smart phones on the market right now, finding the right apps to use on these devices can sometimes be a bit of a challenge.

The same is true if you are looking for apps for Bible reading or Bible study. Of the many different choices out there, where do you begin? Which ones are the best?

In the interest of getting to the heart of the matter, let's suppose you walked up to me and said, "Pastor James, if I was looking for a couple free Bible apps that would do an excellent job of helping me read and study my Bible, which two would you recommend?" For me, that's an easy question to answer.

I've been watching the development of Bible

apps for the past 3-4 years and when it comes to FREE apps, two stand out for me above all others:

#### **YouVersion**

*YouVersion* is an app you can use on your computer, phone or tablet. It's simple and easy to use but packs a wealth of resources. At last count there were over 730 versions of the Bible in more than 460 languages on *YouVersion*.



There are also reading plans, videos and daily devotionals – all ad-free and at no expense to you.

It's not hard to see why *YouVersion* has been downloaded more than 125 million times around the world. For years, it's been my "go to" app for reading the Bible on hand held devices. To download *YouVersion* or read more about it, go to [www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com).

#### **Glo**

If you want to immerse yourself a bit more in an app that will help you study as well as read the Scriptures, try downloading *Glo*. The free version of *Glo* provides Bible dictionaries, commentaries, animations, pictures and videos about thousands of biblical topics.

The makers of this app have created an intuitive and interactive study experience. While the basic version is free,

users can upgrade to *Glo* Premium for a fee. One disappointment with *Glo* right now is that they have yet to develop an Android version.

To download *Glo* or find out more about it, go to [www.globible.com](http://www.globible.com).



One final note... you might have noticed recently that we launched our new Temple Baptist website.

At Temple, our intention is to use technology in the most godly, beneficial and stewardly ways.

Our hope is that this will help us communicate better with one another and the world around us for the purpose of helping people grow in their relationship with God and others.

## BOB CATES IS COMING TO TEMPLE!

### ***TCA is bringing Bob Cates, Comedy in Motion, to Temple on Friday, February 14!***

Temple Christian Academy, a ministry of Temple Baptist Church, is inviting all Temple folk to its *Annual Evening of Family Entertainment*. This is a free event, featuring Comedy in Motion with Bob Cates on Friday, February 14, 2014, in Temple's auditorium, and serves as

TCA's main fundraiser for the year.

We are hoping to raise \$8,000 which will help the school provide tuition assistance, update classroom resources, upgrade classroom computers and multimedia, upgrade athletic equipment and support the school's gymnastics program.

Those in attendance will be treated to a comedy variety show by

juggler extraordinaire, Bob Cates! The *Canadian Juggling Champion* has twice been named the *Best Entertainer of the Year* at the *Molson Canadian FEO Awards*.

In addition, there will be an online auction courtesy of VanKlaveren Auctions, Inc. which will feature a large number of items and will run from 8am to 8pm Saturday, February 15, 2014. Viewing of the items up

for bid, will be available at the Friday night event, as well as online all day Saturday.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the 'Comedy in Motion' event beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Those wishing to make a donation can do so by calling the school's office at 519.542.9563 or by emailing [tcaoffice.tbc@gmail.com](mailto:tcaoffice.tbc@gmail.com).

We hope to see you there!

# WELCOME TO TEMPLE!

One of the things I love about Temple is how warm and welcoming we are! Almost every Sunday I hear new people say how good they feel when they come here, or how great it is to be part of a church family where they can invite their friends and be confident they'll be treated like family.

Why is it like that here? Well, part of it is because you are all such wonderful welcoming people, and part of it is because as a church family we have decided



Greg Macrobbe  
Pastor of Church Ministries

that it's worth the effort to be intentional and proactive in making people feel at home. That's why we have such amazing people at our doors every Sunday greeting people as they arrive.

That's why we have

people hosting our Welcome Center who are ready to answer your questions and help you find what you need. It's why we have a team of men and women at each of our doors going into the worship center, ready to help you find a place and take part in our worship gatherings. It's why we are launching a parking team to help you find a spot when the lot is getting full.

It's why we are dreaming of developing a First Time Team of people

who will act as personal hosts and guides for first time people to help them get comfortable here. It's why you will start to notice changes in our main lobby, like video screens featuring important information, signage, relocation of the Welcome Centre, and décor.

We love people and long to see every person who enters our doors love it here and become a part of what God is doing in our midst!

