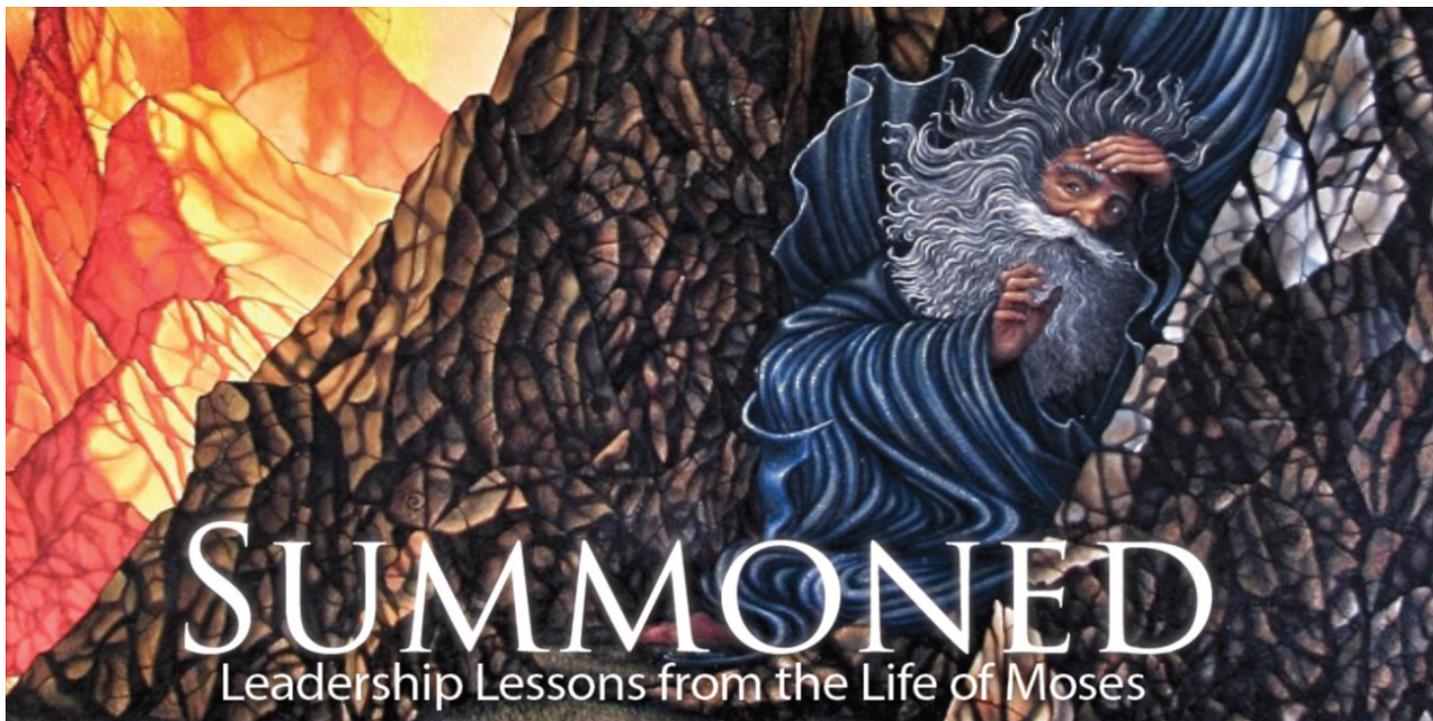


THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

Issue 1 October 2013



UPCOMING SERMON SERIES



Lead Pastor, Dom Ruso

The dictionary defines summoned as: “Authoritatively or urgently call on (someone) to be present.” You might think of it as a teacher calling you to the office, or a boss asking you to report immediately to

her in order to explain a recent budget shortfall, or even a parent suddenly calling a family meeting to a discussion on why you broke curfew again.

The day God called Moses to lead was the day everything changed. Scripture tells us that God broke abruptly into Moses’ life and summoned him to a leadership journey he could have never anticipated. This was a day that would not only change Moses, it would also change the course of history for the Jewish people forever.

