

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

FEBRUARY 2012

## WHY CONVERSION AND REVIVAL ARE BIBLICAL

BY TIM KELLER

As I sat looking at my computer screen at the title I'd written for this article, I was somewhat bemused by the fact that a defense of conversion and revival was even necessary. But so it is. There are quarters of the church now questioning whether or not conversion, the new birth, giving oneself to Christ, etc., are topics that should even be raised. Conversion, and its corporate expression, revival, are thought to be manifestations of Western individualistic thinking. Better simply to call people to join the life of the Body of

Christ by inviting them to be baptized and share in the community of believers.

While certainly acknowledging the taint of individualism which has infected the modern church, it seems to me undeniable that the scriptures have always used the language of "both...and" rather than "either...or" as regards individual conversion, revival and community life.

Just as a reminder to myself, I went through some key passages regarding this topic. I want to share them with you as a "pastoral preventative," lest

anyone lead you astray on this subject. Good writers and preachers, who I respect when they speak on other subjects such as the resurrection, have, I believe, taken a wrong turning in pitting corporate Body Life against revival and conversion.

### A brief Biblical theology of revival:

#### • *Revival and conversion*

Revival does not only consist of the renewal of true believers, it also consists of the conversion of those

*(Continued on page 6)*

## DON'T WALK BY: SERVE THE HOMELESS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Don't Walk By is the fourth annual Rescue Alliance outreach to the homeless in NYC sponsored by Hope for New York. The Rescue Alliance is a partnership of faith-based ministries that are focused on offering homeless men, women and children an

alternative to living on the streets.

Each Saturday this February volunteers will fan out across Manhattan on a search and rescue mission for the homeless. Volunteers will cover every street and subway platform to compassionately engage the

homeless and offer every single person a warm meal, clothing, medical care, and shelter for the night, among other practical resources.

Consider being a part of this outreach and serve the homeless in your neighborhood!

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# TOP REASONS WHY YOU MIGHT NOT APPLY TO THE GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP— AND WHY YOU SHOULD ANYWAY

BY KC HUDSON

Perhaps you're friends with an alum of the Gotham Fellowship and thought it sounded interesting. Or maybe you went through the Catalyst program and have a desire to learn even more. Or it could be you are just looking for ways to get more involved in Redeemer, like I was last February. Regardless, you're interested enough in the program to consider applying—you've watched the videos, you've read the bios of the current fellows, and you've glanced at the application.

And yet you still have doubts. Well, you're not alone. After talking with some other fellows, here are common doubts during the application process and reasons why you should ignore them.

**Application Essays.** Sure, 10+ essays sounds like a lot, but it also gives you the opportunity to reflect on your personal history and faith. And this isn't a grad school application—you can and should be yourself!

**Time Commitment.** I'm not going to lie—Gotham is a major time commitment. Not

only do you spend several hours a week on readings and devotionals, but the weekly and monthly commitments are all but mandatory. The flip side? You actually enjoy investing time in Gotham—both individual readings and with the Gotham community.



Gothamites huddled at Jonathan Edward's grave.

**Cost.** Please, please don't let the cost stop you from applying. The Center for Faith & Work offers need-based scholarships and this experience is truly priceless. There's really no amount of money that is too much for the training you will receive while going through the program.

**Intimidation Factor.** Doctors who volunteer their precious free time at the free clinic? Lawyers who tirelessly fight

international human trafficking? Artists who donate their gifts and talents raising money for the homeless? All of whom went to Ivy League schools and are incredibly clever and annoyingly beautiful. You've read the bios and that doesn't describe you. Don't worry, me either. Going through Gotham, however, gives you the chance to uncover the meaning in your own workplace, empowering you to imagine ways your profession can be—and is—renewed and redeemed.

There are plenty of reasons why NOT to apply to Gotham, but the main point is that you SHOULD.

