

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

NOVEMBER 2005

TO MULTIPLY CHURCHES

BY: TIM KELLER

Redeemer's Church Planting Center started with funds raised in the first capital campaign in 1997. What many people do not realize is that the Church Planting Center now raises approximately 80% of its operating budget from gifts from foundations and partner churches outside of Redeemer. In order to dramatically multiply the number of church plants that the Center is capable of planting, we need to infuse additional money into its efforts. The major goal of the Vision Campaign is to use 25% of the funds we raise to

multiply gospel-centered churches throughout the city.

1. Why plant new churches?

First, one church, no matter how big, will never be able to reach the sheer number of people that a whole movement of churches can. Newer churches draw in non-churched people at 5-10 times the rate of older congregations. Therefore, the best way to significantly increase the number of Christians in a city is to increase the number of churches. Also, new churches are the best way to renew and re-vitalize

the existing churches of a city. New congregations introduce new models of ministry for all to see, and they often surface new Christian leadership in a city.

Second, one church, no matter how big, will never be able to serve all the needs in such a diverse city. Every congregation has a limited range of the people it can serve and reach. For example, when you choose to hold your worship service in English you automatically exclude a huge part of New York City! Only a movement of hundreds of churches, small and

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AN ADVENTURE IN VISION GROUPS

BY FRANCES BRAGDON NELSON

What an adventure these last four months have been! Never in my experience of Redeemer have I so clearly seen God's hand. Against all odds and much sage advice, I volunteered to start up 100 new vision groups in conjunction with the Fall 2005 Vision Campaign (which would close to double the number of our existing groups).

Three months later and with many hours of volunteer labor from David Cook, Beth Lundell and Greg Clark (and the providential addition to staff of Irene

Lee), we had 114 new groups, 196 hosts and facilitators, and over a thousand people signed up for those groups. Since small groups have long been acknowledged as the DNA of Redeemer and the cauldron of gospel formation, it's worth a little reflection on how this happened and how we can steward this blessing.

Do you believe that God responds to prayer? I don't know how to emphasize it, but without the daily prayers of the newly formed Redeemer prayer team, this never would

have happened. It was truly beyond the expectations of everyone. Next to the challenges of marriage, I've never been in such need for prayer to accomplish something. And next to God's provision in my marriage, never have I experienced such direct answers to prayer.

The prayer team daily petitioned for hosts to volunteer and be trained, and for people to sign up for groups. We saw more hosts than we could accommodate offer to open their homes in record time (over the

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SPOTLIGHT: THE BOWERY MISSION WOMEN'S CENTER

BY: DANA LYNNE SINGFIELD

On Manhattan's East 70th St. off 3rd Avenue, just a 5-minute walk from the Hunter College auditorium, the Bowery Mission Women's Center is offering homeless women a new lease on a Christ-centered life.

"Our objective is to provide an opportunity for homeless women to have their lives changed and transformed by the power of Jesus Christ," said Sandra Seaborn, the center's executive director. "In order to accomplish that we offer women Christian discipleship, life skills, career preparation and training. At the center, we believe that people need to be spiritually grounded, emotionally equipped and economically empowered in order to accomplish life changes."

The Bowery Mission Women's Center offers homeless women a 9-month residential program, run under the auspices of the 125-year-old Bowery Mission. The women's center is similar in approach to the Bowery Mission Men's Program on the Lower East Side, yet operates on a smaller scale, with 21-beds at the women's center versus 62 and 77 beds at the two men's center locations. Yet Seaborn hopes the women's center will have a success rate comparable to that of the men's, which provides lasting life changes to hundreds of homeless and troubled men each year.

A Hope for New York affiliate, the women's center is privately funded through the generous gifts of donors, foundations and corporations. "It has an inter-

denominational staff, which allows the women to get a flavor for the diversity within the church yet see the commonalities as well," Seaborn said. And, it relies heavily on volunteers.

"Every woman participates in an intensive weekly schedule which includes Christian teaching, weekly counseling, remedial education if necessary, learning computer applications, life skills workshops such as financial management, communication and parenting, and participating in the upkeep of the house as an active member of the household," Seaborn said.

Volunteers are needed to help provide many of these services to the women. "We are looking for people who can commit weekly to being present, to tutoring, to supporting recreational outings, to being escorts for appointments," Seaborn said. "As part of life skills classes, we're also looking for physical trainers to help with exercise classes, and professional skills such as nutrition and financial management."

