

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

OCTOBER 2010

HOW TO PRAY BETTER IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE, TOO

BY TIM KELLER

Years ago when I wanted to become more skillful in public prayer, I was fortunate to come across the collects of Thomas Cranmer, the writer of the original *Episcopal Book of Common Prayer*. The “collects” (the stress is on the first syllable) that Cranmer wrote were brief but extremely ‘packed’ little prayers that tied together the doctrine of the day to a particular way of living. They were prayed by the minister on behalf of the people, or prayed in unison by the whole congregation.

As I have read them over the years they have brought me two great benefits. First, they have given me a basic structure by which I can compose good public prayers, either ahead of time, or spontaneously. Cranmer’s collects consist of 5 parts:

1. The address - a name of God
2. The doctrine - a truth about God’s nature that is the basis for the prayer
3. The petition - what is being asked for
4. The aspiration - what good result will come if the request is granted
5. In Jesus’ name - this remembers the mediatorial role of Jesus

See this structure in Cranmer’s famous collect for the service of Holy Communion:

1. *Almighty God*
2. *unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid,*
3. *cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,*
4. *that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name,*
5. *through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

See how the prayer moves from a doctrinal basis (why we can ask for it) to the petition (what we want) to the aspiration (what we will do with it if we get it.) It is remarkable how this combines solid theology with deep aspirations of the heart and concrete goals for our daily life.

As time has gone on I have come to use Cranmer’s collects in my personal devotional time (this is the second benefit.) I take up one collect at the beginning of each new week. I read Paul Zahl’s volume *The Collects of Thomas Cranmer* (Eerdmans, 1999) that provides a very short explanation and meditation on the prayer. Then

I pray that prayer to God reflectively every morning for the rest of the week as I begin my personal time with God. I commend this practice to you. Here are a couple of my favorites:

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning; grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that by patience and comfort of thy holy word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life, which thou hast given us in our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, who dost make the minds of all faithful men to be of one will; grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise, that among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may be surely fixed where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, which hast prepared to them that love thee such good things as pass all man’s
(Continued on page 7)



HOPE FOR NEW YORK'S 2010 GRANT DISTRIBUTION—OVER 1 MILLION!

BY ELISE CHONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce Hope for New York's 2010 Annual Grant award of \$1.07 million to its affiliates—a 20% increase over last year! Hope for New York, a 501(c)3 organization, mobilizes volunteer and financial resources to organizations that serve the poor and marginalized across New York City.

During these uncertain economic times, HFNY made a strategic decision to increase its grants to its affiliates. These

grants will be supporting homeless shelters, soup kitchens, inner-city youth programs, adult recovery programs, community development and affordable housing for low-income families and more. HFNY is committed to supporting its affiliates in underserved neighborhoods throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and The Bronx.

We are humbled and grateful to our volunteers and donors who have faithfully

partnered with us throughout the year to make this tangible impact on local communities in our city. We ask that you continue to support the work of Hope for New York with your time, talents and resources. And we ask that you pray for our affiliates as they serve the growing needs of the poor across our city.

If you would like to learn more about HFNY's work across the city, please visit www.hfny.org.

NEW GROUPS FOR SEEKERS, SKEPTICS AND QUESTIONERS

Every Sunday there are scores of people in our services who aren't sure what they believe about Christianity and who are processing the claims of Jesus. We recognize this is hard to do in isolation, which is why we have created discussion groups for those who aren't sure but want to know more. These informal groups (Seeker Groups) are for people who have questions about Christianity. They are designed to be a respectful, moderated dialogue that meets over the course of seven weeks

and discusses the following topics:

- Isn't the Bible a Myth? Hasn't Science Disproved Christianity?
- How Can You Say That There Is Only One Way To God? What About Other Religions?
- What Gives You The Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life? Why Are There So Many Rules?
- Why Does God Allow Suffering? Why Is There So Much Evil in the World?

- Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice? Why Are Christians Such Hypocrites?
- How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time? How Can God Send Good People to Hell?

If this defines where you are in your spiritual journey, or you know someone who may benefit from this discussion, visit: www.redeemer.com/connect/fellowship_groups/find_a_group.html or email Juliet Vedral at juliet.vedral@redeemer.com

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Heather Klein

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

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

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DOES YOUR WORK MATTER TO GOD?

BY REV. DAVID H. KIM, DIRECTOR OF GOTHAM INITIATIVE

“It is the business of the Church to recognize that the secular vocation, as such, is sacred. Christian people, and particularly perhaps the Christian clergy, must get it firmly into their heads that when a man or woman is called to a particular job of secular work that is as true a vocation as though he or she were called to specifically religious work.” — Dorothy Sayers

Does your work matter to God? According to the renowned British playwright Dorothy Sayers, “secular” work, i.e. the work that most New Yorkers toil over, is as sacred as the work that pastors perform. If you read her words carefully, you will realize that work outside the church is as important to God as the work that happens inside the church. Why is this? Simply put, because “the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (cf. Psalm 24:1). Sayers understood what it meant that God was sovereign over all the earth, and that His providential care did not stop at the church door.