The opportunity to deepen your knowledge and discuss something as personal as your faith with like-minded people does not come along everyday. In a city where there is no shortage of competition for your time, join some fellow New Yorkers in the conversation around how to make the Gospel the center of your being. It just might change your life.

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## REDEEMER REPORT

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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

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# W83 MINISTRY CENTER OPENS MARCH 4!

The opening of our new building is just around the corner! We are excited to announce the following events to celebrate the opening of Redeemer's W83 Ministry Center.

**February 28: Dedication & Open House**

**February 29: Dedication & Open House**

**March 4: Worship Services at W83 – 9:15AM, 11:15AM, 5:00PM, & 7:00PM**

Please check the status of these events to confirm that construction is completed as scheduled: [www.redeemer.com/W83/opening](http://www.redeemer.com/W83/opening)

## NEW! 2012 FAITH AND WORK NIGHTS

BY AMILEE WATKINS

For eight years the Center for Faith & Work has focused on equipping the people of Redeemer with gospel-centered worldviews of their vocations, connecting our congregants with others working in similar fields via vocation groups, and mobilizing the community in gospel-driven cultural renewal throughout this city.

As a church we will continue our focus on holistic integration of the gospel in our Monday through Saturday lives, while still allowing space for new inward-facing initiatives that serve our community. Thanks to the new W83 building, CFW can rethink how we meet as vocation groups and support faith/work leadership while at the same time serving the distinctive congregations.

Beginning in February all 17 of the current Redeemer vocation groups will meet on the last Monday of each month

at the new building. The beauty of meeting all together on the same night each month is three fold:

1. *Practically:* The calendar is simplified! We hope that this will enable fellowship groups, spouses, friends, and roommates to attend together rather than having multiple nights of divided schedules. Mondays at Redeemer have traditionally

will continue creating and leading the vocational break-outs as they take the truths of the gospel and challenge one another with applications within their respective fields.

3. *Missionally:* While attendees of vocation groups share the commonality of vocation, they live, work, and serve throughout the entire city. Maintaining the centrality of

Redeemer's faith & work focus builds vital relationships citywide and allows the potential for the greatest gospel-impact on a broad scale as organic opportunities to mobilize arise.

The Center for Faith & Work, as a central ministry serving all of Redeemer, looks forward to supporting each congregation and working alongside David, John, & Leo.

We hope that whether you are an established part of CFW or a curious newcomer you will join us for our monthly Faith & Work Night.

### 2012 Faith & Work Nights

The last Monday night of the month:  
February 27, March 26, April 30, May 21  
at Redeemer W83 St. Building

been reserved for "all-church" events, thus we hope not to conflict with fellowship groups. Additionally, sharing resources of space, food, and time makes good economical sense as we consider wise stewardship in the coming year.

2. *Theologically:* CFW can provide a time of common equipping and training led by the pastors of Redeemer. The 100+ vocation group leaders

# CATALYST LABS: INNOVATING NEW LAY-DRIVEN MINISTRIES FOR THE CITY

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BY ABE CHO

One of the guiding principles that grew out of the Reformation was “*reformat-a semper reformandi*” which means “Reformed, yet always reforming.” The idea was that the reformation and biblical renewal of the church was not a one-time event, but an ongoing work.

This means that as we seek to be the church in the world, we cannot be satisfied with past successes. Instead we must, in a continual process of self-examination, repentance and reform, seek to return again and again to the call of faithfully embodying the changeless truths of Scripture in our constantly changing contexts. This, in large measure, is the theological foundation for

Redeemer’s Catalyst Labs.

Catalyst Labs is a half-day innovation process that will take place in the new W83rd Street building on dates to be announced (waiting for the green light to use the building). It is designed to engage our congregants in generating new, lay-driven ministries that will provide fresh, new ways of being the church in our neighborhoods. It will be a unique opportunity for Catalyst participants, equipped with Redeemer’s theology of ministry through *Gospel in Life*, to produce new ministries and to lead the way in designing and implementing them together. As is so often the case, some of the best ideas come not from the top, but from the

grassroots.

