

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 2007

GOD'S WORK; OUR WORK

BY TIM KELLER

Human beings were put into paradise and given work to do before the Fall, before there was anything wrong with us or with the world (Gen 2:15.) Work, then, in itself, is not a curse—it is something we were designed for.

Human work means being partners with God in *his* work. God's Spirit does not simply save souls, but also cares for, sustains, cultivates, and renews the material world he delights in (Psalm 104:30; 145, 147.) Therefore God not only sends ministers into the world to preach sermons, but also doctors to give medicine, and teachers to impart wisdom, and so on. Making clothes, practicing law, tilling fields, mending broken bodies, advancing science, or nurturing children all participate in God's work. The view, then, that an artist or a banker is doing 'secular work' while a minister is doing 'spiritual work' does not fit with the Biblical understanding. God is also an artist and an in-

vestor in the material world.

God made us inter-dependent creatures. We need the work of others in order to live, and they need our work as well. For example, I do not know how to make or repair shoes, so I am dependent on the work of someone else. If I pay shoemakers \$100.00 for a pair of shoes, it is a marvelous bargain for me. In \$100.00 worth of my time, I could never make such a thing. On the other hand, if I am a farmer, I do something for the shoemaker that she couldn't do. All work, then, according to God's design, is service. Through work we enrich one another and become more and more interwoven.

But *what* work should we do? Many people choose their work on the basis of status—which work will bring the biggest cultural rewards? Others choose their work on the basis of self-fulfillment—which work will make me feel good about myself? But we are not the product of

society or of our own choices, but we are created by God. Work is God's appointed way to care for creation and be useful to others, and you have particular God-given abilities and aptitudes for doing so. We are God's workmanship, created to do good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:10.) So we must discover our aptitudes and abilities and work within our giftedness.

How can we do that? First, consider your *affinities*. This is the existential aspect to determining your calling. It is asking the question: "What people-needs do I vibrate to?" Second, consider your *abilities*. This is the empirical aspect to determining your calling. It is asking the question: "What kinds of tasks am I good at doing?" Third, consider your *opportunities*. This is the 'providential' aspect to determining your calling. It is asking the question: "What actual doors are opening" (Continued on page 3)

A THANK YOU FROM THE DIACONATE

Please accept our sincere thanks for your contributions to the annual Mercy Fund Offering on December 10, 2006. The funds provided through this offering enable us to meet the needs of men, women and children in the Redeemer congregation who are experiencing crises of various

kinds. We are very grateful for your generosity and consider you to be partners with us as we care for members of our immediate community.

If you were unable to give at the time of the offering, donations are accepted throughout the year and may be mailed to the

Diaconate, placed in the offering basket or received through online donations on the Redeemer website. Please earmark your check for the Diaconate or place cash in a Diaconate Mercy Fund envelope, which can be found at the information tables at all services.



CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK BUILDS MOMENTUM

BY KATHERINE LEARY

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

—Abraham Kuyper

The Latin root of the English word “vocation” is “vocare,” which means “to call.” In other words, in traditional meaning vocation and calling mean one and the same thing. When we hear the word “calling,” however, it invites the questions “*By whom?*” and “*For what reason?*” A primary purpose of Redeemer’s Center for Faith and Work is to help people answer those two questions.

Launched four years ago with miniscule funding carved out of Redeemer’s already tight operating budget, the Center for Faith & Work (CFW) is one of the primary beneficiaries of Redeemer’s Vision Campaign. Starting in 2006, this additional funding was used to implement CFW’s innovative 10-year vision for cultural renewal and to empower the teams of leaders committed to developing this pioneering ministry. You will hear from two of these leaders in this newsletter.

If you read Redeemer’s weekly bulletin, you can’t help but notice the growing number of Center for Faith and Work events and programs. This is a result of more than 50 people volunteering to lead **vocation groups** that serve 10 professions and industries: Arts, Education, Entrepreneurs, Financial Services, Graduate Students and Doctoral Candidates in a large number of fields, Healthcare, Law, Marketing & Advertising, and Public Service & Policy. More than 1000 people have participated in programs and times of fellowship coordinated by these leaders. The purpose of these groups is to equip, connect and mobilize professionals in similar fields in a way that responds

to God’s call on their lives.

