

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 2010

WORK AND CULTURAL RENEWAL

BY TIM KELLER

I am often asked: “Should Christians be involved in shaping culture?” My answer is that we can’t *not* be involved in shaping culture. To illustrate this, I offer a very sad example. In the years leading up to the Civil War many southerners resented the interference of the abolitionists, who were calling on Christians to stamp out the sin of slavery. In response, some churches began to assert that it was not the church’s (nor Christians’) job to try to ‘change culture’ but only to preach the gospel and see souls saved. The tragic irony was that these churches *were* shaping culture. Their very insistence that Christians should not be changing culture meant that those churches were supporting the social *status quo*. They were *defacto*

endorsing the cultural arrangements of the Old South. (For more on this chapter in American history, see Mark Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*.)

This is an extreme example, but it makes the point that when Christians work in the world, they will either assimilate into their culture and support the *status quo* or they will be agents of change. This is especially true in the area of work. Every culture works on the basis of a ‘map’ of what is considered most important. If God and his grace are not at the center of a culture, then other things will be substituted as ultimate values. So every vocational field is distorted by idolatry.

Christian medical professionals will soon see that some practices make money for them but

don’t add value to patients’ lives. Christians in marketing and business will discern accepted patterns of communication that distort reality or which play to and stir up the worst aspects of the human heart. Christians in business will often see among their colleagues’ behavior that which seeks short-term financial profit at the expense the company’s long-term health, or practices that put financial profit ahead the good of employees, customers, or others in the community. Christians in the arts live and work in a culture in which self-expression is an end in itself. And in most vocational fields, believers face work-worlds in which ruthless, competitive behavior is the norm.

(Continued on page 6)

WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Diaconate would like to thank all who gave generously to the Mercy Fund on December 13, 2009. Because of your great generosity and faithful responses, our deacons and deaconesses will be able to meet the practical and financial needs of those in our midst who are suffering from a variety of personal and life circumstances and difficulties,

especially in this recession. Our Mercy Fund disbursement from January through November 2009 increased by 43% compared with 2008 (\$248k and \$174k, respectively).

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 donations throughout the year. Please earmark your gift for the Diaconate using a special envelope provided at the information table at all service sites or donate on www.redeemer.com. And if you know of any congregants in need, please refer them to our Helpline (212) 726-1334. Thank you again.



INSIDE: • REDEEMER CITY-TO-CITY • NYCLS, Inc. • ARTS MINISTRY CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS
• WHERE IS THE CITY SEMINARY? • GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP • CFW JANUARY 2010 EVENTS

REDEEMER CITY TO CITY

Did you know that over 25,000 sermons are downloaded every week from the Redeemer sermon store from over 160 countries? Or that Redeemer has helped to plant almost 100 churches in non-US cities since 2001? Or that this year members of the Redeemer staff will travel to cities on six continents to train and coach pastors?

From the beginning part of Redeemer's vision has been to help launch churches in Manhattan, its boroughs and other international cities. That vision is not to help start churches that look exactly like Redeemer, but to help pastors in their own cities start churches appropriate for their unique culture and context. This led to the formal launch of the Redeemer Church Planting Center in 2001. Since then RCPC has offered funding, training, assessment and ongoing coaching to pastors from all over the world.

Because the ministries of Redeemer Presbyterian Church

have helped the gospel to take vigorous root in New York City, there has been an increased demand for ministry support beyond NYC. More people approach Redeemer for help in starting churches and more people download sermons and read Tim Keller's books than ever before. Sensing this growing demand for resources and training, Redeemer has established a new, separate organization called Redeemer City to City. Redeemer City to City will now be the organizational name which covers both Redeemer Church Planting Center and Redeemer Labs, the department that has been developing and distributing new content resources for Redeemer (such as *The Prodigal God* curriculum in 2009 and the *Gospel[in]life* curriculum set to debut in 2010).

What does this mean practically? First, it means that the name "Redeemer Church Planting Center" will not be used anymore. Going forward, many of

the books and studies written by Tim Keller and others at Redeemer, as well as church planter training conferences and events will come from Redeemer City-to-City. Also, there is a new website for finding resources: www.redeemer-citytocity.com.

