

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 2004

HOPE FOR NEW YORK CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Ten years of helping those who need it most.

In the early days of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (1989-90), Tim Keller laid some foundational principles, some of which became the “seeds” of Hope for New York. First was the importance of the interaction between “word and deed” ministry by offering the Gospel message to the whole city. Second was an understanding of the strategic importance of the city. Third was an emphasis on the prophetic, priestly, and kingly aspects of leadership in ministry. Individuals should be empowered to use their spiritual and physical gifts for the benefit of the city’s less fortunate.

In 1990, a group of interested individuals began to think strategically about mercy and justice ministry. They organized a half-day workshop called “The City Redeemed: How New Yorkers can Change New York City” com-



Yvonne Dodd Sawyer, founder of HFNY; Kate Lemmer, former executive director; Mike O’Neill, current executive director. Photo by Kimberly Myhre.

prised of teaching and small group brainstorming sessions about affecting grassroots change in the city. In 1992, much of that same core

group traveled to other major cities to study what they were doing and learn how their experiences could be applied in New

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A THANK YOU FROM THE DIACONATE

Living In A compassionate Community

We would like to extend our deepest thanks for the generosity of God’s people towards our annual Mercy Fund Offering, received on December 14, 2003. These funds directly enable us to meet the financial needs of those in the Redeemer community who

are suffering from a variety of difficult personal and life circumstances. Please know that we are very grateful and consider you to be partners with us as we care for those God brings our way.

If anyone was unable to give at the time of the offering, we

BY: THE DIACONATE

accept donations throughout the year. Please earmark your check for the Diaconate or place cash in a special Diaconate envelope provided at the information table and drop in the offering basket.

Thank you again.

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- GOSPEL & LIFE DISCIPLESHIP SERIES
- GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS SPRING CLASSES

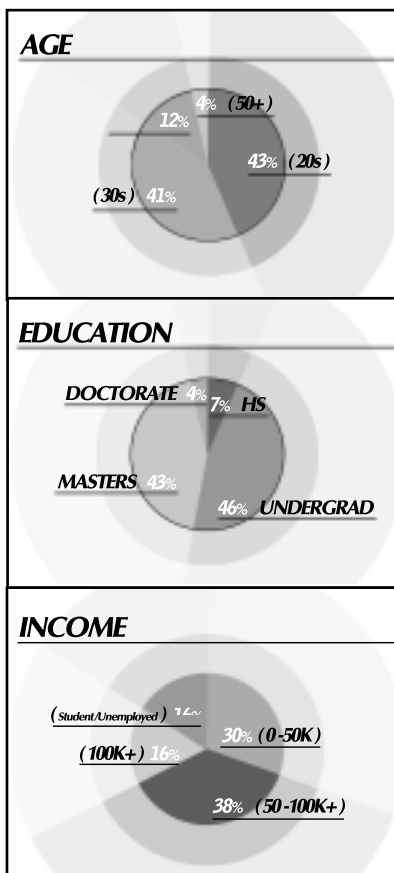


REFLECTIONS ON WORK: A SURVEY

BY : KATHERINE LEARY

This survey is the result of the participants in the fall class “Work: Theology, Theory, and Practice” taking a thorough look at whether and how their faith affected the way they worked and thought about work. 52 people completed an anonymous survey, comprising multiple choice and open-ended questions, to help us better understand the fears and frustrations, motivations and rewards of the jobs and professions they have chosen.

The demographics of the group are important:



With a median age of about 30, many in this group (like so much of Redeemer) are in the early stages of their careers. As a matter of fact, an often-cited frustration was being “on the bottom of the food chain” and not having any “control over my schedule.” The group was fairly evenly split between these types of professions.

Helping
Business, Law and Journalism
Creative
Education
Information Technology
Architecture
Medicine
Management Development
Dance
Psychology
Financial Services/Insurance
Music
Social Work
Communications
Theater
Public Service
Retail
Journalism

The Drivers

The first question was: “What is the primary reason you’re in the profession/job you’re in?” Most respondents in each category provided reasons that have to do with enjoying/valuing the intrinsic nature of the work: the product of the work (helping people), the practice of the work (enjoying the challenge or self-expression), or the relationships that are essential to doing the work (i.e., teacher with the children).

“[Work] should be looked upon, not as a necessary drudgery to be undergone for the purpose of making money, but as a way of life in which the nature of man should find its proper exercise and delight and so fulfill itself to the glory of God. That it should, in fact, be thought of as a creative activity undertaken for the love of the work itself; and that man, made in God’s image, should make things, as God makes them, for the sake of doing well a thing that is well worth doing.” Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos?*, p. 89

The second most cited reason was compensation related. For some it was the necessity of having a job that would pay the bills and for others it was the opportunity for more significant financial security and comfort.

The Fears

We learn a lot about our hearts by examining our fears. Another survey question was, “What is your biggest fear related to your work?” More than 50% mentioned fear of failure in some form: “Getting fired!,” “being underutilized, undervalued and under-compensated,” “not doing well,” “making mistakes,” “losing the deal,” “creating a product that doesn’t work well for the client,” “not being competitive enough.” In this highly competitive job market the fear of not being able to perform well enough to hold the position is on the forefront of people’s minds.

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REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Rebecca Lock
Fred Liedtke

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OFFICE • 271 MADISON AVENUE • SUITE 1600 • NEW YORK, NEW YORK • 10016
(212) 808-4460 (phone) (212) 808-4465 (fax) www.redeemer.com

HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington)
services at 10:30AM • 5:45PM

ETHICAL CULTURE
West 64TH and CPW
service at 9:15AM

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

York. In 1993, HFNY was officially granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS, the first Easter Sacrificial Offering was collected and HFNY began disbursing its first grants to Affiliate Ministries.