Somewhat less visible, but growing in impact, is the **educational** arm of CFW, which offers classes on Sundays and Thursday

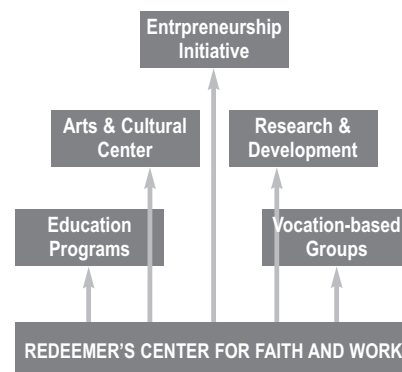


nights and held its first weekend retreat in December (see photo). The winter series of classes cover the topics of “calling” on Sunday afternoons and testifying to our Christian faith in the workplace on Thursday evenings. We are seeking ways to reach a far greater portion of the Redeemer congregation with the theological foundations necessary for a meaningful professional life. We are also expanding our emphasis on leadership development and education.

This month we are publicly announcing a third branch of the CFW strategy for cultural impact—**entrepreneurship**. Most of us live out God’s purposes for our lives in our professions and industries as *intrapreneurs*—agents of change and innovation within the existing institutions of our culture. Sometimes, however, the potential for change and impact is greater when one starts from scratch and creates a new organization. Redeemer, as a church, is one excellent example of this. The Entrepreneurship Initiative will encourage and support Christian entrepreneurs with a vision for creating not-for-profit, for-profit,

and arts organizations with the potential to transform or redeem various aspects of business, arts and social service. The success of this initiative will depend on many people within the Redeemer congregation volunteer to consult, mentor, and help fund entrepreneurs in our midst as they launch their new ventures.

The CFW 10-year-strategy also includes the development of an **arts and cultural center** (either virtual or utilizing our future community center space) as well as a **Research & Development initiative** that collects and publishes the lessons learned in our pioneering efforts at faith and work ministry. These will be developed in more detail in years 2008-2010. A depiction of the overall CFW strategy is shown below.



Through these diverse types of programs, Redeemer hopes to support its 5000+ person congregation and those of its partner churches in helping people understand God’s call on their lives, how that translates into specific work in specific industries, and enable them to become His agents of cultural healing, transformation, and renewal in the world around us.

FIRST YEAR IN THE CITY

BY KATY SLOAN

The Center of Faith and Work helped me to get plugged in at Redeemer immediately. The vocational groups are small enough that meeting people is not a daunting task, and the groups are a great option for new people who are apprehensive about joining a fellowship group right away. I heard about the Center of Faith and Work at last year's CFW ministry fair, just a few weeks after I moved to NYC, and I was immediately intrigued by the idea that a group existed where I could meet others in my vocation who were also Christians in the city.

I work in advertising, which is not often considered an ethical environment, let alone a Christian one. Before joining this group, I had never met a colleague who shared my faith... or at least not one who admitted it. Sharing my

experiences with this group and having the ability to be in Christian fellowship with others who share my profession has been a wonderful experience. When I face trials at work, I now have brothers and sisters in Christ who know what it's like to be in my situation. We pray together and advise each other, often using our own experiences to encourage.

God has used this opportunity to refine me as a Christian businesswoman. I had never thought about how my performance at the office related to my faith before I took a class through the Center of Faith and Work. Now I understand that my daily activities in the workplace provide me with an opportunity to be more Christ-like by dedicating myself to the task at hand and committing to do my best.

I joined the leadership team

for the marketing and advertising group after a few months, and now I'm helping to co-lead a committee that is planning one of the largest CFW events to date. In partnership with the financial services group, we will be hosting Steve Reinemund, Chairman of PepsiCo, on Thursday, February 22. Mr. Reinemund will be speaking about his faith and how being a Christian affected his career path and his decisions in business. I hope that this event will provide that spark for others who were in my position a year ago to engage in a CFW ministry while connecting with others at Redeemer. Our prayer is that this event will attract a wide array of business professionals, both Christians and their friends and colleagues who may be interested in hearing a message of faith.

In partnership with the financial services group, we will be hosting Steve Reinemund, Chairman of PepsiCo, on Thursday, February 22.

HIS TOY STORE 2006: OUR 11TH YEAR!

His Toy Store is a Christmas ministry sponsored by Hope For New York, that gives parents in low-income neighborhoods the opportunity to pick out new toys at no cost for their children at a church-based community



“Toy Store” where food, gift wrapping, child care, and Bibles are provided.

