

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

OCTOBER 2009

## THE RENEW CAMPAIGN AND REDEEMER'S FUTURE

BY TIM KELLER

This Fall we come together around the RENEW Campaign. Every so many years Redeemer follows the Biblical pattern of 'covenant renewal.' As a church we spend a season renewing our vision and calling in New York City, then introducing some new initiatives to realize that vision over the next few years, and finally recommitting ourselves and resources to the work. This Fall is the 20th anniversary of our founding, and so it is most appropriate for us to enter such a season now.

At the core of Redeemer's vision are the beliefs that the

gospel changes everything, that serving the city is the more strategic way to reach our society with the good news, and that to do this, Redeemer cannot simply be a church, even a great church, but the catalyst for a whole movement of the gospel in the city—through new congregations, ministries, and institutions. The purpose of the RENEW Campaign is to position Redeemer for the next stage of this gospel movement.

God has blessed Redeemer and we have grown into a large and effective ministry. But the larger we grow, the harder it is

for our congregation to own and live out the basics of our vision. It becomes easier to think of the church in terms of "the staff" and the people in the pew as the "consumers to be served." But one of the drivers of our success in the first two decades was that the congregation realized that they were Redeemer—a priesthood of believers brought together by God to build a church for the city. To see a movement of the gospel in and through our church we need to push against the tendency to "institutionalize" and return to our more

*(Continued on page 4)*

## BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION LAUNCHES OCTOBER 4

On October 4, 2009, Redeemer's Entrepreneurship Initiative is launching the 2010 Business Plan Competition to identify entrepreneurs with bold ideas for gospel-advancing ventures.

One of three information sessions will be held on October 11 at Hunter College, West Bldg., Rm. 507 at noon. See [www.faithandwork.org/competition](http://www.faithandwork.org/competition) for more detail on the competition, including information

sessions, workshops, relevant deadlines and ways for you to help in this competition. We need people to help us read and evaluate executive summaries, lead workshops, and to coach entrants.



### INSIDE:

- IS NEW YORK, YOUR CITY
- COLLEGE STUDENT MINISTRY STARTED
- MEMBERSHIP AND VISION
- THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP CLASS OF 2010
- THE RENEW CAMPAIGN CONT'D...

# IS NEW YORK *YOUR* CITY?

BY CREGAN COOKE

I am amazed at how God continues to bring Redeemer and its ministries into closer relationship with New York City and also continues to renew the city more and more the longer we are here. It is especially exciting when you realize *we* are part of this extraordinary gospel movement that causes us to extend ourselves into neighborhoods all across the city and deepen our engagement with the people around us.

If you are anything like me you probably have lots of questions and maybe even some doubt about whether the next part of Redeemer's story includes you. Let's face it, for many of us a future in NYC is uncertain at best. I remember the first 5 years I attended Redeemer (in the early 90s), I would tell friends every year "this is my last year in the city before I leave to go settle down somewhere else." I can remember thinking: "God can't be asking *me* to stay *here*." I used this as an excuse to not get involved with the church beyond Sunday attendance. Eventually however, I realized I should pay attention to where God was leading me and found his plans for my life were very different than mine. After

attending for 5 years, I finally became a member of Redeemer in 1996. My wife Mindi and I met a year later. Since then God has allowed us (and now 2 children) to be part of the vision he has for Redeemer in NYC. And while we are constantly challenged raising a family in the city, we feel incredibly blessed to be able to serve our church and call Redeemer's community our own.

When we look back at how God has brought the gospel to bear on our lives and the lives of our friends and neighbors, we can only look ahead with excitement and anticipation. What is God going to do through us as a church in the coming months and years? While there is presently a great deal of uncertainty about the economy and how it will affect NYC, one thing is certain: God has called our church to be actively engaged in the restoration of the broken and underprivileged, *and* to be expressively hopeful in bringing the gospel message to our city. If you've been around Redeemer for any length of time you've probably heard this verse, but it is worth repeating.

*Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have*

*carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

— *Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV)*

What is your part in this unfolding story of a gospel movement in NYC? Maybe it's putting your roots down here when it would be easier to go elsewhere. Maybe it's becoming a member of Redeemer or volunteering to serve with one of the church's many ministries. Maybe it's committing your life to gospel principles and gospel community on a deeper level. Whatever plan God has for you, there is no better time or place to explore how you can take hold of that opportunity and see it expressed in life changing ways than this fall's RENEW Campaign. This will be an exciting season of renewing our covenant with God as a church and renewing our collective hope for a city changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yes, it's a challenge to stay in the city and it's sometimes hard to hear God's call to take the more difficult road. But if you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to a deeper commitment to minister and serve here in NYC, he probably is.