You don’t want to miss our teaching series starting October 13th. The life of Moses provides us with some incredible life lessons on what it means that our God is a God who summons us to lead and

make a difference in the world. As we take a close look at the life of Moses, I believe God will teach us some important leadership lessons on how to respond to God’s “summons” in our lives.

To listen to past teaching series or to learn more about Temple and its ministries, check us out on the web at www.templebaptist.com.

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SMALL GROUPS AT TEMPLE



Greg Macrobbe
Pastor of Church Ministries

One of the challenges Julie and I have faced over 22 years of ministry has been the pain of uprooting, relocating and trying to re-establish a new sense of home and community for ourselves and our children.

Unfamiliar faces and places, and extended family often multiple time zones away, leave us longing for deep and meaningful connections with people close by.

That is one of the reasons we have always made small groups a priority for us. We can both say that many of the most meaningful and influential relationships we have come out of our small group experiences. We are honoured to have friends across this country that have been like brothers, sisters, moms and dads to us and our children (do not discount the blessings of both older and younger folks in our groups!).

We've experienced this because we made the time to invest in the lives of others, and allowed them the opportunity to invest in us! It is truly a beautiful thing that we cherish as a couple! You might be thinking, it's a lot of hassle, it doesn't fit your schedule, or you could end up in some potentially flaky relationships. And, you'd be right to think those things. Life is messy. Relationships are messy. Following Jesus is messy, but we have found, and remain convinced, the benefits far outweigh it all!



THE GIFT OF VOLUNTEERING

by Erica Lazarakos

I could think of a thousand good reasons to stay burrowed beneath the covers so early on a Saturday morning, but I had one compelling reason to get up: my signature was on the sign-up sheet for the backpack & clothing giveaway. The breakfast crew was already hard at work, as the other volunteers huddled up for a few words of inspiration from Pat Bell. Crowds began to line up outside the doors, in the hope of receiving a backpack jammed with school supplies, a hot breakfast, and maybe even some gently used back to school clothes.

Given the role of dining table hostess, I was soon sharing breakfast with a single dad and his two busy boys. We chatted about what school the boys attended, gobbled up pancakes, and discussed the merits of gummy bears over hard candies. The boys were just as excited about their new school clothes as the backpacks, and it was a privilege to pray for their dad about the new job he was starting.

Next I visited with a couple about my own age, along with their teenage sons and adorable infant granddaughter, followed by a pair of elderly ladies, and then a young man and his mother. While his mom scouted for some warm clothes for fall, the young man, who was quite the character, suddenly shared that they had been estranged for most of his childhood because of her addiction issues and time in prison. He was so glad for the renewal of their relationship. Mom joined our conversation and agreed. She asked me to pray for steady work for them both, and held my hands so tightly, as I did.

It takes a tremendous amount of planning and legwork to organize that event. We gave away the love and care of Jesus Christ, in the form of a couple of hundred backpacks, tons of clothes, and countless pancakes, but I drove home certain that I had been given the greater blessing, by far.



PASTOR JIM: CARING FOR US



Jim Train
Pastor of Congregational Care

Change can be a good thing if we want it to be. I've had a few changes in my time as a pastor being involved in a number of ministries at Temple Baptist. I am now into another transition from Executive Pastor to the part time role as Congregational

Care Pastor. My wife Jane and I are looking forward to this new adventure as it is an area near to our hearts that God has given us, a love and care for people.

This new ministry will give me an opportunity to work alongside people like Eric Warnstrom who looks after the Shut-In visitation. It's my goal to form teams who will share this ministry with Eric and myself. Also, I will continue to visit those who are "laid up" in the hospital or at home to encourage and pray for them. I will still do funerals and the occasional wedding as time permits. There is a new ministry I am working on for those 55+ which will have everything from fun, to spiritual growth and outreach components. Again I will seek others to serve on the TEAM for this to succeed. I plan on continuing my ministry with those who are hurting or seeking advice for personal, marriage, etc. matters.

What a privilege to serve our wonderful Lord, this community, and to minister with a great staff who love Jesus and people.

