

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

NOVEMBER 1998

## STEWARDSHIP (AGAIN!)

BY TIM KELLER

**T**his spring we conducted a Capital Fund Campaign that resulted in \$4.3 million dollars in commitments to Redeemer over the next three years. Our purpose was to turn Redeemer from a single mega-church into a movement of sister churches in the metro New York area. The response to the campaign was nothing short of tremendous. The leadership of Redeemer mapped out an exciting 10-15 year vision for serving the city, and then we as a church united behind it with remarkable, sacrificial giving. However, now that we are again in the year-end "Stewardship" season, no one (including me) wants to hear a lot more appeals for giving!

Nevertheless, we have to take into account a startling fact. The

attendance during the first five weeks of the fall has been re-

*"Second, we should  
give because of sin.*

*Since we are sinful  
people, anything we have  
can become an idol through  
which we seek to get the  
security and significance that  
only God can give. "*

markable. Last year at this time we were averaging about 2,000 people in Sunday worship, but

now that number is around 2,500. If we remember that many people move away from NYC annually, we have to conclude that nearly a third of all the people present on Sunday were not in church last year. What does this mean at "stewardship" time?

First, it means that those of us who are members and longer-term friends of Redeemer must continue to give solidly and generously without abatement. Why? Because newcomers require us to greatly expand our ministries, but they do not at first provide either the volunteer hours or the financial support to undergird that expansion. When our attendance grows 25% in a short period of time, it takes many months for the giving to "catch up." During such growth

*(continued on page 2)*

## PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

BY LINDA CHIN

**S**unday, November 15 is the National Day of Prayer. Redeemer will be marking the occasion with special services of prayer immediately following both the morning and the evening services. In addition, this day is an opportunity for the worldwide body of believers to join together to pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. You may contact Tony Hinchliff for more information about the events of the day at 212-808-4460 x 143.

Among the other needs which

will be specifically prayed for on November 15 are the sufferings of Christians who are being persecuted for their faith around the world. At an ever increasing rate, Christians are denied freedoms and continue to be targets of discrimination, harassment, imprisonment, and torture by intolerant religious and/or government forces.

I recently had an opportunity

to meet one of my sisters in Christ for whom oppression for her faith in Christ is a fact of daily life.

Jamila, a married believer from a Muslim background, warmly welcomed us into her new home, but she also kept a careful eye on the street when she let us in and out of the door. An onlooker might become sus-

*(continued on page 3)*

### INSIDE:

- UPCOMING RETREATS & OUTINGS
- HARLEM CHURCH GETS A BUILDING
- HOPEFOR NY HOLIDAY EVENTS
- SUNDAY SERVICE MINISTRIES MORE...



(continued from page 1)

## STEWARDSHIP

periods committed friends need to be supportive with their resources.

Second, it means that we can never stop teaching about the gospel's implications for the stewardship of our financial resources. New people haven't heard the teaching for the first time, and the rest of us need to continually be reminded of it. So bear with me as I recap teaching that some of you may have already heard, but which will be new to quite a few of you.

First, we ought to give because of creation. Since God is our creator, all we have is under his ownership. I Chronicles 29:1-18 shows us that we are "stockbro-

kers," investing God's money in causes that are his passions: the church, the poor, the needs of others. Luke 11:37-42 shows us that the guideline for giving is the tithe (ten-percent). What a deal! Few stockbroker's get to keep 90%, as God allows us to do!

Second, we should give because of sin. Since we are sinful people, anything we have can become an idol through which we seek to get the security and significance that only God can give. Matthew 6:24 shows us that we need to give in order to "liberate" our hearts from money's power. I Timothy 6 shows us that the guideline for giving is sacrifice. We need to give until it leads to a

simpler lifestyle.

Finally, we must give because of redemption. Since we are redeemed by grace, all we have now becomes a means of changing lives. II Cor. 8:9 shows us that we give to become mini-models of Christ, who made others rich through his poverty. Matt. 18:21-35 shows us that a heart that is not sacrificially generous has not been saved by sacrificial generosity. Liberality in giving is a way you can tell if someone thinks they have been saved by grace or by works.

Just writing this summary moves me to re-think my own giving and stewardship. I hope it moves you as well.

(continued from page 1)

## PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

picious that so many young foreigners were visiting this native Moroccan. Although she did not understand English, she consented to our praying for her. We sensed that it was a struggle for her to be one of very few "followers of Jesus" in her town, and we prayed for fellowship, protection, and sustained faith for her, her husband, and their toddler.

Why is persecution rising against Christians today? For one thing, the shift in Christian growth from the western world to less-developed nations over the past few decades has been startling. Thirty years ago nearly 75% of world evangelism was carried out by western churches. Today the trends are reversed and nearly 75% of world evangelism is carried out by indigenous

Christians in third world countries. This rise in Christian influence has made the established elite of those countries nervous.

*We are exhorted in Hebrews 13:3 "to remember those in prison, as if [we] were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if [we ourselves] were suffering."*

Secondly, an increasingly radical and militant strain of Islam is seeking power across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, and Christians are often victims of this battle within Islam. Finally, Communist regimes, including China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cuba, took careful note

of the role eastern European churches played in the fall of the Soviet empire, and are determined not to allow a repeat of that in their own nations.

We are exhorted in Hebrews 13:3 "to remember those in prison, as if [we] were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if [we ourselves] were suffering." We hope you will pray specifically for those believers whose lives are far less privileged than your own, and who face insecurity and suffering for their faith.

You can get an up-close glimpse of general happenings and specific needs from websites such as [www.persecuted-church.org](http://www.persecuted-church.org), [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org), and [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org).

