

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

MAY 2003

**We want to share much awaited news with those who supported Redeemer with your finances and prayers ...we've secured a West Side Morning site! The new location will be at the Society for Ethical Culture, 64th & CPW, with a full Children's Ministry program and SOCC classes located next door at the YMCA. The worship service time will begin at 9:30AM commencing on November 2.**

## "CIRCLES"

BY MICHAEL O'NEILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HFNY

*Growing  
versus  
growing  
up*

**G**rowing up in New York City was something I have always taken for granted. I grew up in a close community at a time when children were still allowed to go to the park by themselves. My friends and I would spend hours roaming the wild acres of Inwood Hill Park.

I always took that wonderful park and all that New York had to offer for granted. It never occurred to me that every child didn't have a park like mine. It never occurred to me that every

child didn't live in a community like mine, or every person have the comfortable life I had.

Except for "our" homeless man.

Yes, we had our very own homeless person—although back then our parents called him a bum. We even named him Circles. Everyone in the community "sort of" took care of him. Some placed food or clothes by him while he slept. He used the money he collected to buy coffee at the corner bakery. Everyone cared for him—but no one

seemed to care about him. I never remember anyone talking to him, asking him how he felt, eating with him, or offering help. Some, but not all, of his physical needs were provided. We neglected to care for his housing, emotional and spiritual needs.

Today, I am thankful to work with faith-based organizations like The New York City Rescue Mission, Teen Challenge and The Bowery Mission—all HFNY affiliates—who daily open their doors to men and women like

*(continued on page 2)*

## GIFTS IN ACTION

BY ANDREA CLARK

*Redeemer  
officer  
nominee  
training*

**T**he apostle Peter wrote in his first letter, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10,11)

Christians are qualified for ministry by gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some gifts require formal public recognition for their proper functioning. Such gifts include those

of elder, deacon and deaconess. Since the beginning, Redeemer has had a commitment to raising up leaders to serve in these special offices. The Diaconate is always in need of new deacons and deaconesses. Elders are needed to serve on the Session.

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

The elders serve on the Session and provide spiritual leadership to the congregation through oversight of Redeemer 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 available after each service to answer questions and to pray with those who come forward, and assist elders with church membership interviews. The Diaconate meets monthly for training, supervision, and encouragement.

*(continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE:

- MUSICIANS PANEL DISCUSSION: FAITH AND WORK
- NEW REDEEMER MINISTRIES
- ON A MISSION



## "CIRCLES" CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Circles. They provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to those facing homelessness. But they do not do this alone. HFNY volunteers assist them by offering GED tutoring, meal preparation, job training, counseling and more. Some prefer to help with one-time projects, while others choose to help every week. There is a role for every schedule and comfort level, but regardless of the commitment, each serves with a heart filled with humility, compassion and mercy.

As a child I never knew there was more to "helping" than placing food alongside a sleeping homeless man. I never knew that community meant more than befriending only those people who were just like me. As an adult I'm constantly discovering

that extending myself beyond what is comfortable and convenient is usually not easy, but it is the most enriching.

For more information about how to get involved with The New York City Rescue Mission, Teen Challenge, The Bowery Mission, or any of the 30 faith-based affiliates partnering with HFNY, please go to [www.hfny.org](http://www.hfny.org) or call (212) 808-4460 x114.

Michael O'Neill  
Executive Director  
Hope For New York  
271 Madison Ave., 16th Floor  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 808-4460 x122  
(212) 689-6478 (Fax)

## COURAGE: THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM? –AN OPEN FORUM

May 18, 2003  
6:00 PM

### Free Admission

A concert of Broadway tunes featuring:

#### Ken Prymus

*Ain't Misbehavin', Cats; holds Broadway record for longest running featured performer in a single role*

#### Kimberly JaJuan

*Ragtime, Marie Christine, King David*

#### George Merritt

*Jekyll & Hyde, Big River, Ain't Misbehavin', Porgy & Bess*

#### with Mindy Sax

#### & Michelle Jennings

lecture by Timothy Keller  
open-mike question & answer session

**Hunter College Auditorium  
E. 69th between Lexington & Park Avenue**

## GIFTS IN ACTION CONT. FROM PAGE 1

### Who is qualified to serve?

We are looking for mature Christians with a calling to serve the church with their gifts and talents. For elders, the qualities of leadership, spiritual and emotional maturity, humility, patience, discernment, empathy and creativity are sought. 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 will be 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. Members may not nominate themselves. Please prayerfully consider and submit your nominations to Andrea Clark at the church office by mail or by fax (212) 808-4465 (*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@redeemer.com](mailto:Andrea@redeemer.com). Questions? Call Andrea Clark at (212) 808-4460 x146.

