

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 2011

## ONLY BELIEVERS OR DISCIPLES?

BY TIM KELLER

In Jeremiah 26 the prophet preaches a public sermon telling the people of Jerusalem that disaster was coming to them from the hand of God if they did not turn from their evil ways. The response of the priests and other prophets was to seize him and call for his death (26:11). Fortunately for Jeremiah, the priests and prophets had to bring their case before a cross-section of other officials.

During the hearing, some elders stepped forward and pointed out that earlier the prophet Micah had preached in the same way (cf. Micah 3:12) to the king Hezekiah and Hezekiah did not put him to

death (recounted in Isaiah 37.) They argued from the Scripture that Jeremiah had done nothing wrong, and so the people set him free.

Derek Kidner says this incident is “a striking example of the fallibility of experts when their prejudices are aroused” and that it demonstrates the importance of having respected laymen who had made their own study of the Scriptures. Kidner adds: “Without this broad base of the well-taught in the word of God, a church is too much at the mercy of its professionals!” (Derek Kidner, *The Message of Jeremiah*, p.97.)

This is one of the most basic messages that I, a minister, can

convey to my congregation, but it will be more important than ever in this next stage of our journey together. The Presbyterian system of church government has long been based on the principle that a church should be neither exclusively in the hands of trained professionals nor of lay people. That is why we have on our Session—our board of elders—both “teaching elders” (ministers with graduate training in theology and ministry) and “ruling elders” who are laymen.

However, the principle goes farther than that. God does not want his people to be passive  
*(Continued on page 6)*

## DON'T WALK BY

Have you noticed the homeless man or the homeless woman sleeping on the street or subway? If you live in New York City, the answer is probably yes. This January join Hope for New York and the Rescue Alliance in the

**Don't Walk By Campaign.** Over 1,000 volunteers will be coming together in January and February to bring compassion and care to those living on the streets. The Don't Walk By Campaign is a massive outreach where volunteers will

walk the streets of Manhattan, looking for homeless men, women and children to offer them an alternative to homelessness. For more information and to join this outreach visit [www.hfnyc.org/DWB](http://www.hfnyc.org/DWB)



INSIDE: • JOY TO NEW YORK—HFNY • WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY  
• A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP • ARTISTS AND CHURCH: A GOSPEL MOVEMENT  
• WHY WORK MATTERS: CFW SUNDAY GOSPEL & CULTURE LECTURES

# JOY TO NEW YORK—HOPE FOR NEW YORK

---

A new year has started and as we look back to reflect on what happened during Christmas, we are filled with joy. Our two major Christmas programs were once again a great success due to the commitments and generosity of our donors and volunteers.

**Angel Tree** had the best attendance in many years; the church was filled with families. Angel Tree is a Christmas program that enables incarcerated parents to connect with their children. Angel Tree parties help connect their families to a church in their neighborhood.

Thirty-one people committed themselves to follow Christ and many were connected to a church for the first time. Redeemer sponsored 289 children and over 60 people volunteered to help make this outreach happen.

We also had a record number of **“His Toy Stores”** set up this past Christmas—nine sites across the city! His Toy Store is an outreach created by HFNY to enable local churches in low-income neighborhoods in The Bronx, Brooklyn, Harlem and Washington Heights to reach out to their communities and

invite them to the church to pick up a toy for their child. This past year Hope for New York distributed over 3,500 toys to children of low-income families and over 200 volunteers participated in this outreach.

Please continue to pray with us for all the families who came to an Angel Tree party or a His Toy Store program. We pray that they would continue to attend the church they visited and that their hearts would be opened to the one that frees us and gives us the joy and peace that surpasses all understanding.

## WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

---

The Diaconate would like to thank all who gave generously to the Mercy Fund on December 19, 2010. Because of this special offering our deacons and deaconesses are 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 as this recession continues. Here is an excerpt from one of our care recipients:

*A couple of months ago I tore the meniscus in my left knee. I knew I was in trouble when the*

*doctor told me I needed x-rays and therapy. My medical insurance has a co-pay for everything and when you live paycheck to paycheck with no sick days...well, soon my rent was behind and I didn't have any money. I called the Diaconate. They gave me money for food and rent. I am back to work now and want to say thank you to my “Deeks” Bill and Mary and to each of you for your kindness. I still have an apartment and a job because of your generosity.*

Our Mercy Fund disbursement from January through November 2010 increased by

35% compared with 2009 to \$370k from \$248k. Please know we are very grateful and consider you to be partners with us as we care for those God brings our way. If you know any congregants in need, please encourage them to call our Helpline (212) 726-1334.

If you would still like to donate to the Mercy Fund, go to [www.redeemer.com/care/diaconate/donations.html](http://www.redeemer.com/care/diaconate/donations.html) to learn the ways you can give. Thank you again.

---

### 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.

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)

# A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP

---

BY REV. DAVID H. KIM

Professional diversity is a significant component of what makes the Gotham Fellowship valuable. This year we've broadened the vocational spectrum even further by including a pastor from our very own church—the Rev. John Lin. While we're used to seeing him preach from the pulpit, John participates in Gotham as a representative of the vocation of church-based ministry. His inclusion underscores the view that we are all called as priests in this world and, despite his specific calling to vocational ministry, John, like all the other Fellows, wrestles with the implications of the gospel in the public realm.

It is difficult to describe all that the Gotham Fellowship entails, as it has elements of a seminary class, a fellowship group, and spiritual discipleship, so we thought we would interview John to get his perspective on Gotham. The following is an excerpt from an interview that captures some of John's thoughts mid-way through this year's program.

## ***DK: What interested you in Gotham?***

JL: The church needs to think more about how faith works outside of the church setting. Conversations with my wife, Kyoko, helped me realize how important it was for the church to address the significance and role of our faith in the workplace. Unfortunately,

this integration of faith and work is not a standard part of seminary education. What's unique about Gotham is that it develops a theology and a worldview that integrates faith and work. In fact, we cover a lot of interesting theology that's not covered in seminary. This focused study on how God works through our careers is very much needed in the church.

## ***DK: What does Gotham contribute to the life of Redeemer?***

JL: Gotham captures people right around that time when they are thinking about whether they should continue in their careers or what the next step is. It's a really critical juncture. It's similar to getting an MBA. You spend some time in the workplace, and you have some understanding of how the industry works and then you get the MBA to help you prepare for the next level.

Gotham is like that for people who want to see their work as part of their Christian calling. It really focuses 24 people in specific industries on how the gospel informs the practice of whatever profession they're in, and I think that's really important. Gotham provides the theological framework within which they can actually develop their theological understanding of what it means to be a Christian banker, business person, lawyer, etc....

## ***DK: To whom would you recommend Gotham?***

JL: I would recommend Gotham to anyone but in particular to people who want to move beyond just thinking superficially about their work. It's a great community and I've really enjoyed getting to know all the other Fellows, yet for me the primary strength of Gotham is that it forces people to think theologically and redemptively about their work. It's impossible in New York City not to think about work, but Gotham helps people who want more than just a job and see their work as their calling and mission and really engage the workplace. The community and spiritual discipleship and Christian growth is amazing but the engagement of the workplace and the idea of public theology is the most unique part of Gotham.

## ***DK: Thanks John. It's been great having you in the group this year.***

Gotham is a unique, nine-month intensive leadership development Fellowship having the goals of 1) theological integration, 2) spiritual development, and 3) community formation. Gotham will open a new season of applications beginning on January 15 and closing on March 31. For all who are interested in this program, please visit our website: [www.gothamfellowship.org](http://www.gothamfellowship.org).

