

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

AUGUST 2011

## THE LAY MINISTRY DYNAMIC

BY TIM KELLER

The growth of a big passive ‘middle’ happens to all churches as they grow larger. This growth in passivity weakens what I will call the “lay ministry dynamic.” That dynamic happens when a significant percentage of Christians engage in lay ministry “behaviors” because they are trained and coached—informally and personally—by the pastors and staff of the church. These lay ministry behaviors result in many new people, including many people without faith, being brought by Christian friends into the services and life of the church community.

I believe that it is in the collegiate model, in which congregations are led by lead pastors and their pastoral teams, that Redeemer has an opportunity to renew and strengthen that lay ministry dynamic. The highest priority is to again draw a significant percentage of church members into active ministry of the gospel with their relationships in the city. At the heart of the RENEW Campaign, we said that we

were sending our lay people out into their neighborhoods to serve and reach their friends for Christ. We are reorganizing Redeemer into a network of neighborhood-based, generative congregations. Outreach and evangelism is on the front burner in this model, as is lay-driven ministry and evangelism. Redeemer began more as a “go and share” church, but evolved into more of a “come and see” church—come and hear the music, come see the masses of people, come listen to the teaching, come profit from the programs. Now we are going back from “come and see” to “go and share.”

Here are some examples of the kind of ‘lay ministry’ we want our people to be doing:

- Catherine prays for her friend Megan for months. Megan responds well to two short books on Christian subjects that Catherine has given her. Finally she invites and takes Megan to an evangelistic event in which Christian truth is presented. On the

way home she fields Megan’s questions.

- Jack and Jill help their two sons, age 5 and 7, to do Scripture memory and learn a simple catechism. They field questions and help the boys understand what the texts mean.
- Fred has been going to a small group for months. At one point he realizes that he assesses the value of the group strictly on what he gets out of it. Instead, he begins to go each week by preparing well (studying the passage) and praying for the group. When he comes, he looks for every opportunity to help the Bible study leader by making good contributions, and for ways to speak the truth in love so that others are encouraged and helped to grow.
- Jim and Cynthia are both artists and are part of city wide Christian artists’

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# (100) PRAYER WALKS OF SUMMER

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BY JOHN LIN

This summer, members of our congregation have been holding prayer walks all over the city. This has been part of our Neighborhood Prayer Initiative, to pray for the peace and prosperity of New York City. As of this writing, two walks have already been completed and nine more have been scheduled. To do one all you need is 15 minutes and a friend and then pray on location for a certain neighborhood—and if you like, you can pin point the cross streets of your prayer walk and invite others at: [www.redeemer.com/summerprayer](http://www.redeemer.com/summerprayer).

So why should someone do a prayer walk and why now? With Redeemer's recommitment to being a church for the city, we took the Psalmist's admonition to "...pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.' For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, 'Peace be within you.'" (Psalm 122:6-8).

Prayer walks deepen our roots in the communities in which we live, work and play

and they deepen our love and appreciation for the city. Given our church's transition from one large centralized congregation to four neighborhood-based congregations, we're hoping that those who participate in a prayer walk will also use it as an opportunity to pray for the congregation that will be in that part of the city and for the ministry it will be doing there.

Our goal is to see 100 prayer walks conducted by September 1. Help us cover this city in prayer. All you need is 15 minutes and a friend.

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## THE LAY MINISTRY DYNAMIC

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fellowship that is based in their local church. The fellowship is usually a discussion of the relationship of faith to art that assumes a Christian belief, but the artists have four events a year that will be either a gallery showing or a book event in which some very respectable artist gets a chance to talk about how his or her faith relates to their art to a general audience. Jim and Cynthia are very diligent in bring-

ing non-Christian artists or art-appreciators to these events.

Notice that not all of these examples are directly evangelistic. Some are instances of the encouragement and building up of new believers, some are ways of spurring Christians on to greater growth in Christ, and others are cases of helping believers address particular problems in their lives. Nevertheless, each example is **every-member-gospel ministry**. That

is, each example is a) *organic*—it is ministry that happens spontaneously, outside the organized programs of the church (even when making use of formal programs). b) *Relational*—it is ministry using informal, personal relationships. c) *Word deploying*—it is ministry of prayerfully bringing the Bible and gospel into connection with people's lives. d) *Active, not passive*. Each person in these examples assumes personal responsibility for

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### REDEEMER REPORT

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Cregan Cooke  
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