COLLEGE MINISTRY AT TEMPLE



Fraser Pries
Student Ministries Assistant

Here's a quick update about the summer. In July we had the privilege of serving in Detroit alongside our good friend Rozaline Smith. As many of you know, Rozaline is a Temple native serving in the inner city of Detroit while completing her studies at

Wayne State University. I think I speak for all of us when I say that our experience in this city was quite eye opening as there is so much need in the inner city. Living standards are so low compared to what we're used to here in Sarnia and I think what struck us is that this need is so close to home! It was incredible to see how the church is rallying to bring hope and restoration to the people in a city that is struggling to stay alive. We are looking forward to future opportunities for us to continue to serve there.

Every year, the fall proves to be an interesting time of transition for our college ministry. Students pursuing education elsewhere are absent for the eight or so months of the school year when at the same time new students from out of town are added to our group as they begin their studies at Lambton College. We're sad to see some of our group leave but at the same time there is an excitement in knowing that the Lord is going to use these students at their schools and residences to do some amazing things for Him!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE



Kathrine Reyes
Director of Children's Ministry

Recently I saw an article about the Forbes 400 wealthiest people in America and I noticed that my name was not on the list. After a moment of "why didn't I invent the iPhone", I thought of all the volunteers and people who serve in children's ministry. The faces of these volunteers should be among the 400 wealthiest people in the world because they're helping to change the lives of children every week! At Temple, we have about 160 people serving in our children ministry programs. People who are committed to helping families raise their children to have authentic faith. We teach the kids that "treasure on earth won't last but treasures in heaven last forever."

This fall our Girls Alive, Boys' X-treme Team, Christmas musical, and Promiseland program have all begun. I am so grateful for all the volunteers who have stepped up to help and lead. We have started a new room for the JK's on Sunday mornings due to new families coming to Temple. It is exciting to see the classrooms full on Sunday mornings and the hallway full of parents! We are looking forward to a wonderful year of partnering with parents to raise children who know that the greatest treasure is Jesus.

WELCOME TO ROSS RIVER

by Brittany Faubert

Our team would like to thank everyone for being so generous to the Ross River project. We are so appreciative for the prayers we received while up in Ross River, as we were challenged several times, but the Lord helped us to overcome these obstacles.

Ross River is a town of about 300 people and is about five hours north of Whitehorse. Ross River has a few amenities including the Hope Centre where we served all week. The Hope Centre serves many purposes in Ross River; it is a drop-in centre/church/coffeehouse/hangout spot. Tim and Gwendy Colwell and their five children, a missionary family, and Rachel Burkhart, a Temple Baptist missionary, are what keep the Hope Centre open for the community.

During our time in Ross River we ran a vacation Bible school (which they refer to as Kids Club). Tim was very happy to see how many kids came out to Kids Club, we had 14 different kids come out at some point during the week, and some came back several days. The children that came out were quite well behaved, so we were all thankful for that.

During our time up there, Josephine, a core believer in Ross River, passed away. Tradition in Ross River after someone passes away is to shutdown the town the next day. So out of respect we didn't run Kids Club on



Thursday, but we still had quite a few kids come out and we all just found someone to hang out with and bonded. The Colwell's were deeply saddened by the loss of Josephine. They were deeply concerned for Josephine's family, as they were not sure how they would cope with Josephine's death. Please keep this family in your prayers.

During the week we visited some beautiful places around the area. We went to a place called Lapie Canyon. We hiked through a forest, alongside this bright blue river carved through a mountain. While we were at Lapie we ate the renowned

moose sausage and way too many smores (or at least I did). Lapie was probably one of the most spectacular places I have ever visited.

Our normal routine consisted of getting up and heading over to the Hope Centre to do devotions with the Colwells, and then we would review what we would be doing for Kids Club, hang out for lunchtime and the afternoon. Kids Club was from 4–6pm Monday to Friday. After Kids Club, we would have dinner at the Hope Centre, and if anyone from the community or Kids Club was hungry, they could stop in and grab some food, because there was always extra! After dinner, we would hang out, play games, and talk with the community of Ross River, and we would hang out at the Hope Centre until almost 12am each night. We would close the night by talking about what God was teaching us, or if anything happened that was awesome. We would get sidetracked with stories, songs (ask Michelle and Sarah to sing for you, I promise that you'll enjoy it), and we'd always close with prayer. Our "midnight meetings" lasted anywhere between one to two-and-a-half hours, so I would say average bedtime was probably 2am.