# WHY WORK MATTERS: CFW SUNDAY GOSPEL & CULTURE LECTURES

BY AMILEE WATKINS

How should Christians relate to the culture around us? Should we withdraw from it in ways that will guard our purity? Or should we cozy up to it in ways that are winsome, in hopes of portraying the God whom we know and love as attractive and good? Should we focus on the good in our culture or draw attention to the bad? And, in fact, as we go about our daily lives and the work in which we are engaged, do we fully realize that we are contributing to the culture of the world around us, for better or for worse?

Most of our waking hours are spent doing some type of work—whether it be making strategic decisions in the board room, performing on a stage, raising children, or adding up numbers in an Excel doc. In all of these tasks we have the ability to create or shape culture. Tim Keller has written, “When Christians work in the world, they will either assimilate into the 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.”

To help prepare the Redeemer community for effective engagement with the culture of NYC, the Center for Faith & Work is hosting a monthly Gospel & Culture lecture series to address how



**February 27, 2011**  
ADRIENNE CHAPLIN  
*Art Matters for God's Sake*

**March 20, 2011**  
ROBERT GEORGE  
*Natural Law, God, and Human Dignity*

**April 17, 2011**  
OS GUINNESS  
*Towards a Christian Renaissance*

**May 22, 2011**  
JAMES K.A. SMITH  
*Culture as Liturgy*

the gospel gives purpose and meaning to our work and how the motivations of our hearts affect our service in the world. What must Christians be like in order to counter the sentiment expressed so well by Dorothy Sayers in the mid-1900s that still bears weight today?

*“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.”*

Join us for CFW Sunday on January 30, 2011, starting at 1:00PM in Hunter Auditorium as Tim Keller speaks on *Why Work Matters*. The lectures continue monthly with speakers who have become thought-leaders in this area of gospel and cultural engagement through their writing, teaching, and work in the world.

Our hope is that through these events the church will be awakened to the critical role of work in God’s redemptive plan for all of creation and broaden our understanding of the gospel beyond the walls of the church. All lectures start at 1:00PM at Hunter College, Main Auditorium. FREE and open to all.

This series will culminate in our first ever weekend-long Faith & Work Conference: November 4-5, 2011. Save the Date!

# ARTISTS AND CHURCH: A GOSPEL MOVEMENT

---

BY KENYON ADAMS, ARTS MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Each year hundreds of artists make the move to New York City to pursue their ambitions in creative fields. This opens the door to a lot of unsolicited advice: be sure to have something else to fall back on, give yourself a time limit after which point you should move on to something else, beware of losing your morals in the theater.... But rarely will you hear someone say, "Moving to New York? Get ready for a spiritual awakening!" or "Hey, you should check out this great church there!" Can you imagine if the church in New York became so engaged with artists in the city that being a New York artist was inextricably tied to questions of faith and calling?

On a crisp, autumn morning this November, Maria Fee and I met in the loft space of the Neighborhood Church in the village. Sitting around a breakfast table with artists and pastors from various churches in the city, we talked about how to serve the growing number of artists in our congregations and communities. One pastor wept as he testified to God's faithfulness in making a place again for artists in the church, and explained that he himself had once been an aspiring painter but quit after he became a Christian. At that time, there was no one to help him integrate his faith and his work as an artist.

That morning over breakfast we recounted the names of early contributors to art and faith dialogue: Francis Schaffer, Madeline L'Engle, Hans Rookmaker, Calvin Seerfeld, Colin Harbinson, Nigel Goodwin and

many others who helped to build a bridge theologically and relationally for artists to find a home among Protestant, evangelical churches. We sat together in awe of those who came before us and prayed for the reconciliation of artists and the church. The rapidly growing number of artists in New York City churches and the lay leaders equipped to serve them gives hope to the vision of gospel renewal in and through the arts in New York City.