The deadline is May 31, 2003.

### Can a nomination be deferred?

Yes, if you are nominated in May but cannot accept at that time, you may defer your nomination for up to one year.

### When is the next Officer Nominee training?

Starting this year, officer nominee training will be held only once per year. We will be taking nominations in May, 2003, (deacons, deaconesses and elders) and November, 2003, (deacons and deaconesses only) and all nominees will begin training in January, 2004, and finish in April, 2004.

## REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller  
Fred Liedtke  
Rebecca Lock

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) [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com)

HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM  
East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington)  
services at 9:30AM • 11:15AM • 6:00PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Corner of West 79TH and Broadway  
service at 7:00PM

## MUSICIANS PANEL DISCUSSION: FAITH AND WORK

---

Welcome all Musicians and music lovers. You are invited to participate in a lively discussion of faith and work sponsored by Redeemer's Music Department and Marketplace Ministries.

**May 21, 2003, 7:00 PM to 9:30PM at The Williams Club 24 East 39th Street, 6th Floor**

Refreshments following the discussion. Please RSVP to Luann@redeemer.com

PANELISTS: **Phil and Sheila Smith** – Phil is the Principal Trumpet at the New York Philharmonic.

**Larry Dutton** – Larry is the violist with the Grammy award winning Emerson String Quartet.

**Kamel Boutros** – Kamel is a baritone who performs regularly with the Metropolitan Opera and is also an accomplished pianist and organist often heard at Redeemer.

**Jon Cowherd** – Jon is the pianist for the Brian Blade Fellowship and was the arranger and Music Director for “Swing” on Broadway.

MODERATED BY: **Miriam Burns** – Miriam is a Staff Cover Conductor at the New York Philharmonic, Music Director/Conductor for both the Kenosha Symphony (WI) and Lawton Philharmonic (OK), as well as part of the Redeemer Music staff.

Do you have a faith in God that sustains you through the ups and downs of a career in music here in NYC? What does that look like: In the face of world class competition? When you're riding high? When the time required to develop your gifts takes precedent over everything else in your life?

This evening provides an excellent opportunity to ask these questions of some leading musicians who also have a deep commitment to God and their Christian faith. The artists will talk about how being a Christian has shaped or affected their lives, careers, decision making, and will address any special career challenges that may have come up as a result of being a believer. Miriam Burns will lead the panel discussion and then moderate a Question and Answer with the audience.

Plan to join us for refreshments following the program to meet and chat with many others in the music field.

## REDEEMER FINANCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY

---

We are pleased to announce the establishment a new financial services ministry under the auspices of Redeemer Presbyterian Church's Marketplace Ministries. The broad aim of the group is to connect Redeemer attendees who work in various banks and other financial institutions/capacities in the New York area to help them grow spiritually and professionally.

The official kick-off reception will take place on the evening of **June 6** at the American Bible Society. Tim Keller will speak on the subject of Redeemer's launch and growth as viewed from an unusual perspective—that of an entrepreneur. The evening will start at 7:00PM and will be an opportunity for all of us to engage Tim in the business-speak of our working lives. Before this meeting takes place, we want to identify Redeemer attendees who work in the financial services industry—particularly those who would be willing to act as a “point person” for the new ministry at their company. The aim here is to connect folks who work at the same firm, or next door, but may not be even aware of each other's existence.

To achieve this, we want to find at least one person at each of the major banks, accounting firms, etc. who would be willing to act as this link/coordinator for Redeemerites at their firm.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry, want to be on the email notification list, or have further questions, please contact either:

Jonathan Moore – Email: [redemerfinance@yahoo.com](mailto:redemerfinance@yahoo.com) / Tel: (212) 288-1974 or

Katherine Leary – Email: [kleary@redeemer.com](mailto:kleary@redeemer.com) / Tel: (212) 808-4460 x132

## JOB SEEKERS – A NEW REDEEMER MINISTRY

---

In transition? Looking for a job? Expect to be looking for a job soon? You are invited to the inaugural Brown Bag Lunch.

