

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

APRIL 2002

## PSALM 23 REDISCOVERED

BY KATHY KELLER

*I have rediscovered Psalm 23, and found some of the reasons that it has comforted so many people...*

As someone who has traveled in Christian circles for over 35 years, I have had thousands of encounters with Psalm 23. I've heard it read at funerals, weddings, missionary commissionings and even once (memorably) at a church barbeque. I've seen it embroidered on pillows and cross stitched in frames; painted, decoupaged, woodburned, etched in clay, and paired with the famous "Praying Hands." In short, I developed MEGO (My Eyes Glaze Over) whenever the Twenty-Third Psalm was mentioned, read, or discussed.

In this last miserable year, however, I have rediscovered

Psalm 23, and found some of the reasons that it has comforted so many people and inspired so much art (even bad art can come from a sincere heart!) As some of you may know, this last twelve months has been for me one of sickness, medicine, doctors, side-effects that were worse than the original problem, anxiety (both produced by medications and by my own heart) and spiritual wrestling with self-pity and fear. Reading the Psalms was sometimes the only Bible reading I could manage, because there the psalm writers expressed their cries for help and their confidence in God's care in words that I couldn't find for myself.

Eventually I bumped into Psalm 23. After all, it IS there, and part of the Bible, so I thought that since God considered it worthy of inclusion in his book, perhaps I ought to give it another chance. To my surprise, there were all sorts of riches in the psalm that I had never seen due to my over-familiarity with it, and my consequent prejudiced belief that I already knew whatever there was to know about it. Maybe none of the readers of this newsletter have made the same mistake, but just in case, let me draw a few things out that have been helpful to me.

Beginning with the first line,

*(continued on page 2)*

## BURDEN BEARERS NEEDED!

*Redeemer has had a commitment to raising up leaders...*

Paul writes to the Galatians to 'Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.' (Galatians 6:2,10) With the increase in need over the past eight months, the diaconate is looking to increase the number of deacons and deaconesses serving. Elders are needed to serve on the Session as well.

Christians are qualified for ministry by gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some gifts require formal public recognition for their proper functioning. Such gifts constitute an office in God's calling

and in the church's recognition. Elders, deacons, and deaconesses are such offices. Since the beginning, Redeemer has had a commitment to raising up leaders to serve in these special offices.

What are the historical roots of these offices? In writings of the early church, each congregation had multiple elders/bishops and deacons, all elected by the people. Elders were the official pastors/teachers of the early church. They oversaw the ministry of the word to the early Christians.

Deacons were ministers of mercy to the poor and widows. They were patterned after "the seven" of Acts 6 and visited community and church members to identify needs and then to meet them. Deacons also assisted the elders and bishops.

### **What do Officers do?**

The elders serve on the Session and provide spiritual leadership to the congregation through oversight of Redeemer

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*MORE...*



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## PSALM 23 REDISCOVERED

“The Lord is my Shepherd” I began to meditate on what it takes to be a good shepherd. Jesus referred to himself as the Good Shepherd (thereby making an indirect claim to deity, since everyone knew that the Shepherd of Israel was Yahweh himself, but that’s another story.) A good shepherd is one, of course, who understands the needs and problems of his sheep. He would know when they were hungry or thirsty or afraid or in danger.

We are all familiar with the success stories of CEO’s who started in the mailroom and worked their way to the top, thus knowing the business from the inside out. I know of a man who spent 20 years as a carpenter before illness forced him to give it up. He went back to school and became an architect—and what an architect! He knew things about buildings that most architects never learn, because they’ve never spent any time pounding nails and hanging sheetrock. Well, it occurred to me that Jesus could only be the good shepherd that he is because he has also been a sheep.

In Isaiah 53:6 God’s people are referred to as strayed sheep; in the very next verse, v. 7, the Suffering Servant is called a “lamb led to the slaughter” or a sacrificial lamb. John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God,” meaning the sacrificial Passover lamb whose blood saves his people from judgment. As wonderful as his sacrificial death as God’s Passover lamb is, I found new comfort in knowing that my shepherd understood what it

meant to LIVE as a sheep. After all, Jesus only spent 10% of his life “in the ministry.” His first thirty years he spent as a regular person, making a living by manual labor, taking care of aging parents, being a good neighbor and citizen.