In 2010 Redeemer City to City will publish two new curricula (*Gospel in Life* and *The Reason for God*) and develop a new book on the life of Jesus. Year-round training for church planters will continue in New York City and four "Immersion" training events are planned for international cities. There are also plans to assist 30 new churches to start public worship in global cities.

As God says about one such great city in the Bible, "Ninevah has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people... Should I not be concerned about that great city?" (Jonah 4:11). Please pray that Redeemer City to City would be fruitful and faithful in its mission to help leaders bring the gospel to great global cities.

NEW APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP!

It's hard to believe that we'll soon be accepting applications for our third Gotham class. We've had a remarkable first two years and we're looking forward to the class of 2011. One significant change in the application process is a change in the admissions process. Due to the high demand, we have switched to rolling admissions starting January 24, 2010. So if you'd like to apply to the Fellowship, get that application done sooner rather than later before all the slots are taken. Once we have all 24 spots filled, we will stop accepting applications. Visit our website for details: www.gothamfellowship.org

Important Dates: January 24, 2010 – Class of 2011 Application Opens
January 31, 2010 – Gotham Q&A after 10:30AM & 5:00PM Redeemer Services
February 28, 2010 – Gotham Information Reception (RSVP required)

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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“The penny dropped,” during Tim Keller’s talk to the Redeemer Legal Fellowship on a Friday night in November 2007, Eric Yoon recalls. Eric, a partner at a prominent NYC law firm, was just one in a roomful of lawyers listening attentively as Tim challenged them to re-imagine their personal “lawyering” and practice in a way that served human flourishing. Among the lawyers seated around him were Erin Greenfield, associate at another NYC law firm, and Sandhya Reju Boyd, Executive Director of Brooklyn Jubilee. In the 24 months since that evening, the lives of these three lawyers have intertwined and moved from inspiration to action as they’ve created an organization to meet the legal needs of our city’s poor.

After leaving the Redeemer offices that night, Eric contemplated ways Christian lawyers might mobilize holistic service for the city. Through Hope for New York he learned about The Father’s Heart, a soup kitchen on the lower east side run by Chuck and Carol Vedral. He then connected with Sandhya, an expert in poverty/housing law, who had established the Brooklyn Jubilee ministry only one year prior. The two began immediate correspondence outlining what Brooklyn Jubilee offers: local food pantry services, legal advice on housing, and eligibility screening for food stamps and public health insurance. Eric drew all the pieces together and he invited Sandhya to speak to the Redeemer Legal Fellowship with the possibility of encouraging a volunteer initiative among the group members.

Meanwhile, Erin Greenfield was living the busy, time-crunched

life of a patent lawyer, but feeling urged to serve in some physical capacity. She hosted a Redeemer fellowship group in her apartment, whose members committed to monthly volunteerism. Using the resources of Hope for New York, the group worked with several affiliates over the next year and half before settling on serving breakfast at The Father’s Heart. “8:30am was really early,” Erin admits, but the reality of the



Budding entrepreneurs work on improving their business plans (2010 Ei Business Plan Competition Workshop)

gospel outweighed her need for sleep and moved her to serve the physical renewal of the city.

Over the course of that year Erin and Eric had become acquainted at Redeemer’s Legal Fellowship monthly events. Both lawyers, in fact, initiated prayer groups at their respective firms, and have since expanded these groups to include other firms within the same geographic area. The two often collaborated and held joint monthly dinners for their groups. Eric discussed with Erin his new-found passion for serving the legal needs of the poor.

Using Brooklyn Jubilee’s work as a guide, Eric developed a plan for a legal desk at The Father’s Heart and shared this idea at one of the law dinners. He also committed to fill several volunteer

slots each month with members of the Redeemer Legal Fellowship and NY Christian Legal Society. Throughout 2008, both Eric and Erin served breakfast at The Father’s Heart, and kept in touch about the development of a legal service organization.

In March 2009 an unexpected breakthrough occurred. An established non-profit called New York Christian Legal Services, Inc. was about to fold. The former board named four new board members, including Eric, and handed over the charter before stepping down. This bountiful gift saved the team months of wrangling with non-profit statutes and IRS procedures and allowed NYCLS to launch into immediate action.