But Catalyst Labs is not the end of activating and empowering lay ministry; it’s just the beginning. It is our hope that as we renew and extend Redeemer’s vision into our collegial congregations, we will continue to nourish a culture where lay people are equipped and empowered to generate new ministries for the city. Catalyst will end, but our hope is that the change and the renewal will not.

So, if you are a Catalyst participant, don’t miss out on Catalyst Labs, an exciting moment that marks the beginning of a new chapter of our church—“Reformed yet always reforming.”

## REDEEMER REPORT PAPER SUBSCRIBERS: PLEASE TAKE NOTE

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Redeemer is making every attempt to be better stewards of its resources and we need your help. With the delivery of the April 2012 Redeemer Report, subscribers with an email address connected to their account will be moved to the digital version of the monthly newsletter. If you do not have an email address connected to your account, and you currently receive the Redeemer Report in paper form via postal delivery, or you just want to continue receiving

a paper copy, there are two options:

*Redeemer Supporters can request an annual subscription:*

If you are a Redeemer supporter (have a recorded gift in the last 12 months) and you wish to remain a paper subscriber, you need only call (917) 206-1386 and speak to Jerry or send us an email at [newsletter@redeemer.com](mailto:newsletter@redeemer.com) and give us your latest mailing address to keep your status as “postal delivery.”

*Pay an Annual Subscription Fee:*

If you do not support Redeemer, but wish to continue receiving a paper copy, you can purchase an annual paper subscription through the Redeemer store for \$12 at [www.redeemer.com/newslettersub](http://www.redeemer.com/newslettersub) or mail a check for \$12 to: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, **1359 Broadway, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018**. Please write “Newsletter subscription” on the ‘memo’ line.

# WEST SIDE MORNING TIME & LOCATION CHANGES: FEBRUARY 19 & 26

Due to a delay in receiving power to the W83 building, a temporary time and location change is necessary for the West Side morning services on:

**February 19 at 8:30AM at First Baptist Church\***

**February 26 at 8:30AM at First Baptist Church\***

\*Please note there will be no refreshments/fellowship time, book table, sermons or info center, and limited childcare provided at the West Side morning service on these dates. All other services in February will be held at their regular times and locations.

Beginning March 4, West Side services will be held at: 9:15AM, 11:15AM, 5:00PM, and 7:00PM in our new facility at 150 West 83rd Street.

## HFNY VOLUNTEER FAIR: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Hope for New York's Volunteer Fairs provide a unique opportunity for Redeemer attendees to meet the volunteers and staff of HFNY's affiliate organizations. Mark your calendars for our upcoming fair following Redeemer worship services on Sunday, February 26 and learn how you can serve the poor and marginalized in New York City.

Here is a story of how a volunteer has connected with her community on the Upper West Side as a result of serving with a HFNY affiliate organization:

*On Sunday evenings, I arrive at All Angels and work with my jovial friend Ralph to set up tables and prepare food. All Angels is a small church on the west side, but what they do there is overwhelmingly beautiful. They host a meal every Sunday, without*

*fail, for anyone that comes to worship. In addition, they run "Our Place Café" which is a gospel-centered, peer-driven, supportive community café for men and women experiencing homelessness, addiction, and/or mental health challenges.*

*Approximately 100 hungry guests come through our buffet line. It's wonderful to see familiar faces each week and speak with them about how things are going.*

*This volunteer experience has made me more sensitive to my community. There is a man who sits outside of my local Food Emporium with his dog. He's been there for years; a quiet man watching the passersby and saying hello. He has never asked for me for anything, but I find myself stopping by on my way to work*

*to make sure he's out of the cold or rain.*

*Now that I am involved in outreach with All Angels, I can invite him to come in out of the cold, worship and take advantage of some of the services of this wonderful program.*

