

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

AUGUST 2009

GLOBAL CITIES INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

BY MARK REYNOLDS

On September 9-11, 2009, between 350 and 500 leaders from over 84 global cities will gather in New York City for the Global Cities Initiative conference. These leaders—church planters, pastors, and leaders in the business and professional communities of their city—are coming to strategize and learn together how effective church planting will enable them to further reach their cities with the gospel. This conference is a direct outgrowth of Redeemer's vision to establish a movement of churches and

ministries that changes New York City and then the world with the truth and love of the gospel.

This conference will be co-hosted by the Redeemer Church Planting Center, in partnership with Luis Bush of Transform World Connections. Tim Keller will deliver three plenary addresses on the importance of the gospel, the role of cities in shaping our culture and movement dynamics: how the transformation of a city requires a self-sustaining, organically-growing movement of ministries and net-

works around a core group of new churches.

The conference will also feature breakout sessions and roundtable discussions led by some of the conference participants on topics such as church multiplication, culture, and building collaborative partnerships. Our hope is that the conference will catalyze new church planting networks in each of the cities represented and the resulting gospel-centered churches will begin to minister to the people of their cities.

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SAVE THE DATE: ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

On Sunday, October 4, 2008, we will launch our 4th annual competition to identify entrepreneurs within our community who have bold ideas for Gospel-advancing ventures. Check out our website, www.faithandwork.org/ei for more details throughout the summer. We will host an information session for perspective entrants at Hunter College on Sunday, October 11 at 12:00PM in Room 507.

Submissions will be accepted from October 4 to November 10.



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A FAIRY TALE ENDING

BY ELLIE ELLSWORTH

The Diaconate works to bring the healing power of God's mercy and grace to the congregation. This story of hope demonstrates how God continues to bring about his peace through those serving in our midst.

Several years ago a husband and wife who are Redeemer members came to the Diaconate with a financial emergency. They came to us because their combined incomes were not covering their living expenses.

A deacon and deaconess signed on to work with them and they assessed the situation with the couple to see what help was best. The Diaconate was able to offer some temporary help to them for basic living needs such as utilities, car repairs, partial rent, and other items. At first the problem seemed entirely financial but in the process of going over their spending patterns some deep marital discord came to light about who and how the finances would be handled.

Because of the complexity of their situation additional support such as financial counseling sessions and Biblical counseling through our Counseling Center were given to help get at underlying issues. For many

months the counselor met with this couple. Frequent meetings or phone calls also continued with the Deacon/Deaconess over time, involving much venting and accusation. The Deacons continued to encourage, pray and listen. However progress was slow and the underlying patterns had not changed much. They became one of my Diaconate clients about a year ago and I found myself enmeshed in a story I hoped would come to a fairy-tale ending of a "happily-ever-after" joyful marriage, but my cynical side dampened my hopes.

What had begun as a matter of financial rescue led to uncovering an underlying and continuing tangle of sin patterns and it was vital to bring to light the commitments made by Christians to our church in contrast to what surfaced through our talks with them. Eventually two elders and the couple's counselor were called in to join the care team to advance the process of restoration.

The meeting with them was moving and quietly gracious. There was no coldness or severity of judgment but rather an atmosphere of careful listening and identification with them.

Here was one set of sinners saved by grace (The Pastoral Care Team) serving other sinners also in need of grace. We invited them to see that they are precious in the sight of the Lord, yet seeking to bring out into the open the unvarnished truth of their harmful actions against each other and the Lord.

I find myself wanting to see them conquer their life-long patterns, which had never been fully addressed, to know the true rescue of Jesus. I want them to feel His welcome and pardoning love for them. I pray that this couple realizes how much they are needed by us all, and how their healing matters to our community. I am praying for their conviction, renewal and freedom from these hellish patterns. I am counting on Christ to reconcile their relationship. Their reunion would be a victory for our whole community.

Please join me in praying for a fairy-tale ending.

The Diaconate is a Mercy Ministry addressing the needs of those in our church family experiencing hardship. The Diaconate is our response to God's calling to be merciful, to love and care for one another in practical ways. If you need assistance, call the Diaconate Helpline, (212) 726-1334.