# HOPE FOR NEW YORK MENTORS

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**H**ope for New York partners with key organizations that serve the children and youth of our city. Here is a story of how a HFNY volunteer is making a difference in the life of a teenager:

*My name is Scott, and I have been a mentor at Morris Academy, located in the South Bronx, for the past six years. This program has forced me to step out of my self-entitled bubble. It has also drawn me closer to my relationship with Jesus.*

*After college I came to New York for a job in finance. I began attending Redeemer the summer of 2005 and heard a personal testimony from a HFNY volunteer. Following the service, I introduced myself to the volunteers from Morris Academy at the HFNY volunteer fair.*

*The purpose of the Morris Academy mentor program is for young professionals to create a one on one relationship with a high school student. As a mentor, you*

*enter these students' lives in one of the most impressionable times: high school.*

*My very first phone call to Pedro lasted about 4 minutes. I slowly earned his trust and respect by consistently attending all mentor sessions, showing an interest in his life, and opening up my world to him. Over two years we'd go to movies, baseball games, and even spend many Sunday evenings in my office downtown working on college applications.*

*He received a full ride scholarship to Stony Brook University and will be a senior this year. Our conversations are real and have touched on real life issues; drugs, gangs, sex, abortion, and yes, even menopause. I'll be honest, I didn't have much advice about menopause. As mentors we are to meet the students wherever they are in their lives and walk with them through challenges and hardships—much like Jesus walks with us.*

*I have learned that these students can see through you. They*

*can spot those who are genuine, loyal, and real. What makes it all worthwhile is getting a call from Pedro at work and hearing his voice filled with energy and joy upon learning he was accepted to his first-choice college. It's worth playing basketball in a run-down gym in the Bronx with kids who play in their jeans and dress shoes because they love the game.*

*God has changed me and brought life to me through this program. God has increased my faith; he has shown me how important consistency, commitment, and keeping your word are in relationships. I believe this fight is worth it, to get involved is worth it, to serve these mentees is worth it.*

Make an impact in the lives of children or teens by signing up to be a mentor for the 2011-2012 school year. Contact [savina@hfny.org](mailto:savina@hfny.org) for more information and mark your calendars for the Hope for New York Volunteer Fair on September 25.

## SAVE THE DATE: REDEEMER CITY TO CITY OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

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How do you reach Johannesburg (or Paris? or Buenos Aires? or Hong Kong?) without leaving Manhattan? Find out on September 29 at Redeemer City to City's Open House. Please save the date and plan to join us. Everyone's invited.

More info to come later in August at: [www.redeemercitytocity.com](http://www.redeemercitytocity.com)

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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BY HEATHER TRUSSELL, DEACONESS

*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*

— Matthew 18:20

It didn't take me long, after becoming a member of the Diaconate\* two years ago, to realize that serving on this ministry of mercy is quite a faith building experience, both for those we work with and for us deeks (our affectionate term for deacons and deaconesses). Walking with care recipients through what may very well be the most difficult, challenging period of their life is humbling, and it never ceases to amaze me how open people are about their circumstances and struggles.

My fellow deeks and I are able to experience this on a weekly basis during what is commonly referred to as DUF—Deeks Up Front—the time after Redeemer's Sunday services when we position ourselves near the stage to be available to congregants for

prayer and question answering.

The opportunity to pray with people, many of whom I've never met before, about matters close to their hearts is a privilege. Because God's Word is so broad and deep, invariably the Scripture passage and sermon points from that Sunday address the issue the congregant is dealing with. To talk and pray with the congregant about how the Bible speaks to his or her particular situation makes God's Word even more real and applicable to that individual. The impact of prayer is such that, in a matter of minutes, the mood turns from despair to hope; anxiety to peace; sorrow to joy—and that is not only for the congregant but for me as well. I find that as I pray for another's needs the Lord ministers to me and gives me godly insight into my

own needs.

Every so often DUF comes full circle, so to speak, when someone I've previously prayed for gives me an update on the situation we prayed about. It's so encouraging to hear how the Lord worked in that person's life. I am thankful Redeemer leadership includes DUF as part of each Sunday and that I can be a part of this particular way in which Redeemer serves its congregation.

*\*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.*

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## THE LAY MINISTRY DYNAMIC

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

being a producer rather than only a consumer of ministry. For example, even though Fred continues to come to the small group as he always has, his mindset changed and he transformed from being a passive consumer of ministry to an active producer of ministry. Yes, direct evangelistic ministry is only one piece of this, but it will grow as every member Word ministry grows.