---

## REDEEMER REPORT

Cregan Cooke  
Heather Klein

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

OFFICE • 1359 BROADWAY (BETWEEN W. 36/37TH STREETS) • FOURTH FLOOR • NY, NY 10018-7102  
(212) 808-4460 (PHONE) (212) 808-4465 (FAX) [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com)

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

# COLLEGE STUDENT MINISTRY STARTED

---

BY MICHAEL KELLER

City Campus Ministry had its first meeting on Sunday, September 13 with over 59 undergraduate students in attendance. In connection with Redeemer and other local churches, it is an effort to facilitate an environment where students feel comfortable exploring the big questions and to allow them to observe how the Christian gospel interacts with all of life. At the large group Sunday discussions City Campus staff present a relevant topic or theme that is then dissected by the students. College students also have the option of joining a weekly Bible study or meeting with a mentor in a particular field of interest.

Overall, there are a lot of things going on in the life of the average New York college student. However, most college students are asking basically three questions during their four-year tenure at uni-

versity. The first question is: Who should I be with? This question has a corporate and an individual aspect to it. Corporately, students want to know who they will identify with while in college. As individuals this is also a personal question when it comes to romantic interests and other particular relationships.

The second question most college students ask is: What should I do with my life? Notice this question is not only a question about picking careers, although it is at least that, but it is also a deeper question about one's interests, affinities, and overall goals. This is not an easy thing to figure out with so many competing philosophies and options available. How does one choose?

Lastly, the third question is: What is the point of everything? This may be the most foundational question, but it usually doesn't arise until

some disappointments have occurred. Thoughtful students use their college time to "try on" different visions of reality in an effort to see what fits.

The goal of City Campus Ministry is not only to foster a community in which Christian, non-Christian, and seeking individuals relate. It is also a place where students can explore Christianity and its impact on one's life, mind, and heart.

We currently meet after Redeemer's 10:30AM service at noon in Room 117 of the Hunter College, West Bldg. If you are a college student who would like more information, an individual interested in mentoring or volunteering, or a member of the community interested in supporting this ministry through donation, visit our website at: [www.citycampusministry.com](http://www.citycampusministry.com)

## MEMBERSHIP AND VISION

---

BY JOHN LIN

One of the clearest and most prevalent biblical mandates is the call for us to belong. It's found in God's promise to "be their God, and they will be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33), in the Lord's Prayer which begins "Our Father..." (Matthew 6:9), in Paul's teaching "we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5). In fact,

in some respects, we will never truly understand the gospel without community, nor will we ever have true community without the gospel. One of the most significant ways for you to participate in the future of Redeemer, particularly as we embark on a new episode in our life as a church, is to join our community by becoming a member. Membership classes are offered regularly as the first

step towards joining and we've added more classes this fall as a part of the Renew campaign. If you've never considered membership, we invite you to consider it. If you've considered it, we invite you to join! Information on membership, including a calendar of classes, is available online at [www.redeemer.com/membership](http://www.redeemer.com/membership).

# THE RENEW CAMPAIGN...

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

organic, dynamic, congregation-led roots.

I'm going to talk a lot about the characteristics of a movement this fall. A movement has a great spontaneous dynamism through which new ideas, leaders, and initiatives bubble up from everywhere in the membership. Is it possible for Redeemer to replicate its 'DNA'—its distinctive gospel thinking about how to love and serve the city—through new curriculum, books, and training programs, and to equip and empower new leaders so that ministry now happening centrally begins to happen out in neighborhoods and across the city? I believe the answer is yes.

How could we see that occur? Our plan is to begin over the next three years to create three Redeemer congregations, each with its own dedicated pastors, staff, lay leaders, and congregation. All three will remain under one board of elders, and I will continue to preach and serve as Senior Pastor. While I will continue to preach the same number of weeks and services, rotating to each location, the congregations will have their own lead pastor who will share the preaching with me. From the beginning, each congregation will develop as a 'generative base,' with a mission to birth its own new sites and congregations in the coming years. Imagine, 10 years from now, that Redeemer has become three base churches that are each almost as strong as

Redeemer is now, and each church will have spun off 1 or 2 other sites. That would be 7-9 worshipping congregations with more than 12 worship services, reaching out to our un-churched neighbors, serving needs in our communities.

There are three things we need to put in place in order to realize this vision. First, we must establish a 'pipeline' of pastors and ministry staff to facilitate our congregational leaders and each church's growth. In order to raise up a new generation of pastors and preachers we must become far more intentional and deliberate about mentoring and training, and I must become a 'leader-coach' and spend a major part of my time each year working with this pipeline. We will work with ministers and staff recruited from both inside and outside of Redeemer. Pastoral leadership is only part of the story. Secondly, we must challenge and equip lay leaders to take responsibility for outreach, cultural engagement and service in their own locales as we did in the early years of Redeemer. In a large church it is natural that much evangelism, discipleship, and service is done 'from the top' by skillful professionals, but that is not how dynamic movements work. We will call members and small groups to come together in small communities of 50-100 in order to pray, engage, and serve their own neighborhoods. Just like when smaller bodies of Christians are sent out from larger churches to

start new churches, our move to localize and congregationalize will draw out people's gifts and leadership potential in profound new ways. I look forward to seeing what will happen across our church as we train and empower our members to reach out where they live and work.

