

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

DECEMBER 2010

REPORT ON THE THIRD LAUSANNE CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELISM IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

BY MARK REYNOLDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CHURCH PLANTING, REDEEMER CITY TO CITY

In October I had the opportunity to attend the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Cape Town, South Africa. This Congress, perhaps the widest and most diverse gathering of Christian leaders ever held in the history of the church, drew over 4,000 selected participants from 198 nations. The Congress produced *The Cape Town Commitment* that was to be a “call to action that will stand in the historic tradition of *The Lausanne Covenant*.” (see official website at www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010) Issued at the original 1974 Congress in Lausanne, Switzerland, *The Lausanne Covenant* became widely regarded as one of the most significant documents in recent church history.

Wanting to cover the gap between the first congress and third congress, I took as my nineteen-hour in-flight companion a recent book by the great historiographer, Mark Noll, *The New Shape of World Christianity*, in which Noll outlines some of the seismic

shifts within the Christian world during the last 100 years:

- More Christians worship in China today than in all of Europe, a remarkable development since no legally functioning churches existed a mere forty years ago.
- More Presbyterians worship in Ghana than in Scotland, the former home of Presbyterianism.
- The largest churches in England and France are primarily black congregations.
- The startling reverse flow of missionaries from Asia and Africa to formerly missionary-sending nations.

In short, the growth and vibrancy of the church in the southern hemisphere is impressive, and it was into this
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DON'T JUST DO: REFLECTIONS ON LAUSANNE 2010

BY ABBY COUTANT

One of the more popular sayings rolling around the North American church these days is the classic “Preach the Gospel; use words if necessary.” I’ve said it myself, blithely inserting it into conversations with friends about troubled co-workers, or difficult family members. The essence of the quote (which has wrongly been attributed to Francis of Assisi; the actual origin is unknown) is well meaning, especially in light of the fact that today’s Evangelical Christian is burdened by a stereotype of fire, brimstone and hate.

To repair some of the damage done to the name of our faith, we’ve tended to shy away from directly proclaiming Christ crucified. Instead we choose to roll up our sleeves and dig wells, raise money, swing hammers, and generally try to be nice, relevant people.

Don’t get me wrong, this is all good. Very, very good. Christ cares immensely about unjust conditions and physical suffering. In fact, one of the ways
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LEAD PASTORS' STATUS CHANGED FROM ASSISTANT TO ASSOCIATE PASTORS

One of the actions taken at our Fall Congregational Meeting on November 14 was to change the ministerial status of our recently selected four Lead Pastors from assistant pastor to associate pastor. You may be wondering what the distinction means. The primary distinction is that senior and associate pastors are members of the Session, while assistant pastors are not. All Redeemer

pastors fully participate in the Session meetings, but only our senior pastor and associate pastors are voting members, along with the ruling elders. Given the level of responsibility of our new Lead Pastors, the Session believed it was important for them to be members of the Session.

This marks another step along the way of becoming four collegial churches—

maybe one that just looks like red tape and bureaucratic paper shuffling, but it's a significant move, as Redeemer has never before had any—much less four—associate pastors.

Their installation services will probably be scheduled for spring of 2011.

Congregational Meeting highlights available on redeemer.com

DIACONATE MERCY FUND SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010

“Serving on the Diaconate has really been a privilege for me. It’s humbling to be able to play a part in my fellow congregants lives, often when they’re facing the most difficult of circumstances, and it is a blessing to be a part of a ministry in which I am a witness to the merciful provision of the Lord.” – Deaconess

On Sunday, December 19 the Diaconate will receive our annual Special Offering at all five services. This will give our members and regular attendees an opportunity to give to the Mercy Fund. In addition to prayerfully considering contributing to this vital ministry of mercy, please take a look around and encourage those congregants in need to reach

out to the Diaconate for help. Our Mercy Fund is available to members and regular attendees of Redeemer for practical needs.

We on the Diaconate would like to share with you the blessing of witnessing our Lord’s merciful provisions. The Mercy Fund enables our deacons and deaconesses to meet the concrete and visible needs of those in our church com-

munity who are experiencing financial, physical, social and spiritual hardships, especially in this recession.

If you are a Redeemer member or regular attendee with a financial or other practical need, call the Diaconate Helpline, (212) 726-1334. For more information, please visit www.redeemer.com/diaconate.

