

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

AUGUST 1996

## WE'RE MIXING THE GENERATIONS

BY TIM PETTIT

*...this fall we're starting some "Intergenerational Groups" that have no age limits.*

**E**ver notice a part of our church that is rarely in our Home Fellowship Groups? Children.

We think that would bother Jesus, since he always seemed to have children hanging around him.

There was that kid with the loaves and fishes in his sack lunch. And how about the youngster Jesus grabbed and used as an example of who's getting into heaven? Surely there were children giggling at Jesus' suggestion that a camel could squeeze through the eye of a needle.

It's true that Jesus' disciples thought he was wasting his time, holding those runny-nosed toddlers in his arms. (Luke tells us that they tried to keep those kids off Jesus' DayTimer™.)

So this fall we're starting some "Intergenerational Groups" that have no age limits. Singles, chil-

dren, parents and seniors will worship, pray and share their lives in one group. The new groups will be places where children are respected and invited to participate. If we believe that the Bible says our primary Christian community is found in small groups, it must be true for kids, too. (In Central America, a 14-year-old boy leads his Intergenerational Cell. His group has multiplied five times.)

"I've always said that home fellowship groups can be messy, and these new groups could be in the sense of having more distractions and less control," said Jeff White, who oversees Redeemer's home groups. "We have to adopt a mentality that says that having children in these groups is a good thing."

The Intergenerational Groups also include a time when adults and children are separated to talk on their own level about how God's Word is chang-

ing their lives. During this Kids' Slot, volunteers from the group will work with the children, using material provided by the church.

"If we're going to be a true Intergenerational Group, I have some singles and married couples who don't have children who I want to invite," said Neva Strom, who has signed up for leadership training with her husband, Tom Dula. "I want people over 50 as well as those in their 20's."

A unique dynamic can result. Little kids look up to single adults, fascinated that there are big people out there who are not mommies and daddies. Single men and women become spiritual aunts and uncles to the children. Hmmm, not a bad idea in New York City, where so many of us are separated from our blood relatives.

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## NEW CHURCH LIFE DIRECTOR JOINS REDEEMER STAFF

**T**o ensure that no one "falls through the cracks" at Redeemer, the Session has hired Tim Pettit as the new Director of Church Life. Tim, an ordained minister and a former wire service reporter, joined Redeemer's staff on July 1.

The elders hired Tim to oversee the care of Redeemerites as they move into different life stages. After all, if you peek beneath the surface of Redeemer, you'll see far more than a Yuppie monolith.

Of course, you have singles. But some are singles focusing on career issues. Others are working on relationship issues ... on spiritual ac-

countability and discipleship ... on singleness itself. There are singles contemplating marriage and some who are engaged. There are growing numbers of married couples ... with and without children. Parents with toddlers and parents with teens. Single mothers and fathers. And even a smattering of "empty nesters." Perhaps you're in a category we didn't mention.

How will we learn to meet these challenges with a biblical response?

How do we find pastoral care in appropriate small groups? As Jesus' Church, how do we keep our sense of a caring Christian community as our diversity increases?

"Here's the challenge facing me: Making sure that, as people move into new life stages, no group 'falls through the cracks' when it comes to getting pastoral care or spiritual training," Tim said. "I'll rely heavily on the cre-

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- LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

- SEMINARY COURSES
- EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP

*MORE...*



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## NEW CHURCH LIFE DIRECTOR

ation of a variety of new small groups to prevent that from happening.”

The director of church life will work with a variety of groups, including singles, men’s and women’s ministries, married couples, parents and children. He also will be working with Redeemer leaders in the areas of large group meetings (such as retreats and fellowship dinners) and mid-sized meetings (such as seminars and the School of Discipleship). “But I’ll always focus on the question, ‘How can this help people get into a small group?’” Tim said. “That’s where our people are getting their best spiritual care.”

Tim brings a variety of professional experience to Redeemer. For 12 years, he was a news reporter, mostly with The Associated Press Wire Service. During eight years of pastoral ministry he was a church planter in the Bronx and a senior pastor in a church in Indiana. For the past three years, he has taught at a junior high school in the south Bronx. “God has taught me about His grace all the way through, but especially with those seventh graders!” Tim said.

At Redeemer, Tim has served as an elder, a School of Discipleship teacher, a Home Fellowship Group leader, and coordinator over group leaders. Since January, he has worked part-time on staff as a director of small groups, providing pastoral care and oversight to home group coordinators.

His wife, Sue, is an elementary public school teacher in the Bronx and heads the New and Expectant Parents Ministry at Redeemer. They have three children: Anne, 19; Sara, 16; and Adam, 13.

