

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

MAY 1999

CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN: UPDATE

BY TIM KELLER

In the Spring of 1998, Redeemer announced a new stage in its journey toward becoming a city-renewing church. We had grown very quickly, but we were determined to reject the classic 'mega-church' model—that of being a single large congregation drawing people from long distances. Instead, we opted to become a network of churches, each of which was rooted in its own neighborhood.

We determined that to do this would take two basic strategies. First, Redeemer itself would become a 'multi-site church', of at least four worshipping communities around Central Park. For the next 10-15 years, they would be united under one staff and gov-

ernment, but eventually they would become tightly networked sister churches. Second, Redeemer would establish an Urban Church Development Center with a staff which would recruit and train leaders and supervise the planting of new churches throughout the metropolitan region at a far greater pace than we had been able to realize before.

In order to begin these two new strategic initiatives, we conducted a Capital Fund Campaign last March, seeking three-year commitments over and above regular giving to Redeemer. Our young congregation responded in an amazing way, with over \$4.3 million dollars in pledges. I want to report to you on what use we have

made of this money so far, and where we have yet to go.

The most concretely visible result of the Capital Fund campaign is, of course, the West Side worship site. In February we began the first West Side congregation, worshipping at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Science church at 96th and Central Park West. Approximately 600 people are now attending and about half of them appear to be newcomers, drawn by friendships with West Side Redeemerites and by the church's proximity in their neighborhood. As we expected and hoped, the different location and setting is beginning to shape the congregation and worship with a distinct voice

(continued on page 2)

GET INVOLVED: HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

BY WEBB YOUNCE

“How can our fellowship group get more involved in the ministries of Redeemer?” One Upper East Side home group answered that question recently in an unusual way: by giving members of Redeemer's Single Parent Ministry the day off. While the parents in the ministry spent a spring Saturday taking in the sights at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, their children kicked soccer balls in the Park, watched penguins at the zoo, and gawked at a magic show with the members of the home group.

“We wanted to do something

that would involve real interaction with people in the church,” said Andy Mininger, who organized the project. “Everyone seemed to have a great time, especially our home group. We were able to spend time together in a way we never had before.”

Parents and children arrived at 9:30 in the morning at the home group's East Side location, where they met and talked to group members over coffee and Krispy

Kreme doughnuts before heading to the museum. A special group admission had been arranged previously for the parents, and similar plans had been made for the children, who were taken into the Park to enjoy the beautiful spring day.

Several hours of climbing statues, peering through microscopes at Belvedere Castle, and patrolling remote-controlled boats

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE:

- INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
- FORTH OF JULY GETAWAY
- PREMARITAL SEMINAR
- NEW EXECUTIVE PASTOR

MORE...



(continued from page 1)

CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

and spiritual culture—which wonderfully confirms the basic strategy. Without the Capital Fund money, we could not have afforded the new facilities or new staff necessary. We are currently hard at work seeking a location for a morning West Side worship site.

Meanwhile, Dick Kaufmann, Terry Gyger, Mark Gornick and I have been part of a planning group that has been meeting one day a month to do fact-finding and strategic thinking about what we're calling the "Urban Church Development Center." I am making it a priority in my schedule to meet with other pastors in the city and to communicate our willingness to be of service to the Christian community as a whole. Once the UCDC is up and running, I hope that it will be a training resource not only for our own leaders, but for pastors

and leaders all throughout the city. I will be able to tell you more specifics about the Urban Church Development Center in a future newsletter.

The Capital Fund has already born very real fruit, and I cannot thank those of you who gave so generously and sacrificially to it enough. But we have quite a long way to go, both a) to complete the multi-site model, and b) to establish the UCDC. Because of God's goodness to us, there are (amazingly) over 1,000 people who are attending Redeemer now who were not with us just a year ago during the Capital Fund Campaign. These are not just new attendees, but regular attendees who have at least made the commitment to appear on our database! If you were not here during the Capital Campaign, I would like to invite you to be in-

involved. There are still two years left in the Campaign, and you could make a two year commitment. If you would like to learn more, please call David Bisgrove at the church office at 212-808-4460, ext.111.

