

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

OCTOBER 2005

## LAUNCHING NEW MINISTRIES

BY: TIM KELLER

As an important part of our Vision Campaign, I've begun meeting with groups and individuals to talk about what is possible for Redeemer in the future. I've been moved and humbled as I've heard how many people have had their lives touched and radically transformed by the ministry. One point that has consistently emerged is that our Vision is not a typical one. We are not asking people to help us move into bigger facilities so we can grow larger. Rather, the Vision campaign is not about making Redeemer bigger so much as better—better able to serve its own people, its neighbors, and the other churches of the city. One of the main ways we will seek to

do this is by launching many new ministries. We plan to use 25% of the funds we raise to launch new ministries in the new building space we acquire.

### **1. Why do we need new ministries?**

There are two main reasons. First, we need many new ministries to help Christians stay in the city long-term and build community here. Professionals need much more support in order to do their work in distinctively Christian ways than we are currently able to give them. They need mentoring and networking help within their fields. Artists need venues to use their gifts. All this can be provided for by greatly expanding the programs of our Center for Faith

and Work.

Also, families need much more support for raising children in the city. They need after-school programs, Christian schools, recreational and youth ministries. Without creating and expanding ministries that help us in these ways, Christians will not remain in the city long-term and live in community.

Second, we need many new ministries to help Christians serve our neighbors in the city. Redeemer already does a great deal through the excellent work of Hope for New York. But there is far more that we can and need to do. We need to identify specific neighborhoods for our

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## STRENGTHENING OUR GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

The School of Gospel Foundations exists to provide avenues for spiritual instruction within the context of community. Throughout this year, we are expanding and revising our program—here are some highlights: We have established a new Core Curriculum that will be offered on a yearly basis. The Curriculum is composed of nine courses in three tracks:

**(1) Bible Track:** Biblical Interpretation, Old Testament, and New Testament;

**(2) Christian Thought Track:** Theology, Church History, and Christian Worldview; and

### **(3) Christian Living & Ethics**

**Track:** Christian Living, Biblical Change (a series by Redeemer Counseling), and Christian Ethics.

In addition to these courses, a selection of electives will be offered this year: The Book of Revelation, Global Christianity, Hollywood Worldviews, Christianity & Poverty, and more. Various workshops by the Redeemer Center for Faith & Work and seminars from The Academy for Christian Thought will continue to be available during each of our 5 cycles of classes. Finally, in order to make our ministry accessible to our entire

Redeemer community, our classes will be offered not only on Sundays, but also on Wednesday nights and through Saturday seminars at the Redeemer Offices.

We believe Foundations classes are integral for building a biblical and theological framework for life in urban community. And so we invite anyone in the Redeemer family to join us as we learn together and encourage one another to deepen our relationship to our God and for his work in the city. (For more information on exact times and locations, please visit: [www.redeemer2.com/resources](http://www.redeemer2.com/resources))



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# SEXUAL INTEGRITY IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

BY: DAVE WANNER

On Saturday October 29th I will be teaching a seminar for men and women titled: *Tools For Fighting The Battle For Sexual Purity*. It will be held at the Redeemer Counseling Center, 1359 Broadway, on the 4th Floor from 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Come if you are interested in learning about biblical ways to move from lust to loving.

Our society has placed every conceivable variety of sexual experience at our fingertips. Even in the church, many people never ask the question "What does God want for my sexual life?" Should this shock us? Not really. David, Samson and many others struggled with sexual sin. Paul writes a great deal about sexual sin in the New Testament. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, he gives a list of sins, many of them sexual sins, and then writes: "That is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the

Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." God is not afraid to deal with these uncomfortable issues, so we don't need to be afraid to address them either.

If we pretend that the church doesn't have a lust problem, it will continue to grow. James 5:16 says: "Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." We can't overcome our sin sickness without confessing it to God and others. True intimacy with God and others is the path to freedom from sexual sin. Our goal can't just be to stop lust; it must be to learn how to replace lust with love. Shame doesn't go away by hiding sin. It is healed when sin is exposed, forsaken, forgiven and replaced with repentance, truth, love and purity.