### **Lay Ministry Behaviors**

Above is a set of brief case studies. Here is a more distilled set of what we will call "lay ministry behaviors." This is not the same as 'lay leadership' in which your leaders have a job or responsibility in the church. It's possible to have a duty as a volunteer but not contribute to every-member-gospel ministry. That consists of behaviors like the following. Notice that

seven out of ten do not require as much knowledge as courage and compassion. Your lay people will carry them out if they feel empowered to do so through pastoral contact.

- 1 Let others know of your Christian faith and activities in natural ways (e.g. talking casually about church attendance and events).

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# FEELING FINANCIALLY HEALTHY?

BY HOWARD FREEMAN, SR. DIRECTOR OF GENEROSITY

The National Retail Federation (NRF) reported that retail sales in May increased for the 11th straight month and during that period displayed a total retail spending increase of 5%. And while employment in NYC has improved, the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers (CPI-U) also experienced its largest increase last month since July 2008 (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 15, 2011 release).

Are we thanking God for the improvement in our economy? And, are we being grateful for the generosity he shows us? The story of Jesus healing the ten lepers comes to mind (Luke 17:11-19).

Jesus encounters ten men with leprosy who cry out to be healed. He is willing and tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they travel, they find they are healed. Only one returns, however, to thank Jesus and praise God, and the gospel writer Luke makes a point of identifying him as a Samaritan. Jesus, too, remarks that only 'this foreigner' has returned to give praise to God. He commends the man for his faith.

Two things strike me. First, the majority of us will forget that our healing or blessing was a pure gift, unmerited by our activities, and we will forget this quickly. Second, it's possible that the household of God

will largely constitute those who forget, while the 'foreigner' is the one person who remembers and is commended for having faith. The Samaritan was not a Jew from Galilee; nevertheless, he praised a common 'God' for what Jesus had done for him.

As *we* are healed of economic hardship, let us remember to come back before God to give him praise. Our healing is a gift, unmerited but rather willed to us by a loving God. So whether it's our finances, our marriage, or our workplace, our 'health' is attributable to God and we should acknowledge him forthrightly as the only true source of wellness.

## THE LAY MINISTRY DYNAMIC (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

- 2 Ask questions about other people's beliefs and experiences with faith and church and simply listen appreciatively and sympathetically.
- 3 Describe briefly and naturally how you process some difficult personal problem—some misfortune or some mistreatment—by using your faith to help you get strength or grant forgiveness.
- 4 Offer to pray regularly for a friend, neighbor, or colleague who is facing a challenging situation.
- 5 Share your spiritual 'narrative'—your testimony of Christian experience.
- 6 Offer books or recordings about Christian issues and discuss them.
- 7 Initiate a discussion about a friends' biggest problem or objection to Christianity.
- 8 Invite friends to venues where they meet believers but don't listen to gospel communication.
- 9 Offer and then read a part of the Bible together—preferably one of the gospels—to discuss the character of Jesus.
- 10 Invite friends to venues where they hear the gospel communicated. (#8 may be more intense/demanding for the Christian than #9, but for many non-believers, #8 is less intense/demanding than #9—going to some Christian event.)
- 11 Share the basics of the Christian faith with your friend, lay out how to become a Christian, and invite them to make a commitment.

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## THE LAY MINISTRY DYNAMIC (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

When 15-30% of a congregation's lay people are engaged in this kind of 'lay ministry,' this organic, relational, lay gospel ministry, it creates a power-

ful dynamism that infuses the whole church. Encouraging and supporting lay ministry of this nature is crucial for us as we launch the four Redeemers.

The Catalyst event below is a great way to equip yourself for every-member-gospel ministry I encourage every Redeemer attender to participate.

**Catalyst**  
THROUGH WORK  
IN WITNESS  
IN COMMUNITY  
IN THE HEART  
IN THE CITY  
ACTIVATING PEOPLE FOR MINISTRY

Look for information at [redeemer.com](http://redeemer.com) in September on how to get involved in this vital new initiative. Catalyst is designed to equip Redeemer members and attenders for contextual ministry in the city. Participants, led by their Lead Pastors, will join others in their congregation to engage with Redeemer's theology of ministry through the *Gospel [in] Life* curriculum and innovate new ways for their congregation to do ministry in the city. It is our prayer that Catalyst will inspire hundreds of people from each of our congregations to do richer, broader and intentionally creative lay ministry for the city.