Hope for New York partners with over 30 high-impact organizations that are making a difference in our neighborhoods. Whether you're looking to serve the elderly or the homeless, once a month or once a week, in a group or individually, there are many ways for you to get involved and help bring renewal to our city. So mark February 26 on your calendars for the HFNY Volunteer Fair! For more information, please visit [www.hfny.org](http://www.hfny.org)



within the covenant community who are only nominal believers. The prophets preach to the circumcised—full members of the covenant outwardly—yet call them to inner conversion: “Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts” (Jeremiah 4:4; cf. Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6; Joel 2:13). In the New Testament, too, it’s possible to be baptized and part of the Christian community and still have a heart ‘not right before God,’ needing conversion. (Acts 8:13, 21–23). Revivals mean stagnant Christians come alive and nominal Christians get converted.

## • *Revival and inner reality*

In Ephesians 3:18ff Paul prays for his readers that the Spirit would “*strengthen you with power in your inner being.*” For what? “*So that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith*” and so we may know “*the love of Christ... that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*” But elsewhere Paul says all Christians already have Christ indwelling them (Ephesians 2:22) and already have come to fullness in him (Colossians 2:9–10).

This must mean that while these things are objectively true of Christians, the Spirit can make these truths so spiritually real and affecting to the heart it

influences how we live. He wants us not just to know the fact of Christ’s love, but to have *power...to grasp* the infinity and wonder of it (Ephesians 3:18–19).

This is what happens so often in the New Testament when “the fullness of the Spirit” is mentioned. The truth begins to shine out and we hear in our hearts, “you are my beloved” (Romans 8:16; cf. Luke 3:21–22), and it revolutionizes us, making us effective as ambassadors of his kingdom.

## • *Revival and being ‘filled with the Spirit’*

On the day of Pentecost the disciples were “*filled with the Holy Spirit*” and preached the Word of God so boldly that there were many conversions (Acts 2:4ff). This event is in many ways unique—there is no other account in the Bible of all listeners hearing a sermon in their own language (Acts 2:11) nor of visible tongues of flame.

Nevertheless, we read of situations in which the Christians were again ‘filled with the Spirit’ so that their community life and outreach was empowered (Acts 4:7–33; 13:9,49–52). David Peterson says in this context the term ‘filled with the Spirit’: “*suggests a further endowment of the Spirit for boldness in proclamation... a fresh filling of the Spirit so that with great power they were*

*able to continue their work of testifying to the resurrection...*” [Peterson, D. G. (2009). *The Acts of the Apostles*. The Pillar New Testament commentary] As in the Old Testament we still see that God’s response to prayer and persecution is the sending of the Spirit to revive individuals and churches.

## • *Revival and the cycles of decline*

The books of Judges, Kings, and Chronicles depict constant cycles of decline and revival. In Judges the cycle starts when the Israelites assimilate to the pagan culture around them. The result is some kind of suffering that leads them to return to God in repentance. God responds by sending leaders who spark a revival. (Judges 2:11–20 lays out the pattern. Judges 10:6–16 is a particularly clear presentation of it.)

The cycle continues under the kings (see 2 Kings 23 and 2 Chronicles 34.) Nevertheless, the revivals grew fewer and weaker until the destruction of Jerusalem (2 Kings 22:15–19).

Thus the Psalms contain prayers to ‘revive us’ and ‘restore us’ (e.g. Psalms 85, 126.) New Testament churches can go through a cycle of decline and revival too; Christ calls the Ephesian church to ‘return to your first love’ (Revelation 2:1–7).

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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS UPDATE

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As Redeemer members you have the privilege and important responsibility to nominate and elect your fellow members to serve on the Session and the Diaconate. This past November the Session and Diaconate accepted nominations for the roles of elder, deacon and deaconess. Thank you for sending in your nominations! The following members have been nominated and have begun the process of training and evaluation.