We all got along so well and we balanced each other well. where one person lacked in a certain skill, someone else was a master. As I am a fairly new Christian, I was blessed and given the wonderful privilege to serve alongside these wonderful women. I grew in many ways and had some time to think and pray through some major decisions that were putting pressure on my Ontario life and on my relationship with God. A few of the main lessons I learned are that I am abundantly blessed with convenience in my life; and that I may not be the harvester of the plant, but rather the planter or waterer of the seed.

MISSIONS NEWS & UPDATES: THE JANKS ARE COMING TO TEMPLE

by Pat Bell, Chair of Missions Committee

We have been blessed with the return of Wes & Tenley Jank & their boys!

Wes & Tenley, as many of you know, are missionaries with New Tribes Missions and will be heading to Venezuela in 2014. It will be a pleasure to have them living and serving with us in the interim.

We want to share an update on a major project Temple is doing in Indonesia. This project has provided us with an opportunity to change lives, turning people to Jesus, in the midst of the world's largest Muslim population.

Edwin and Helmi Karwur (Temple Partners Missionaries) work with the Indonesian Theological Seminary to shine a light for Jesus there. Our church is actively involved with both the seminary and the church plants emerging from it.

Dr. Barker, of Heritage Seminary will be coming to Temple November 3rd to share how he will be teaching at the Seminary in Manado, Indonesia at the end of November. The seminary there needs Ph. D.'s to teach courses and we are providing them with a module taught by Dr. Barker! We will also be sharing how we are involved in church planting in Indonesia.

God is working through His people! As we hear this important news may we rejoice in the privilege of obeying God's commands from Matthew: "go therefore and teach all nations" and Ephesians 'Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ... for all saints"

SUMMER CLOTHING DRIVE

Another great day of providing for our community happened at our latest Clothing Drive! While we appreciate it is not a numbers game, we can only describe the outpouring of your generosity by quoting them. We gave out 250 backpacks filled with new school supplies according to grade requirements! There was a good supply of girls and boys backpacks from kindergarten to high school and a few for collage students. We served over 300 breakfasts. Well over 400 bags of clothes and shoes and coats and household items were distributed as well.

We had a great turnout of helpers in the kitchen, and sorting clothes and buying the school supplies and putting the back packs together, and setting up and tearing down and giving folks rides in our van and also in cars and chatting with people and helping people and listening to people and praying with and for people.

While this event is set up to help our community, and there are so many happy faces and big thankyou's from the recipients, it seems that the blessing falls on those who are putting it together! At the end of the day so many of the workers thanked us for the opportunity to serve and even though some were tired, they were so glad to have been a part of the day.



Team members get ready to give out backpacks filled with school supplies to families at the Clothing Drive

This is truly a job that takes a village to do. So if you donated clothes or sorted them or laid them out or set up tables or flipped pancakes or shopped for school supplies or groceries for breakfast or stuffed a backpack or gave someone a ride or swept a floor or helped someone look for something or wrote a cheque or prayed for the day and all that it involves . . . we want to say thank you!

YOUTH AT TEMPLE: POSSESSION IS 9/10ths OF THE LAW



Dave Lane
Youth Pastor

I came across an article recently that shocked me as a youth pastor. Focus on the Family was telling us that 8 out of 10 kids who grew up in the church were leaving their faith when they went off to college or university. So what they were saying is that 80% of our teens, even though they had gone to Sunday school, and youth group, were giving up on church when they left home.