Nearly 150 Redeemer volunteers served at six different His Toy Store sites this Christmas season.

GOD'S WORK; OUR WORK (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

for me? What needs to be done?” Ultimately it takes the deep rest in Christ's finished work for your salvation (Heb 4:1-10) to avoid over-work. Only then will

work cease to be an idol, a means of self-definition. Only then will you be free to work according to your gifting and according to the needs of others rather than

according to social pressure. Only then will you periodically be able to regularly 'walk away' and rest from your vocational work.

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Carl de Prado
Heather Klein

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.
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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

BULLISH ON FINANCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY

BY AMANDA WACHSMUTH

“I’m new to Redeemer and it was good to finally sit and chat with some attendees. So far it has been difficult for me to get plugged in at Redeemer. The only times I have free are Saturdays and Sundays, which makes Finance Chat on Sundays one of my only times for fellowship.”

— Attendee of Finance Chat, which meets the second Sunday of every month after the 10:30 service.

Is there a Christian calling to finance? And, if so, how does this calling to finance operate within the greater context of our faith? With these questions in mind, Redeemer’s Financial Services Ministry has begun a pioneering work to confront and transform a working culture in which Christians have long operated with a feeling of isolation, struggling with an industry steeped in idolatrous worship of money, power, success, and self. This year, through monthly fellowship meetings, monthly finance chat discussions, featured speaker events, workplace groups, and service projects, we have taken concrete steps towards

creating a thinking community of Christian finance professionals who are conscious of their workplace calling and equipped with a theological and practical framework to live that calling out. FSM has also created a tighter knit community within the larger scope of Redeemer for those with common every day challenges.

We have grown exponentially this year with over 650 people on our mailing list and a core of 75 people who have come to three or more events in the last six months. As we continue to grow, please pray for us that our community will deepen, that new leaders will con-

tinue to rise to the forefront even in the midst of busy schedules and careers, and that our thinking will expand to address not only isolation and idolatry but the greater workings of injustice embedded in both corporate structures and capital systems at large. We also invite you to visit our website www.faithandwork.org/finance to learn more and join us for upcoming events. Finance is a worthy calling as long as we keep in mind that we are part of a greater kingdom for which returns have not yet fully been tallied, but we know the earnings will be great.

Amanda Wachsmuth, works at LaBranche Structured Products

CFW FAREWELL

“I have really enjoyed the fellowship, learning about how God is working in the lives of group members, and just being a part of things. I do truly sense God’s spirit being present at the gatherings. I am really comfortable with everyone and am always made to feel welcome. I plan on coming to the meetings for the long term and as God inspires me to see where I can contribute to the group in new ways.”

— NJ finance professional commuting in to join our Monthly Fellowship, which meets the fourth Monday of the month at the church office

James Caprell is an actor and painter who has been involved with the Arts Ministry of the Center for Faith and Work for a year. His first contact with the ministry was in taking part in the “Hollywood Worldviews” class taught through the School of Gospel Foundations in early 2006.

As I prepare to leave New York for sunny California, I can think of a whole host of reasons to celebrate. No more trudging through black snow, or dodging the asteroid onslaught of pedestrians down Lexington. I’m through paying \$5 for a 4-pack of Charmin, and am looking forward to a bathroom closet that fits a 16-pack. The city provided me many opportunities over the last nine years, but alas its hectic pace, hefty prices, and lack of space have taken their toll.

However, there is one aspect of New York that I will dearly miss. Over the last year I have developed a network of Christian artists, thanks to the Center for Faith &

Work ministry. Over the previous eight years, I had hardly made a single Christian friend in the city. I didn’t know where to look or how to get connected. And my walk with the Lord suffered for it.

Starting with my participation in the Thread’s “In Dialogue” play reading series this summer, I met several Christian actors and directors that formed the foundation of the network. Thanks to these friends, I got involved in a weekly Bible study, began attending InterArts Fellowship, and participated in other Christian events, including having two paintings included in the “Sow Generously” art exhibition. This not only had an impact on my work, as I learned from other experienced artists, but also much more importantly gave me the fellowship I desperately needed with other Christians. Their prayer, support, and ability to relate to some of the difficulties I face have made a profound impact in my life.