In the 20th century few Christians have understood the importance of work in God’s kingdom as well as Sayers. At a time when the church was not helping parishioners connect their faith to their work, Sayers prophetically asserted that, “work is not, primarily, a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do.”

Yet how is the church equipping her members to answer these questions? In a city that is dominated by work, are we raising a new generation of Christians who know how to answer the question, “Why does your work matter to God?” Are we equipping New Yorkers to meaningfully and tactfully

integrate faith into their work? The Gotham Fellowship, a ministry of the Center for Faith and Work, began three years ago with the purpose of equipping Christians to do just that. This nine-month intensive program focuses on three important

they all share in common is the awareness that their work matters to God.

Let me introduce to you this year’s Fellows and ask for your prayers for: Angelin Baskaran, Benjamid Schmid, Brannon McAllister, C.J. Masimore, Chris



This years class of Gotham Fellows (plus John Lin, David Kim and Katherine Leary Alsdorf) at their fall retreat.

areas for effective cultural leadership: 1) theological training, 2) spiritual development, and 3) community formation.

This past Labor Day weekend was the inauguration of our third Gotham Class. Like our two previous classes, these Fellows come from diverse vocational backgrounds. They are district attorneys, principals, web designers, nurses, entrepreneurs, artists, and architects serving the for-profit and non-profit worlds. What

Dolan, Christina Farinacci, Claire Dow, Cooper Westendarp, Darren Jer, Dasha Rettew, Edmond Tam, Elizabeth Crouch, Erik Anderson, Joanna Stephens, John Lin Jonathan Cheng, Jonathan Ng, Karen Won, Katherine Nesbeda, Marissa Maren, Sarah Davis, Somi Lee, Stephanie Lo, and Tony Ford.

To learn more about the Gotham Fellowship, visit: www.gothamfellowship.org.

SEED FOR THE CITY

BY HOWARD FREEMAN

You may not realize that Central Park is teeming with ‘biological seed dispersal agents,’ as Wikipedia refers to squirrels.

When a squirrel takes an acorn and buries it away from the tree for future use, the acorn effectively ‘dies.’ If the squirrel doesn’t remember to come back and eat the acorn, it will germinate and become an oak tree in time. After twenty years, the tree will be mature enough to produce acorns of its own, although oaks must sometimes be 40-50 years old before producing a successful seed crop.

A gift is like a seed.

We give these gifts, like acorns, and we die to their alternate use. A gift of money—by way of its transformative death, a metamorphosis—is converted from a pecuniary value to an economic one. Our ongoing gifts to the RENEW Campaign have produced fruit even during the nine months since we’ve pledged them. We’ve conducted Gospel in Life courses, named our four

Lead Pastors, made significant headway on the West 83rd Street Worship & Community Center, and this fall will launch four mid-sized neighborhood communities. These are the trunk, branches and leaves of a new oak tree in New York.

Just prior to the RENEW Campaign’s beginning, in September 2009, we heard about David going before his people to ask them to give gifts to build the temple. He said in 1 Chronicles 28, ‘I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD...and I made plans to build it. But God said to me, “You are not to build a house for my Name...Solomon your son is the one who will build my house...”’ Here was David, a ‘man after God’s own heart,’ not able to realize the plan of his heart for the Lord. Yet the people gave ‘freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD’ (29:9) and all, including David, rejoiced. David died a death to his plan and all the people gave gifts, but it wasn’t until

Solomon was king that the temple was built.

We who are giving to RENEW may not be in New York before the full impact on the city of our gifts are grown to maturity. Yet Tim and co-chairman Dan Kramer have reminded us that we are giving for future generations. We ‘die’ to the alternate use of our gifts and even ourselves so that future lives might be changed.

Jesus said shortly before his death, ‘I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.’ (John 12:24) Jesus was the ultimate ‘seed capital’ in the hands of the Father, producing many seeds in the form of sons and daughters, heirs to the king.

In this economic time, and when we think about year-end gifts to charities and to loved ones for Christmas, let us remember the Seed that gave us life through his death, and let us provide seed for our city.

To make a gift: <https://giving.redeemer.com/giving>

HOPE FOR NEW YORK—CHRISTMAS? BUT IT’S OCTOBER!