On November 20, 2003, a small group of HFNY's friends and supporters gathered at the home of Bob and Susie Case to celebrate ten years of ministry to the people of New York. Special guests included Tim Keller, Senior Pastor of Redeemer; Terry Gyger, Executive Pastor of Redeemer; Yvonne Dodd-Sawyer, founder and HFNY's first Executive Director; Kate Lemmer, former Executive Director; Ryan Myers, HFNY's first Volunteer Manager;

and James Leonard, former Volunteer Manager. Mark Delavan, Metropolitan Opera soloist, offered a special musical performance. Karen Linstedt Delavan, a concert pianist who has held staff positions at several of the area's notable music schools, also performed. Also present were Rolly and Soraya Sirjoo. Soraya presented a powerful and funny testimony about her family's involvement with one of HFNY's affiliates and their relationship with Robert and Karen Upchurch, former Redeemer members and HFNY volunteers.

Funding for HFNY initially began with seed money from Redeemer. With a congregation

of eager potential volunteers who understood the connection between word and deed ministry, HFNY had access to a large group of potential volunteers with a desire to be engaged with the needs of the city. Today, HFNY receives an annual grant from Redeemer, but raises the majority of its funds from individual supporters. To date, HFNY has distributed over \$1,500,000 in grants and their volunteers have contributed over 200,000 hours of volunteer service.

If you are interested in learning more about HFNY, you may attend one of the weekly orientation classes in Midtown Manhattan or visit www.hfny.org.

REDEEMER'S ANNUAL VISION SERVICE

January 21st, 2004 at 7:00PM – St. Bartholomew's (Park Ave. & East 51st St.)

Once a year we take an evening to look at our vision and update the congregation on how it is unfolding. This special service is a time to come together as a community and hear about what God is doing through Redeemer. There will be a time of praise and worship and Tim Keller will speak. Whether you have been going to Redeemer a long time or just a few weeks, attending this service is the best way to know what is happening in our church and enable you to join in carrying out the vision God has given us for renewing the city. Child care provided.

REFLECTIONS ON WORK: A SURVEY

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Other fears surfaced as well, some of which I've grouped together in a category called USING LIFE WELL. These included "losing sight of what's true," "that I'm not meant to be there," "that I'm missing God's will, and "that I'm not working as if God is my boss." As a matter of fact, 50% of all respondents responded affirmatively that they "struggle to balance/integrate my desires with God's desire for my life."

What is the goal anyway? Why is it so hard, even in lives relatively rich with education and opportunity, to "live the good life?"

Christ talked to this riddle of the ages in Matthew 10: "If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me; you'll find both yourself and me." (*The Message*) Thank you to the 52 class participants (and many, many more of you) willing to be transparent and humble as they venture down this path of looking to Jesus.

For the full Fall Survey report, visit www.faithandwork.org.

The class, "Work: Theology, Theory, and Practice" introduces a Biblical perspective on work and

examining our own motivations, rewards, frustrations and fears about our work. To help make the classes relevant and practical, each week they are led by different members of our Redeemer community who are experienced in their professions as well as Christians committed to making God the center of their lives in the midst of the competing demands and lures of our culture. This class will be offered again for 5 Sundays beginning January 25 (Cycle 5) after the West Side morning service. On the east side, a new 5 week class entitled "Vocational Decision Making" will also begin on January 25th



GOSPEL & LIFE DISCIPLESHIP SERIES CONTINUES IN JANUARY

The Gospel & the World Conference – January 9-10, 2004

The second in a series of three conferences, *The Gospel & the World* focuses on the missional calling of the Christian to engage the life of the world with the gospel of Christ. Tim Keller will lead plenary sessions on: The Gospel and the City; Belonging to a Missional Church; and Cultural Renewal. Seminar topics include; Sharing Your Faith; Holistic Ministry; and The Gospel and Work. **The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel (811 7th Avenue on 53rd Street) Late Registration: January 5, 2004.** For more details or to register, go to www.redeemer.com

Conference Schedule:

Friday, Jan 9th 7-9:30pm
(registration begins at 6:30pm)

Saturday, Jan 10th 9am-1:30pm
(registration begins at 8:30am)

SCHOOL OF GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS CLASSES FOR SPRING 2004

Beginning in January, Sunday Classes will be meeting after our East Side (10:30AM) and West Side (9:15AM) morning services.

Classes offered during Cycle 3 (January 25-February 29) are as follows:

East Side (12:10PM-1:10PM on the 5th Floor of the West Building of Hunter College):

Christian Worldview (Gospel and Life Series) – David Bisgrove
Redeeming the World – Steve Smith
Vocational Decision Making – Katherine Leary and others
The Book of Revelation – John Lin
Introduction to Redeemer – TBA

West Side (10:45AM-11:45AM on the 5th Floor of the YMCA next to the Ethical Culture Society)

Foundations for Gospel Parenting – Kari Jo and Cory Cates
Gospel in the Arts – Tom Jennings and others
Theology of Work – Katherine Leary and others
Introduction to Redeemer – TBA

Classes are still being finalized for the remainder of the Spring, but some of the classes that will likely be offered will include: Christian Living (*Gospel and Life Series*), Worship from A to Z, Christian Theology (*Gospel and Life Series*), Journey of Marriage, Introduction to Church History, Leadership.

For the most up-to-date information, please consult our website or our Sunday program. Come join us!