"As groups, we're looking for folks who might want to come and bring a meal and serve a meal as a small group," she said. A Redeemer home fellowship group, for example, could bring groceries to the center, prepare a meal in the home's kitchen and serve it to clients.

Seaborn speaks passionately about her work among the poor and her love for Christ, two aspects of her life that she has melded successfully. With a degree in Social Work specializ-

ing in community development, she moved to New York City from Toronto, Canada, five years ago, after working in a rescue mission there. She joined the Bowery Mission in the fall of 2000 as the manager of volunteers. Three years later, she began researching and spearheading an initiative for the Bowery Mission to return to women's residential ministry.

Women with children make up the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. The Bowery Mission Women's Center serves women who find themselves on the street for myriad reasons, from financial troubles and substance abuse to family or relationship problems. "Homelessness is not limited to the people we see on the street asking for money," she said.

She encouraged anyone who knows of an individual or family facing a crisis that could cost them their home to offer time and support, or to simply put the individual in touch with an organization that can help. "It's much easier to prevent than to rebuild," Seaborn said. "It breaks something in people to lose their home."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the center, contact Shaqua Blackson of The Bowery Mission at volunteer@chaonline.org or Sandra Seaborn at sseaborn@chaonline.org

Dana Lynne Singfield has been attending Redeemer since 2003. She became a member in spring 2005.

REDEEMER REPORT

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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

large, can penetrate literally every neighborhood and people group in the city, inspiring older churches to try new ideas.

2. How many churches do we want to plant?

Redeemer's vision is to build a great New York City through a movement of the gospel. We believe we can do this if we grow into an urban Christian community comprising 10% of the center city population (for various reasons we think we would reach a "tipping point" of cultural influence at this level.) Getting to this size would require approximately 600 new churches in the center city areas of New York (assuming each church averaged a congregation of 200 people). The goal is to directly plant 250 churches during the next 25 years, and to recruit, influence, and attract an additional 350 churches to work with us in gospel-centered ministry. In order to accomplish all of this, Redeemer would have to increase the rate of its present center city church planting three-fold.

If we produce hundreds of new church communities which regularly win secular people to Christ, which seek the common good of the whole city (especially the poor), which produce Christians who write plays, make movies, do creative journalism, begin effective and productive new businesses, use their money for others, and produce cutting-edge scholarship and literature, and which regularly plant other church communities that do the same – then and only then will we see our vision for NYC realized and our whole society changed as a result.

3. How can we expect that these churches will stay aligned?

We want all these churches to be gospel-centered. But two difficulties present themselves: First, it is difficult for a church to maintain the balance of all the five ministry fronts: evangelism, community, justice, cultural renewal, and church planting. Most churches tend to major on one to the exclusion of the rest. How can they keep their balance? Second, it is difficult for a church to maintain a high quality of ministry in each one of these areas. Most churches will be neighborhood 'parish' churches of small or medium size.

How can they provide large-church quality ministries to youth, children and families? How can they provide programs of the highest artistic excellence? The answer to both questions is that this strategic goal of church planting does not stand-alone. It is supported by the goals of a strong Redeemer and the launching of new ministries. The ministries we begin in the next few years will at first strengthen Redeemer, but we expect them to grow and to serve eventually many other churches of the city, just as our counseling center has begun to do.

Working in the areas of outreach, community, justice and diaconal work, cultural renewal, the arts, and church planting, these ministries will both remind churches of their calling and equip them to do the work at a high level of quality. In the future we will create an association of the new churches that works in strategic alliance with these ministries and with Redeemer, in order to structure the whole gospel movement for unity, quality, and ever-growing capacity.

NEW CHURCHES

Building a great city for all people requires that we create new congregations that can serve the diverse populations of the city.

Here are thumbnail sketches of three churches we have planted this year.

Resurrection

Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg, Brooklyn,

began worship this summer. Pastor Vito Aiuto and his wife Monique moved into this vibrant Brooklyn community with a vision to create a church that celebrates in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ. This new congregation meets for worship on Sunday afternoons at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Elizabeth, New Jersey,

has a growing Hispanic and Brazilian population. This fall Brazilian church planter Gilson Quelhas and his wife Leonora began gathering a core of people in the area to launch a new church called **Christian Community Agape** with plans for public worship to begin in December.

Another new church planting project has begun in **Forest Hills, Queens**, by Michael and Roseann Kytko. Michael and Roseann, who both grew up in New York and later worked and attended college in the city, are gathering a core group with the hopes of beginning corporate worship by the end of this year.