I have met with many people who are trapped in sexual sin. Most hate the sin, but can't overcome it alone. They live a double life out of fear of being exposed

and rejected. I know from personal experience what God can do when we come to Him in our brokenness. My own compulsive sexual sin was finally brought to the light and dealt with at age twenty-eight. That was twenty-four years ago.

For the past ten years I have been facilitating men's support groups at the counseling center for those who desire to experience sexual purity. If you are looking for a quick fix, you won't find it, but if you are willing to aim for true intimacy with God and others, the healing will begin. Ask the Spirit to renew your heart and mind. You may fall on your face from time to time, but as you walk in a lifestyle of repentance, you will reap love and purity. Coming to the seminar on October 29th is a good opportunity to learn about how we can grow in sexual purity as a community.

## AN EASTSIDE COFFEE HOUSE

**This fall we've started a coffee house.**

Each week we'll be serving coffee along with gourmet cookies for all East Side PM service attenders that will meet immediately after our 5:45 PM East Side PM service on the third floor of the Hunter West Building. In addition, each week we'll be having live music featuring various musicians from the Redeemer community.

We've already begun the coffee house, so come on by to listen to some tunes, have a cup of joe, or just relax in the company of friends!

### REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller  
Carl de Prado  
Fred Liedtke

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.  
OFFICE • 1359 BROADWAY (BETWEEN W. 36/37<sup>TH</sup> STREETS) • FOURTH FLOOR • NY, NY 10018-7102  
(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 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

congregations and to address their needs. Then we can ask our neighbors “How can we add value to your lives (whether you believe like we do or not)?” and serve our neighbors as Christ served us.

## **2. What, specifically, are the kinds of ministries we are talking about?**

### **a. Ministries that build Community**

#### **1. Faith, Work, and Career.**

Through expanding the Center for Faith and Work, we will provide Christian professionals much more help for working in their field.

We expect that this will include visual and performing arts space for people working in those fields.

#### **2. Family and Singles.** We expect to provide day-care, after school programs, and innumerable community building and training events for which Redeemer now has no space.

### **b. Ministries that serve our neighbors.**

#### **1. New Song Community Development.** A community development corporation connected to New Song Church (one of our sister churches,) that works on the systemic problems of the poor in Harlem needs money to begin implementing its programs.

#### **2. Holistic, neighborhood ministries.** This is money set aside for ministries in the neighborhood in which our building will be located. We cannot assess the actual needs of our neighbors and plan ministries to them until we know where we will be.

#### **3. How will these new ministries be developed?**

We will earmark 25% of all the finances raised in our Vision Campaign to go to the launching of new ministries. The particular

size, shape, and location of the first building we acquire will be more conducive to some ministries than others. Our goal is to have multiple community center buildings in the city, so eventually we will have a full range of ministries. However, we will not be able to start up all the ministries on our ‘wish-list’ at once.

#### **4. How will these ministries be funded in the future?**

In the future some of these new ministries launched by the Vision campaign will develop their own 501(c)3 corporations and will raise their own funds. They may eventually expand to the position of serving the needs of many of our daughter churches in the city as well. Others of these new ministries will be eventually picked up by the operating budget of Redeemer.

## A BOLD INITIATIVE FOR NEW MINISTRIES

BY: KATHERINE LEARY

Redeemer has been an entrepreneurial church with entrepreneurial people from the start. Starting the church itself took a lot of entrepreneurial spirit, as did the launch of organizations such as Hope for New York and many other ministries. And yet the gap between the organizations needed for cultural renewal in this city and what exists is huge. How do we re-fuel and jumpstart our entrepreneurship?

The Center for Faith and Work (CFW), one of Redeemer’s newest ministries, is planning to create an “incubator” that will help entrepreneurs plan, set up, launch and fund new ventures with a gospel-centered mission. The new venture incubator has the potential to increase the rate of city-serving ministries and organizations started by Redeemer attendees and Redeemer church plants from 3 in the past 10 years to 2-3 per year.