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## MIXING THE GENERATIONS

We might even learn how to worship from the little ones. Remember when the religious big shots in the Temple got steamed when children were shouting praises to Jesus? Jesus simply reminded them of Psalm 8:2: “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.”

You say kids can’t be mixed with adults in a home fellowship group? We’d like the opportunity to prove you wrong. One Intergenerational Group is already underway in Brooklyn. And at least two hands-on training groups (complete with kiddies)

will meet for five weeks beginning in late August.

Whether you are single or married, have kids or not, we invite you to attend one of these training groups. No obligation. Maybe you’ll discover that Jesus, by hanging out with children, knew something that we don’t.

*Intrigued? Call Tim Pettit, director of church life, at the Redeemer office (212-808-4460, ext. 41). He can give you more information or sign you up for a training group.*

## BOOK REVIEW

### SHEPHERDING A CHILD’S HEART, BY TEDD TRIPP

**T**edd Tripp’s new book sets a higher standard for parenting. He goes beyond most contemporary Christian books on the subject by focusing parents’ attention on the child’s heart as the motivation for his or her actions. Parenting is not merely generating good behavior, it’s motivating genuine godliness. He correctly sees the biblical emphasis of parenting as shepherding, pastoring the child to orient his or her life to God.

At the heart of Tripp’s book is the recognition that children are sinners in need of Christ’s grace. Children are not robots — they react to their environment with their own sinful patterns. Parents therefore need to discipline, encourage, exhort, plead for, cultivate, and lift up their children in prayer. Like Christ, there is force and warmth, holiness and mercy.

Tripp is an experienced pastor, father, educator and theologian. Dr. David Powlison comments, “[Tripp] knows children, he knows parents... he knows the ways of God. It will inspire you to become a different kind of parent. It will teach you by precept and example. This is a masterful

book.”

His work addresses both the overarching principles of parenting and the practical issues of living out those principles. Tripp gives specific advice and examples for parents of children at different ages and also provides helpful discussion questions at the end of each chapter that allow parents (or discussion groups) to apply the book to their own families. Redeemer is developing a parenting class based on this book for January 1997.

Donna and I first read Tripp’s book several years ago while it was still a Westminster Seminary doctoral thesis. The only negative is that the self-published book, printed in response to overwhelming demand, could use some style editing (and even closer proofreading!). These physical defects are more than compensated by the powerful content. In short, this is the best book that we’ve read on parenting. It’s a challenge to live up to. Copies of the book are available at the Redeemer book table.

- by Andrew Field

### REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller

Shirley Dryden • Yvonne Dodd

Dave Jacobs

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OFFICE • 271 MADISON AVENUE • SUITE 1600 • NEW YORK, NEW YORK • 10016  
212-808-4460 (phone) 212-808-4465 (fax)

Redeemer meets Sunday at  
HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM • EAST 69TH BETWEEN PARK AND LEXINGTON  
services at 10:30 • 6:00

# NEW INTERN JOINS STAFF

**J**ames Om began his year-long pastoral internship on July 16, 1996. Jim comes to Redeemer from Westminster Theological Seminary, where he graduated this past June. He has 3 years experience in significant pastoral ministry while still in seminary.

Jim and his wife Jennifer are familiar with Redeemer and are excited to join our staff ministry team. Jim's main responsibilities will be to direct the Prayer leadership team, to lead and coordinate fellowship groups, and to teach in the School of Disciple-

ship. You will begin seeing Jim on stage leading worship. He and his wife have an interest in church planting. We hope that many of you will get to know them over the next year.

Tony Hinchliff, Redeemer's intern over the past year, has returned to Princeton full-time to complete his seminary degree. Because of the fruitfulness of his ministry, he will continue to minister at Redeemer part-time next year as a fellowship group coordinator for Brooklyn. Tony will commute up to Redeemer on Sundays to lead group training sessions.

# DEAR COSMO

Dear Cosmo,

"Hot town, summer in the city..." Individuals take a vacation, but apparently Redeemer never does. So—do you still need Ushers, Communion volunteers, RedeemerLink Welcomers, Tape Table people, Book Table people, pastors, etc? I've got a lot of time burning a hole in my schedule this summer. Can you use me?

M. Teresa

*It's important to remember all the Sunday service ministries.*

Dear Mother,

*You're an answer to our prayers! We need at least 10 Ushers, 2 book volunteers, 3 Tape people, 2 Redeemer Linkers, many Communion volunteers and 2 pastors for just about every service. Your help is very much appreciated. If you have an interest in any one (or more) of the above jobs, please call the church office (ext. 21.) We need you!*

Dear Cosmo,

It seems that all I read about in this column is the Ushers this, the Info Table that, the Greeters some other. Why not write about something worth writing about...the Book Table! They do all the work and get too little press. Do they need help? Do they take suggestions? Do they give discounts? Do they have book signings? We want to know.