CHRISTMAS OF PEACE: A NEW REDEEMER CD BENEFITTING NEW SONG

Christmas of Peace, the second Christmas CD produced by Redeemer's Worship and Arts Department, is now available! Forty instrumentalists, vocalists, composers and arrangers volunteered their time and talents to record eleven tracks in order to benefit New Song Community Church and Partnership in Harlem, a sister congregation to Redeemer and an affiliate of Hope for New York. New Song provides after-school tutoring, low-cost housing, job training and many other vital services to its community. It was founded by the Rev. Jeff White, who was previously a pastor on the staff of Redeemer.

Work on *Christmas of Peace* began last winter. All of the expenses for studio time, mixing, mastering, and manufacturing (even art work and graphic design) were covered by donations. This means all proceeds from the very first CD sold will be given to New Song.

Recording began in May at Manhattan Center Studios and continued through August. (It feels very strange to record

Christmas music when its 90 degrees and humid outside!) Chris Hughes, the music director for Redeemer's daughter churches in Hoboken and Teaneck, New Jersey, served as producer for the CD, coordinating the schedules of all the musicians, booking the rehearsal studios, and overseeing the multitude of tasks required to pull off a project of this scope.

As the title implies, *Christmas of Peace* is a meditative collection of vocal and instrumental arrangements by Redeemer composers. Some of the music is classical in style, while other selections are quiet jazz. All of the performers, composers and arrangers come from Redeemer or its network of sister churches in the New York area and include members of the New York Philharmonic, the Emerson String Quartet, and Broadway shows, as well as major-label jazz artists, producers, and Grammy Award winners.

Soloists include Laura Pfortmiller, Keith Fluitt, Michelle Jennings, Kimberly JaJuan, Mindy Sax, Sarah Lentz

and Annie Quick. Selections include the familiar Gesu Bambino, Away in a Manger, I Wonder as I Wander and new compositions such as Mark Stambaugh's This is the Month, a beautiful setting of a John Milton poem.

Christmas of Peace is currently available through the music store on Redeemer's website, www.redeemer.com. It will also be available for purchase following all worship services beginning on November 27th. Also available for viewing on the website is a free video about the making of the CD and the work of New Song. Please consider supporting New Song Community Partnership by purchasing many copies of *Christmas of Peace* to give as Christmas presents this year. The music is great and the cause is even better.

Redeemer's first Christmas CD, *Christmas of Hope*, was released in 1999 and to date has raised nearly \$60,000 for Hope for New York. *Christmas of Hope* is also still available on the Redeemer web site.

HELP SERVE A WARM THANKSGIVING MEAL

If you would like to help serve a warm Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings to those in need, please consider partnering with one of HFNY's affiliates.

Bowery Mission serves more than 2,000 guests, mostly homeless, during their week-long Thanksgiving celebration starting Monday, November 21, through Saturday, November 26. Download an application at: www.bowery.org or call Shaqua Blackson at (212) 684-2800 x162.

Isaiah 58 is a Christian outreach to people living with HIV/AIDS. The primary ministry within Isaiah 58 is serving dinners at the Bailey-Holt House, New York's oldest AIDS residence. Located in Greenwich Village at the foot of Christopher Street, Bailey houses 45 men and women. Volunteers are needed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, from 4:00PM to 6:00PM to help serve food and clean up. Opportunities are also available for musicians to provide musical entertainment. If interested, please contact Faith at faith@hfn.org or (212) 808-4460 x114.

Living Waters Fellowship is a non-denominational church in Bushwick, Brooklyn, with a well-established outreach program to their local community. Volunteer help is needed on Thanksgiving Day to serve the elderly, at-risk youth, the homeless, and marginally housed. If interested, contact Pastor Ron at ron_mandile@juno.com or (718) 443-7421.

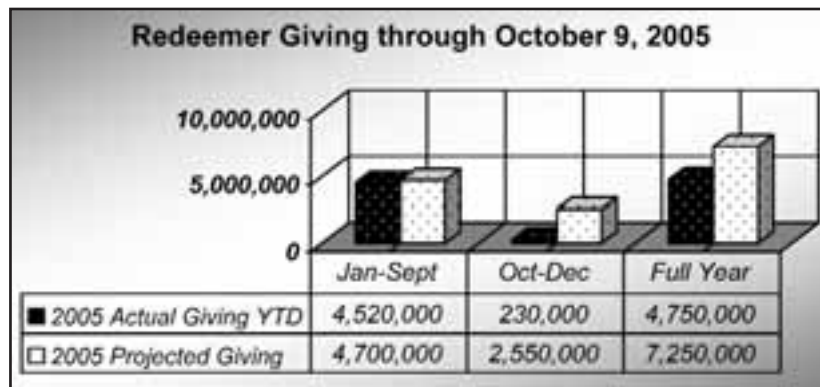
To follow Jesus is to be so transformed and renewed by his love and sacrifice for us on the cross that we 'take up' our own cross (Matthew 16:24) as we seek to bring the power and hope of the gospel to bear in our community. This means a radical approach to giving of our time, talents and money. To that end, consider your financial participation in what God is doing through his people at Redeemer.