The first step is to harness the professional expertise that exists within the congregation – the marketers, lawyers, financiers, strategists, etc. – into consulting teams that work with the new ministry ventures and their entrepreneurs. CFW’s Marketing & Advertising Group began a project this summer to support one of HFNY’s existing ministries and we hope to develop more consulting teams in 2006. The second step is to identify the most strategic and promising initiatives (and entrepreneurs) to accept into the program. Watch for more information about our Entrepreneurs Conference in Spring 2006. The third, and arguably most critical step is to develop networks of social capitalists who desire to help fund viable ventures with high cultural impact potential.

Cultural Renewal – the opportunity to bring the hope, love and mercy of the gospel to bear

on the professions in which we serve, the organizations in which we work, the neighborhoods in which we live, and the art that gives voice and meaning to the world in which we live – is the ultimate mission of Redeemer’s Center for Faith and Work. Whether we’re training young people at the beginning of their careers or supporting those who have reached significant positions of influence, our ministries aim to impact individual hearts with the truth of the gospel and form relationships and networks of mutual support. The incubator will take these relationships one-step further and create committed support structures for cultural renewal venture development.

[For more information about Redeemer’s Center for Faith and Work go to [www.faithandwork.org](http://www.faithandwork.org) or call 212 808-4460 x180. The New Venture Incubator is a project that we plan to launch with funding of the Vision campaign.]

# WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A "DEEK"?

BY: MARGARET CAMP

I recently had an opportunity to speak with Susan Kushner about her experience as a new Deaconess. Susan became a Deaconess in June of this year. Her perspective is fresh and honest and I thought it would be an encouragement to anyone thinking of serving on the Diaconate or anyone considering nominating someone for the office.

## ***How did you come to know about the Diaconate?***

I had always heard about the Diaconate but never gave it much thought until I needed some information. A year and a half ago I had a friend in crisis that was having a hard time accessing the social services they needed. I called the Diaconate help line and someone was able to give me a resource for my friend to contact.

## ***How did you become nominated?***

Well, I am in nursing so I am drawn to people who need care, people who are broken. In college I was part of an organization that helped the poor access healthcare. The program specifically helped children of immigrants to receive immunizations and preventative healthcare. I could see that their practical needs were being met but there was still a need for more holistic care.

A member of my fellowship group had been helped by the Diaconate. The care she received was really great – she really liked her Deeks. We had been in the same fellowship group for about 4 years so she knew that I had a heart for mercy and she nominated me because she thought that I

would be a good fit for the Diaconate.

## ***Tell me about your training experience?***

The training was really heavy duty. I really looked forward to it. I learned that the best thing I can do for /with a client is to pray, with urgency, and put the situation in God's hands. You really can't move forward until you do that. During the training I also got to know the other candidates well. We all built up trust with each other. We became great friends and laughed a lot, too.

When I was first nominated I was not scared but once I started the training – I really felt sobered. I thought – 'what if I mess up someone's life?' During this time I also learned that I am more sinful than I imagined. It forced me to be transparent – acknowledge it – confess it.

## ***How do you find your client work?***

Right now I have 4 clients. I work with Deek partners on all of them. I have really learned a lot from the other Deeks I am partnering with. When I met my first client I was frightened, the client was frightened too. But I was also encouraged at how similar the client's struggles are to my own. Sometimes it feels "too close to home." But just like me, the clients are trying to acknowledge their weaknesses and allow God to work through them.

Also, I didn't realize how challenging it was going to be. It has been

really eye opening. I spend a lot of time critiquing my own heart. Often my own sin gets in the way – I can become caught up in how I could "fix" the client's situation. It is really about God's redemptive plan – bringing people back into community. So, I don't have to "fix" anything but walk along side someone who is struggling with some of the same things I have. When I remind myself of this – it isn't a burden.

## ***What about other Diaconate commitments?***

The Diaconate meetings are really fun. Meeting with others that understand your situation is really helpful. Although the work we do is confidential, they understand my struggles. Having community with the other Deeks is important. The equipping we receive is great. One of the best meetings we had recently was with psychiatrist Dr. Leonie Johnson-Sena who came to speak to us about the development of the adult ego. Very interesting.