Believe it or not Christmas is just around the corner! And to make it a joyful season, Hope for New York is already hard at work. Keep an eye for our cheerful Christmas announcements. We have already started recruiting volunteers for Angel Tree and will start collecting toys on the first Sunday of November! This Christmas, consider donating a toy and volunteering. This is a great activity for fellowship groups.

E-mail Ashley: ashley@hfn.org for more information.

GOSPEL AND CULTURE LECTURES

The Center for Faith & Work is launching this new lecture series to better prepare for effective engagement with our city and culture. The monthly lectures are part of Redeemer's focus on the Gospel in the World during the 2010-2011 year.

The lecturers who have been selected to be part of this series have all become thought-leaders through their writing, teaching, and work in the world focused on this area of gospel & culture engagement. Our hope is that through these events the church will be awakened to the critical role of work in redemption, broadening our understanding of the gospel beyond the walls of the church. We hope you will join us each month for this exciting and provocative program in Hunter College Auditorium, E. 69th St. btwn Park & Lexington. All lectures begin at 1:00PM and conclude with a time of Q&A. They are free of charge and

open to the general public. Further details and full speaker bios are available at www.fait-handwork.org/gospel&culture.

Oct. 24, 2010: JEFF VAN DUZER—*Why Business Matters to God*

Nov. 21, 2010 ANDY CROUCH—*Creating Power*

Jan. 30, 2011: TIM KELLER—*Why Work Matters*

Feb. 27, 2011: ADRIENNE CHAPLIN—*Art Matters for God's Sake*

Mar. 20, 2011: ROBERT GEORGE—*Natural Law, God, and Human Dignity*

Apr. 17, 2011: OS GUINNESS—*Towards a Christian Renaissance*

May 22, 2011: JAMES K.A. SMITH—*Cultural Liturgies*

In our current economic climate, especially in this city, people are constantly thinking about their work. What does the church have to say?

"In nothing has the Church so lost her hold on reality as in her failure to understand and respect the secular vocation. She has allowed work and religion to become separate departments, and is astonished to find that, as a result, the secular work of the world is turned to purely selfish and destructive ends, and that the greater part of the world's intelligent workers have become irreligious, or at least, uninterested in religion."

– Dorothy Sayers

These are bold words, but many would agree they are as true now as they were when Sayers wrote them in the 1940s. Christians ought to be able to present a powerful vision of work that extends beyond its pragmatic value and passionately connects with the sovereign nature and redemptive purpose of Christ. We cling to the hope and theology that the gospel changes everything—our hearts, our relationships, and the way the world works.

AMAZING GRACE

In the past year or so I've been blessed to more deeply understand and experience the meaning of grace as I've served on Redeemer's Diaconate*. For those unfamiliar with the term, the Diaconate is a body of deacons and deaconesses who, in our church's tradition, care for the practical needs of our church community, following the pattern of the early church as seen in Acts 6:1-7.

As for what that looks like day to day, it means we deacons/esses pray with and for anyone in need after Sunday worship services; we also assist our church's elders to conduct membership interviews, but our main purpose is fulfilled in giving practical assistance to those in our church family who ask for it through the Diaconate helpline. And it's here that I've been able to learn

BY GREG NANCE, DEACON
about grace in a deeper way.

We sing about it in church, we hear the word peppered throughout sermons, but do we understand what grace is? What it means? Have we experienced it? For a long time I thought it just meant something sublime, taking a reference from the first part of the hymn "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound" and forgetting the line "that
(Continued on page 8)

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

BY CALVIN CHIN

Are You An Entrepreneur? Redeemer attracts creative people who want to start new things: church pastors who want to start new churches, social entrepreneurs who want to start new non-profits, educators who want to start new schools and business entrepreneurs who want to create new ventures. Learn how to build these ventures with the gospel at their core; join Redeemer's Entrepreneurship Initiative.

To show how serious we are about encouraging our entrepreneurs to develop organizations that embody the gospel and respond to the opportunity to serve and renew the city (and world), we started a program to "incubate" new ventures and contribute to their success. It's the annual Ei Business Plan Competition. This competition is open to you, if: 1) you have recently started a new venture, 2) you are about to

launch a business, or 3) you have a brilliant business idea you'd like to move forward.

Winners will be selected in three categories: arts, for-profit, and not-for-profit ventures. Winning moves them into our New Venture Incubator—a one year period of mentoring and



Scott Sauls teaching a gospel-centered workshop

coaching and some early stage funding. Some examples: The 2010 winner, 100Cameras, is an arts venture that uses photography training and photo exhibits to raise awareness and funds to fight injustice against children. Similarly, our 2009 winner, Tegu, is a for-profit venture that

focuses on making and selling high quality wooden toys while providing jobs in a very poor area of Honduras. The 2008 winner, Restore, a not-for-profit and HFNY affiliate, provides transition services for local victims of sex trafficking. Winning entrepreneurs receive a small financial award (via grant or direct investment) and one year of theological and strategic coaching from staff as well as volunteers in the congregation.