Thank you in advance for your partnership.

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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SHRINKING MONEY

BY HOWARD FREEMAN, SR. DIRECTOR OF GENEROSITY

W ealth that is stored up on earth 'where moth and vermin destroy and where [Ponzi schemers] break in and steal' (Matthew 6:19) doesn't stay wealth for long.

In fact, storing up wealth out of greed or fear not only hurts us spiritually, but also human institutions can wage war against this behavior. Put your money today in a CD for a year, and the best interest rate you can find is 1.34%. Even inflation of 3% will leave you in December 2011 with a net loss.

Or take an extreme case from the early 20th century, when German theoretical economist Silvio Gesell proposed something called 'stamp scrip.' Essentially a tax on currency that the government believed was being hoarded and designed to encourage its 'velocity' in the system, stamp scrip deducted 1% of the note's value each month it was not spent. Therefore, if you didn't

spend your money in a reasonable time, thus stimulating the economy, it eventually would turn to valueless paper. In German, this was called *schwund geld*, or shrinking money. (My mother used to tell me as a child that 'money was burning a hole in my pocket' because I spent it so quickly. Had I lived in Germany in 1919, I would have been vindicated!)

The Gospel, on the other hand, rejects my hoarding what I consider to be my scarce resources (an individual behavior resulting from Capitalism), as well as rejecting the State's forcible distribution of abundance (an organizational behavior resulting from Fascism). The Gospel says we should manage the abundance God gives us (Genesis 1:28) and give out of the scarcity that we sometimes feel (II Corinthians 8:2). When you stop and look at Jesus Christ, you see a God

who distributed his abundance (his body and blood) freely for our gain. This gain is abundant life now in terms of spiritual fullness, and it is everlasting life in the world to come. In view of the eternal life we now enjoy and anticipate more of, even what seems scarce to us is not really so.

Therefore, as we enter the final days before Christmas, let us offer our gifts to the King, freely out of the abundance he's given and out of the full assurance of eternal life, as an act of worship.

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

To make a gift to the RENEW Campaign:
<http://renew.redeemer.com/>

To learn of other ways to give time and money and your skills, contact Howard Freeman: howard@redeemer.com

FAMILIAR WITH THE HOLIDAY BLUES?

Do you know what it's like to get the Holiday Blues? Have you been feeling negative emotions about the coming Christmas season? Or know someone who is? Join the Redeemer deacons and deaconesses after the 9:30AM Lessons and Carols service at Hunter College to discuss causes of and ways of resolving the Holiday Blues. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, December 12 at 11:15AM
Hunter College West Building, Room 507

For more information and to register visit www.redeemer.com/HolidayBlues

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please make note of the special service details for the month of December.

DECEMBER 12

9:15AM: West Side Morning Service on regular schedule

9:45AM & 11:30AM: TWO East Side Morning Services of Lessons and Carols

5:00 & 7:15PM: West Side Evening Services of Lessons and Carols

6:00PM: East Side Evening service on regular schedule

DECEMBER 19

Special offering for the ministry of the diaconate at all services

9:15AM: West Side Morning Service of Lessons and Carols

10:30AM: East Side Morning Service on regular schedule

5:00 & 7:15PM: West Side Evening Service on regular schedule

6:00PM: East Side Evening Service of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 26

No West Side Morning or Evening Services

10:30AM: East Side Morning Service on regular schedule

6:00PM: East Side Evening service on regular schedule

CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELISM...

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milieu I was greeted in Cape Town. In many ways the Congress was an overwhelming experience: seven days of plenary sessions and dozens of breakout sessions (of which Tim Keller addressed the assembly twice), and a myriad of challenges and opportunities facing Christians today—all sessions are available for view on the website noted above. Like many who attended, I am still processing the experience, but here are my key reflections:

The response to increasing global poverty and injustice.

Will the church awaken and

respond to the 2.4 billion who live on less than \$2 a day or the 1 billion on the threshold of starvation or the 27 million living in slavery or the 50 million orphans in Africa? As a citizen of one of the wealthiest nations in the world, I was humbled by these facts and the faces they represent, and I was gripped by statements like, “Doesn’t the gospel make demands on your wealth?” and “How can the gospel you preach have power to change the world when you are not generous with your resources?” Despite the call of the newer evangelicalism to minister in

both word and deed, the Christian community still struggles to address the sobering reality of global poverty. Hearing this wakeup call in an economically divided South Africa cultivated within me a call to simplicity and humility.

