

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

SEPTEMBER 2010

FROM “COME AND SEE” TO “GO AND SHARE”

BY TIM KELLER

Redeemer has had twenty great years in which the flow of our ministry could be characterized by the phrase “Come and See.” Come and listen to the teaching and music. Come and be in all the great programs, led by talented staff.

Now, however, we are entering a new season, that, God-willing, will last much longer than 20 years. Our ministry will now be “Go and Share.” Redeemer is going to try to systematically impart what theological and ministry wisdom we have to our people and empower them so that, instead of only inviting people in to hear teaching, they will in the power of the Spirit go out into their neighborhoods to love and winsomely share the Biblical gospel themselves.

It means a culture of training such as we have never seen before at Redeemer. It means coming to grips with one of the most radical aspects of Biblical teaching, that every single believer is a prophet, a priest, and a king, not just a bringer and attendee. According

to Jesus, “the least” Christian is endowed with the Spirit and is “greater than John the Baptist.” (Matt 11:9-11) It also means raising up a new generation of pastor-leaders. The vision is for a family of 8-12 sister churches—covering Manhattan—ministering in their communities.

In June we named four pastors, David Bisgrove, John Lin, Scott Sauls, and Leo Schuster, each to lead one of the four neighborhood-based congregations we are going to form in the west side, the east side, and the southern part of Manhattan. Each pastor will share the preaching with me in that congregation, and will supervise many of the staff who minister at that location. Each congregation will focus on serving and reaching a particular neighborhood and multiplying small groups, believers, and ministry in that place. (Members do not have to live in a particular congregation’s ministry area in order to worship and serve in it, but they have to embrace the church’s mission to that neighborhood.)

My role will be to continue preaching for the coming years as many weeks and as often as before, while serving as Senior Pastor of the whole network and mentor-coach of the pastors of the congregation. The team of pastors we will form will be the basis for close cooperation in the future years when these congregations will become churches in their own right who work together to serve the city.

On a personal note, Kathy and I are more enthused and committed to Redeemer’s ministry than ever. In many ways, Redeemer’s most fruitful ministry years are still ahead of us. Let’s thank God for putting us all in this great place and moment. You can begin to do this by being present for a special time of renewal, commitment, and celebration as we move ahead with our plans to become four congregations. We will be praying especially for the four pastors and also for ourselves. I hope to see you Wednesday night, September 22 for this special service of renewal and celebration.

A SERVICE OF RENEWAL & COMMISSIONING

Wednesday, September 22, 2010
The Hammerstein Ballroom
8th Ave. & West 34th St.

6:00PM: Meet and talk with others from your neighborhood (Light Food & Drinks provided)

7:00PM: Worship and Commissioning
of Lead Pastors

Childcare: Scholarship help is available. To request a scholarship, email Amy at amy.alexander@redeemer.com



REDEEMER HIRES A YOUTH GROUP DIRECTOR—ME!

BY DAVID PLANT

It was with great joy and a prayerful “OMG” that I recently accepted the role of Youth Ministry Director here at Redeemer. Though “officially” a new position, anyone who has spent time around Family Ministries can tell you that Cregan and Mindi Cooke have worked tirelessly in this capacity for many years to create a dynamic, Gospel-centered community that serves both the city and its sister community in Taost, Uganda. Redeemer will always be indebted to them for their vision, passion and joyful service to the Lord. Susan and I are thankful for Cregan and Mindi’s friendship and we’ll be leaning on them and their wisdom a lot this year. (A LOT!)

As for Susan and I, well, there has been plenty of awe-induced headshaking as we’ve considered how far God has brought us and

how gracious he has been in allowing us to serve this community. Five years ago we were newly married. I was still tending bar trying to support an acting career while Susan worked as an architect at a boutique firm downtown. None of our friends were Christians. In opening our home to lead a small group, the Lord provided us with a community of New Yorkers that challenged us further. It was in this time that I began to consider seminary and vocational ministry.

At the risk of sounding like the ultimate “company man” the Vision Campaign of 2005 was a turning point for us with its theology for the city and plans to build a movement of churches. Like so many others we found the Vision attractive and sought to make it our own. Little did we know that it really would change our lives.

Since that time, we’ve had a son, Pascal, and three years ago Susan was hired as the project manager of the new building on W83rd St. In May I graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary and while a student acted as an Intern overseeing Beta Groups within the Fellowship Department for three years. This past year I had the great privilege of leading an interdepartmental team of artists to create The New Birth Portrait Series; a video portrait gallery exploring the “new birth” through the lives of New Yorkers.

There is a great deal of work to be done this year as we seek to further the Gospel in the lives of our youth. Please keep us in prayer. I look forward to giving you an update on all things “youth” come spring!

HFNY ANNUAL CHARITY BIKE RIDE

If you enjoy biking and have the desire to serve the poor, join the Hope for New York cycling team! It is a great way to raise awareness and funds for HFNY Affiliates that serve the poor and marginalized in our city.

On Saturday, September 25, we will participate in the Escape New York bike ride again, with a goal to raise over \$50,000 for HFNY.

The ride starts and ends in Manhattan with scenic routes through Bergen and Rockland Counties.