I also enjoy going up front for prayer after the service and serving beside other Deeks.

## ***How would you recommend others identify Diaconate candidates for nomination?***

If you know someone who is by nature a caretaker and see them going towards brokenness instead of running from it – you should consider nominating them for the Diaconate.

# IN SUNDAY SERVICE MINISTRIES NEWS

NY PHILHARMONIC CONCERT / FALL VOLUNTEERS BBQ

BY PHOEBE KMECK

Over 100 Sunday Service Ministries Volunteers followed the hot pink balloons to the front-row spot reserved for them at the free NY Philharmonic concert in Central Park's Great Lawn—an event attracting 100,000 New Yorkers! Volunteers lounged across a span of candle lit picnic blankets (adjacent to the VIP sections) under a canopy of stars (eight visible) while “the Phil” delivered masterpieces by Wagner, Lalo, and Tchaikovsky.

Communion Server Jay Bohringer accounts: “We were so close it felt like we were right there in Lincoln Center's Symphony Hall!” Once the grand finale beckoned a mass of applause, the spectacular fireworks show made for a glorious end to a perfect evening.

In September, the Fall Volunteers BBQ at long last fired up at the tip of Roosevelt Island's Lighthouse Park—a place Pastor Tim Keller himself describes as “by far, the most beautiful park spot in New York City.”

Sunday Service Ministries Director, Elaine “Grill Master” Rollogas, cooked up mean burgers

(and vegetarian alternatives) for all the Volunteers. “We throw the BBQ every year because it's a fun way to bring the servant community together, and to show them how much we appreciate their service.”

Volunteers from both the East and West Side services enjoyed rigorous Badminton matches, Frisbee tossing, and high-to-the-sky kite flying—which was far more successful than last year's breeze-free afternoon.

“It was the perfect day to throw

a BBQ,” says Usher Captain Donna Vymola. “The sunny weather and the surrounding view of the river and the City—everything was perfect. I had so much fun!”

Stay tuned for future Sunday Service Ministries adventures...

Phoebe Kmeck  
West Side Volunteers Manager  
Redeemer Presbyterian Church  
w. 212.808.4460 x190  
212.767.9414  
phoebe@redeemer.com  
mark@redeemer.com.



*The Sunday Ministries- October 2005*

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER: DONATE ON-LINE

**After many requests, donations to Redeemer can now be made online.**

You can donate via your checking account or credit card. Presently donations are available to the Redeemer General Fund, the Church Planting Center, and Diaconate.

**To make your financial donation please visit our website at [giving.redeemer.com](http://giving.redeemer.com).**

You can also donate appreciated securities as well. This is a good time to consider your financial commitment to Redeemer. As of August, we were \$150,000 behind in our planned giving for 2005. This means we need to receive \$3.17M over the next three months (which is about \$244,000/week!) to maintain our current ministries. PLEASE consider your part in Redeemer's ongoing mission to New York City. If you have any questions please contact David Bisgrove at 212.808.4460 ext 111; or email him at [david@redeemer.com](mailto:david@redeemer.com)

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## Peculiar Honors: Vision Campaign Art Exhibition

**Redeemer's Arts Ministries and Painters' Group is hosting an art exhibition.**

Entitled "Peculiar Honors" from a line in the hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" ("Let ev'ry creature rise and bring/Peculiar honors to our King"), the juried group exhibition of work from artists in the Redeemer community will be held at the Redeemer offices (1359 Broadway, Suite 400).

**Join us for the opening of the exhibition and silent auction of the works on Friday, October 28, from 7:00-10:00PM (auction closes at 9:30PM).**

Half of the proceeds will benefit Redeemer's Vision Campaign. Works not sold on October 28 will be for sale throughout the exhibition, which closes December 11. The exhibition will also be open on Saturday, October 29, Sunday, October 30, and the closing weekend of the exhibition (December 9-11). For hours and more information, visit [www.faithandwork.org/artshow](http://www.faithandwork.org/artshow) or watch the Center for Faith and Work section of the Bulletin Board in your worship service program or online at [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com).