

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

SEPTEMBER 1998

## MAKING ROOM

*"Do not you say, 'Four months more and then the harvest? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.... I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.'" (John 4:34-38)*

**T**he harvest is an exciting and rewarding time. That is when we actually taste and digest the fresh crop. But it comes only after the long months and tedious hard work of planting, watering, and weeding. The gospel in the Bible is often likened to a seed, and its results—changed lives through

"eternal life"—are likened to grain or fruit coming to fullness (e.g. Matt.13:1-23). Our job is to sow and plant the gospel into

*"Our job is to sow and plant the gospel into people's minds and hearts by our words and deeds."*

people's minds and hearts by our words and deeds. Then, depending on the response, we are to nurture and harvest the new life as it grows to fruition.

Most churches and ministries do a lot more sowing than reaping. Hearts and communities are hardened to the gospel for many

BY TIM KELLER

reasons, and therefore most Christians "plant seeds" by their witness without seeing a great deal of fruit. Yet Jesus in John 4:34-38 speaks of special seasons in which "the sower and the reaper may be glad together" (v.36). Usually, of course, the reapers begin their work months after the sowers have finished theirs. It is simply not possible, without supernatural intervention, for the crop to grow so quickly that the sower and the reaper "draw wages" and "rejoice together." So Jesus is describing special periods when God visits a ministry and brings about unusual amounts of fruit and reaping.

Redeemer stands in the middle of such a season. I taught and

*(continued on page 2)*

## COUNSELING CENTER RESOURCES

BY GRACE CHOI

**R**edeemer Counseling Services offers a number of helpful inventories to facilitate one's growth. The **Prepare/Enrich** inventories (Life Innovations) were developed to help couples focus more objectively on critical relationship issues. **Prepare** (premarital), **Enrich** (marital), and **Mate** (mature married couples) are intended to assess areas in which relationships need to grow. The inventories will also examine strengths that will enable couples to progress in a positive direction. Many Redeemer couples have been blessed

through these inventories.

In addition to the resources above, I would like to introduce a new inventory we have recently begun implementing, **Career Direct** is a new inventory we have available through the provision of Larry Burkett's Life Pathways (a division of Christian Financial Concepts). While assessing one's vocational interests, personality, skills, and values, **Career Direct** aims to teach a

sound biblical process for career planning and provide practical assistance through vocational assessment.

Some reasons we make poor career decisions

1. Choose the first/easiest job you can get.
2. Choose a job based on the amount of money it pays.
3. Choose a job because it sounds

*(continued on page 3)*

### INSIDE:

- BIBLICAL FINANCE & RELATIONSHIP
- MYTHS/FACTS ABOUT COUNSELING
- NEXT OPEN FORUM
- MENTORING SEMINAR
- MORE...



# MAKING ROOM

ministered in other settings for many years but I have never seen so many people consistently coming, opening to the gospel, and bearing fruit “for eternal

*“I have never seen so many people consistently coming, opening to the gospel...”*

life” as here at Redeemer in New York City. How long will such a special harvest time last? No one knows the answer to that. But Jesus says we must respond and accommodate it as long as it is here. He said, “Do you not say, ‘four more months..?’ ....I tell you open your eyes and look...they are ripe...even now.” He means that when such a time comes, we must not wait for “four months,” working at our normal pace and using ordinary measures. Rather we must take immediate steps to welcome and receive all the new people God is sending us.

Every year for the last four years, several hundred new people have been brought to Redeemer by friends. The new people, minus the large number of our folks who move away from NYC annually, result in a “net gain” of nearly 300 annually. How do we, then welcome and receive them? By “making room.”

First, we have to physically make room for them in our auditorium. That is fundamental. If there are no seats, they cannot come in. Secondly, we have to

emotionally make room for them in our relationships. This gets tougher as the years go by. New Yorkers have to endure the loss of so many friends who move on that we may get weary of opening our hearts to new significant friendships. But we must—if Jesus is sending them. This is a special time; we must not say, “four more months.” Thirdly, we have to spiritually make room for them in our prayers and ministry. We must resist the natural tendency for any institution to turn inward and serve the needs of its members over its non-members. We have to let the gospel’s logic and power keep us from that kind of selfishness.