An anonymous donor has generously offered up to \$25,000 in a matching grant! Basically, the first 50 riders who have raised \$500 or more will receive a \$500 matching gift and a HFNY bike jersey.

No experience? No problem.

You can choose to ride 50, 75 or 100 miles and you can get in shape 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.

To get started please visit www.hfny.org/2010BikeRide

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

INTRODUCING THE SCHUSTERS

BY LEO SCHUSTER

I fell in love for the first time when I was five years old. That's when I first visited New York City. I was smitten with the Big Apple. Forty years later, I can't believe I actually get to live here! Ellen and I count it an extraordinary privilege to join the Redeemer family in gospel ministry in the greatest place on earth.

Life-long Texans, Ellen grew up in Austin and I in El Paso. We met in college and have been married for twenty-one years. We have three daughters. Our two oldest, Anna (20) and Margaret (19), attend college in Texas. Our youngest daughter, Mary Caroline (16), is thrilled to be joining us in New York. These four women mean everything to me. Another way of putting it is that I have four image consultants!

My first ordained ministry position was in Dallas, where I served as a college pastor at Park Cities Presbyterian Church and the founding RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) campus minister at Southern Methodist

University. Our next stop was Houston, where I planted Christ the King Presbyterian Church. Located in the cosmopolitan center of Houston, the fourth largest U.S. city, Christ the King exists in the city to promote the welfare of the city. Sound familiar? It's no coincidence. Tim Keller and Redeemer have been extremely influential in shaping my approach to ministry.



Mary Caroline, Margaret, Leo, Ellen, & Anna Schuster

I first heard Tim when I was a seminary student in Philadelphia. I'll never forget my first impression: "Ah, now I can breathe!" Seminary life felt suffocating to me. But Tim was different. He didn't talk like a 'preacher.' His communication style and message struck me as authentic and

refreshing. I've been a follower ever since.

How do I feel about taking on this new role as a lead pastor at Redeemer? Humbled, exhilarated, terrified, emotional. For us, this transition represents both a significant loss and a magnificent gain. The last several months have been emotionally rough for us as we've had to say goodbye to Houston and our Christ the King family that we love so much. By God's grace, my family and I have had an unbelievably wonderful church experience over the last fourteen years and it really hurts to be leaving. But I could not be more excited about what lies ahead at Redeemer.

One very important disclaimer: I will disappoint you! Isn't it comforting that ministry isn't about great people doing great things? It's about broken, deeply flawed people discovering the power of the gospel and then living each day desperately dependent upon it...because they know their life depends completely upon it. I join you as one such man.

JOB SEARCHING? THE COURAGE OF SHOWING UP

BY PUI SEE WONG

When I was called into the managing director's office one morning in November 2008, I knew what was going to happen. After all, what would a mortgage-backed security analyst expect in the midst of a financial crisis? Sure enough I was laid off by a major financial institution where I'd worked for almost 3 years.

After that eventful morning, I took nine months off, reevaluat-

ing the priorities of my life. Being a part of Wall Street has been a dream of mine since college. Over the years I did everything I could to get my foot in the door. When I finally did, the dream didn't really come through as I'd imagined. I felt very lost.

One day, I decided to check out the Job Search Round Table jointly sponsored by Redeemer's Center for Faith and Work and

Diaconate. I got to know caring Diaconate members such as Roger Spivack and Jenny Chang and fellow Christians who are in similar circumstances. By attending the Round Table every Thursday, I found the support that kept my spirit up when I felt beaten up by a very difficult job market. I also found plenty of valuable information and job

(Continued on page 6)

WAS JOHN STUART MILL RIGHT?

BY MICHAEL KELLER, CITY CAMPUS RUF MINISTER

If you have been through college or are currently going through it, you probably have encountered John Stuart Mill's famous Harm Principle. In his treatise *On Liberty* Mill says, "The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others." This principle has been absorbed into the modern psyche as, "You can do whatever you want to do in life as long as it does not hurt other people." Today this philosophy ends up being the defining moral assumption of college students. I often hear from students that they are free to do as they please as long as they do not injure others.

College students like the harm principle is because it professes to be self-evident. This principle suggests that we can all see what is good and bad, and therefore, we need no particular history, heritage, or religious assumption to navigate moral choices.

The principle works well until

we realize that we all mean different things when it comes to "harming others." What one person defines as harm may be rejected by another. One college student thinks looking at pornography in his dorm room does no harm to others, while another individual will insist that, in fact, it does do harm because it changes the viewer's attitude towards the opposite sex by objectifying and commercializing the human body. Whose definition of harm do we go by? Who gets to say what it means to hurt others? In other words, what is supposed to be self-evident ends up not being so clear after all.

What is one to do? For undergraduate college students, Redeemer's City Campus Ministry is a place where students can come to process these questions. Every week we meet for a meal on Sunday and talk about a topic that intersects the lives of students. During the week we have small groups where students meet with other students to continue this discussion as well as

develop better friendships. Naturally, we show how the gospel does answer each and every question we have; however, space is also given for the dialog leading up to these answers. We have to know the questions first and see that our usual answers do not quite work before we really care to see how the gospel answers them.

