

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 2008

## GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP

BY KATHERINE LEARY

Washington Irving seems the first to have called our fair city “Gotham,” in one of his light hearted satirical *Salmagundi* essays in 1807. For example:

“Oh! Gotham, Gotham!  
Most enlightened of cities!  
How does my heart swell  
with delight when I behold  
your sapient inhabitants  
lavishing their attention  
with such wonderful discernment!”

Irving made his mark, not only as the first American writer to exploit the full literary potential of local people, history, and speech, but also with his humor. Dickens supposedly wore out his copy of Irving’s *Knickerbocker’s History* with re-readings and Walter Scott claimed that his reading made his sides “absolutely sore with laughter.” Irving’s writings put the United States—and New York City—on Europe’s cultural map. And the nickname, Gotham, stuck.

With mixed reverence and good humor, then, and in fitting

tribute to the cultural, literary, and world impacting legacy of our city, we boldly proclaim the vision for Gotham Fellows at Redeemer.

Fellows are, most commonly, a group of peers in fellowship with one another as they advance their study and application of subjects of mutual interest. The Fellows we seek to gather are those young people of faith who want to prepare themselves, through intensive study and discussion, for professional lives of gospel-centered influence and cultural leadership.

Beginning in August 2008, through the auspices of our Center for Faith and Work, Redeemer will gather a Fellowship of 12-24 young men and women for an 8-month program of learning focused on developing sufficient theological foundations and cultural intelligence to be effective ambassadors of Christ in this unique urban landscape.

Through the Gotham Fellow-

ship, we will support these young professionals in the following areas:

**Gospel Worldview Development:** The core of our program is the commitment to consider how the gospel impacts every area of life and culture, which means growing in appreciation of both the gospel and culture. We will seek to develop a worldview that is deep and rigorous enough to evaluate the diverse and challenging environments of NYC.

**Spiritual and Personal Development:** In partnership with gospel worldview formation is individual heart transformation and character development. The Fellowship will foster relationships with experienced, seasoned Christians in the Redeemer community for mentoring, coaching, and career guidance.

**Community Formation:** The Fellowship will provide a unique, intense community of peers to engage the hard issues

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## WITH SINCERE THANKS!

The Diaconate would like to thank all who gave generously to the Mercy Fund on December 9, 2007. Because of this offering our deacons and deaconesses are able to meet the financial needs of those in our midst who are suffer-

ing from a variety of personal and life difficulties. 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 accept do-

nations throughout the year. Please earmark your check or cash as “Diaconate” or use a special envelope provided at the information table in all service sites or make a donation on [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com). Thank you again.



# UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL DYNAMIC IN BUSINESS

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BY DAVID KIM

*“If you think you know the gospel, you’re not getting it; If you think you don’t understand the gospel you’re starting to get the gospel.”*

— Dr. Tim Keller

Something we hear often at Redeemer is the perpetual need to “rediscover” the gospel. To borrow Tim Keller’s phrase, the gospel is slippery and it easily becomes marginalized, distorted or misunderstood in our day-to-day lives. The gospel easily slips away from us for many reasons, but one of these reasons arises from its comprehensive scope. It’s hard enough to digest how the work of Christ has accomplished for us a salvation that transforms our dead hearts to receive and share the immeasurable love of God. On top of that, the gospel is also at work to renew the world outside of our hearts, what we call cultural renewal.

However, this idea of cultural renewal is much easier said than done. The launch of the Center for Faith and Work’s (CFW) Entrepreneurship Initiative is an example of Redeemer’s commitment to cultural renewal. The business plan competition is one part of this initiative to provoke entrepreneurs to think about their ventures in light of the gospel—that is, to connect the seemingly disparate worlds of the gospel and the business start-up. Again, easier said than done.

If the gospel is about transformation—one that is *inside-out*—how does that transformation take

place in a business the same way? There are many examples of businesses that have applied certain moral principles of Christianity, such as integrity, honesty, and transparency. Yet, this sort “Christianizing” of a business, while important, may not reflect a deeper sense of gospel renewal—the kind of *inside-out* transformation characteristic of Divine grace. With a deep humility, the CFW began our first steps in trying to articulate how to develop a gospel-centered venture.