## MEMBERSHIP, NATURALLY

So, you've been around Temple for a while now and are feeling like this is your spiritual home. You have had a chance to enjoy our *Newcomer's Luncheon* and meet some of our key ministry leaders. You may have also attended our *Alpha* course, or taken part in *Celebrate Recovery*. Perhaps you've connected with a small group of people that

you regularly meet with. You have been blessed in many ways, and you find yourself wanting to give back. You are wondering what you can do, how you can take your serving of others to the next level, or how you can become a part of the ministry team or leadership at Temple and serve God and giving back to others in a deeper way.

If that's you, or if you just want to find out more about what makes Temple tick, then our next *Discovering Church Membership* seminar is the natural next step for you. In a relaxed and informal gathering, explore what the Bible has to say about membership and why it is a natural and beneficial step in your spiritual growth.

Find out more about what we as a church believe, value and do, and where we believe God is taking us as we look to the future together.

You will also learn about what membership involves and the process we use if you decide to become a member. If you are not a member yet, I would love to see you there!

## 55+ CLUB



Jim Train  
Congregational Care Pastor

This new ministry for those 55 years and

older started with a bang! Over 60 people gathered together for our first night. We enjoyed singing with our Worship Band, laughed heartily at comedy videos of Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, had some great snack foods and laughed with some of our participants

singing and dancing. This ministry is intended to bring the *Young at Hearts* together for fellowship, fun and to worship the Lord.

As a group, we also want to be an outreach for friends and neighbours. There is a need for some teams to visit 3-4 shut-ins per month.

We have 17 on our list at present. If you are interested in ministering, please contact me by calling the church or emailing me at ([train@templebaptist.com](mailto:train@templebaptist.com)).

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

## Introducing KidCheck for Temple

Safety and security is one of the biggest priorities within children's ministry. Being the Director of Temple's Children's Ministry, I am always looking for new and effective ideas when it comes to keeping our kids safe.

We believe that when parents hand over their children to our care, an unspoken contract has been created. The guardian initiated the



Kathrine Reyes  
Director of Children's Ministry

contract, and only the guardian has the authority to end the contract. However, the process of collecting the necessary information for this

contract can become tiring and inefficient.

Manual tracking of names, numbers, etc. means that check-in may take up to two or three minutes per child to complete. That's an unbearably long time for parents whose kids are rearing to go.

That's why we've chosen *KidCheck* as our children's check-in solution.

*KidCheck* is a secure

check-in system that will enhance our children's ministry at Temple and simplifies the check-in/check-out process. *KidCheck* helps collect information and ensures no one can pick up your child without consent.

Over the month of February, you will be hearing more about *KidCheck*. If you are curious and want to know more please feel free to look up [www.kidcheck.com](http://www.kidcheck.com). If you would like to be part of a team of people to launch this new system, please contact Mrs. Katherine at [children@templebaptist.com](mailto:children@templebaptist.com).



## BOOK REVIEW: FROM PASTOR DOM'S DESK

*REACHING FOR THE INVISIBLE GOD: What Can We Expect to Find?*  
by Philip Yancey

We've just come through our *Alone?* teaching series and I could not help but reflect on a difficult and lonely time in my life.

I'll never forget a conversation with a friend who recommended a book that really helped me understand better what God might be trying to teach me during my lonely time.

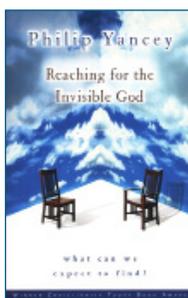
The book was from Philip Yancey, a wonderful Christian writer who has written about prayer,

grace, suffering and numerous other topics.

What was so helpful for me was that Yancey reminded me that other Christians throughout history have also struggled with moments of being alone.

For some reason, I had come to believe that not only was I alone, but my feelings of being alone were my own problem and maybe even God's punishment.

Thankfully, Yancey's



careful look at this topic helped me. At one point in the book he writes, "It should not surprise us that a sovereign God uses bad things as the raw material for fashioning good. The symbol of our faith is a Roman execution device." It was so important to realize that God, as he had done before, could use my moments of feeling lonely to bring about something good.

Trust me, this went completely against what I was feeling at the time, but I knew this was true since it is how God reveals himself time

and time again in the Bible. This truth led to an incredible sense of freedom.

As I slowly made my way through the book I remember thinking, every Christian should read this book.

Maybe you are new to Christianity, or perhaps you've been a believer for years and find yourself in a difficult season of pain and loneliness.

Whatever your situation, consider picking up this book by Philip Yancey and let God stretch your thinking and your faith as you surrender yourself to the one who, although invisible, is never absent.