The new board, soon including Erin, held bi-weekly conference calls to pray and discuss their next steps. They solidified their mission: To provide legal services and counseling for the poor and indigent in NYC. At their first fundraiser in April 2009 gracious donors gave \$20,000, which covered the first year’s budget. Erin conducted a needs assessment at The Father’s Heart throughout the summer of 2009. She and several others sat at the breakfasts, heard the community’s struggles, and prayed with them. Eric maintained contact with Sandhya, who agreed to serve as the part-time Program Advisor, while the board continued its search for an Executive Director. To train the volunteer lawyers and non-lawyers in pertinent areas of poverty law, NYCLS led a training session in October 2009, enabling them to launch the legal desk at The Father’s Heart in November.

(Continued on page 6)

ARTS MINISTRY CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS WITH NEW CAMPAIGN AND PROGRAMS

The Center for Faith & Work's Arts Ministry celebrates its five-year anniversary this month! What started in lots of conversations over coffee with Redeemer's artists is now a comprehensive set of ministries for artists and arts lovers at Redeemer, as well as around the country and across the globe.

This month, the Arts Ministry launches a new campaign to help communicate its programs and philosophy of ministry. Look for the bright orange, purple, and green "Be Known/Create/Engage" postcards to learn more.

We particularly celebrate Redeemer's desire to "engage" with the arts in our city during our third annual Arts Month, coming up in February (see text box for more information.). Through Arts Month and other programs like the Culture Club (monthly outings to arts events around the city),

School of Gospel Foundations classes, and Redeemer-hosted arts events, our congregation has the opportunity to experience art and learn more about it, and its role in cultural renewal, from a biblical perspective.

In addition to the "Be Known/Create/Engage" campaign, the Arts Ministry has also launched a new blog, "Redeemer Arts," featuring weekly posts by the Arts Ministry staff and special guests delving into the intersection of art and faith, and how the arts are reflecting and influencing our culture. Visit www.redeemerarts.blogspot.com. Also watch for a new short film about the Arts Ministry, debuting January 31 at the CFW Open House after the East Side morning service and then viewable at www.faihandwork.org/arts.

In anticipation of Redeemer's three new geographically-

based congregations, InterArts Fellowship is also decentralizing! Instead of meeting at the Redeemer offices, IAF begins meeting this month at different locations around the city, allowing us to be "in the city" more than we have been, as well as allowing us to welcome more people. We are also moving to a quarterly event, rather than monthly, to allow us to expand our programming and manage the costs of rented space. Visit www.faihandwork.org/iaf for more information about our January gathering.

For more information about all Arts Ministry programs, visit www.faihandwork.org/arts. The Worship and Music department also hosts programs especially for musicians, and holds music events throughout the ministry year. For more information visit www.redeemer.com/music.

CENTER FOR FAITH AND WORK JANUARY EVENTS

DATE & TIME	EVENT & LOCATION
Thurs., Jan. 7, at 7:00PM	Business Fellowship, IAM Offices
Fri., Jan. 8, at 8:00PM	Culture Club: NY Philharmonic
Sun., Jan. 10, at 6:30PM	Healthcare Dinner, Location TBA
Wed., Jan. 13, at 7:00PM	The A.D. Agency, Redeemer Offices
Sun., Jan. 17, at 12:30PM	Healthcare Lunch, Location TBA
Mon., Jan. 18, at 7:00PM	Entrepreneurs Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Thurs., Jan. 21, at 8:00AM	Legal Fellowship Breakfast, Redeemer Offices
Thurs., Jan. 21, at 7:00PM	PhD Student Group, Redeemer Offices
Fri., Jan. 22, at 7:00PM	Higher Education Group, Location TBA
Mon., Jan. 25, at 7:00PM	Actors Group, Ripley-Grier Studios
Mon., Jan. 25, at 7:00PM	Financial Services Ministry, Redeemer Offices
Sun., Jan. 31, at 12:15PM	CFW Open House, Hunter College

Please go to www.faihandwork.org for information on all CFW events.

WHERE THE CITY IS THE SEMINARY

BY MARK GORNIK

A park, churches past, present and future, a university campus, neighborhoods in Harlem, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens on a cold Saturday in December—these are the living sites of personal journeys of faith and commitment. Working in small groups, the students in the Ministry Fellows Program of **City Seminary of New York** took one another to places that had come to matter deeply in their ministries and lives in the city. Gathering back together later in the day they shared with the rest of the community how their journeys (literally and metaphorically) had enabled them to reflect on their calling.