Redeemer’s leaders have no particular interest in growing larger. Last year we acknowledged that Redeemer was becoming, in many ways, “too large.” But though we might wish that we never got any larger, we must make room for the harvest, if God is sending it. This creates a dilemma, of course. How can you avoid growing larger without just shutting the gates to new people, contrary to Jesus’ directions?

Most of the readers of this newsletter know the answer to that question. Last year we committed to a plan that we believe will accomplish both these ends. The “Multi-Site” model will change Redeemer into a tightly networked series of sister congregations in Manhattan. This way we can become smaller (at each particular site) but create lots of room for the people God is still sending us. I won’t repeat the details which you know. The response

to the plan has been more than enthusiastic.

But now we come to the 98-99 year and the implementation of the plan. As of this time, we are still in a vigorous search for a morning worship site on the West Side. Please pray for that search. We wanted to have that site up and running by the first Sunday after Labor Day, but it hasn’t happened. However, the new people will begin coming anyway. What can we do as a temporary measure, until we do find our west side site?

There is one practical thing we can do to “make room” for new people within our present facility, with no changes to our schedule. Our morning service was packed last Spring, and there will be essentially no room for new people. However, during the evening service the auditorium is only about two-thirds full. Therefore, after Labor Day, I will begin preaching the same sermon in the morning and the evening services. When the West Side site opens, it will be the same sermon

*“We must resist the natural tendency for any institution to turn inward and serve the needs of its members”*

at all locations.

Why do this? There are several important reasons. First, this will immediately create room for new people. A number of people who come both morning and evening could attend only in the evening,

*(continued on page 5)*

---

## REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller  
Yvonne Dodd  
Dave Jacobs

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.  
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

# MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT COUNSELING

BY HANNIBAL SILVER

There are still people who picture therapy as a process that occurs between a Bob-like client (Remember the movie “*What About Bob?*”) and a Freud-like therapist. However, little modern psychotherapy fits that stereotype.

Instead, Redeemer Counseling and Testing Center’s counselors plan with people to establish goals and then work together toward achieving those goals. We work with individuals, couples, and families. These are normal people struggling with a variety of personal, family, or social issues.

Christian counseling is often a process of self-examination facilitated by a therapist for the purpose of creating change in the attitudes, behavior, or feelings that have prevented the client from enjoying life and realizing his/her God given potential. Consider now three myths about counseling:

**Myth # 1:** “You have to be ‘crazy’ to go for therapy”.

**FACT:** Most people who seek therapy are not “crazy.” Instead they are quite normal people who want to do something about their problems. Since EVERYONE has significant problems at various points in life, counseling can be viewed as a normal part of the process of moving through various significant phases of life. Instead of being “crazy,” it is smart to utilize the resources which are available to you.

(continued from page 1)

**Myth # 2:** “Going to counseling is a sign of weakness - I should be able to handle this myself.” or “No one is going to tell me what to do!”.

**FACT:** Actually, it takes a great deal of courage to confront problem areas, seek help, and take responsibility for your life. A properly trained counselor will not think for you or make decisions on your behalf. Instead he/she will help you explore potential solutions or directions.

**Myth # 3:** “Counseling is too expensive for me”.

**FACT:** Redeemer strives to keep counseling sessions at a reasonable cost. While the usual rate of counseling sessions range from \$75 to \$125, at Redeemer most clients’ fees range from \$60 to \$90. One of our goals for an initial assessment session is to minimize costs through the identification of counseling objectives and resources to reach them in a cost effective manner.