REDEEMER REPORT

Cregan Cooke
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

WANTED: BETA GROUP LEADERS

This fall Redeemer will launch a Vision Campaign that is about remembering our hope for the city and renewing our pledge to love and serve it. Redeemer has had this vision for twenty years and now we will launch the first step in our 10-year-plan, a new phase in our church life in which Redeemer will decentralize and continue to move out into the city. This next step will include identifying and equipping pastoral and lay leaders, creating three separate but related congregations that are rooted in neighborhoods through ministry centers, and empowering our congregants to serve New York and build community.

One of the most critical components of this campaign will be the formation of beta groups.

You can make an important contribution to this fall's campaign by leading a Beta Group, or recommending someone to do so.

No Experience Necessary

Training Provided

Only a 7-Week Commitment

Great Short-Term Ministry Opportunity

Sign up at the Beta Group kiosk on Sundays after worship, or at www.redeemer.com/betagroups/recommendations

BIKE RIDE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HOPE FOR NEW YORK

Do you enjoy biking? If so, come join the HFNY cycling team in raising funds to support the work that benefits the poor and marginalized in New York City.

Once again, the HFNY cycling team will participate in the **Escape New York** bike ride in an effort to raise over **\$30,000** for HFNY. The ride starts and ends in Manhattan with scenic routes through Bergen and Rockland Counties.

When: Saturday, September 26, 2009

Where: 122nd Street & Riverside Dr., east of Grant's Tomb

Duration: 50, 62, 100 miles

No experience? No problem. You can train with the HFNY cycling team through a series of training rides that lead up to the actual event. Not only is it fun, it will be a great opportunity to meet other bike enthusiasts while raising funds for a good cause.

We are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged to match \$500 per rider up to \$20,000. We encourage each participant to set a personal fundraising goal of \$1,000 or more. Riders who raise \$500 will receive a free water bottle, and riders who raise \$1,000 or more will receive an official **HFNY bike jersey**.

For more information, visit our website at www.hfny.org or email the HFNY Cycling Team at bike4hfny-owner@yahogroup.com.

REDEEMER CITY TO CITY LAUNCHES

BY SCOTT KAUFFMAN

Redeemer City to City (CTC) is the new organizational name for the Redeemer Church Planting Center (RCPC), Redeemer Labs, and Redeemer CityNet.

CTC focuses on church planting for the renewal of global cities, developing content resources for leaders who seek to bring the power of the gospel to all of life, and a global community of creators and practitioners who adapt and build upon our “DNA” to create new churches, new ventures, and new expressions of the gospel of Jesus Christ for the common good.

Church Planting. For ten years, RCPC has been working with young leaders to start new church movements in key cities of the world. We want to help plant gospel-driven, city-

loving, life-giving churches that are appropriate to the context of their neighborhood, culture, and leaders. In our target cities, we recruit, assess, train, coach, connect, resource, and sometimes fund church planters through a variety of programs.

Content Resources. CTC is also a provider of resources designed to help people grow in, and live out, the gospel in the 21st century. Our purpose with these resources is to harness and package Redeemer’s theological and ministry “DNA,” in the form of transferable content and training, so that we can spread it to leaders in global cities and beyond. We’re creating books, curricula, manuals, and a growing library of audio, video, and articles. We hope to provide

something for everybody, from the professional minister to the urban Christian exploring their faith.

Community. Tying it all together is a global network of gospel practitioners. We will provide platforms for people to connect with and support each other.

The name “City to City” is drawn from American poet Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*, where Whitman marveled at the global ties and communications “welding state to state, county to county, city to city.” Like Whitman, we celebrate the growing connectivity of world cities, and look forward to what we will learn from each other.

For more details visit www.redeemercitytocity.com

GOD’S AMAZING HAND IN OUR SEARCH FOR WORK

BY YOODI K. CHUNG

For the past seven and a half years, I worked at a nearby law school, where I received two promotions, a total of three positions acquired without interviews—all a testament of God’s kind favor. Friendships formed, skills were acquired, some smooth sailing, and some rough hours were accumulated during my tenure there.