Thanks, V. Hugo

Dear Victor,

*Thanks for the reminders. It's important to remember all the Sunday service ministries. The Book Table does such a great job in keeping all the most relevant and popular titles in stock (just try finding a better selection of Puritan literature in all Manhattan!), keeping a happily staffed table even on the slowest of Sundays, and giving us reviews of the latest in good reading. I hope everyone appreciates the work they are doing, takes the time to visit the table on occasion, and gives them suggestions on books we'd like to see at the table. By the way, what do you think about your new Disney movie?*

## F.Y.I.

### Learn to Be Servant Leaders

The new curriculum for our fall Home Fellowship Groups will be taught at the first of four School of Servant Leadership seminars on Saturday, **Sept. 7**. Pastor Tim Keller will teach that seminar on "The Gospel and the Heart," focusing on how the Gospel says we are accepted by God. Participants will then use the material in their Home Fellowship Groups.

### Head Back to School

You've still got sand in the back of your car, but we're ready to get you back into the classroom. Ten classes will be offered when the School of Discipleship resumes on **Sunday, September 8**. They are: Question and Answer, The Credibility of Christianity, Overview of Christian Theology, Intro to Redeemer, How to Study the Bible, Peacemaking, The Single Woman, Encouragement (Women's Track), Experiencing God, Jewish Life and Witness, Bringing Up Children without Tearing Them Down. Classes for children also are provided.

### Take A Seminary Course

Redeemer and The Village Church are offering a course, "Faith and the Arts," for which you can receive credit from Westminster Theological Seminary. Dr. William Edgar, professor of apologetics, will be teaching on the biblical foundation for the place of art in the Christian life and in society. Seven classes will be offered at Redeemer offices, beginning Thursday evening, **Sept. 12**. Contact Steve Casselli at 1-800-373-0119.

### Be Trained to Lead Groups

A training seminar will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 14**, for people who want to find out what is involved in leading a Home Fellowship Group. Attending the seminar is a prerequisite to becoming a group leader. The seminar will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redeemer office.

You can sign up for one of our 110 Home Fellowship Groups at the Sign-Up Day on **Sunday, Sept. 22**, in the East Lounge at Hunter College.

### Men: Have Your Life Changed

Here's your chance to have your life changed powerfully, as tens of thousands of men have across the country. Tickets still are available for the Promise Keepers conference at Shea Stadium on **Sept. 20 and 21**. Promise Keepers encourages men to pursue lives of integrity through Jesus Christ. Call Tony Santiago at 718-482-0340.

## EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP: STOCK TRANSFERS

BY DREW FIELD

Since opening a securities account last December, Redeemer has received about \$120,000 in donated securities. First, for those of you who have donated securities, thank you!

Many people who are committed to giving to Redeemer ought to consider stock donations instead of cash, because these security donations can have an added benefit to the donors. According to an October 1995 Wall Street Journal article, the donor does not take a capital gain on the transfer, but can report the full market value of the security as an itemized deduction. In other words: less income, more deductions, greater tax benefit.

Of course, tax benefits alone should not drive your decision to give. We urge you to consider your own heartfelt desire to give in response to Christ's grace in your life, and trusting in his constant provision.

If this interests you, how do you do it? Ask your broker to make an electronic transfer. This is as simple as a phone call. After a few days, the shares transfer out of your account into ours. The only information that you need is:

Account name: Redeemer Presbyterian Church  
Account number: 7354-3138  
DTC Clearing number: 0164,  
Code 40

Please call us ahead to let us know that the shares are coming, so that we can look for them and send you a receipt. It is our trustees' policy to sell the shares as soon as possible once they have been received and to use the funds for our ministry.

You can make these kinds of transfers at any time, from anywhere (even on vacation — hint, hint). When you donate securities, you will receive the article from the Wall Street Journal that might help in your tax preparation. If you have any further questions, please call Drew Field at 212-808-4460.

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## THE REDEEMER CALENDAR

### AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

- Aug 10 - Church picnic
- Aug 11 - Baptisms and Reception of New Members - AM and PM service
- Aug 24 - Children's Sunday School Teacher training
- Sept 2 - Labor Day. Redeemer office closed.
- Sept 7 - First School of Servant Leadership seminar
- Sept 8 - Baptisms and Reception of New Members
- Sept 8 - Start of School of Discipleship classes
- Sept 14 - Home Fellowship Group Leaders training seminar
- Sept 20 - Promise Keepers New York
- Sept 22 - Anniversary Celebration
- Sept 22 - Home Fellowship Group sign-up day
- Sept 29 - Open Forum (evening)