

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

MAY 2011

WHAT DOES BEING A GENERATIVE CHURCH MEAN FOR ME?

BY DAVID BISGROVE & JULIET VEDRAL

The vision of Redeemer has always been to serve the City through the planting and flourishing of scores of churches grounded in the gospel. The most recent iteration of that aspect of the vision took shape in the fall of 2009 during the RENEW Campaign when we talked about Redeemer as a “generative” church.

The word “generative” has the same root as “genesis,” “generate,” and “regenerate.” All have the core meaning of “life-giving.” Being a generative community means that we are a community so overflowing with the hope of the new life that we are regularly inviting our friends, neighbors and colleagues to come and check it out.

How can we begin to practically live that ‘generative’ identity out in our daily lives? We return to two foundational aspects of effective evangelism—hospitality and prayer.

Before I (Juliet) started working at Redeemer, I was a lot like many of you. I had more friends than time and I had a desire for my non-Christian friends to experience how amazing it is to follow Christ. I was the social coordinator for my fellowship group and was tasked with planning fun events. So in order to insure I could see as many friends as possible I started inviting some of my non-Christian friends to our group’s social events. Slowly, after many karaoke outings and

dance parties, some of my fellowship group friends started inviting some of my non-Christian friends to events on their own. And those non-Christian friends would attend—sometimes without me!

Another hospitality-focused outreach initiative is what we call Seeker Groups. These are discussion groups that are primarily for those outside the faith who want to process their doubts and questions about God in general and Christianity in particular. The groups meet in people’s homes and discussions are typically held over food and drinks. My wife and I (David) have been hosting one in our home weekly for the past 18 months. The night of the

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HFNY EASTER OFFERING – THANK YOU!

On behalf of its affiliates that serve New York City’s poor and marginalized, Hope for New York would like to thank all of those who gave sacrificially through the Easter Sacrificial Offering. The funds will be used as direct grants to affiliates to sustain programs and expand

services to the poor. This year, Hope for New York will also distribute technical assistance grants to affiliates in order to increase their capacity to effectively lead and manage their organizations. Hope for New York is committed to strengthening the work of its affiliates.

If you were unable to give on Easter Sunday but would still like to participate in the sacrificial offering, visit www.hfny.org for information on how to give. Again, our deepest thanks to all of you on behalf of all of those we serve.



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HOPE FOR NEW YORK SPRING BENEFIT

On Thursday, May 12 don't miss a lively evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for Hope for New York Young Supporters, featuring music and stories highlighting mercy and justice. For more information visit www.hfny.org/2011-spring-benefit.

NEW LEADERSHIP CLASS MAY 2011

Sundays, May 5, 12, 19, 26

Redeemer Offices, 1359 Broadway, 4th Fl.

Taught by Katherine Leary Alsdorf

Based on the best selling book by Heifetz and Linsky, *Leadership on the Line*, this new leadership class is being offered by the Center for Faith & Work to people who are in leadership roles in their vocational setting or within the church. The class will be particularly valuable if you are leading people through difficult change, even if that change is for good and noble purposes.

We often talk about the power of the gospel to change and renew every aspect of our world. Many of us are in positions to be agents of this change and renewal through our modes of leadership. This class has been offered to groups of church planters for the last four years, helping them to lead their congregations in cities around the world. It is offered for the first time this year to leaders

in the Redeemer congregation on Sundays in May 2011.

Participants need to register online for a fee of \$20 that will cover the cost of the book. We ask that all participants be prepared to read the entire book and commit to at least 3 of the 4 sessions. Space is limited. To reserve a spot email cfw@redeemer.com.

W83 – REMEMBRANCE AND RESTART

About 30 construction workers gathered on the roof of the W83 construction site during their morning break on April 14. The gathering was a short service of remembrance of Brett McEnroe and Roy Powell, the two ironworkers who lost their lives on February 8 while working at the site. Brian Stanton and Rev. Scott Crosby led the service. "We were grateful to have an opportunity to honor Brett and

Roy in this way and it was especially meaningful that so many of their fellow construction workers attended the service," Brian said after the service.

Construction restarted at the site on March 28 after a seven-week delay. Even with the delay, the projected completion date remains January 1, 2012. Approximately 50% of the construction is completed. Interior construction on the third and

fourth floor classrooms and the fifth floor fellowship hall has begun, and the sanctuary balcony construction should begin in the next month. Please continue to pray for the safe and successful completion project so that Redeemer can engage with our community and neighbors on the UWS. Visit the RENEW website for more information: www.renew.redeemer.com

REDEEMER REPORT

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

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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

EI FORUM 2011

What do you think of when you hear the word “passion”?