Ei holds the competition to help the Redeemer community develop gospel-centered organizations to serve and improve our city. It launches on October 3. To learn about the Information Workshops, Competition process and past winners, please visit www.faithandwork.org/competition. Continue to frequently check our website for more details on workshops, submission
(Continued on page 8)

GROWING IN INTIMACY

What happens when the strong feelings of the honeymoon phase of your marriage begin to fade? How can differences and conflicts become avenues for connection and growth? Whether you're newly married or have been married for many years, this full-day workshop led by several of our Redeemer Counseling Staff will give insight and tools to help couples strengthen their marriage and grow in intimacy.

Saturday, October 23 from 10:00AM to 5:00PM

Redeemer Offices, Main Conference Room, 1359 Broadway, 4th Fl.

Cost: \$99 per couple

Registration is limited. Register online through School of Gospel Foundations.

UNVEILED FACES: ARTISTS REFLECTING GOD'S GLORY

BY MARIA FEE, CFW ARTS MINISTRY COORDINATOR

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is Spirit.”
– 2 Corinthians 3: 17, 18

Redeemer’s fall art exhibition, entitled *Unveiled Faces*, enables artists to share their work and give the art patron who attends Redeemer the occasion to support the artists and the RENEW campaign (half of the proceeds of what is sold benefit Redeemer’s move to four congregations.) Please join us in celebrating *Unveiled Faces* at the artists’ reception on Friday, October 22 from 6:30PM to 9:30PM at the Redeemer Offices.

In the Old Testament Moses had to veil his face to hide the glory that emanated from him after being in the presence of God. Following the reconciliation that Christ’s death brought between God and his people, however, Paul tells us that we no longer need to veil the glory of God’s transformation in our

lives. *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is Spirit.”* 2 Corinthians 3: 17, 18

What does this mean for artists? To start with, artists can invite the Spirit’ transformational power into their creative process. Like prayer, art making can be dialogical. Artists not only converse with their materials and mediums, but also grapple with God. As we shape and change our creations we grow in our understanding of how the Spirit forms and transforms. Making art is a grace act—what we receive and generate is all gift. But creating is also a faith act. We must believe that God is somehow involved.

Moses covered the evidence

of time spent with God. Through the ministry of the Spirit, the willing artist exposes his or her time with God. Christian artists must also believe that God can use art in ways one never expected or can ever explain. Just as God’s glory was clearly present on Moses’ face we must believe, if God so chooses, that his glory can be seen through our art. Through Christ, art acquires import other than self-expression. For the Christian, art can help communicate the depth and meaning of transformation, glory, hope, and redemption. And finally, art is public; it carries a social component. Of course, it can separate and divide but it can also bring together.

Join us to see works of art unveiled.

HOW TO PRAY BETTER... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we loving thee in all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art

wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid and giving unto us that which our prayer dare not presume to ask; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou does command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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AMAZING GRACE... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

saved a wretch like me.” What? Me, a wretch? I’ll just skip over that part, thank you very much. I mean, I’m not *that* bad of a person.

But then one night, unbelievably, I had a vision of Christ on the cross. And as He spoke into my heart, “I did this for you” I knew He meant it. If I were the only person on the face of the planet, it still would have taken nothing less than the death of the Son of God to save my wretched soul. Amazing! Yes, indeed, I was and am *that* bad and would be utterly lost without Him. What’s amazing is that He would choose to love me despite my brokenness, despite

my sinfulness, despite having nothing within me that could ever earn so great a gift.

It is by this grace that we work with people in our church family, offering help and financial assistance *freely*. Just as God freely offered His Son to us, we react in kind by freely offering help with open hands and hearts. Some people struggle with this, both with the idea that people could get help when “they don’t deserve it” (precisely!) and from the other side, the experience of receiving help when our culture tells us it’s undesirable or unacceptable to do so. Thankfully we have a God who teaches us the true

meaning and beauty of grace. Grace that first comes to us unconditionally, regardless of our merits, and then continues to abide, enabling us to choose life over death, love and holiness over self-centeredness and sin. For our gracious God provides not only relief, but restoration. All praise be to Him!

★ *The Diaconate is Redeemer’s ministry of mercy 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 practical assistance, please call the Diaconate Helpline, (212) 726-1334.*

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

requirements, and deadlines. Should you have additional questions, please email us at ei@redeemer.com.

Redeemer’s Entrepreneurship Initiative provides support through a monthly fellowship, workshops, an annual Forum,

mentoring relationships, and Business Plan Competition.