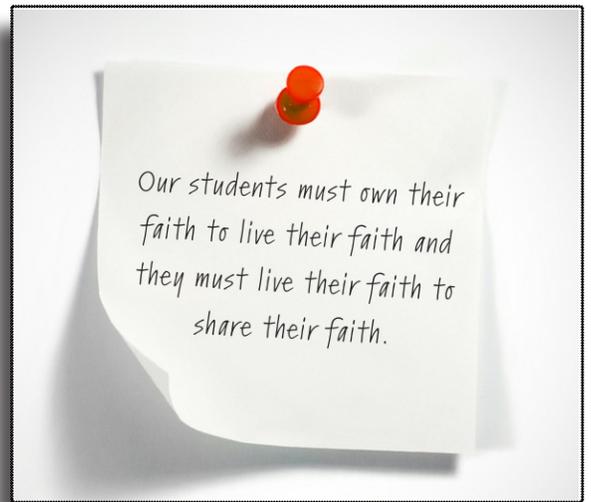
They then began to list many reasons why they believed this was happening. As I read the article one reason really stood out to me. They believed that these students were leaving their faith because they were never challenged to own their faith. For years these youth simply rode the coat tails of their parents. They went to church to appease their parents. It was because they felt they had to ... not because they wanted to. Their faith was their parents' faith and never really their own. This idea shook me to the core, causing me to rethink my whole approach on youth ministry.

As I look back on the past summer, I am excited to see how our students are beginning to own their faith. I am hearing incredible stories from our students who served as counselors/leaders at our Day Camp or Forest Cliff Camp this summer. Some were able to lead campers into a relationship with Christ.

And now looking ahead to the new year, there are students who have gone through our ministries, now coming back to serve in our junior high program, striving to be examples of what it looks like to own your faith.

Also our students are expressing a real desire to expose their friends to Christ. And because of that reason, we are offering Youth Alpha over the fall. Please pray for our students to have the courage to invite their friends and that those friends would be open to what God has to say to them.

Students must own their faith to live their faith...and they live their faith to share their faith. Please pray that this would continue to be a reality in our students' lives.



NOW AUDITIONING



Andy Sherlock
Director of Worship

One of the beautiful, difficult realities of having a leadership role is evaluation. We are asked to evaluate new ideas alongside existing realities. Leaders are constantly evaluating where things are and where things could be. Leaders are asked to evaluate people, events and systems at every stage along the way.

When it comes to a leadership role in worship ministry, evaluation can take on some added complexity. We are sometimes asked to evaluate someone based on their ability, their talent and what they have to offer our church. One of the new things we are doing here in the worship ministry, is raising up worship leaders. People that have an obvious musical gift, but also a gift of leadership. While this seems like an easy task in principle it won't take long to figure out that all kinds of circumstances can contribute to the complexity of this new endeavor.

Please pray with us, that the seeking of new leaders will be fruitful, and that God will grace us with humble people who are ready to take that next step, and become great leaders for the kingdom.

TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (TCA) UPDATE



*Dave Lawrence
Acting Administrator TCA*

We started our first week of school with an open house & a family BBQ. This was a time to meet and enjoy some fellowship, as well as an opportunity to get involved in our school through volunteering in many helpful ways.

This year Dave Lawrence is acting administrator for TCA with ACSI consultant, Joyce Baker, working as Dave's "guide by his side". We have a great team at TCA, consisting of Jacqueline Jackson, our Administrative Assistant, returning teachers: Jodi Ferguson, Julie MacRobbie, Alexandria Irving and Elaine Nixon. Nathan Johns has joined us this year to teach our grade 5/6 class and Madame Catherine Rupke is with us to lead our French program.

Pickering Christian School has been a wonderful help to us by lending 26 iPads at no charge until Thanksgiving. In addition to this technology we have ordered a new Smart board for the grade one/two class and hope to have that in place by mid to late October.

Our Lego and robotics programs have begun and our boys and girls are excited to be involved in these after school opportunities. Our senior boys and senior girls have begun practicing volleyball and soccer at lunch times as well as after school.

We pray that this year will be exciting, safe and fun for our 68 students at TCA as we learn together and seek a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our school verse is Col. 3:23: "For whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men."

