

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

NOVEMBER 2008

CONFRONTING AND REPENTING

BY SCOTT SAULS

Everyone assigns a different meaning to the word “peace.” To some, peace is a calm feeling, an ability to relax, and a carefree life. To others, peace is the end of hostility, a white flag to end a terrible war. To others, it is something that happens when we avoid conflict, ignore faults in others, affirm and flatter and “sweep it under the rug” rather than challenge hurtful actions or patterns.

But biblical peace is none of these things. Rather, biblical peace is something that we *make* by engaging in healthy, redemptive, life-giving conflict when necessary—especially with those whose actions and patterns are hurting us, other people, and/or them. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peace-makers.” But what does this mean?

To make peace is to rescue a hurtful person from himself

Paul writes that if anyone is “caught” in a transgression, those who are “spiritual” should restore him (Galatians 6:1). If a person is *caught* in a transgression, it means he has actually been *overtaken* by a sin. It now controls him and, if he is to be freed of it, he will need outside intervention.

Some of us have participated in an intervention with a drug addict or an alcoholic. When friends or family notice that a loved one is being *overtaken* by an addictive substance, they come together and *lovingly seek to rescue* the addict from his or her own self-destructive patterns. To ignore the problem would be terribly unloving. To do everything in your power to block a person from continuing in destructive patterns

—this is true love and true peace-making.

Peace-making is counter-intuitive

None of us wants to confront. We fear uncomfortable conversations and potential rejection, so we may choose to *ignore* hurtful patterns in others, or, perhaps worse, to *flatter* them into thinking that there is nothing wrong with their behavior. When Paul says to “restore” a person caught in transgression (Galatians 6:1-2), the same word in other ancient writings refers to the re-setting of a broken or dislocated bone. The re-setting of a bone is excruciating at first, and is usually followed by a low-grade pain that could last for weeks or even months. But once the bone is fully healed, it is usually stronger than it ever

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REDEEMER TOWN HALL NOVEMBER 9

There will be a Town Hall meeting Sunday, November 9 immediately after the Eastside AM worship service at Hunter College. The focus will be an update on the Vision Campaign with a particular focus on our newly acquired West 83rd Street property. The Town Hall will follow a brief Congregational Meeting and everyone is invited—members and regular attendees alike. Childcare will be provided.



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LAUNCHING THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP

BY DAVID H. KIM, DIRECTOR OF REDEEMER'S GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP

This past Labor Day weekend marked the beginning of Redeemer's newest initiative to invest in the next generation of cultural leaders. Twenty-four New Yorkers traveled to a retreat at in Princeton, N.J., to begin the Gotham Fellowship—an intensive nine-month Fellows Program focusing on personal renewal, theological grounding, and worldview development in the context of committed community. The Fellows represent a diverse group of professions and include teachers, dancers, lawyers, talent scouts, architects, Starbucks managers, entrepreneurs, bankers, and actresses, working in both profit and non-profit fields. Despite their various vocational callings, they all share a common passion to see the power of the gospel renew the world in which they live.

The theme for the inaugural retreat was "Covenant Renewal." In the Old Testament the people of Israel would often assemble before the Lord to renew the covenant they had made with

God. Focusing on Joshua 24:1-28, we designed the retreat to focus on three elements of covenant renewal: remembrance, response, and repentance. As they considered God's faithfulness they meditated on that unilateral command that Joshua posed to the Israelites, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..."



I want to close with a retreat reflection blog from one of our Fellows that summarizes well the struggle that lies before anyone who would seek to live for Christ:

"...my faith tells me entering into this kind relationship with God is the only true thing I can do. If I'm not choosing God, I am choosing something else. But whatever that something is, it's not entering into a love covenant

with me. It's not choosing to be my friend; it wants me for its slave. And so I shall endeavor to live this out, trusting not in my own determination, but his Grace to enable me. There is much for me to figure out, and that's where I need "us". I'm blinded to my own flaws: the fine line between doing my duties for God and doing them to find some identity not rooted in Him; being in relationships to serve me while calling it a ministry... So the question to myself and to us, will we enter into this scary covenant, which demands ours entire selves, body and soul? Will we trust that there is our delight and satisfaction?

If you're reading this and feeling a bit hesitant, like I am: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame". He bore a bigger burden to keep this covenant. I'm scared, and I'm in."

You can learn more about Redeemer's Gotham Fellows at www.faithandwork.org/fellows.

REDEEMER OFFICER OPEN HOUSE

Friday, November 7 at 7:00PM at the Redeemer Offices, 1359 Broadway, 4th Floor

Come meet your friendly deeks! You are cordially invited to meet the Redeemer Diaconate, a ministry that carries out mercy through deeds. Come learn what the Diaconate ministry does, hear about what it is like to be a deacon/deaconess and find out how you can be involved.

For more information go to www.redeemer.com/nominations.

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Heather Klein

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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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VESSELS OF MERCY

I consume, therefore I am. For years I attended Redeemer on a regular basis and became part of an exclusive and yet popular community in Manhattan known as the Christian Consumer Community. I would drink down the worship, breathe in the sermons and literally eat up the cookies & muffins during the fellowship time after the service on Sundays. Even my Christian relationships were based on the strength of my appetite for fellowship.