## ***West Side Congregation Nominees***

Max Anderson (Elder)  
Christian Becker (Elder)  
Kevin Feltes (Deacon)  
Julie Ford (Deaconess)  
Robert Highsmith (Deacon)  
Christine Kim (Deaconess)  
Suzy Knapp (Deaconess)  
Tim Knapp (Elder)  
Chris Knott-Craig (Deacon)  
Lisa Ortiz (Deaconess)  
Monica Philipppo (Deaconess)  
Joe Ricci (Elder)  
Mary Jane Sobel (Deaconess)  
James Vanreusel (Deacon)

## ***Downtown Congregation Nominees***

Lindsay Koch (Deaconess)  
Adam Thiesen (Deacon)  
Webb Younce (Elder)

## ***East Side Congregation Nominees***

Linda Brooke (Deaconess)  
Abby Coutant (Deaconess)  
Aeyoung Yoo (Deaconess)  
Eric Yoon (Elder)

Please pray for these nominees as they go through training in theology and ministry skills and prepare for their interviews. They will be evaluated on their character, Christian life and experience, theological understanding, and giftedness and readiness to serve the church as an elder or deacon/ess. Our current elders will then determine which individuals will be presented for election at the May congregational meeting. If you have questions about the nomination, evaluation and training process, please contact Jenny Chang at (917) 206-1407 or [jenny@redeemer.com](mailto:jenny@redeemer.com).

## CONVERSION AND REVIVAL... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

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### • ***Revival and spiritual forgetting***

Israel constantly “forgets” the great salvation they had received from God (Deuteronomy 8:11, 14,19; 25:11; cf. Joshua 4:20-24).

Peter warns that it is possible for Christians to become ‘near-sighted’—“forgetting they have been cleansed from their past sins.” (2 Peter 1:9) Peter does not mean that

Christians literally forget that they have been forgiven, but (as the context shows) that the spiritual reality of that forgiveness is not bearing fruit in their lives. There is a need to continually renew the spiritual remembrance of our salvation.

The point of this article is not so that you (or I) can win arguments with those of a dif-

ferent persuasion. Christians throwing theological brickbats at one another is only amusing the Evil One. Rather, we should move forward positively to seek revival in our own lives and churches and to joyfully share the Gospel with those who do not yet know Christ. Changed lives and changed community will both glorify God and fill us with the joy unspeakable.



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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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Dear Friends,

Because the economic climate remains challenging, your financial generosity as a congregation to Redeemer's ministry is all the more impressive to me, and I couldn't be more grateful for it.

I want to thank you to your strong support in December, when we received \$2.7 million in year-end gifts bringing our annual giving for 2011 to \$10.8 million.

As many of you know, however, we needed to receive approximately \$3.4 million in December to meet our 2011 giving goal of \$11.5 million. This gap of approximately \$700,000 was primarily due to lower giving in the first half of

the year. To offset this, the staff managed to control our expenses so that we did not run a deficit for the year, and we did not need to dip into our reserves. I continue to be so grateful for their wisdom and resourcefulness in the stewardship of the Lord's resources.

While we fell short of our budgeted goal this year, we are thankful that so many continue to faithfully and sacrificially support Redeemer's vision and ministry. I was so encouraged that in the last half of the year, as we began preparing ourselves for the next stage in our life together through Catalyst, prayer, preaching, and worship, our community's generosity

grew markedly and helped us finish the year strongly.

I am looking forward to seeing how God will use our three congregations and our Lead Pastors to bring gospel renewal to more of our neighbors around the city. While we are challenged with the additional costs associated with becoming a collegiate church, your support has enabled us to move forward with a confidence that we will indeed be able to serve more and more of our city. Thank you!

As God works through each of our congregations, I can't wait to see what is ahead for Redeemer in 2012.

Warmly,  
Tim Keller

## DONT WALK BY... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

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Don't Walk By will take place in on Saturdays in February in Uptown, Upper West Side,

Upper East Side and Downtown. So bundle up, grab a friend, and sign up to volun-

teer at <http://hfny.org/dont-walk-by-2012/>