BY JAMES CAPRELL

Never before did I have someone my age, in my profession, to turn to when contemplating scripture or when in dire need of prayer, or when I was seeking direction or another perspective. The network has also given me a chance to minister to other believers, showing me how I can bless others by sharing how God is working in me. And it has provided an avenue for sharing the Word, as I am able to invite non-believing friends to these events. None of this would have happened without the Center for Faith & Work ministry.

So, as I set my sights on the upcoming move and eventual settling down, I pray that God will provide me a similar network on the other coast – a network that can serve as both a support to stay focused on my walk, and as an opportunity to glorify Him. Please keep me in your prayers, as the service CFW does will always be in mine.

OFFICER NOMINATION UPDATE

Redeemer members have the important responsibility of nominating and electing other members to serve our congregation as elders, deacons and deaconesses. This past October and November, 2006, the Diaconate and Session accepted nominations for the offices of elder, deacon and deaconess. The following individuals have been nominated and have begun the process of evaluation.

Elder Nominees:

Stephen Fung
Paul Gross
Eugene Kim
Rob Maimone
Adrian McLean
Joe Rotondo
Arvin Soh

Deacon Nominees:

Andy Hill
Allen Lamb
Darryle Owens
Andrew Yong

Deaconess Nominees:

Maria Bellino
Sue Chen
Heather Dials
Ellie Ellsworth
Amelia Lovette
Lyla Mannoia
Esther McLean
Amy Seon
Helen Smith

Please pray for these nominees as they go through training in theology and ministry skills and prepare for their interviews. They will be evaluated on their character, Christian life and experience, theological understanding, and giftedness and readiness to serve the church as an officer. The current elders will then determine which individuals will be presented for election at the April congregational meeting. If you have questions about the nominating, evaluation and training process, please contact Andrea Mungo at 212-808-4460 x146 or andrea@redeemer.com or Bruce Terrell at x105 or bruce@redeemer.com

CENTER FOR FAITH AND WORK MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, January 28th after all four services

Thanks to Redeemer's 2005 Vision Campaign, the Center for Faith and Work is becoming a vital ministry in Redeemer and in the city. Come meet representatives of all CFW vocation groups, classes and initiatives. Learn how you can serve and grow by getting involved.

January 2007 CFW Events:

January 4 at 6:30PM: Healthcare and Missions Reception for Pamela-Brown Peterside, Redeemer Offices

January 12 at 7:00PM: InterArts Fellowship, 411 Theater, Times Sq Arts Center

January 14 at 12:00PM: A Christian Walk Down Wall Street: "Finding Time to Rest," Hunter College, Room 507

January 16 at 7:00PM: Marketing & Advertising Monthly Fellowship, Redeemer Offices

January 18 at 8:00AM: Lawyers Breakfast, Redeemer Offices

January 18 at 7:00PM: Graduate Student Fellowship, Redeemer Offices

January 20 at 7:00PM: Financial Services Ministry Post-Holiday Party, RSVP for location

January 21 at 12:00PM: Entrepreneurs Group Kickoff: Panel Discussion, Hunter College, Room 507

January 25 at 7:00PM: Begin 7-week series: Living & Sharing the Gospel in the Workplace, Kings College, Lower Level

January 28: CFW Ministry Fair after all services

January 29 at 7:00PM: Financial Services Ministry Monthly Fellowship, Redeemer Offices

**Please go to www.faithandwork.org to RSVP or register for all CFW events.
We hope you'll check us out!**



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REDEEMER EXECUTES CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE

December 16, 2006

Barely one year following the culmination of the 2005 Vision Campaign, and fully one year in advance of expectations, Redeemer has located a building and signed a contract to purchase property

for a community center on the Upper West Side at 150 West 83rd Street. The property is currently being used as a parking garage and will undergo renovations to become the first of Redeemer's

neighborhood worship and community centers. The congregation is encouraged to attend one of the two Town Hall meetings being held to present more details and answer questions.

REDEEMER TOWN HALL: VISION & BUILDING UPDATE

Sunday, January 14, 2007

East Side: 12:00PM to 1:00PM immediately after Hunter morning service
Hunter Auditorium, 69th & Park

West Side: 8:15PM to 9:15PM immediately after evening service
First Baptist sanctuary, 79th & Broadway

Note: Childcare will be provided during both meetings.