

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

DECEMBER 2001

LOVING THE CITY

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Carry each other's burdens." Since September 11th, the concept of loving the city in word and deed — always a cornerstone of Redeemer's vision — has taken on a deeper meaning.

Thousands of people have lost loved ones. Thousands more have lost their apartments, and untold others are struggling to make ends meet in the wake of more than 100,000 lost jobs. Now more than ever, Redeemer desires to share the love of Christ by responding to the material, emotional and spiritual needs resulting from this devastation.

Many of you have asked how Redeemer is doing this. The answer is—in every way possible. Immediately after the attack

we set up a special team to field calls, established a disaster relief fund and organized special prayer times. We also mobilized our network of ministries (both within Redeemer proper and beyond the immediate church) to extend love and compassion to our city and neighbors.

Five ministries of Redeemer have been the primary relational networks providing the majority of our help: 1) Fellowship Groups; 2) The Diaconate; 3) The Counseling Center; 4) Hope for New York and its affiliates 5) The Urban Church Planting Center and the Metro New York Presbytery.

In the stories that follow, you can see a glimpse of what these ministries have been doing the past three months. (Some names

have been changed to maintain anonymity.)

Fellowship Groups

On Sept. 11 John and Joann Moore (leaders of a downtown Manhattan Redeemer fellowship group) spent a grueling five hours trying to find their 16-month-old son, David after fleeing their offices near the World Trade Center. They finally located him at his daycare center that had hastily been moved across town. The family was then told they could not return to their apartment because it was right next to the disaster area. Taking turns holding David, they trudged eight miles uptown on foot (all public transit in the area had been shut down) to the

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LOVING THE CITY

apartment of Kari Jo Cates, Redeemer's staff coordinator for Fellowship Groups. Kari Jo, her husband Cory, and their young son served as hosts to the Moores for the next two weeks. The Cates' Fellowship Group members volunteered baby supplies and equipment. A Redeemer friend found an apartment sublet for the Moores and our Diaconate helped them with other practical needs.

Diaconate

When kitchen worker Carlos Martinez was killed in the Windows on the World restaurant atop the World Trade Center, the only surviving restaurant manager (a Redeemer attendee) sent Carlos' widow Maria to our Diaconate. Maria's husband had been working three jobs to provide for his wife and five children, ages 4 to 11. The Diaconate helped Maria access funds from other charities that are available to pay for rent and utilities, but not groceries. Diaconate staff assistant Honya Metroka, who speaks Spanish, was able to give Maria funds for several weeks of groceries and connected her with our Counseling Center for free grief counseling. Her counselor is ensuring that additional help is offered to Maria as long as she needs it.

Counseling Center

Ben Johnson, previously not a churchgoer, now says the best times of his life are the hours he spends with his Christian counselor and worshipping at Redeemer. Ben, a reporter for a magazine, believes God inter-

vened to cause him to fall asleep on his subway and miss his stop, making him late for a breakfast meeting on the 106th floor of the WTC. He finally made it to the tower and reached the 78th floor by an express elevator; when he transferred to the second stage of elevators that served the upper floors suddenly the whole building rocked and the elevator door bounced ajar as a jetliner struck the building. Ben escaped through the partially opened elevator door and stepped into an atrium where pieces of concrete were falling all around him. He found his way to a stairwell and down to safety on a glass catwalk and from there eventually made it to the street.

Since Sept. 11 Ben has been receiving free twice-weekly counseling sessions. Everything has changed; now he says he's

seeking God and reviewing all of his priorities.

Hope for New York affiliates

Cyril and Henry, both members of Living Waters Fellowship, an inner city church in the Bronx, lost their jobs as messengers at the World Trade Center. They were directed to the Redeemer Diaconate through their church's after-school program, "Kids With A Promise," which is a Hope for New York affiliate. The Diaconate provided funds for rent and groceries to the families of the two men.

Just days after Sept. 11, another Hope for New York affiliate, the New York Rescue Mission, found itself exhausted financially as it provided food, clothing and shelter to hundreds of rescue workers digging through the nearby WTC rubble. Redeemer

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SPECIAL OFFERING DECEMBER 9

What is Christian community suppose to look like? Acts 2 and 4 tell us that the early Christian community was a dynamic place where fellowship, teaching, eating together, sharing resources with one another, sincerity, joy, and grace was experienced.

How do we at Redeemer, express this same concept of community in our time? The Diaconate is one of the ways in which we express this sense of community. The Deacons and Deaconesses — elected into office by the Redeemer membership — take seriously the biblical mandate to carry one other's burdens and to share with those in need as the early church did. To express one's need for help is hard especially because of the strong cultural value to be self-sufficient. Being in need is not a stigma; rather, it is a condition with which we are all familiar.

Once a year, the Diaconate takes up a special offering to fund the needs of those under their care. Giving and receiving go hand in hand. In His mercy, Christ gave up his life so we could receive life eternal. With thanksgiving, please prayerfully consider your gift to the Diaconate Mercy fund.