The CFW workshop held December 1, 2007, began with a deceptively simple question. What is the gospel? For many church Christians, the answer is not as obvious as one would expect. When we study the Scriptures, it becomes clear that the core of the gospel concerns the death, resurrection and glory of Christ. However, don’t let the familiarity of these words lead you to believe you understand the gospel. These words—death, resurrection, and glory—are more profound than we can imagine.

The gospel-centered venture begins with this dynamic at work in the entrepreneur. The gospel reminds us that the key to growth is learning to do what we hate to do, to die to ourselves—our pride, our fears, and our ambitions. Yet, this death to self emerges from our confidence that God’s resurrection power will propel our work further and deeper than we ever could even with all our business savvy. The

gospel topples our inborn tendency towards self-glory and renews it with the only glory that will endure through eternity.

When we forget the gospel we easily move from a God-centered salvation to a self-centered salvation. Our security and sense of identity and purpose arise from our works and how well our business does rather than on the dignity and security we have received freely through Christ. Entrepreneurs can easily become consumed by that god-like power, being the master of their own world, so much so that God’s rightful lordship is subverted. Work becomes all-consuming to the point of idolatry, and instead of reinforcing our calling as children of God, it takes the place of God, making us slaves and orphans, stripping us of the security and joy that can only be given through the gospel.

Without over-simplifications or artificial interpretive gymnastics, we need to understand better how the gospel can make an impact in persons, companies, societies and even nations. The work of the CFW is to take the gospel in its profundity and simplicity to where New Yorkers live and work. In many respects, we are striving to be a “think tank” focused on taking the gospel seriously into the unconventional areas of life that desperately need its light and life. We welcome your participation in extending this work beyond our walls.

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## REDEEMER REPORT

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Kathy Keller  
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 • 6:00PM	ETHICAL CULTURE West 64TH and CPW service at 9:15AM	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Corner of West 79TH and Broadway service at 5:00PM & 7:15PM
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# HOPE FOR NEW YORK CHRISTMAS EVENTS

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Hope for New York wishes to thank those of you who donated toys, funds, and/or your valuable time for last Christmas's events. We could not have offered our programs without your help. Because of your generosity we were able to bring joy to many families all over New York City during the holiday season. During the month of November we collected 690 toys at all five Redeemer services for both His Toy Store and Angel Tree. We also purchased over 2,000 toys for distribution.

Through our largest ever His Toy Store program we partnered with eight local churches. These churches reached out to over eight hundred families by offering parents a place to "shop" for new toys for their children's Christmas presents.

Through all His Toy Store sites we distributed nearly 2,500 toys. We partnered with Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship Ministries, and were able to give almost two hundred children new toys and clothes on behalf of



their incarcerated parent.

The annual Hope for New York Christmas dinner at Holy Cross Church offered a hot meal, entertainment and gift bags full of new socks, gloves, hats, scarves and Bibles to three hundred homeless

neighbors in New York. Many thanks to the HFNY knitters who contributed nearly four hundred of their hand-knit goods for this project.

Finally, we would like to thank the many volunteers who generously donated their time to make these programs a success. This year we had eighty-five volunteers with our Angel Tree project, over 250 volunteers for our His Toy Store project, and seventy volunteers for our HFNY Christmas Dinner. We look forward to next Christmas and, of course, to working with the thousands of volunteers who serve our city's poor and marginalized communities every day of the year. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please e-mail [volunteer@hfny.org](mailto:volunteer@hfny.org).

## 2007 BETA GROUP CAMPAIGN

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More than 350 people are now more meaningfully connected to the life of the community at Redeemer in the wake of the 2007 Beta Group Campaign. On Labor Day weekend, Redeemer launched a campaign to create 50 new groups designed to introduce new people to group life at Redeemer. More than 80% of the Beta Groups were filled in the first three weeks of registration, and by the date of their first meetings, more than 530 people were welcomed in, for the first time, to a more enriching experience of the community at Redeemer.

Reflecting on their Beta Group experience, one married couple said that joining a Beta Group gave them a wonderful

introduction to Redeemer. Though they just moved to New York City, they already feel they have the support of a community as they anxiously await the birth of their first child!

Another Beta Group member admitted that she had been having a difficult time getting plugged in at Redeemer largely because of her hectic work schedule. However, after finding a Beta Group that fit her schedule she finally found a place that quickly felt familiar and became "home" to her. She loved the fact that she knew she would see familiar faces on a weekly basis.