In response to many, many gracious inquiries, I can tell you that my stamina seems to be more than adequate to preaching three sermons on a Sunday. In fact, I'd have to say that the excitement of the increase in lives changed has (if anything) given me more energy than before—and it is not just adrenalin, from what I can tell. I eagerly look forward to 'completing' the circle with another service on the West Side.

Thanks for your partnership in the Capital Fund, and in the astonishing work God has put in front of us. I feel privileged to be working alongside all of you.

TERRY GYGER CHOSEN AS EXECUTIVE PASTOR

The Rev. Terry Gyger was chosen by the session and expected to be approved by the congregation at the April 25 congregational meeting as the new executive pastor, to replace Dick Kaufmann, who will be moving to San Diego to plant a sister church.

Some (early) Redeemerites may remember Terry from our organizational service, at which he preached. Terry was invited to give the inaugural sermon on that occasion because it had been his vision as Coordinator of Mission

to North America (our denomination's church planting committee) that had led to the creation of a center city professional church in Manhattan. In 1988 Terry Gyger was the one who saw the opportunity in New York, and, in a change from the PCA's former commitment to suburban church planting, had recruited Tim Keller to come to New York and had helped to assemble the funding necessary to support such a radical new endeavor.

While still acting as coordinator of MNA, Mr. Gyger also started

ChristChurch in the Buckhead area of Atlanta. In 1994 he resigned his position at MNA to become a church planter in Boston. Christ the King Presbyterian church has thrived as a young, multi-ethnic international congregation, purchasing and renovating their own church building and launching two daughter church missions.

Terry and his wife Dorothy plan to move to New York in the summer. Their three grown sons and their families live in the Atlanta area.

REDEEMER REPORT

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Dave Jacobs

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Redeemer meets Sunday at

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

FOURTH OF JULY GETAWAY

Our Fourth of July Getaway to Vermont offers you a variety of outdoor activities and a chance to make new friends, especially if you're new to Redeemer. So start saving now for the registration on June 6 and 13.

Our weekend retreats and getaways have been a fast and powerful way for hundreds of people at Redeemer to make literally dozens of new relationships. "It's probably not good to go to more than two or three retreats," Mark Lim, a retreat veteran, said jokingly. "You wind up getting to know too many people."

During your stay at the quaint Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction you can join Re-

deemer's annual 40-canoe flotilla down the Connecticut River. There will also be inner-tubing down the White River, as well as biking and hiking.

On the Fourth, besides the local fireworks display, we'll have a cookout feast in a mountain meadow, followed by a worship service around a bonfire.

The cost for three-night's lodging, all meals and the canoe trip ranges from \$160 to \$200, depending on the kind of room you choose. Minivans will leave for Vermont at 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 2, and return Monday afternoon, July 5. Brochures will be available after the worship services beginning on May 16. For more information, contact Tim Pettit, director of church life, at 808-4460 x 141.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS TEAM OFFERING

Once a year the International Missions Team has the opportunity to receive a special offering for the work of Redeemer Presbyterian Church around the world. This year the date for that special offering is May 16, 1999.

Our theme this year is "Transforming the Nations." If that sounds like a very tall order, it is! In fact, it would be impossible if we were taking on the task all by ourselves. However, Matthew 28:18 and 20 indicates that we are not alone. "Then Jesus came to them and said, '...go and make disciples of all nations ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

The emphasis for this year is on sending Redeemer people to do the work of international church planting and holistic ministry. Our goal is to increase funding for these individuals. Please consider how you can be part of this effort.

If you will not be attending one of our services on the date of the offering, you can mail checks to Redeemer office 271 Madison Ave., Suite 1600, NY, NY 10016.