My colleagues, especially my supervisor seemed to take the news rather hard regarding

the termination of my position. He called me into his office for what I surmised was our weekly meeting, but his voice began to crack, his body fidgeted, his right hand now on his forehead, as he said, “I have some very difficult news to share with you.” I quickly responded, “Are you ok? Is your family ok?” And then, he delivered the news, to which I sighed and remarked, “Oh—that’s it.” I really thought he was going to shed tears. The

next 20 minutes reminded me of our usual meeting time, i.e. rapidly troubleshooting a situation at hand, though, this time—I or rather my new predicament was the subject. However, strangely and honestly, I felt a release—a strong sense of peace, comfort, and freedom—after hearing the news.

For the past few years, our heavenly Father has been teaching me much about the
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INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH OF PRODIGAL GOD STUDY PACKAGE

Through the Fall of last year, the team at Redeemer preached a series of sermons on The Parable of the Prodigal Son. It is a familiar passage to longtime Redeemerites, as it is one of the foundational texts for our church. We are now entering a season in the life of our church where it is our privilege to share the seminal wisdom that has shaped our growth. In October, Penguin published a book by Tim Keller entitled *The Prodigal God*. Now, Redeemer City to City and Zondervan are accompanying the book with a forty minute dramatic film of Tim teaching on the parable, as well as a discussion guide to help others delve deeper.

Over the course Redeemer's 20 years in New York, Tim and the preaching

staff have learned to address believers and skeptics alike. Like the sermons and book, the film and discussion guide explore Jesus' most familiar parable to find its surprising truth for all readers. In six sessions, small groups or entire churches can glean insights from each of the characters in Jesus' parable: the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the father who lavishes his love on both. As we join the runaway son on his journey and witness the older son's reaction to his brother's return, we discover a recklessly extravagant father whose infinite grace challenges and embraces both the wayward and the devout.

The film and discussion guide will be launched on August 6 at the 2009 Willow Creek Leadership Summit,

where Tim will be a featured plenary speaker. He will be talking about the parable in two parts. First, Tim will summarize the text and, second, he will reflect on how to use the parable to bring gospel renewal to both younger and elder brothers in the church. The Leadership Summit is simulcast to over 60,000 leaders at 140 locations in the US, then distributed to over 40,000 people in countries outside the US during the following months.

Our prayer is that both "younger brothers" and "elder brothers" will read the book, watch the film and discuss them in community, so that they realize that the only way home is to accept the lavish, reckless, and abundant love of a prodigal God.

For more details visit www.theprodigalgod.com

GOD'S AMAZING HAND...

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idolatry of control. And here was a perfect opportunity for me to be tested on the subject matter. Who is really in control of my life?

That was three months ago.

After about two months I realized I needed an action plan. The scripture verse, "But seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33) came to mind. Accordingly, I approached Jenny Chang,

Director of the Diaconate, to see if I could volunteer with her office, and she said she had something perfect for me to do.

I became one of the founding members of the Job Search Round Table, an initiative by the Diaconate and Center for Faith and Work, spearheaded by Roger Spivack, Katherine Leary and Jenny Chang. In addition to coordinating the Roundtable efforts, Roger Spivack also leads the Job Search Skills Training classes

(www.redeemer.com/jobsearch/skillstraining) for our church community. And, what a blessing it has been!

From 11AM to 1PM on Thursdays at the church office, those seeking employment by those seeking employment encourage each other during this challenging time. We also receive a teaching from a Redeemer staff member and form industry break-out groups to share and hold each other

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GLOBAL CITIES INITIATIVE CONFERENCE (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

You can contribute to this conference by committing to pray for it, both as we prepare to host so many leaders in NYC and also by praying for us during the actual conference days: September 9, 10 and 11. In addition, we have offered to provide housing for a number of conference attendees who have limited resources. Would you please consider hosting one of these leaders for 3 nights in September? If you are able, or if you have any questions about the conference, please contact Melanie Penn at melanie@redeemer.com.

GOD'S AMAZING HAND... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

accountable with goal setting endeavors from the week prior. God has used this forum to do great things. For example, Danny, who is a recent transplant from Florida, came to the Roundtable two weeks ago, shared with my industry group that he submitted 120 job applications. God used him to encourage me to get started, so for the next week I set out to complete 20 applications, and through God's strength, I submitted 45. I now have over 80 applications completed, and my first interview is in a few days. Others at the Roundtable remark weekly — what a great gift and haven this forum has been, as sometimes, it's difficult to speak so openly about how one's faith intersects with one's job search. My job search has now begun, and I look forward to seeing God's faithfulness yet again in my life.