Not only does my shepherd understand what it’s like to be a sheep, he has experienced far more suffering than what I will ever know, regardless of how hard my life may become. Knowing that he knows what I’m going through was of inestimable comfort in the dark and lonely times.

Next I noticed the itinerary. At some points in the journey the shepherd led his sheep (me) into green pastures beside still waters. At other points, when the journey takes me into the Valley of Shadow, my shepherd is STILL the one leading me. It has to be his will to take me on this part of the journey as much as on the scenic route. Sheep don’t make their own travel plans; or, if they do, they end up “astray,” as Isaiah indicated, each one following his own way. So when my life was dark and scary, I could still have confidence that my shepherd was with me, protecting me with his rod and

*“To my surprise, there were all sorts of riches in the psalm that I had never seen due to my over-familiarity with it, and my consequent prejudiced belief that I already knew whatever there was to know about it.”*

keeping me away from danger with his staff. I must admit that I derived great comfort from visualizing Jesus using his rod (in a slightly martial arts/Jedi knight fashion!) to whack the enemies of fear, depression, and sickness that I sometimes felt were assailing me.

Lastly, that picnic “in the presence of my enemies.” Who in their right mind stops in a dangerous spot, with enemies all around, and enjoys a nice meal? Apparently Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is so confident in his triumph over my enemies that we can have joyful communion with one another, even when the circumstances (enemies of fear and illness breathing down my neck) remain unchanged. He doesn’t wait (like I tend to) until things have improved and life is once more on track before celebrating—he forces me to celebrate with him NOW, because victory is certain.

Having a chronic autoimmune disease means that there probably will be plenty of ups and downs in my future. I am trying to meditate on my shepherd’s presence and his love now so that I will be able to cling to him all the better then. Psalm 23 had a lot to teach me, to my surprise.

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### REDEEMER REPORT

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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

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## BURDEN BEARERS

ministries, leaders, members and regular attenders. Deacons and deaconesses minister directly to the needs of people in times of crisis or in the midst of difficult situations. They are up front after each service to answer questions and pray with those who come forward. They assist the elders in church membership interviews and meet monthly for training, supervision, and encouragement.

### **Who is qualified to serve?**

We are looking for mature Christians with a calling to serve the church with their gifts and talents. For elder, the qualities of leadership, spiritual and emotional maturity, humility, patience, discernment, empathy and creativity are sought after. For deacons and deaconesses, we are looking for discerning listeners, those who care for the suffering, relate well with people, and are spiritually and emotionally mature. All candidates must be official members.

### **How can I nominate someone?**

We are receiving nominations for the entire month of May. If you are a member, you will be receiving a nomination packet at the end of April. Only members can nominate other members to these offices. Please prayerfully consider and submit your nominations to Andrea Clark at the church office – by fax (212-808-4465) or mail (the form must be signed.) Nomination forms can be obtained over the web at [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com) or by emailing Andrea at [andrea@redeemer.com](mailto:andrea@redeemer.com).

Questions? Call Andrea at 212-808-4460 ext. 146.

## GRACE AND TRUE COUNSELING

BY HANNIBAL SILVER

**M**an and woman were created with natural desires and needs to be met in obedience to the laws of their own being established by their Creator and Sustainer. Sin has disoriented human desires and longings. Competent counseling will not deny, eclipse or repress human needs; rather, it will identify, affirm, and re-orient them according to the creation/redemption pattern.

Our first parents were made with unlimited potential for personal, relational, and leadership development. Counseling will restore this original dynamic based on God's design for human living. Intelligent submission to the Creator, motivated by love, results in the discovery of fresh sources of human pleasure and happiness; in clearer conceptions of love, wisdom, and fulfillment; new vistas for personal growth, and new fields for research and intellectual development.

The original act of disobedience was a statement of distrust in God's goodness, a denial of Divine truthfulness and undivided love for humanity, a challenge to the Creator's authority, and an act of worship of a created being (idolatry). The original violation of trust resulted in deformation of the human nature, now reflecting a new orientation of self (self-centeredness), a sense of moral nakedness (fear/shame), and the instinctive use of such self-justification strategies as denial, victimization, and avoidance.

These strategies appear to be determined by inordinate ruling desires (lusts/addictions) in control of the human nature. Psychological insight alone is powerless to heal a disoriented heart.