As the graph shows, we were \$180,000 behind in our giving through September 30, and we need approximately \$2,500,000 between now and December 31st in order to maintain our current programs. Please prayerfully consider how you might help out over the next several weeks in reach our ministry goals.

There are many ways you can contribute:

1. Place your checks/cash in the offering on Sundays.

2. Mail your checks (please don't send cash) to the church office: Redeemer Presbyterian Church 1359 Broadway 4th floor New York, NY 10018



3. You can now donate online via electronic check or credit card at: giving.redeemer.com.

4. You can donate stocks, mutual funds and other 'property' that often provide you with a double tax benefit (assuming the investment has appreciated and that you have held the stock for more than one year). By donating appreciated securities you avoid the capital gains tax faced when selling the stock, and the church pays NO capital gains tax when it sells the donated security. 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
Please contact Sandy Young: (212) 808-4460 x108 or sandy@redeemer.com if you are considering this kind of gift so that we can understand how you would like this gift to be utilized and send you a tax receipt in a timely manner.

5. If your bank has automated bill payment you can set up Redeemer Presbyterian Church to receive electronically generated checks, allowing you an easier way to be systematic in your giving at www.redeemer.com.

VISION GROUPS

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supposedly dead months of summer!). Forty people stepped forward as mentors to take these new groups under their wings. These hosts and mentors signed up for and attended training "unheard of during the summer." Without God's response to prayer we would have had 114 hosts staring at empty couches; instead, most groups filled to capacity within three weeks and the poor late-comers commuted from Williamsburg to Washington

Heights to be in a group.

So, here's what we learned:
 #1. God responds to prayer.
 #2. We could never pay enough staff to make this church do what it is meant to do. We must value, honor, include, and respect our congregation's leadership. Greg, David and Beth became unpaid staff leaders throughout the summer, and many others joined in the tasks of training, recruiting – the list goes on. Thanks to all who volunteered

so enthusiastically.

Please pray that God will work through these groups and that people's lives will be changed. Pray that in some tangible way each person will move from selfishness to other-centeredness in some area of life. Pray that God's purpose for Christian community will manifest itself in these current experiences. And pray that our leaders will be renewed by the magnitude of God's redemptive work.

LESSONS BEING LEARNED: BY SERVING ON THE DIACONATE

BY: BRIAN SUMNER, DEACON

One of the benefits of serving on the Diaconate has been the opportunity to learn a few more things about my spiritual walk and myself. The lessons often start out as questions I ask myself and others:

- Since I went to school for many years, and spent more in practical training, don't I deserve what I have? What's wrong with people who need Diaconate assistance to get their careers on track? The problem here, of course, is one of **humility**. I forget that whatever I have that allows me to maintain my professional status is a gift from a gracious God, and has nothing to do with any intrinsic goodness or merit on my part. In fact, God desires that we become instru-

ments of his in sharing his blessings with others.

- Do I really have to give up time this week to help out my client? Can't someone else do prayer duty for that service? These are questions that arise out of my **lack of gratitude** to God. I forget how much I have been given, and that I spend a lot of time on things, which satisfy only me and don't do much for anyone else.

- How can I possibly help out in that situation? Aren't these problems too complex and numerous for someone like me to do much about? Don't I have enough trouble just keeping my own problems in check? This sentiment shows my fundamental **lack of peace**. If I were truly

resting in Jesus, these anxious fears would diminish greatly. I forget that God is sovereign, not me. I am not the solution to anyone's problems, and I certainly do not hold my life together by my own power despite my delusions to the contrary.

As I grow slowly in the areas of humility, gratitude, and peace through my experiences on the Diaconate, I am finding new opportunities to reflect the character of Jesus that I would otherwise miss. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6.)

Law Fellowship Event

Integrating Faith in the Legal Profession

November 11, 2005 at 6:30PM - 9:30PM
Redeemer offices (1359 Broadway @ 36th), 4th Floor

This event is open to all lawyers, law students, and those employed in the legal profession. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Register online (\$10) at www.faithandwork.org.