An advantage of Christian counseling over secular methods of therapy is the wisdom of God’s word. We pray that in our sessions our clients will have a “burning bush” experience of insight, healing and understanding. Many lives have been changed in our facilities after a personal encounter with a caring and all-wise Counselor, the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of our services is to

provide a confidential, trusting, caring environment where clients can work on the issues that brought them to therapy. The client-counselor relationship is unique in that the focus is always on the client’s needs. While Redeemer counselors respect the values of all clients, the world view of our counseling team is centered on Biblical Christianity.

Among the reasons people come to therapy are: **1. Crisis resolution** - regarding the loss of a relationship, death in the family, stress overload, psychosomatic problems, loneliness, family crisis, etc. **2. Personal Recovery** - from abusive relationships, depression, eating disorders, anger, compulsive or self-defeating behavior. **3. Relationship Dynamics** - parent/child or child/parent problems, unhappy relationships, marital conflicts, pre-marital counseling etc. **4. Personal Growth** - Enhancing self-understanding, defining personal goals, increasing self-confidence, and enriching personal relationships.

We serve the church through teaching, seminars, small groups, and individual sessions. We also provide training and supervision for couples, relationship, and recovery groups. For more information call Judy Cha at (212) 370-0475.

*Redeemer Counseling and Testing Center’s counselors plan with people to establish goals and then work together toward achieving those goals.*

## COUNSELING RESOURCES

like a good title.

4. Take a job just because management offers it.

5. Choose a job because that’s what your parents do or wished for you.

6. Choose a job just because you have the minimum ability to do it.

Having grown up in an Asian-American family, the type of career I was to choose never seemed like an option: you’re either to become a lawyer if you’re liberal arts minded or a doctor if you’re science minded. Through the painful process of trial

and error, I came to realize that I have a unique ability and calling, apart from my parent’s expectations or my own ambitions. I would like to highlight the biblical principles of **Career Direct**:

1. We are unique creations of God - Psalm 139:13-14

2. God blesses us individually with work-related talents - Romans 12:4-8

3. We are to be excellent in our work and examples to others. Excellence comes from development of our God-given talents - Prov 22:29

4. Our larger calling is to be witnesses for Christ and lights unto the world: This is greatly enhanced when we are experiencing the joy of using our talents at work - Matt 5:14-16

5. Our career is much more than just the means to have a financial provision: It should be a way we worship God and reflect His glory. If you are interested in acquiring more information about **Career Direct** or **Prepare/Enrich** inventories, please call Grace at Redeemer Counseling Services (212.370.0475).

# BIBLICAL FINANCE AND RELATIONSHIPS

BY DIANE LEWIS

**O**ur attitudes about money and how we use it affect many areas of our lives. Our relationship with God, our families, friends, believers and unbelievers can be enhanced or damaged depending on our relationship with money. Yes, all of us have a relationship with money! Good or bad, strong, or weak, conscious or unconscious; our views about money affect many of our actions. Money can cause stress and anger that affect our relationships with friends, children, spouses and even God. Money can also allow us to bless others, spread the gospel and save souls.

The Bible says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21) For example, if your treasure is spent on owning a boat, and God is not first in your life, your heart will be on the open seas. The proof of this is to ask the question, "Does boating take first place in my

talk?" "Do I spend most of my time and money on my boat? God said, "You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3) and "A man is a slave to whatever has mastered him." (2 Peter 2:19) If we put God first in all areas of our lives, then God is first in how we spend our time, money, thoughts, words, and actions. We need to ask the hard question: Where is my treasure? Where is my heart? Is God first in my life?

Thankfully the Bible offers many scriptures with guidance into how we are suppose to view money and handling money wisely. In fact, there are over 1000 references to money in the Bible, second only to references of love! Jesus taught many principles of finances. The scriptures discuss many attitudes about money including pride, ego, fear, worry, thankfulness, trust, wisdom, commitment, contentment, and counsel. God also gives us practi-

cal advice on topics such as lending, borrowing, planning, retirement, investing, saving, giving, stewardship, tithing, blessings, curses, work, taxes and paying debts.

