



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Day in and day out, I am reminded of how significant our communication is; and to be candid, I recognize how I continually perform miserably in that area. Communication is the lifeblood of a relationship—any relationship! As James so powerfully points out in his New Testament letter, our tongue contains the power of both life and death. We can enhance life through our words, or quite frankly, we can drain the life out of others. In truth, we can unintentionally and needlessly damage relationships and even harm our witness before others if we fail to communicate in a constructive way. Quite a sobering and challenging thought!

Thankfully, though, God has given us a handbook in communication and relationships. You got it! It is His Word! Throughout Scripture, He says much about how we are to interact with one another. And while I could point to a plethora of verses to help us communicate, let me offer you some insight specifically based on **Proverbs 15:1-9**. Several years ago, the Lord illuminated my mind and gave me **four principles of wise communication from this passage**.

First, be a “softie.” Now, I know that doesn’t sound appealing to many of you reading this article. I mean, who wants to be known as a “softie,” especially in our culture? Often, we are taught to give back what has been given to us! However, God says, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Prov. 15:1 NKJV). When you are “soft” in your response, you can often de-escalate the situation. You can carefully place the explosive situation in a calmer context. On the other hand, if you respond with a “harsh” word, you simply ignite the fuse, escalating the moment for both sides. Indeed, such a response stirs up anger. In my study, I noted the word for stir up was used in the Old Testament to speak of presenting a burnt offering to God. Now stay with me here. There is a time to light a fire . . . in our worship before Him! But instead of lighting a fire of commitment/consecration as his people should,

there are those who would light a fire of contention. The Lord encourages us to turn away wrath by being a “softie” in our response to those who are contentious.

Second, think before you speak. Now we all have heard this adage, but the writer of Proverbs recorded it for us this way: “The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness” (15:2 NKJV). Later in the same chapter, he recognizes, “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil” (15:28 NKJV). Sometimes, we pour forth foolishness and evil because we didn’t take time to consider how our words would be taken or how those words would affect others. We should always stop and think about how we wisely communicate! And no, it is not our personalities that are to blame for our abruptness; it is our lack of self-control and dependence on the Spirit!

Third, if you don’t have anything good to say, don’t say anything at all! “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. . . The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so” (Prov. 15:4, 7 NKJV). Enough said!

Fourth, get real. Be authentic in your relationship with God and others. God doesn’t embrace outward offerings from people who inwardly reject Him. Often the people brought sacrifices before Him in worship, yet their hearts were far from Him (Prov. 15:8). And God didn’t accept such behavior! He is not into pretense. And neither should we! We are to be open and genuine in our relationships with Him and others in our family, our church, and our community. Be real!

Four principles that are practical and applicable every day in my relationships with others . . . all drawn straight from God’s Word of wisdom! You gotta love how He takes care of us by instructing us! Let’s put these into practice today! **Let’s live to communicate His love, truth, and wisdom!** See you Sunday!

FROM OUR BOSTON CHURCH PLANTER

Jacob Ambrose

My Temple family! I can hardly believe we've been in Boston for over seven months, and almost eight months since we've been in worship with you! Our family is so excited to spend this weekend with you. I will be sharing in all morning services about how our time in Boston has been so far, some ministry updates, and how you can be praying for us moving forward.

You all have been unbelievably generous toward us and our ministry here. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 come to mind when I think about you: "For they gave according to their means...and beyond their means...begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints." I know you aren't supporting us out of compulsion, but because it gives you great joy to take part in the work that God is doing in the Greater Boston area. We receive weekly messages from you, letting us know you are thinking about us and praying for us. Temple, you have been the best sending church I could have ever imagined, and we can't wait to tell you in person just how thankful we are for you.

In this time of collecting for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, I'm also extremely grateful for the collective work of Southern Baptists to plant churches in North America. Because you have given to Annie, our family is living in an apartment in Boston at little cost to us. Because you give to Annie, I am receiving robust training, coaching, and support from NAMB throughout the planting process. Because you give to Annie, our family will have multiple fun/connecting events with other church planting families this year – friendships that are crucial to develop. These are just a few of many ways that we are *#FueledByAnnie* while on the mission field. Thank you for your continued support of us and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, as we work together to engage cities with the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches. We love you, and we'll see you Sunday!



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Welcome to the Family!



Cohen Holomon
(Statement)
Also pictured: Lauren



the family of **Georgia Louise McKown**,
grandmother of Stacey (Casey) Casady,
great-grandmother of Julia and Georgia;

the family of **Ruth Whittaker**, grandmother of
Katie Peters, great-grandmother of Sarah and Hannah;

the family of **Kay Naff**, wife of Harold,
mother of Brett (Cheryl),
grandmother of Lauren and Austin Naff,
Layton Burnham, and Avery Deaver,
great-grandmother of Kaley and Kinsley Kennedy,
Ryker, Rowdy, June, and July Burnham,
Layton and Macie Burnham;

the family of **Nelwyn Gray**,
sister of Louise (Ron) Adams.



From the Minister of Contemporary Worship

Zach Husser


Spring is my favorite season of the year. There is always a sense of hope, newness, and optimism that radiates the air. So, as we approach the month of March and the season of spring, I want to share some reasons for optimism in our worship ministry.

I've been working vocationally in worship ministry for nine years. In these years, the Lord has given me the opportunity to work with incredibly talented musicians. However, I'm not sure I've ever had the joy of working with a larger quantity of talented musicians than I do right now.

In the youth ministry, we have a full band of competent, growing musicians. This is a blessing from the Lord, especially with the state of arts in most schools across this country. For college, we have a large rotation of very skilled volunteers who want to use their talents for God's glory. On Sunday mornings, we are blessed with faithful musicians who generously give their time and talent to be a blessing to the church in both services.

With so many people wanting to use their gifts to serve the Lord through musical worship, I'm very hopeful for the future of our church. A church that is dedicated to declaring God's praise is a church that God will use to glorify His name!

Thank you to everyone who generously gives their time and blesses the church with the gifts the Lord has given them.



Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering®
 FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Week of Prayer **Our Goal:**
 Feb. 25 - Mar. 3 \$87,000

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Week-at-a-Glance

February 25-March 3 - Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
March 2-8 - Temple College Beach Reach (Panama City Beach, FL)

Sunday, February 25

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Baptism (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space); Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Sunday School for all ages
- 3 p.m. - Men's Retreat Reunion (FLC Snack Area)
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JPMR)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)

Wednesday, February 28

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family; Menu: Chicken Tenders); Montana Mission Team Interest Meeting (Rm 76)
- 5:45 p.m. - Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Children's M³ (JP)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting | Bible Study (FH)
- 6:45 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 29

- 2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 216)

Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (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.



MONTANA
 MISSION TEAM

INTEREST MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
 5 P.M. | RM 76

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MISSIONS.TEMPLE.LIFE



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