The idea behind the Beta Group Campaign was to create short-term groups consisting almost entirely of newcomers in order to introduce them to group

life without the undue pressure or obligation to continue on indefinitely. These groups met for a span of seven weeks, after which participants would make the decision whether or not they would like to continue on.

Of the 53 Beta Groups that were launched on the week of September 30th, 42 of them have since decided to continue on to become permanent Fellowship Groups at Redeemer. That translates into more than 350 previously unconnected people who have now found a Fellowship Group home where they can be known and cared for.

More than 90 volunteers who gave generously and sacrificially of their time, efforts and prayers were involved in making this campaign a success.

# INTERARTS FELLOWSHIP TURNS THREE YEARS OLD

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The Arts Ministry celebrates the third anniversary of InterArts Fellowship this month. IAF was the first program to be developed when the Arts Ministry was founded within the Center for Faith & Work. It meets on the second Friday of every month, and is for anyone involved in or interested in the fine or performing arts, design, entertainment, or media.

In fall 2004, Arts Ministry Program Director Luann Jennings began meeting with artists who were interested in being part of the new Arts Ministry. She heard regularly from the artists, “We want to know who else is out there.” Redeemer’s artists wanted to get a better sense of who the other artists were in our church; what they were working on; and how their creative work was interacting with, influencing, and being influenced by, their faith. So Jennings asked some of those artists she’d met with to come together and create something that would begin to build community among the artists of Redeemer. Shortly thereafter, IAF was born. It is still led by many of the same artists who founded it

and others who have joined the leadership team since.

Since the first meeting in January, 2005, more than 40 presenters have spoken to an estimated 1,000 attendees over the three years. The average monthly attendance is 60–70 people.

Most of the presenters have been artists and others from within the Redeemer community, but on occasion we’ve also hosted outside guests such as author Adrienne Chaplin (*Art and Soul: Signposts for Christians in the Arts*), Dove Award-winning recording artist Ginny Owens, Jesuit priest and professional actor/director George Drance, and painter Alfonse Borysewicz. In September, 2006, Tim Keller spoke to our largest crowd ever (over 150) on “Christianity and the Creative Age,” a talk which is available for purchase online through the Redeemer Sermon Store. ([www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com))

The original IAF monthly format included a speaker on a topic of theological interest and an artist presenter. However, this fall, the IAF leadership changed the format to only one presenter each month, allowing presenters to go

more in-depth and extending the question and answer time. “The Q&A was always the most interesting part of InterArts, where we could really wade in with our presenter about the issues that he or she brought up,” says Luann Jennings. “Now that the Q&A is nearly half of the program, we really leave feeling that we know that presenter’s story, and have been able to connect with him or her in a very personal way.”

However, the most important part of IAF is the fellowship. As one of the few “mezzanine” (mid-sized) groups at Redeemer, it’s possible to build relationships with a variety of people with similar interests, as well as meeting plenty of new people each month. “It’s our hope that artists will come regularly enough that they look forward to seeing the friends they’ve made at InterArts Fellowship,” says Jennings.

InterArts Fellowship meets from 7:00PM to 9:00PM (although many people stay longer) at the Redeemer Offices (1359 Broadway, Suite 400). For more information and a list of upcoming presenters, visit [www.faithandwork.org/iaf](http://www.faithandwork.org/iaf).

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## GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP

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of living in NYC. We recognize the critical role of community and commitment in creating a larger and more sustainable impact in the culture.

The demands of the Fellowship will be similar to those of an evening and weekend graduate program in business or the arts and sciences. Our Fellows will continue in their chosen jobs or careers and meet together in weekly small groups, monthly

Saturday workshops, and quarterly weekend retreats.

Who should consider becoming a Fellow?

- Young professionals who are 1–5 years out of college and employed
- Those with a demonstrated aptitude for leadership and a love for NYC
- People willing to commit to a Fellowship—with their time, hearts, and disciplined

study—to build a community of friends that will last a lifetime

- Christians willing to let the power of the gospel work in their hearts and through their lives

While our goal is to instill in our Fellows a genuine discernment that “swells all our heart’s with delight,” we hope also to encourage a lively wit (in Washington Irving’s honor) and

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

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BY YONG-KYOO RIM

## **Plan for Success:**

- Get good grades in high school
- Graduate from a good college
- Graduate from a good professional school
- Land a good high paying job
- Live comfortably for the rest of your life

Like most people, the steps above seemed like a no-brainer. Ever since I can remember, the world has always glorified and worshiped the rich and famous. As I walk past my local newspaper stand, I never fail to see which billionaire bought what, and which celebrity is dating the star quarterback. Page Six of the New York *Post* is the most read section during the rush hour commute, at least on the 2 and 3 trains. So it is no wonder I made my goal in life to become rich and successful.