God will guide our finances if we 1) Put God first in all things, 2) Ask God for guidance 3) Listen for God's guidance, and 4) Do what God says.

God loves you. God in His greatness created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). In His same greatness God is concerned with the smallest details of our lives. Jesus said, "Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." (Matthew 10:30) If you have a burden on your heart, lift it up to God in prayer. God knows all about you and He loves you.

Diane Lewis will be speaking on "*Money, Debt, and Relation - ships: What Does God Say About It?*" 9/21/98, 7 PM @ Church of the Advent Hope.

## MENTORING SEMINAR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

BY TIM PETTIT

**I**t was Jesus, not Wall Street executives, who said mentoring was an absolute necessity. "Go and make disciples" was Jesus' last command before leaving his followers for the final time.

Mentoring is a natural, relational process that passes experience and values from one generation to the next. From his own experience with his followers, Jesus knew that it takes an up-close-and-personal relationship to shape a new generation of Christian believers, or in his words, "disciples," people who become learners and followers of Jesus.

Redeemer is offering a seminar on Saturday, September 26, to explain how you either can become a spiritual mentor or find someone who can mentor you and show you how they've walked down the spiritual path that you're just beginning. In fact, the seminar will show you that even mentors should be mentored.

"The self-made man or woman is a myth and, though some claim it, few aspire to it," Paul Stanley says in his book, *Connecting*. "The resurgence of mentoring in virtually every occupational field and area of life is a response to this discovery."

The Redeemer seminar will teach you how to narrow your mentoring needs to a specific area, which will make it easier for you to find either a more experienced person who can mentor you or a peer mentor. You'll learn different strategies and levels of intensity of mentoring and develop realistic expectations of the mentor and person being mentored.

The seminar will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church office, 271 Madison Avenue, between 39th and 40th Streets and will include a continental breakfast. Register by calling the church office, 808-4460, x10.

# OPEN FORUM

The first Open Forum of the fall will take place on Sunday evening, September 27, at 6:00 p.m. in the Hunter College Auditorium. Open Forums, held four times a year in place of our usual Sunday evening worship services, are opportunities to reflect on important themes of our times through artistic performances, lectures, and question and answer sessions. Previous Open Forums topics have included "Sex and the End of Loneliness"

(with pop music), "The Death of Death" (with opera scenes), and "The Cure of the Soul" (with the Orchestra of the Redeemer).

All four of this year's Open Forums will be based on the theme "To Die For...", a look at the idols, obsessions and controlling principles in our lives. The September 27 Forum will be titled, "To Die For: Success," a look at the passions which dominate us in the area of career, success and money. A program of musical theater songs, featuring Redeemer mem-

bers from the Broadway casts of *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Sound of Music*, and *Les Miserables* will be followed by a lecture by Tim Keller and a question-and-answer session. Also performing that evening will be the 6:30 Band, celebrating the release of their second CD, *Double Cure*, and giving their first New York performance in over a year.

Bring a friend and arrive early to secure seating as over 1,400 people attended last year's "Broadway" Open Forum.

(continued from page 2)

## MAKING ROOM

and this would open seats at both services for newcomers. Second, this will begin a process by which the PM service "jells" into its own, coherent congregation, with its own leaders, ministries and members. Third, this will eventually make it possible for me to have the stamina to preach multiple times and places on Sunday.

This change will, of course, mean a sacrifice for those who return on Sunday night after attending the Sunday morning service. Please keep in mind that those in leadership will be getting much more teaching input from me than they will be losing, because I will transfer the time I gave to the PM sermon preparation over to training for small groups and leaders.

When such a harvest season occurs, Jesus warns us not to take credit for it. It is the Lord's special work ("I sent you to reap"), and there are always others whose labor was the basis for our "success" ("others have done the hard work"). Our job is not to boast, or complain, but to open our arms to others as the Lord did to us.