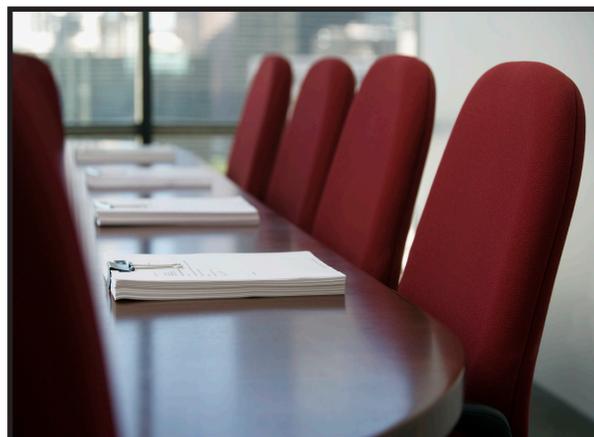
INTRODUCING ROB RAIGER: OUR NEW ELDER BOARD CHAIR

I was born and raised in Windsor, the oldest of 4 siblings. Growing up in a Christian home, I accepted the Lord at a young age. My parents always kept our family focused on our church, I attended Sunday School and our youth group. I recall, during my teen years, making the deliberate decision to dedicate my life in the service of my Lord. During my university summer months, I worked for Youth for Christ and thought my life was headed toward full-time ministry. The Lord had other plans; He spoke to me through individuals and circumstances which resulted in me moving to Sarnia and becoming a computer analyst for Dupont (now Nova). Five years after my move, Janet and I were married, and we decided to call Sarnia home. Today, we have 3 children two of whom are married, Michael and Katie (with our first grandchild, William); Amelia and Mike Salisbury; and our youngest daughter, Laura.

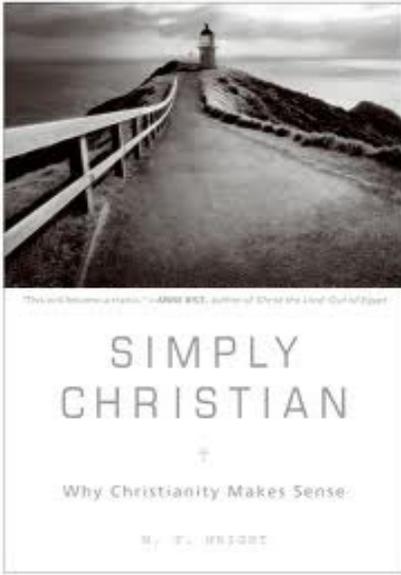
It was shortly after my move to Sarnia that I started attending Temple. Initially, my involvement was in a college and career group, but as Janet and I started having children, we began serving in other church ministries. Much of our service coincided with our children's age, so, I have played with the children on the floor of our toddlers room, taught Sunday morning classes for the middlers, spent Wednesday nights with boys clubs and camps. As I served, most often I would find myself taking on leadership roles in these areas, a giftedness I sense the Lord has blessed me with. This has resulted in serving as a deacon and, now, I am in my third term as a church elder, specifically the role of chair of the elders board.

Churches go through various "seasons" of life; our leadership team really feels that the Lord has positioned Temple in the cusp of a new season. There is a sense that we, the people of Temple, are being given the opportunity of becoming a greater spiritual influence in the community. We all can play an active role towards this end. I would encourage you to determine seek out what the Lord may have for you here at Temple. For some it may be a renewed commitment of service, for others a first time commitment. However you may serve the Lord here at Temple, I can guarantee you one thing, that you will be blessed.

1 Peter 4: 10 says "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."



BOOK REVIEW: PASTOR DOM



Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense – by N.T. Wright

I'm always amazed at how easy it is to be a Christian and yet know so little about what the Christian story is really about. For many people being a Christian means 'letting Jesus into my heart'. While there is a simple truth to this idea it misses the beauty and wonder that the Bible reveals as the great Christian story of a God coming to make things right.

This year, if you are looking to grow in your understanding of Christianity, buy this book. So many books have tried to explain and explore the story of Christianity but very few have been able to do it in a simple yet powerful way. Tom Wright, the author of this book, has been called the C.S. Lewis of our time and rightly so. He has spent years studying the Bible and now in this book provides a simple way of connecting the great story of Israel to the New Testament message of salvation. Very few Christians understand the importance of this biblical reality, but this book can help.

If you are thinking of a book to encourage someone to go deeper in their walk, or a way to get a better grip of the Bible as a new season begins, buy this book. Read it with your Bible open and be encouraged that Christianity does provide important and beautiful answers to life's bigger questions.

Christian living means dying with Christ and rising again. That, as we saw, is part of the meaning of baptism, the starting point of the Christian pilgrimage.

- N.T. Wright