The Entrepreneurship Initiative chose Passion as its theme for the 2011 Ei Forum partly because of the many connotations “Passion” carries. Our goal for the Forum, which was held on April 8-9, was to help our audience of 265 people—which included entrepreneurs, investors, pastors, and arts and education leaders from across the country—gain a deeper understanding of how their passion for creating culturally-renewing ventures is linked to the passion of Christ.

Catherine Rohr, Friday’s guest speaker, recently launched her second not-for-profit, Defy Ventures, a workforce development program for former gang members in New York City. She expressed how when faced with uncomfortable and messy situations we could either painstakingly embrace them or easily push them away. The gospel compels us to do the former even if it

means suffering and inconveniencing ourselves.

The Forum’s Saturday program continued with three more keynotes—Andy Mills, former CEO of Thomson Financial; Tim Keller; and Yvonne Sawyer, founder of Family & Children Faith Coalition—three breakout sessions, and a showcase of our business plan competition winners. Andy Mills convicted many with the question, “As leaders do we see employees as people or as widgets to produce profits?” Tim put forth the seven deadly sins as a litmus test of sorts to gauge whether “we have passion for ourselves or for God.” And Yvonne Sawyer, who also founded Hope for New York, offered a hopeful reminder to dispense God’s compassion to others, not because we know the outcome, but because we are called to do so.

The Forum introduced a new segment called “Protecting Your Passion: Work and Worship.” Leo Schuster, Tuck Bartholomew, and

David Kim interviewed three leaders to discuss how we worship God in our personal, communal, and work practices.

A highlight of the Forum remains the Ei Business Plan Competition Winners Showcase where our entrepreneurs display their wares and mingle with Forum participants in a tradeshow-like atmosphere. The Forum ended with three practical workshops on social media strategy, creating an elevator pitch, and missional investing, where participants were able to interact with leading industry experts.

This year’s Forum enabled participants to share their passion with others, creating a rousing atmosphere of fellowship. Do you have a passion to do something new, to create, or to invest in and serve others in a way that seeks shalom? If so, consider being part of this growing movement. Please contact us at Ei@Redeemer.com and visit:

www.faithandwork.org/eiforum.

A NEW KIND OF CONGREGATION MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 15 – TWO LOCATIONS

Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City will meet Sunday, May 15 immediately following the morning service at Ethical Culture Society. The meeting will continue immediately following the morning service at Hunter College Auditorium. **This will be our first-ever “rolling” meeting in two different locations, convening after the morning service**

on the west side and adjourning after the meeting is completed on the east side. Members can choose to attend either meeting, as the same agenda will be presented at both meeting times. Both quorum and voting will be cumulative. We will meet for the following:

- 1) Election of Officers
- 2) Election of a Trustee
- 3) Financial Report

- 4) Proposed Change to the Certificate of Incorporation
- 5) Update on Transition to 4 Redeemers

Please Note: the Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America does not permit proxy voting. No other business will be conducted. Childcare will be provided at both locations.



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GENERATIVE CHURCH... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

first group meeting we weren't sure if anyone would show up. After the last person left our apartment that night, following what had been a lively discussion with many unanswered questions, we looked at each other and said—"We have to pray right now!"

The people in our group have taught us so much about our God and ourselves. They have shown us love and grace and enriched our lives. And despite the fact that several people continue to resist Christianity, they keep returning week in and week out. Why? I think at least in some part it is because we have made room in our lives for them.

John Piper, summed up the importance of hospitality this way:

When we practice hospitality we experience the thrill of feeling God's power conquer our fears and our stinginess and all the psychological gravity of our self-centeredness. And there are

few joys, if any, greater than the joy of experiencing the liberating power of God's hospitality making us a new and radically different kind of people, who love to reflect the glory of his grace as we extend it to others in all kinds of hospitality.

We have also developed initiatives that are based on prayer. In the fall of 2008, in partnership with the Prayer ministry, The Well was launched with the intention of recapturing the type of outward faced prayer that was part of Redeemer's earliest days. The Well takes place on Friday evenings from 10:00 p.m. until midnight and includes prayer and worship that is focused on allowing God to make the gospel more real to us and to our friends. The event quickly took on a life of its own and has been the catalyst for several smaller "mini-Wells" that meet and pray for seeking friends at least twice a month. There have

also been groups of people who have gotten together to walk through and pray for the neighborhoods where the four congregations will be located.

These are just a few examples of the many types of activities that exist, both formally and informally, within our community that have a 'generative' character to them. As the Redeemer community looks to the future it is our hope that we become increasingly known as a community that regularly prays for, and joyfully extends the hope and beauty of the gospel to our friends and neighbors. When we, as a church community live distinctively and missionally in this manner, we will see the gospel touching lives in every aspect of our ministry all over the city—a generative church moving out into every neighborhood of the city with the hope of the gospel through each of us.