In the fall and winter City Campus Ministry also facilitates a mentorship program in which non-undergraduate volunteers meet with students to discuss life in New York, vocational work, and even how one's spiritual life works in the busy city. Whether you are an undergraduate college student or a potential volunteer, City Campus is a community where we work out our doubts, faith, and work lives. Undergraduates should check us out on **September 12 for our Fall Launch.**

Volunteers and those interested can visit us at citycampusministry.com to get involved.

BETA GROUPS: TEST COMMUNITY LIFE AT REDEEMER!

Beta Groups are 7-week Fellowship Groups for people who are new to our church or exploring Christianity. If you want to test community life at Redeemer, you can join one of the following groups for 7-weeks:

- *Beta Group (study the 7-week sermon series)*
- *Seeker Beta Group (consider and dialogue about the objections to Christianity)*

Beta Groups begin the week of September 26 and sign ups begin August 29. Don't miss out on community life at Redeemer. Join a Beta Group!

THE WELL AND PRAY ON

BY JULIET VEDRAL

This summer the Prayer Ministry organized a Summer Prayer Initiative to provide opportunities for congregants to try out different types of prayer, while also praying for Redeemer as we transition into our 10-Year Plan. We weren't sure how the Initiative would be received, but two of the events that we held were actually oversubscribed! And there has been so much demand for the Daily Prayer Devotionals that we're going to continue them indefinitely. If you would like to know more about the Summer Prayer Initiative or any of our upcoming events, please visit the website. Here's what some of you have been saying about:

The Well: Praying with Friends for Friends & Pray On: Subvert the Status Quo

On Friday, June 18, we held an all-night prayer meeting called "Pray On: Subvert the Status Quo" at the Redeemer Offices. Over 80 people came to "The Well" at 10:00PM and many stayed for "Pray On until 6:00AM. Many of the participants came from other churches!

"I am still amazed at the all night prayer we had [in June]. I'm telling everyone that it's one of the most (if not THE most) spiritually uplifting experiences of my life. In fact, I even testified to this at my church the Sunday following our hour time of incredible prayer and praise."

"I really enjoyed the prayer time. I haven't experienced this in many years. I just hope that this prayer time...helps to replenish a missing spark that had gone dim in my spiritual life."

"Thank you for your work with The Well. I never expected to find a place like that in NYC. Or others to pray with like that!"

Save the date for our next Well: Friday, October 15 from 10:00PM to 12:00AM at the Redeemer Offices, 1359 Broadway, 4th Fl.

150W83 Prayer Walk

On Friday, July 23, approximately 70 people gathered at Blondie's on the Upper West Side for a prayer walk around the neighborhood. Despite the heat and the rain, everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and the opportunity to strengthen existing and create new friendships. Keep on the lookout for similar prayer walks on the Upper East Side and Downtown!

"I LOVED the prayer walk. I was amazed and touched by the number of people who showed up. It was wonderful to see such an array of people from all over the city. The intentions of the prayer walk made me pay more attention to what was going around me as we walked. I noticed the variety of people, stores, apartments, restaurants more vividly. Since this was my first prayer walk, I had absolutely no idea how it was going to be accomplished but I trusted that it would be a good experience."

"The night of the prayer walk I was actually saying to myself that it is events like these that make one want to continue being a Christian. It is events like these that encourage one in the Christian walk...it was great and the fellowship was awesome."

"It was my first official prayer walk. I've always appreciated conversational prayer a la The Well and I feel like prayer walking took it to the next level. I also liked doing it with 60 other people in the pouring rain—everyone's commitment to praying made it so obvious that we are all depending on God and asking for His blessings on this new building. I paired up with my husband which we usually don't do at The Well because we like to get to know and pray for other people, so praying like this with my husband expanded our views of prayer as a couple and I think enriched our prayer life together."

"It was really great! It was nice to pray for the community and the new church building. And of course meeting new brothers and sisters was nice too."



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JOB SEARCHING?... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

search tools from the Redeemer Job Search Skill Training class.

Two weeks ago, I accepted an offer from another major financial institution. Even though the role was a complete departure from my previous work experience, the decision was easy because I was coached to understand my strength and my needs after job-related burn out. In all honesty, I don't think I can claim credit for finding a job except for working up the courage to show up.

It all started with showing up for the Job Search Round Table to be with my fellow job seekers.

Then it was about showing up for all five weeks of job search training class to be an effective job hunter. I met my current manager because I showed up for one of CFW's Financial Services Ministry monthly meetings and gave her my business card (the only reason I had one was because Roger insisted that all job seekers should have one). When I was called out of the blue for an interview, for no reason other than God's grace, I showed up for the meeting asking questions about a role very foreign to me. When a second interview was arranged,

I showed up again even though I still wasn't sure about the position. And now I am making sure that I show up every day for work.

I am very thankful to our Father in Heaven, whose grace is shown in my siblings in Christ for their ministry of teaching, guiding and supporting me through a very difficult and confusing period of transition.

For more info on Redeemer's resources for job seekers visit www.redeemer.com/care/career_center/