The importance of reaching cities as a mission priority.

In 1974 at the first Lausanne Congress, the key discovery was the realization that, despite the growth of the Christian church, hundreds of millions were still sealed off from hearing the gospel because of

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HOPE FOR NEW YORK: A YEAR TO REMEMBER

It's almost Christmas. And we are happy that once again His Toy Store, a program of Hope for New York, will be able to provide toys for over 3,500 children from low-income communities in Brooklyn, The Bronx and Manhattan. Through His Toy Store families shop for free toys and also have an opportunity to connect to their local church. We are grateful for everyone who is participating in His Toy Store during this holiday season!

As we reflect on this past year, we are greatly encouraged that Hope for New York's affiliates are making a difference across the city. For example, The Bowery Mission Medical

Clinic provides medical care to over 500 patients a year. St. Paul's House serves warm meals to 40 hungry New Yorkers—6 days a week. Since Morris Academy Mentoring Program's inception, over 170 inner-city teenagers in the South Bronx had a HFNY mentor invest in their lives. We invite you to view a video that shares the stories of lives being transformed across the city: www.hfnny.org/impact

Hope for New York mobilizes volunteer and financial resources to organizations that serve the poor and marginalized. In 2010, we were able to give over \$1 Million in grants and over 35,000 volunteer hours to organizations like St.

Paul's, Bowery Mission Medical Center and The Morris Academy Mentoring Program. It is through the generous gifts of our supporters that we were able to distribute 20% more in grants than last year.

We ask that during this Christmas season you will consider making a financial gift to Hope for New York. Your gift enables us to expand our impact across New York City and invest in organizations that are serving their neighbors with love and compassion. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we ask that you remember the poor amongst us. To make a donation, please visit www.hfnny.org/donate.

DON'T JUST DO... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

He has called us to show His love to the world is through tangible actions. Our hearts should sacrificially overflow for the poor, marginalized, homeless, sick, orphaned, widowed and hurting.

But perhaps in an effort to regain our credibility to the world, we've gone too far the other way—not using words of truth and love enough. At Lausanne 2010, a global congress on world evangelism, the conversation flowed around just that. Why does there exist a tension between doing and speaking the Gospel?

For someone whose life and ministry exists in a very comfortable (in the larger, global

perspective) setting of New York City, I was convicted as I listened to testimony after testimony of people who willingly sacrificed everything, even their lives, for the preaching of the Gospel. I began to think about something that perhaps we tend to forget in our quest to be relevant—the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Doing and Saying has so much more punch.

If my mom had not lovingly spoken words of truth into my life when I was young or if in the late 60's Billy Graham had not called my mother to repentance, or if our church Fathers—Luther, Calvin, Aquinas, Augustine—

had not given us eloquent expressions of our faith, if Paul hadn't proclaimed Christ crucified or if Christ had only healed and performed cool miracles... where would the church be today?

It was John Piper, who spoke at one of the morning plenary sessions, that brought it home for me when he asked us, "...could the global church say 'for Christ's sake we Christians care about all suffering. Especially eternal suffering?'" Could it be that through action and silence we care more for the earthly needs of those we serve than their eternal needs?

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CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELISM... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

cultural and linguistic barriers. The result was a focus on the unreached people groups of the world. This breakthrough proved to be the most significant world missions milestone of the last 100 years.

Since the world's population, however, is now over 50 percent urban—and migration to cities outpaces the growth of urban churches—a renewed focus on cities is important. I was left to wonder if cities will

become the new unreached category and whether the Christian church will focus on cities with the same vision and resources it expended on the unreached people groups of the last few decades.

DON'T JUST DO... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

I want to be a part of a church that is known for its care and love for our city and the world. I want us to be a church that, as Dr. Keller repeatedly says “Our unbelieving neighbors would say ‘They add so much value to our lives

that if Redeemer left New York, the city would have to raise taxes.”

I also want all of us, not just our pastors, to be people that are famous for proclaiming Christ crucified and backing it up with an overwhelming

abundance of love and action.

Together, we must learn to marry the concepts of social good and speaking truth. To truly fulfill Christ's commission, we cannot have one without the other.