## PRAYER AT TEMPLE

### *Elevate: Our Monthly Prayer Gathering at Temple*



James Bekkers  
Executive Pastor

At the beginning of the New Testament church four important components of church life were established. Acts 2:42 says that early Christians, “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Followers of Jesus met together regularly to participate in these vital aspects of church life and all of

them remain important to this day.

Prayer is one of those important areas of church life we remain deeply committed to as a church.

If you stop and think about it, prayer already takes place in many ways each week at Temple. As part of our ongoing community life, many of us meet in small groups to pray. When we gather on Sunday mornings to worship, we come before God in prayer. Every week the staff gathers for a time of prayer. When ministries meet at Temple, they include a prayer time in their agendas. Throughout the week, intercessors gather in

meetings specifically designated for prayer.

Prayer may be happening in many different ways at Temple but every once in a while we sense the need to gather together and focus our prayers on a particular area.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 7-8pm, we will be meeting in the auditorium for a gathering we call *Elevate*. *Elevate* is the one time outside of the weekends that we invite everyone to come together - and it’s a time we focus specifically on prayer.

The theme for our gathering in February will be *Becoming Like Them: Children in the Kingdom*

of God. Together we will pray that God will help us deepen our faith as we take time to learn from our children what it means to trust and follow Jesus.

As part of our focus on children, we will also take time that evening to specifically pray for *Day Camp 2014 and Family Ministries at Temple*. At the close of our time together, pastors and Elders will be available for people who would like to pray with someone.

Come and pray with us on February 26th as we learn more about prayer from the children of Temple.

## INTRODUCING BABY SHERLOCK!



Welcome Malachi! Our worship director Andy Sherlock and his wife Amanda, welcomed Malachi Hank Sherlock into their family on January 23, 2014. Malachi was greeted with open arms and huge smiles from his older brothers Lucas and Mason. Everyone is doing great and would like to thank everyone for their prayers, well wishes and support!

## THANK YOU FROM THE BLEVINS

*In every person’s life there are defining moments. Moments that change you, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worst. The fire that destroyed our home in December was one of those moments for our family. When the call came in about the fire we changed. My husband became the leader in our home, I became a nurturer and many people from different communities pulled together to show us HIS love. Our entire family witnessed God’s love, mercy and grace like we never thought possible.*

*You’ll get through this.  
It won’t be painless.  
It won’t be quick.  
But God will use this mess for good.  
Don’t be foolish or naïve.  
But don’t despair either.  
With God’s help, you’ll get through this*

*(Max Lucado)*

*With the help of family, friends and Jesus we will not only make it through this, but we will be stronger because of it. Thank you from us, the Belvins family, for being such a big part of this journey and one of our life defining moments.*

# Welcome Digby Smith!

In 1992, our church sent a team on a short-term mission trip to Bolivia.

Digby Smith was part of that team, leaving his wife at home to care for their small daughter, Rozaline and newborn Charmain.

Helen says he was so excited to be part of that trip, that he called her to tell her she needed to be part of this adventure with him!

Helen resisted the offer of packing up the girls and all their belongings and heading to South America, but the following year she did join Digby on the Temple mission trip to Venezuela.

While there, she was baptized by our missionary, Bobby Jank, along with a few other people from the Yanomamo tribe.

The following year as Helen was expecting their son Fraser, they headed to Bible School and then to the New Tribes Missionary School and Boot Camp and then language school. The Smith family served with New Tribes Missions from 1999 to 2008 in Venezuela.

The Smith family have been an active part of our church for years. Rozaline was



last year's recipient of the *Dianne Nienhuis Missions Scholarship* for the work she is doing in Detroit. (See our web site to watch a video of her work). Charmain and Fraser are both active in the kids programs here, working in *Day Camp* and *Sonic* and *Girls Alive* and *Promiseland*.

This year Digby is taking on the role of chairperson for the *Mission Team*.

He will bring a personal

experience to the team along with a passion to see that the gospel is shared both here and to the utmost ends of the earth.

He also has a great desire to make sure our church family understands our role in the partnerships we have around the world.

Put him on your prayer list and remember to support him as he takes on this new responsibility.

## 2013 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



Jim Train  
Congregational Care

We have started the new year with great anticipation to see what our Great God will do in our hearts and lives as a church body. Along with my anticipation, I also want to praise the Lord for the Temple Congregation. The *2013 Christmas Hamper Ministry* was blessed once again as our people contributed over \$20,000. We were able to bless 138 families and individuals with hampers and gifts. We were also able to help Neighbourlink with some non-perishable food items we had left over.

Thank you for making Jesus known through volunteering (over 60 came out to help!), our TCA Gr. 7&8 students, Ray and Anje Burkhart for purchasing and storing food, and everyone else through your donations.



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