There was nothing inherently wrong with what I was doing. By design, Redeemer and other NYC Churches offer great worship and teaching on Sundays as well as opportunities to connect during the week. This is what fuels community. But as time passed, I began to look around at all the volunteers who were assisting in feeding me and all the other consumers in the congregation. My heart began to desire something more. Soon after this desire came, I was nominated to join the Diaconate.

One of the most unique

Christian ministries in NYC is the Diaconate at Redeemer. Over the past few years as a deacon (deek), I have witnessed and experienced a community of men & women who are united in helping people who have needs that go beyond what the average Christian consumer has. There are people sitting among us in church every Sunday who are in financial, emotional and spiritual crisis. As deeks, we pray with these people and meet on a regular basis to provide financial assistance and other resources such as grocery cards and metro cards. The Diaconate is a mercy ministry where people come not as consumers of Redeemer, but who are often detached from community and whose hearts and minds are broken.

What is my motivation to serve as a deacon? It has to do with realizing what God has done and is doing in me. I have experienced God's mercy in my own personal life and as a deacon; I have come to a deeper appreciation for the Gospel. It has been

BY TONY VAVROCH, DEACON

humbling for me to experience and share in the brokenness of others. It is the opposite of being a consumer. Extending mercy requires me to look somewhere other than my own appetite.

After being fed, Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep." This is how we serve in community with others on the Diaconate and I praise God for opening my eyes to the call. If you or someone you know in the congregation is in need of prayer or other practical assistance, I encourage you to reach out to a deacon or deaconess after the services on Sunday or call the Diaconate helpline. If you are a Redeemer member and have the desire to serve as a deacon or deaconess, or if you know a fellow member who you feel is gifted to serve, please consider being nominated or nominating someone this month.

Jesus did not consume anything on the cross but was rather consumed for us so that we might become vessels of mercy for others.

NOVEMBER IS OFFICER NOMINATION MONTH

Do you know that November is Officer Nomination Month? Do you also know that our congregation had an annual growth rate of 6% from 2004 to 2008? Praise God! In 2004, we had 36 deacons and deaconesses serving. Do you know how many deeks we have today? 34.

Redeemer needs more deeks and we need your help. As our church continues to grow, so does our need for new servant leaders. We will be accepting nominations for elder, deacon and deaconess during the entire month of November. If you are a member,

please start to prayerfully consider whether you or a fellow member you know could serve as elder, deacon or deaconess.

As Redeemer's mercy ministry, the deeks serve on the Diaconate and provide practical assistance to those in our congregation who are facing challenging situations (Acts 6:1-4 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13). The elders serve on the Session and provide spiritual leadership to our congregation through oversight of Redeemer ministries, leaders and members (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9).

You must be a member to nominate another member. You can submit a nomination online www.redeemer.com/nominations, download a nomination form from the website or pick up a form at any service at the information center. Fax completed nomination forms to Jenny Chang at (646) 572-0020 or mail it into the office at 1359 Broadway, 4th Fl, New York, NY 10018. You may also place nomination forms in the offering basket during any of the Sundays in November. The deadline for submitting nominations is November 30, 2008.

CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date & Time	Event & Location
Saturday, November 1 at 7:00PM	Filmmakers Brunch <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Saturday, November 1 at 11:00AM	Artists Professional Development Workshop <i>IAM Offices</i>
Sunday, November 2 at 12:00PM	Business Plan Competition <i>Hunter College</i>
Sunday, November 2 at 12:00PM	CFW Class: Religion and Politics <i>Hunter College</i>
Monday, November 3 at 7:00PM	CFW Leaders Monthly Meeting <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Sunday, November 9 at 6:30PM	Healthcare Dinner <i>following the West Side 5:00PM service</i>
Monday, November 10 by 5:00PM	Business Plan Competition Deadline <i>ei@redeemer.com</i>
Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00PM	Dancer's Group <i>Location TBA</i>
Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00PM	Law Panel: Jesus as Teacher of the Law: Sermon on the Mount <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Thursday, November 13 at 7:00PM	Ph. D. Students Fellowship <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Friday, November 14 at 7:00PM	InterArts Fellowship <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Sunday, November 16 at 12:30PM	Healthcare Lunch <i>following the East Side AM service</i>
Monday, November 17 at 7:00PM	Entrepreneurship Fellowship <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00PM	The A.D. Agency: Creative Showcase II <i>Cooley Studio</i>
Thursday, November 20 at 8:00AM	Legal Fellowship Breakfast <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Monday, November 24 at 7:00PM	Financial Services Ministry Monthly Fellowship <i>Redeemer Offices</i>
Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00PM	Actor's Group <i>Location TBA</i>

GET TO KNOW YOUR DEEKS

The Diaconate, Redeemer's mercy ministry, provides assistance to those in our community with practical, visible needs, while supporting them spiritually. We would like to introduce you to two of our "deeks" (deacons/deaconesses): Lyla Mannoia & Cate Capozzi!