REDEEMER REPORT

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The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.
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HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
EAST 69TH BETWEEN PARK AND LEXINGTON
services at 9:30 • 11:15 • 6:00

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND ST. ANDREW
86TH AND WEST END AVENUE
services at 7:00

NEW SENIOR DIRECTOR OF FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

“I’d move to New York City in a heartbeat!” Stacy Bartholemew smiles when she remembers how she encouraged Redeemer member Carlana Miller when she and her husband Tom prepared their family for a move to New York several years ago. At that time the Bartholomews had no idea that they would eventually be called to put those words to the test. Yet Tuck and Stacy’s love for New York, from which Stacy’s encouragement had sprung, has played a vital role in Tuck’s decision to join the Redeemer staff as the Senior Director of Fellowship Groups.

The Bartholomews grew up in Georgia, but have a long time interest in New York and Redeemer. They spent their first

married Thanksgiving (12 years ago) here with college friends who were part of the original core group that launched Redeemer. After graduating from Westminster Seminary in 1991 Tuck began working on a doctorate in Sociology. His dissertation, “Reviving Orthodoxy,” is a case study of Redeemer. “I started work on the study,” Tuck recalls, “during a time when most research was more interested in the demise of Christianity than its possibility, and Redeemer seemed like a great window into its possibility.”

As the Senior Director of Fellowship Groups Tuck will have the opportunity to be involved in the various ministries that support spiritual and community formation at

Redeemer. Tuck has worked in college ministry at the University of Georgia and the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the Redeemer staff, he was an associate pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Bartholomews bring a bit of community with them. They have three young children Connor (9), Tucker (7) and Emalyn (4).

Tuck and Stacy were in New York looking for housing on Tuesday, September 11. “Like so many others in the city, we were afraid,” Tuck recalls, “yet, being here on the 11th both urged us toward a more realistic and sober appraisal of our coming, and deepened our connection with the city.”

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT REDEEMER

The last three weeks of December will bring special musical services and some service schedule changes.

On December 16, at the 9:30 and 11:15 AM services at Hunter College, we will hold our annual classical service of Lessons and Carols. Readings of the Christmas narrative in multiple languages will be interspersed with selections from Handel’s Messiah, performed by the Orchestra of the Redeemer, Redeemer Choir, and soloist Mark Delavan. The 6:00 PM service at Hunter and the 7:00 PM service at St. Paul and St. Andrew Methodist Church on December 16 will include the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

On December 23 there will be the normal 9:30 and 11:15 AM morning services. In the evening there will be a jazz-based service of Lessons and Carols at the West Side (7:00PM) service. In addition to readings of the Christmas narrative, the West Side band and Stickman Jones will provide music. **THERE WILL BE NO EVENING SERVICE AT HUNTER COLLEGE ON DECEMBER 23.** All who usually attend that service are invited to join with the West Side congregation for a combined service.

On December 30 the morning services will again be as usual. In the evening there will be one combined evening service at Hunter College at 6:00 PM. All those who normally attend the 7:00 PM service at St. Paul and St. Andrew are invited to join with the East Side PM congregation on that day. **THERE WILL BE NO EVENING SERVICE AT ST. PAUL AND ST. ANDREW ON DECEMBER 30.**

GENEVA SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Geneva School has announced the establishment of a scholarship fund for the children of Redeemer pastors and director level staff. The leadership at Redeemer is excited, because this will be an important recruitment tool in filling future staff vacancies, as educational opportunities are one of the biggest issues that families consider when asked to relocate to serve on Redeemer’s staff.

The Geneva School provides an academically challenging educational program that is classical in its methodology and Scripture-based.

Individuals wishing to contribute to the Redeemer Pastors and Staff Scholarship Fund should make their checks payable to: The Geneva School and memo them “Redeemer Scholarship Fund.” Checks may be mailed to: The Geneva School, P.O. Box 1473 Murray Hill New York, New York 10156. For more information, contact Rim An Hinckley at 212-889-5402

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LOVING THE CITY

helped by sending a relief check.

Urban Church Planting Center/Metro New York Presbytery

Abounding Grace Christian Center and its pastor, Richard Del Rio, serves a multi-ethnic and poor congregation of individuals and families near the devastated area. In the best of times, Abounding Grace operates on a shoestring budget, and now its staff and volunteers find themselves serving and housing Ground Zero workers around the clock. Redeemer's Disaster Relief Fund has made it possible for them to continue this crucial service.

Paul wrote: "We are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us." In all of the challenges facing New York the love of Christ working in the city is the difference maker. Even in the shadow of this staggering tragedy, we have the strength of the Gospel to enable us to bring love to our city — the healing balm it needs to be renewed. Loving the city really has taken on new meaning for all of us.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

This is the time of year when many of Redeemer's supporters have questions about year-end giving. Like most churches, December is a critical month for Redeemer in determining whether or not we meet our budget. Here is some information frequently requested during this busy time.

1. All checks made payable to Redeemer Presbyterian Church must be postmarked (if mailed to the church office) on or before December 31 to be included on your 2001 year end tax statement. All checks should be mailed to:

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
271 Madison Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10016

2. You should check with a tax professional before initiating any transfer of securities. If you would like to donate stock you can initiate the transfer through your broker and request that the shares be transferred to:

Charles Schwab
Account Name: Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Account Number: 7354-3138
DTC #: 0164

3. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed out at the end of January.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. If you have any additional questions please contact David Bisgrove at 212-808-4460, ext.111 or david@redeemer.com.