God's responded to the tragedy of sin - legal, emotional, intellectual, and volitional alienation - with the glory of grace. Grace is freely offered at Redeemer Counseling Services through a system of counseling based on honest communication with the Wounded Healer. The gift of Scripture (revelation) and its doctrines of grace should be understood within this context as a process of divine reconciliation with humanity centered on the Cross and derived from the compassionate heart of God.

True counseling results in a personal awakening of one's noble creation purpose. It results in glorious possibilities for the here and now, and in an incredible perspective of an eternal partnership with God. The essential element of God's agenda for humanity is trust, and trust is the foundational component of any enduring relationship.

Men and women of every generation are invited to find their identity papers in the pages of Scripture. We at Redeemer see counseling as connecting to the mind of a God who is too wise to make a mistake, too powerful to lose a battle, and too loving to neglect the least of His creatures. (For a free consultation or evaluation call (866) 370-0475)

## OPEN FORUM

"The Journey of Love"

28 April 2002

6 pm

Excerpts from George Gershwin's classic opera "Porgy and Bess" • Featuring Ken Prymus, Laura Pfortmiller, and George Merritt, one of the stars of the Tony Award-winning 1976 Broadway revival. With dancer Angella Huddleston, the Redeemer band, choir, and a 20-piece string section • Lecture by Dr. Timothy Keller  
Open-microphone Question and Answer session • Free admission  
Hunter College Auditorium • 69th Street and Park Avenue

# REMEMBERING CAROL HOLT WARD

BY LOIS KEHLENBRINK

**C**arol Holt Ward's family and friends gathered Tuesday evening, March 12, to remember and celebrate her life. After a long struggle with cancer, God had called her home on March 6, 2002. Our pastor, Tim Keller, described her as one of the causes and results of Redeemer. "The planter of the tree was also the fruit of the tree." She was "Martha," working diligently and sacrificially, yet she was "Mary," thirsting for more intimacy and knowledge of her Savior.

Carol was born January 31, 1942, in Princeton, Kentucky, but lived most of her life in Evansville, Indiana, before moving to New York in 1988 to join the staff of Here's Life Inner City. She was one of the founders of Redeemer and became the very first staff counselor, pioneering the Counseling Ministry. I enjoyed the privilege of learning under her supervision in those early years. I have never forgotten her passion for putting Jesus' commandments to love (Matthew 22:37-39) together with counseling. She wrote, "Christian counseling is helping clients break down the barriers that keep us from loving well. The goal is not to change outward

behaviors, although that will happen. The goal of Christian counseling is to get us to be obedient image bearers." Later she took on a new challenge as the first full-time staff person for Redeemer Missions.

Under Carol's care the Missions ministry has sent out hundreds of short-term missionaries, as well as dozens of long-term missionaries. On her last mission-related conference in Atlanta, while struggling with cancer, she jotted down on a note what God had been teaching her: "When I'm trusting in any merit of my own—trying to earn God's favor—then cancer tells me I haven't performed very well. But when I'm trusting in Christ alone then all cancer means is that God is at work in a way I do not yet understand. He is working something for good and it will be made clear in heaven."

Her love for people and her dedication to sharing the love of the Gospel with those around her blessed her friends, coworkers and those touched through her life. Her husband, Jay, who brought her so much joy and support, as well as her daughter, Angie, who lives in Evansville, Indiana, survive Carol.

## CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

### **Vows:**

Melanie Kathryn Galloway  
Joanne Aileen Jones Gough  
William B. Gough  
Suzanne Louise Muench  
Michael Hun Park  
Jeanne Gilbert Segrest  
Matt Philip Segrest  
Rose Sharon Shabet  
Stephen Gerard Shabet  
Sandrine Bertrand-Cadi  
Jeffrey Clayton Rutledge  
Michal Mattheiss Rutledge  
Julia C. Choi  
Janet Lynn MacDougall  
Arlene Grace Navarro  
Lolita Sastri

### **Infant Baptisms –**

Charles Burnham Jungan  
Hinckley, son of Carter & Rim  
Ethan Holden Morgan, son of  
Ted & Diane  
John Taekyun O, son of David  
& Seona  
Porter Brown Phillips, son of  
Steve & Beth  
Nicole Jinyoung Ryeom,  
daughter of Eddie & Sue  
Benjamin Andrew Turay, son  
of Greg & Courtney  
Matthew Konrad Frederick  
Shabet, son of Stephen & Rose

### **Adult Baptism**

Rose Sharon Shabet