Name of deaconess: **Lyla Mannoia**

Length of time I've attended Redeemer: 10 years

Length of time I've served on the Diaconate: 1 year

The service I attend: 10:30AM East Side

Most people don't know that I: can be an introvert at times.

I grew up in: San Fernando Valley, CA

My New York neighborhood is: Battery Park City

My favorite way to spend a weekend: used to be walking around the city with my husband, Jim, and chocolate Lab, Missi. But that was before Loren was born in early September.

The most unique thing that has happened to me in New York City is: getting mugged, but that's not that unique here!

I love New York because: of its energy, variety, culture, diversity, opportunities.

How the Lord has been preparing me to serve as a deek: The Lord continues to teach me about forgiveness – forgiving others and also accepting God's forgiveness of me. Both are equally important!

Memorable experiences from my time as a deek: I was completely humbled by one client who needed financial help because the client unselfishly went out on a limb for someone else, particularly to live out the gospel. Even though the client could have managed his/her own finances better, I was so encouraged to see that there were congregants out there who took risks for their sisters and brothers in Christ!

Name of deaconess: **Cate Capozzi**

Length of time I've attended Redeemer: almost 20 years!

Length of time I've served on the Diaconate: 6 years

The service I attend: all the West Side services

Most people don't know that I: met Mel Brooks when I was working in a movie theater that screened the original "The Producers." He would come in and sneak in the back just to hear people laughing!

My New York neighborhood is: Upper West Side

My favorite way to spend a weekend is: listening to Jonathan Schwartz's Saturday and Sunday afternoon shows on WNYC and "A Prairie Home Companion" Sat PM while hanging out at home with Paul, cooking something and futzing around the apartment.

The most unique thing that has happened to me in New York City is: One sunny summer afternoon I was in the Village walking down Second Avenue, when I saw three people walking toward me – two dressed as mice and one as a piece of cheese. Nobody blinked an eye or said anything or even turned their heads to look, as this unusual trio journeyed up the Avenue.

I love New York because: it's the mission field come to us! I love its energy, diversity of people and cultures, not to mention that I love the food.

How the Lord has been preparing me to serve as a deek: I believe the Lord has given me a compassionate heart and an uncomfortable gift to be able to enter into someone else's pain. I also served as a deek with another NYC church.

Memorable experiences from my time as a deek: I was in one of the first classes of deeks when none of us had a clue. We didn't have a Director, a manual, nothing was computerized – we really didn't know what we were doing but God honored it and used us in spite of ourselves.

***If you have a financial or other practical need, please call the Diaconate Helpline, (212) 726-1334.
To learn more about the Redeemer Diaconate, visit www.redeemer.com/diaconate***



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CONFRONTING AND REPENTING

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

was before it was broken.

When friends confront friends, and loved ones confront loved ones for sinful and destructive patterns, it is comparable to the re-setting of a bone. But instead it is a re-setting of *the heart* and of the person's *character*. It flows from a vision to see God restore the person's original moral beauty to the damaged person, to heal and realign his or her life to the way things are supposed to be. It is a small, tangible way to bring the peace or '*shalom*' of heaven to the present earth.

True peace-making is done in a gentle, humble inviting spirit

Galatians 5:15 warns against our potential to "bite and devour" each other. We are warned because whenever we are offended—whenever someone fails (fails *us!*)—we tend to become aggressive toward the perpetrator in one of two ways. We may become *active-aggressive* (the fight impulse) by telling them off, asserting our rights, pointing fingers, making ourselves out to be the sole

victim, beating them up with our words. Or, we may become *passive-aggressive* (the flight impulse) by withdrawing relationally, making the person pay with our silent snubs, gossiping about them to others, or even leaving the relationship altogether. We must see that both forms of aggression—active and passive—are *self-medicating strategies* employed to soften our own pain by increasing the pain of the enemy.

But the Bible calls for a different kind of confrontation—the kind that prioritizes and prizes the healing of the enemy and the restoration of the relationship. So we are to approach this effort in a spirit of gentleness and humility. Biblical peace-making is *confrontation in a sinner-safe environment*. The goal is two-fold. First, we must do everything in our power to ensure that the person feels safe with us and not condemned (because we know that *we* are just as capable of the sin). Second, we must do everything in our power to ensure that the person is

rescued from patterns that are harmful to him or herself and/or to others.

Peace-making requires a heart that is saturated with the Gospel

The only way to gain the emotional wealth needed to respond to an offense with gentleness and humility instead of active or passive aggression is if our hearts and identity are secure in the Gospel. To the degree that we are experiencing freedom from condemnation in God's eyes through our union with Christ, we will not fear rejection from the person we confront. If we understand that we are fully loved and secure in our relationship with God as Father—that *God loves us as much as he loves Jesus*, all the time—we will envision even our enemies flourishing in the Gospel. We will view ourselves as partners with God, on a mission not to put offensive people in their place but, as JI Packer says, *to make people great* by calling them to a more beautiful, Christ-like heart and character.