PREMARITAL SEMINAR JUNE 12

Redeemer's quarterly Premarital Seminar, which is for any couple considering engagement or marriage, will be on Saturday, June 12. Pastor Jeff White will lead the seminar, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the church office, 271 Madison Ave., between 39th and 40th Sts., 15th Floor. The cost is \$25 per couple and the seminar is limited to 25 couples. Please reserve your space by calling the church receptionist, 808-4460, x 0. The seminar is required if you want a Redeemer pastor to officiate at your wedding.

(continued from page 1)

HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

were followed by lunch at McDonalds and a magic show performed by Redeemerite Philip Truscott.

Before leaving the apartment, the home group split the 11 children by age into two groups. "We stopped at every playground between 79th and the Central Park Zoo," said group member Anita Savage, who was with the younger children. "Since there were more adults than children, the nicest part was that we could take turns playing with the children and enjoy doing it."

While the children played, Camille LaManna, a leader of the Single Parents Ministry, led 11 other parents to the museum and then a leisurely lunch. "It was great, knowing that our children were well taken care of," she said.

The group's involvement with the ministry may continue, as it considers organizing a fund-raiser to provide money to send the parents and children to a week-long camping experience specifically designed for single parents. "Getting involved with the single parents

and their children would be a wonderful ministry project for other home groups," said Tim Pettit, director of Church Life, who oversees the Single Parent Ministry. "Just helping with the kids provides much needed 'big brothers and sisters' and gives the parents the precious gift of time alone."

To find out how your group can get involved with the Single Parent Ministry, contact Camille LaManna at camille.lamanna@reliancenational.com or Tim Pettit at 808-4460 x141 or tpett@aol.com.

THE REDEEMER SPORTS NETWORK

The Redeemer Sports Network is gearing up for the summer. Since its inception last year, the network has organized sailing trips, hiking and biking, dance events, soccer, volleyball and basketball games, and a Sports Day in Central Park.

Information about scheduled events will be distributed by e-mail and published in the Redeemer worship bulletin.

If you are interested in helping to organize an event, or would like to be on our e-mail list, contact Andre Solomon at apsolomon@aya.yale.edu or at 212-765-4770.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

BY KATHY KELLER

How did that old TV show begin? “There are a million stories in the naked city—this is one of them.” I’m not sure I’m right about the quote, but there is a story I want to tell you.

My youngest son, Jonathan, had decided to skate in a charity event at his school, so it fell to me to take his in-line skates to a store which could replace the missing screws for several of the wheels. Following my morning ladies’ Bible study, dressed as the respectable, middle-aged matron that I am, I braved the turf of a local Blades and Boards store, heavy with alternative culture.

As the young, hip staff began searching for screws which would fit the purpose (apparently I had brought them an unusual brand of skate), I fell into conversation with one young man. “You have a fish on your ring,” I observed intelligently, since it was obvious that the silver band he wore on his hand, did, indeed, have an ichthus on it.

“Yeah, I’m a Christian,” he replied cheerfully in an Australian accent. “I got saved about nine months ago. My mates all think I’m crazy, but it’s the best thing that ever happened to me.”

Well, with that, we were off and running! For about twenty minutes, while he and his “mates” found and affixed the proper skate screws, we talked enthusiastically about Jesus, the difference he made in our lives, how other people misunderstood what it meant to be a Christian (“They think I’m claiming to be perfect, so they really give it to me when I slip and let out a curse word!”), and other topics of mutual interest to fellow believers.

It was only when I left, skate in hand, that I started to laugh. Anyone seeing the two of us—me, dumpy, conservatively dressed, 49 and female, and him, young, hunky, hip and fashionably alternative—would have wondered what on earth we could have found to talk about. According to the world’s analysis, we should have had no point of contact whatsoever. And except for Jesus, we didn’t.

But in Jesus, we were brother and sister, capable of real understanding and sympathy. I laughed for the rest of the day, and gave God glory for his kingdom, made up of every tribe, tongue, people and nation.