Third, we must be sure that these three Redeemer congregations are rooted long-term in their neighborhoods. A key element in this is to acquire (purchase or lease) seven-day-a-week ministry and community space for each of the three congregations. One reason for this is that, when we rent space only one day a week, we do not as a church really live in that neighborhood. Our neighbors can't see us loving them or each other through sacrificial service. The second reason to get a building in each neighborhood is to give each congregation the stability of knowing that this is home, where we will be living and serving for years. Our members will, in time, put down roots in these neighborhoods and we will become much more than a transient presence in NYC.

In this campaign we will be putting one half of the money we raise toward the renovation of 150 W. 83rd Street from parking garage to worship and ministry center. It is crucial for the future effectiveness of our ministries that we raise enough money now so that our debt service in the future will not be

*(Continued on page 6)*

# THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP CLASS OF 2010

BY DAVID H. KIM, GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR

*"The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul, and penetrates into the inner recesses of the heart." — John Calvin*

Twenty-Five new Fellows traveled to Princeton Theological Seminary on Labor Day weekend to begin Redeemer's second class of Gotham Fellows. This Fellowship is Redeemer's effort to equip young professionals for gospel-based leadership in our culture. Focusing on theological development, community formation, and spiritual renewal, Calvin's quote articulates well the real challenge that lies before us. How can the gospel penetrate "into the inner recesses of the heart" in nine intensive months—so much so that it begins to become the basis of an entire worldview?

The theme for our opening retreat was covenant renewal which culminated in our Sunday worship. As the lines of Psalm 23 were read, it seemed that something was happening. The Spirit of God, through Scripture, was producing a work of grace in our hearts. There was a palpable sense that God was speaking to His people—words of truth and grace that made the gospel resonate deeply.

As His Word promises, God was speaking to His sheep. He knows us individually. He feeds us and surely His goodness and mercy will follow us all the

days of our lives. It is hard to capture in words the work of the Spirit but when He moves it is unmistakable.

John Calvin experienced the grace of God that somehow pushed the gospel beyond his mind and into his heart, and it is amazing to see how God continues to pour out this grace

Andrew McMahan, Andy Morgan, Jay Morrison, Adrian Nusaputra, Joshua Rider, Nick Rubino-Bradway, Brendan Sullivan, Sarah Tsai, Brian Watkins, and William Wu.

Like last year, this cohort comes from a diversity of experiences, backgrounds and



to this day. It is with this confidence that we enter into our second year of Gotham with an incredibly talented and eager group of twenty-five. Let me introduce you to each of them:

Emily Adams, Kenyon Adams, Jason Allevato, Lisa Brown, Chelsea Chen, Daynan Crull, Kerri Hazama, Lauren Hines, Kimberly Howard, Heather Howells, Taena Kim, Molly Knochel, Alison Lytton, Cindy Mahlberg, Jeana Marinelli,

vocations. These Fellows are dancers, emergency planners for the city, professors, lawyers, campaign managers, bankers, actors, nurses, musicians, business analysts, and architects, just to name a few. What they all share in common is an eagerness to see how the gospel does truly change everything—from hearts to communities to the world.

To learn more about the Gotham Fellowship, visit [www.gothamfellowship.org](http://www.gothamfellowship.org).





1359 BROADWAY  
4TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10018

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW YORK NY  
PERMIT # 349

## OPEN FORUM OCTOBER 25

Redeemer celebrates the city with an Open Forum, “New York, New York” on Sunday, October 25 at 6:00PM in the auditorium at Hunter College, 69th St. & Park Ave. The evening will feature a concert of “New York” songs, a lecture by Timothy Keller, and an open-mic question and answer session. Please plan now to attend and bring a friend.

## THE RENEW CAMPAIGN...

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

burdensome. In this campaign budget there is also money for leasing seven-day-a-week space on the East Side. In addition we will fund the pastor pipeline and lay leadership development programs described above.

One of my elders who has

been with us since the beginning has often said that Redeemerites prayed more fervently in our early years, because we all felt we were attempting something beyond our abilities. We were all invit-

ing our friends, serving our

neighbors, and stretching our faith in new ways. Our plan now is to return to these roots, to reconnect to our vision for vigorous church planting right in Manhattan, and to release the power of the laity, gifted by the Spirit.