The church has a unique message of hope for the artist. At Redeemer's Center for Faith & Work, we teach that our artistic work, not just our bodies and souls, could one day be purified and included in the new, eternal city of God. This belief in the eternal significance of our earthly work and bodily life gives the people of God a unique opportunity to speak into the hearts of artists about the one topic that concerns them most, that is, the issue of calling.

Artists, like all people, want their lives to matter. Their work is an expression of their life. Even in an era in which a sense of hopelessness and meaninglessness tends to pervade much artistic expression, I contend that all artists sense or long for an eternal significance in their life and work. One doesn't have to look far beneath the surface of many contemporary art works to find this resonant longing. Perhaps the artist's struggle to make sense of a world that seems caught between the dreaming and the coming true is one way in which the Spirit is working to renew the frayed fabric of culture.

This year Redeemer's Arts

Ministry, several hundred strong, will welcome a host of newcomers to the city at InterArts Fellowship, our quarterly artists' gathering. They come to the city with a sense of calling but, in fact, only the gospel can reveal to them the true nature and context of that calling. Through the gospel, lay leaders, pastors, attendees and church members can give artists in New York a new reason for working. As the people of God, we can lead artists to discover the real story to which they've been drawn, a story that begins in a garden and ends in a city.

It is truly a unique time in which the church could play a major role in the shaping of many artists through their relationships and experiences in the evangelical churches of New York City. The intentional inclusion and care of artists that is becoming commonplace in churches like The Village Church, Trinity Grace Church, Park Slope Presbyterian Church, All Angel's Church, and Resurrection Presbyterian Church is laying the foundation for a movement of the gospel in the arts community through a network of churches that will engage, equip and mobilize artists with a renewed sense of their callings.

Please join Redeemer Arts Ministries in prayer for the artists that God will bring, and the churches that will receive them. Join us as we welcome artists to Redeemer and New York at InterArts Fellowship, January 14th, with recording artist Kelley McRae and Redeemer lead pastor, Rev. John Lin. Learn more at: [faithandwork.org/iaf](http://faithandwork.org/iaf)



1359 BROADWAY  
4TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10018

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

## ERRATUM

An article last month about the change in status of the Lead Pastors from Assistant to Associate Pastors stated that Redeemer had not previously had Associate Pastors. This was an error. Jeff White, Scot Sherman, Terry Gyger and Dick Kauffmann were all Associate Pastors in the past that served Redeemer in that capacity until being decommissioned to do work elsewhere.

## ONLY BELIEVERS OR DISCIPLES?... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

believers but active disciples. Jesus called his apostles to go into all the world, to evangelize and baptize, and the ultimate goal was to produce not merely converts but disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). The word “disciple” is packed with meaning, but it is clear from the New Testament that it meant, first and foremost, students of Jesus. They followed him and learned from him (Luke 10:38-42). Second, it meant putting allegiance to Jesus first in your life (Mark 1:16-20). Lastly, it meant to be a man or woman in mission, sent into the world to minister both in word (Luke 10:1-20) and in deed (Luke 10:25-37), both sharing your faith and

loving your neighbor.

There are advantages as well as disadvantages to every church size. Very large churches provide benefits that small churches cannot, and vice versa. But one of the benefits of a small church is that it cannot function without the ministry of laypeople. There are few or no ministry “professionals” to rely on. It is laymen and women who must teach, evangelize, and disciple others. To do that, they must be well-versed in the Bible and theology, like the elders in Jeremiah 26.

As Redeemer moves forward into first four congregations and then even more, we will be emphasizing more than

ever the importance of members becoming trained in the Bible, theology, and skills for ministry. One thing that will unite the congregations is what will be called Redeemer’s “Pathway”—a series of materials and experiences that can bring a person from being a new believer, through many stages to spiritual maturity as a disciple. “The Gospel in Life” is a great example, but only one, of the kind of courses that will be made available.

Redeemer is blessed with a stellar staff, but “without a broad base of the well-taught in the Word of God” we can’t love and serve the city in the future as we must.