---

### REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller

Buddy Mungo

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

# HARLEM CHURCH GETS A BUILDING AND A NAME

**A**fter months of negotiations and in response to the prayers of many of you, the congregation in Harlem finally acquired the building that will serve as the home of their worship services and as a base for community ministry. Having sat vacant for many years, the building now needs to be completely renovated. The estimated cost of the work is \$1,200,000. The church had seen the acquisition of this strategic property to be crucial

to their desire to faithfully live out a wholistic witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. We rejoice before God in his provision and are deeply thankful to all of you who have supported us with your prayers and gifts.

The church has also chosen a name: New Song Community Church. This name is derived from the biblical texts where God's people - a multi-racial and reconciled group, gathered from every tribe and tongue - sing a new song to the slain and risen

Redeemer. They sing a new song because of Christ's accomplishments in overthrowing evil and establishing a New City where there is no more mourning, crying, death, pain or curse. In this respect, it serves us a constant reminder of where the future is heading and what work we are to be about until Jesus comes again. The name also establishes continuity with our sister church, New Song Community Church in Baltimore, which is serving as the model for our efforts.

New Song is presently meeting for worship on Sunday mornings as a house church in the apartment of Jeff and Rebecca White, which is located across the street from the building that will be its future home. Patrick Burke is leading the worship, and Keith and Sally Archie are leading the church's first fellowship group in their home, which is in the same apartment building as the White's. Joyce Garnes hosts the Wednesday morning prayer group that takes seriously the call to pray for the church and for the flourishing of the neighborhood. Mark Gornik, the founding pastor of New Song in Baltimore, who, along with his wife, Dr. Rita Azsalos, are part of the worshipping community, continues to work closely with the church to help it fulfill its calling.

New Song, now as much as ever, needs those who will partner with them with their prayers and gifts. Funds are especially being sought for the estimated \$1,200,000 in renovation work that they hope to begin in the very near future. The general operating budget is also in need of more support. If you would like to give a gift to this very important work, make your checks payable to Redeemer Presbyterian Church and designate them for New Song Community Church.

*They sing a new song because of Christ's accomplishments in overthrowing evil and establishing a New City where there is no more mourning, crying, death, pain or curse.*

## UPCOMING RETREATS AND OUTINGS

### **New Year's in Vermont**

December 30 to January 2 in White River Junction, VT  
 3 nights: Approx. price range: \$150-200 + transportation  
 Tobogganing, snowshoeing, skiing  
 Contact: Tim Pettit, 808-4460 x141

### **Get Along, Get Away: Community Building**

January 15-18 in Rifton, NY (80 miles n. of NYC)  
 3 nights: Approx. price range: \$120-130 + transportation  
 Outdoor winter activities  
 Contact: Jerome Walford, 718-783-4390  
 Jo Kadlecek, 831-7234

### **Ski Retreat**

February 12-15 in West Lebanon, VT  
 3 nights: Approx. \$410 2 nights: Approx. \$305  
 Price includes ski lift, rentals and bus  
 Contact: Ellie Ellsworth, 864-3349

### **NON-Skiers Retreat**

February 12-15 in White River Junction, VT  
 3 nights: Approx. price range \$150-200 + transportation  
*"Practicing the Spiritual Disciplines: Worship, Meditation & Solitude"*  
 Tobogganing, igloo-building, snowshoeing but NO skiing  
 Contact: Tim Pettit, 808-4460 x141

## VOLUNTEERING ON SUNDAYS

BY DANITA GELTNER PARKER

Since ancient days, Sunday Worship Services have run smoothly because thousands of brothers and sisters step forth to serve the needs of one another. Every Sunday weary travelers wander in to worship. They need to be welcomed, offered guidance, given information, perhaps something to eat or drink—in other words, ministered to.

In keeping with this tradition, the Sunday Service Ministries at Redeemer offer a variety of different kinds of help to weary travelers, who are also busy New Yorkers or visitors passing through. I would like to encourage everyone reading this newsletter to consider volunteering for a Sunday Service Ministry because, in the most wonderful sense of the word, to volunteer is to admit we are a body, One in spirit and purpose, needing one another for things both great and small. But most of all, to volunteer is to remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ who Himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35).

Over the next three weeks you will see notices inserted into your Sunday Bulletin asking you to consider choosing a Sunday Ser-

vice Ministry and committing yourself to it for a certain amount of time. Recruiting of volunteers is taking place because Redeemer Church will soon be holding three different services: Redeemer East Side AM, Redeemer East Side PM and Redeemer West Side PM. Each service will need a full set of Sunday Service Ministry Volunteers in order to meet the needs of each congregation.

Loving us and knowing us better than we do ourselves, Jesus took care to give us one Great Commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind AND love your neighbor as yourself.” Every Sunday we have an opportunity to serve our King by serving one another in His love. With joy and singleness of purpose, will you prayerfully consider joining a Sunday Service Ministry?

If you would like to know how to get started in a Sunday Service Ministry call Elaine Rollogas at the Redeemer Church office, tel. # 808-4460 EXT. 121.

## HOPE FOR NEW YORK HOLIDAY EVENTS

The stores are already stocking their shelves, so you should begin to plan your holiday season as well. Hope for New York has several opportunities for service this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Starting on November 21, you can help Partnership/Harlem deliver Thanksgiving baskets to their neighbors. For Christmas, you can celebrate the season as the St. Paul’s House annual Christmas party December 15; the Angel Tree Christmas event December 19, or His Toy Store’s Christmas toy distribution party December 12.

All four projects need volunteers now to begin setting up and coordinating the events. Many volunteer positions exist, including drivers, phone-callers, party planners, gift buyers, and party helpers, to name just a few. Contact Ryan Myers at the office at x 123, or at [UncleRyan@unforgettable.com](mailto:UncleRyan@unforgettable.com) if you have questions or if you want to help.