*The September 27 Forum... will look at the passions which dominate us in the area of career, success and money.*

## F.Y.I.

### Benefit Concert for Hope for New York September 19

Saturday, September 19th is the date for the three-band benefit concert for Hope for New York at the Bitter End, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Stickman Jones, Mother Kirk and Spinoza will all perform at the club located on 147 Bleecker Street. Tickets are \$20 for all three groups. Proceeds will benefit the mercy ministries of Hope for New York. For advance tickets, call (212) 795-3729.

### City Vision Ministry Fair October 4

Find out about volunteer opportunities in mercy ministry at the City Vision Fair on Sunday, October 4th, after both Redeemer services. Eighteen different Hope for New York ministries will be represented, and you may obtain information and speak to team leaders about using your spiritual gifts to serve the needs of the city. Volunteer opportunities include: tutoring, serving the homeless, working with children, holiday projects, teaching English, and many others.

If you have a burden on your heart, lift it up to God in prayer. God knows all about you and He loves you.

### Money, Debt, and Relationships Program

Diane Lewis will be speaking on "Money, Debt, and Relationships: What Does God Say About It?" 9/21/98, 7 PM @ Church of the Advent Hope.

### Redeemer Music Available

Beginning September 13, all music published by Redeemer Music will be available for purchase at a special table in the East Lounge following all services. Some of the items to be found there will include a book and recording of worship songs, a book and recording of hymn arrangements for piano and vocal soloist, recordings and jazz arrangements by the 6:30 Band, and recordings by the band Stickman Jones. These materials can also be obtained by calling Chris Hughes at 212-808-4460, ext.25.

## THE NEW JERSEY CHURCH

**R**edeemer does not want to plant a church in New Jersey. Yes, you're reading correctly; Redeemer does not want to plant a church in New Jersey, but Redeemer **does** want to plant a *church planting movement* in New Jersey. We have an extraordinary opportunity through the resources and people involved to not only plant one church, but a number of churches in a relatively short period of time. The leaders of the New Jersey Church Movement feel that the Lord is calling us to plant five churches in five years, beginning with two church plants in the summer of 1999. We hope to begin this movement of churches with a morning service in the Englewood/Teaneck area and an evening service in the Hoboken area.

There have been a number of people who have asked the question, "why do something so bold as to try to plant a movement of churches instead of just one church plant?" Well, there are at least four reasons which come to mind. First of all the Lord has given us the opportunity through the people living in New Jersey, through the growth of fellowship

groups, and the availability of resources to begin this amazing movement of churches. "From those who are given much, much is required."

Second, there is a great need in Northern New Jersey. Around 2 million people live within a 7 mile radius from these locations, but only a handful of evangelical churches are ministering in this area. Third, we could possibly try to plant one church in our own strength without trusting and depending on God very much. However, if we were to move forward with this vision of starting a movement of churches, we would be forced to depend on Him, being a part of something that is beyond ourselves and knowing that only He could do this. And lastly, the leaders of the New Jersey Church Movement sense the Lord is calling us to move forward with this vision as we have discussed and prayed about ministering in NJ.

We have been greatly encouraged by the affirmation of over 150 regular attenders of

Redeemer who live in New Jersey and who have expressed interest in the church plant. We look forward to picking up momentum as we continue to meet as two core groups, multiply our fellowship groups to 12 by the Spring of 1999, and as we pray for this bold new work in New Jersey.

Please pray for us that we would continue to follow the Lord's leading in this movement of churches. Pray that our Lord would raise up new leaders to multiply fellowship groups. Pray that the believers in New Jersey would come together as a community and at the same time have an outward face towards our friends and neighbors. Pray that the Lord would provide the financial resources to launch this movement of churches. And pray, as this gospel movement begins, that not only would individual lives be changed, but whole communities would be transformed through the power of the gospel. If you are interested in supporting or being a part of this church planting movement in New Jersey, please contact the Rev. Jim Om at (212) 808-4460 x43.

*"From those who are given much, much is required."*