At City Seminary of New York, the city is our classroom. New York's diverse churches, neighborhoods, streets, restaurants, subway lines, and history are our resources for learning and embracing the vitality of urban life and Biblical faith. Launched full-time in 2003, City Seminary of New York is a grassroots community of learning focused on the practice of ministry

in our urban world.

One of City Seminary's newest initiatives is **The Ministry Fellows Program**. A structured community learning experience, we bring together individuals from all walks of life and diverse church and ministry backgrounds who have had limited or no access to prior urban ministry training but who are already involved in serving the city. By listening, dialoguing, affirming and walking with each other, we draw from our own life experiences and resources from the city and beyond to encourage the work of hopeful and faithful ministry in the city, to provide leadership training in the practice of urban mission, and to establish small learning communities for accountability and formation. Launched this past fall with generous support from the Lilly Endowment, the program is off to an exciting start. We expect to hold open houses in the spring for additional cohorts beginning next fall.

A number of Redeemerites

have been involved and continue to be a part of our community of faith and learning at City Seminary. Maria Liu Wong, a long-term member of Redeemer, is the Dean of the City Seminary. Maria's commitment to adult education and creative passion for mission animates the growing life of City Seminary. Sonja Chen, Brian Stanton, Traci Thornton and Alan Farrell, who are involved in Redeemer's Center for Faith and Work, Finance and Operations, Children's Ministries and Hope for New York respectively, are past and present students. Numerous church members have been a part of our learning experiences as well as our open seminars and annual conferences on Urban Ministry and World Christianity.

As we look forward to the future—offering a graduate degree in Urban Ministry and engaging youth—City Seminary is on a journey. We look forward to all that God has ahead.

For more information go to www.cityseminaryny.org

CENTER FOR FAITH AND WORK OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 31 from 12:15PM to 3:00PM in the Hunter College Auditorium

Tim Keller will be speaking on the topic of work and cultural renewal, followed by breakout sessions (Hunter West) for people of all vocations. Come meet others in your profession and discuss how you can impact New York City's culture and marketplace with the fullness of the gospel. Learn how you can serve, grow, and get involved.

FEBRUARY IS ARTS MONTH!

Make plans now to be part of the Arts Ministry's third annual month-long exploration of the arts and our faith, and the arts in our city. Join us on an arts "field trip"...experience art created by Redeemer artists... take a class to learn more about the arts and Christianity.



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WORK AND CULTURAL RENEWAL...

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There are two opposite mistakes that a Christian can make in addressing the idols of their vocational field. On the one hand they can seal off their faith from their work, laboring according to the same values and practices that everyone else uses. Or they may loudly and clumsily declare their Christian faith to their co-workers, often without showing any grace and wisdom in the way they relate to people on the job.

At Redeemer, especially through the Center for Faith and Work, we seek to help believers think out the implications of the gospel for art, business, government, media, entertainment, scholarship. We teach that *excellence* in work is a crucial means to gain credibility for our faith. If our work is shoddy, our verbal

witness only leads listeners to despise our beliefs. If Christians live in major cultural centers and simply do their work in an excellent but distinctive manner it will ultimately produce a different kind of culture than the one in which we live now.

But I like the term 'cultural renewal' better than 'culture shaping' or 'culture changing/transforming.' The most powerful way to show people the truth of Christianity is to serve the common good. The monks in the Middle Ages moved out through pagan Europe, inventing and establishing academies, universities, and hospitals. They transformed local economies and cared for the weak through these new institutions. They didn't set out to 'get control' of a pagan culture.

They let the gospel change how they did their work and that meant they worked for others rather than for themselves. Christians today should be aiming for the same thing.

As Roman society was collapsing, St Augustine wrote *The City of God* to remind believers that in the world there are always two 'cities', two alternate 'kingdoms.' One is a human society based on selfishness and gaining power. God's kingdom is the human society based on giving up power in order to serve. Christians live in both kingdoms, and although that is the reason for much conflict and tension, it also is our hope and assurance. The kingdom of God is the permanent reality, while the kingdom of this world will eventually fade away.

NYCLS...

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

Is it possible to re-imagine the profession of law? The gospel enables lawyers to have a true basis for the norms of human

rights and human flourishing. Practicing law for the common good is yet another way of gardening—cultivating the earth and

bringing about the restoration of all creation. May we all have ears to hear the penny drop.