The problem was that God had a different definition of success, and I forgot to read his memo on it. As I strove to move up the corporate ladder and earn more money, something funny was happening to me. I wasn't becoming happier or feeling more fulfilled with my life.

In the midst of this unhappiness and confusion, an old friend

threw me a lifeline. Although I ignored her previous invitations, she never failed to notify me of upcoming events hosted by Redeemer's Center for Work and Faith. After much hesitation, I decided to attend an event. I had nothing to lose. My girlfriend had just dumped me, and I was struggling with studying for the CFA exams while keeping up with my workload at the office. It seemed at any moment everything was going to fall apart.

But then something began to happen. I started attending Sunday service more frequently, participating in Financial Service Ministry, and even going to a CFW hosted retreat. I joined a small group over the summer and eventually co-led a Beta Group. For the first time in my life, I actually opened up my heart, my mind, and my fears to God. I discovered success wasn't defined by how much you owned or influence you had, but if you actually had the faith to identify with Christ no matter where it led you.

It has been a hard process letting go of the values that the world taught me to hold dear such as power, wealth, and fame. Now the question is: How do I

live a life of charity, humility and selflessness within the organizations and structures that God has placed me? This is a complex question because of the power of materialism and selfishness in our culture, but I think these are the questions I need to ask. How do we balance our Christian desire to help others and our responsibility as employees to maximize the company's profits? How do we remember and help those left behind by today's economy? How can we bridge the income and educational gaps today's globalization brings? How do remember that church is not a venue to justify how you live your life, but a place to be taught how to live?

Don't get me wrong, I can still become greedy, jealous, and judgmental at any moment, but the difference now is that I have God in my life to remind me what's important, that his grace and love more than compensate for the costliness of following him.

In the end, my original plan didn't work for me. In some ways, it could only crush me. Instead, the unknown plan God has set out for me is the one for me because He is the good God who is at work to make all things new.

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## GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

appropriately self-deprecating humor that understands the true folly of the human heart and points to our need for a generous, creative, and just God. 'Gotham'

often refers to the foolishness of a city, but we use it to acknowledge a God who addresses and chooses the foolish things of this world to shame the wise.

To learn more about Gotham Fellows, go to [www.faithand-work.org/gothamfellows](http://www.faithand-work.org/gothamfellows).



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## CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY 2008

DATE & TIME	EVENT & LOCATION
Friday, January 4 at 7:00PM	Law & Grace: Dinner/Discussion w/Prof. Stuntz, Redeemer Offices
Thursday, January 10 at 7:00PM	Health Care Fellowship, Upper East Side
Sunday, January 13 at 12:00PM	Finance Chat, Hunter College
Friday, January 14 at 7:00PM	InterArts Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00PM	The A.D. Agency Fellowship, Cooley Studio
Thursday, January 17 at 8:00AM	Legal Fellowship Breakfast, Redeemer Offices
Friday, January 18 at 7:00PM	NYC Art 101, The Visual Artist's Process
Friday, January 18 at 7:30PM	Higher Education, "Reasoning with God" series
Sunday, January 20 at 12:00PM	Health Care Lunch, Hunter College
Monday, January 21 at 7:00PM	Entrepreneurs Fellowship
Thursday, January 24 at 7:00PM	Health Care Fellowship, Upper East Side
Friday, January 25 at Time TBA	Actors/Dancers/Filmmakers Groups Combined Event, Location TBA
<b>Sunday, January 27</b>	<b>CFW Ministry Fair, All Services</b>
Monday, January 28	Financial Services Meeting, Redeemer Offices

*Please go to [www.faithandwork.org](http://www.faithandwork.org) for information on all CFW events.*

## CENTER FOR FAITH AND WORK MINISTRY FAIR

**Sunday, January 27 after all five services:**

Meet representatives of all CFW vocation groups, classes and initiatives who are committed to the renewal of the city. How can you impact New York City's culture and marketplace with the fullness of the gospel? Stop by to learn how you can serve, grow and get involved.