**PB&J** – Prayer, Bible and Job Search. Every Friday at 12:15PM First of weekly meetings will be Friday, May 9 at:

*the Redeemer Offices 271 Madison Avenue 15th floor conference room*

Bring a sandwich and join us for a time of spiritual, emotional and practical support to assist you in your job search. For further information and to be added to our email list, please contact Jonathan Ankney at [redemerjobseekers@yahoo.com](mailto:redemerjobseekers@yahoo.com).

## REDEEMER LAWYERS MINISTRY GROUP PLANNING FOR LAUNCH

---

On April 16, a small group of lawyers who attend Redeemer met for the first time to talk about organizing a group for those in the legal profession. While a number of Redeemer lawyers attend monthly Christian Legal Society events, this group estimated that there are more than 200 people in the profession at Redeemer, including law students and legal assistants, and its been near impossible to get to know each other!

As a result, this group is organizing an inaugural Redeemer Lawyers Reception on June 5 at 7:00PM at the American Bible Society. Several of the organizers have offered to contribute to the costs of the event—including food—so people can come straight from the office. While the evening will be fairly informal, a few lawyers will speak about having an impact on the city through their faith. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the benefits, goals and structure of a lawyers group going forward.

If you are in the legal profession and interested in being part of the organizing team/leadership of this group, please contact Hyun Sim at [hbs2@columbia.edu](mailto:hbs2@columbia.edu). If you would like to be on the email list to receive more information about this event, please email: [redemerlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:redemerlaw@yahoo.com).



## ON A MISSION

---

BY: GREG ANGELI

*“Increasingly, people with special skills are needed to help in special ways abroad”*

About a year ago I was out for a run and literally ran into a friend of mine who is a linguist with Wycliffe Bible Translators; he had been serving overseas but was in back New York on furlough. I turned around and as we ran together and he nonchalantly mentioned that he was praying that he would run into me. He asked me if I would consider using my accounting skills as a full time missionary. When I told him that I didn't feel that God was calling me to that, he then suggested doing it as a short-term mission for only a two week commitment. I told him that I could do something like that.

At first I wondered, why would an organization that translates the Bible need an accountant? Of course, if you think about it, an organization that translates the Bible, or any missionary organization for that matter, needs accountants as well as other support personnel so that those whom God has gifted as linguists, doctors, nurses or some other area can spend their time doing those things. So I went to Africa the last week of January and the first week of February in 2003

as an internal auditor.

The people I worked with in Nairobi were helpful and really a nice bunch of people. I worked in an office much like some of the offices I go to for my City job with a few exceptions. The building I worked in was a fairly new four-story office building. Notice I said “new” and not “modern;” it had no elevator and no air conditioning (nothing in Nairobi did). Nairobi is less than two degrees South of the Equator but at an altitude of about 5,500 feet it's not really all that hot—about 80 degrees during the day and 60 at night and there was always a nice breeze and hardly any humidity. When I left New York it was 8 degrees so 80 was more than a treat. All around Nairobi there is a tribe called the Maasai and they are known as herdsmen. We walked to a restaurant for lunch one day and went through a herd of cattle. One day while I was out for a run I ran through a herd of goats—this was still in the city.

I was in Africa with five other auditors and two of their spouses but we each did our own audit. It wasn't all work, though; we got to go on a safari over the middle weekend and went to a game

park near the border with Tanzania and within the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro. This was truly awe-inspiring, so much so that some of the Psalms could have been written here, especially Psalm 104, “The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.” I saw lions stealing away to lie down in their dens at dawn. The Psalmist goes on to say that God touches the mountains, and they smoke. Mt. Kilimanjaro is a volcano that is about 19,000 feet, totally massive and totally awesome.

I'm not sure what it is but there is something about Africa that is enchanting to me and is drawing me back. While the game park was more than special, that's not what's calling me back. I know that I'll do an audit again; Wycliffe has audit opportunities all over the world every year so I'll apply for one next time, too.

If you are interested in learning more about short-term mission projects at Redeemer, go to our website [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com) and click on 'this year's opportunities' at the top of the front page.