

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

MARCH 2012

MOVING IN

BY DAVID BISGROVE

“The word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” – John 1:1 (The Message)

“Redeemer has been a part of the UWS neighborhood for a long time. Over 2600 of our members and attenders live in the UWS zipcodes of 10023, 10024, and 10025. In 1999 we began worship services on the UWS... On March 4th Redeemer will open its W83rd Ministry Center on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. This event represents the culmination of a decision made in 2005 to develop a community center with worship space. The rationale was simple. Not only would having access to space 24/7 enhance our ability to serve the needs of Redeemer’s growing congregation, but it would allow us to ‘move into the neighborhood’ in a more tangible and visible way.

As we prepare to celebrate this amazing new chapter in

the life of our community, it is the hope and prayer of the staff and leaders that the entire Redeemer community will experience it as an extension of the incarnation of Jesus. That means a number of things: First, that we will always be prepared to joyfully lay down our lives for one another, our UWS neighbors and our City. Second, with incarnation comes the responsibility and privilege to be not only the hands and feet of Christ, caring for the poor in spirit and poor in capital, but also his voice. When we speak to our neighbors, greeting them, answering their questions, offering our

help, I pray that it will be in the spirit of the One who was meek and lowly.

Last, incarnation means vulnerability. If Jesus had stayed safe in heaven we would have been lost. But he came and experienced rejection, betrayal, misunderstanding, and all the ills that human beings can visit on one another so that we could have new lives. If we find ourselves misunderstood or think we are being treated even with a lack of courtesy, consider it a privilege.

Redeemer has been a part of the UWS neighborhood for a long time. Over 2600 of our
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RACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

John Piper and Tim Keller, two white pastor-scholars who think we should be talking about race, will discuss ‘Race and the Christian’ at the Ethical Culture Society on Wednesday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. Speaking from their expe-

riences ministering in multi-ethnic urban contexts for a combined 60 years, they will examine the individual and structural roots of racism and make a case for the pursuit of ethnic harmony from a gospel perspective. Their conversation

will be moderated by Anthony Bradley, Professor at King’s College and author of *Black and Tired*.

Crossway, the publisher of John Piper’s *Bloodlines: Race, Cross and the Christian* (2011),
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INSIDE: • 2012 EI FORUM: RE-IMAGINE POWER • RESTAURANT NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION
• CALLED TO CARRY ONE ANOTHER’S BURDENS • THE ART OF RESURRECTION AND THE RESURRECTION OF ART
• RACE AND THE CHRISTIAN • WELCOME (BACK!) JEFF WHITE • AND MORE...

2012 Ei FORUM: RE-IMAGINE POWER

BY CALVIN CHIN

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

— Acts 1:8 (NIV)

“...unite around a common vision of using entrepreneurial ventures to transform cities and further human flourishing.”

What is gospel entrepreneurship? The Ei Forum brings this idea to life by gathering together a diverse group of entrepreneurs, investors, and pastors one weekend a year. Since its launch in 2006, the Ei Forum has grown in size and influence, fueled by an ever-increasing passion for entrepreneurship in New York City and beyond.

This year, the Forum will take place at the new W83 Ministry Center starting on the evening of April 13 through the afternoon of April 14. This event invites entrepreneurs in arts, for profit, and not-for-profit, investors of time, talent, and resources, and pastors to unite around a common vision of using entrepreneurial ventures to transform cities and further human flourishing.

This initiative has launched a number of ventures and partnerships inside and outside of New York, including **Restore NYC**—an organization which brings healing to women previously victimized by sex trafficking, **Tegu**—a company which designs, builds, and sells

creative toy blocks to provide jobs in a developing nation, and **Working Proof Gallery**—a company that promotes art and social responsibility through the curation of affordable artistic prints.



Churches in both Louisville and Chattanooga are now supporting entrepreneurs and the latter has started a not-for-profit initiative called Launch Chattanooga. Both of these partnerships developed through relationships forged at past Ei Forums. Several foundations have embraced gospel entrepreneurship and are important investors of this initiative. These stories provide a glimpse into the fruits of a community working out their kingdom calling together.

God's Spirit continues to lead the way every year as this gospel-centered entrepreneurship movement grows. Forum participants in 2012 will

Re-imagine Power based on Acts 1:8. Power is a word that carries great weight and responsibility. We constantly see it wielded for both good and evil across all sector lines and national boundaries. As Christ's followers we will come together to deepen our understanding of the source of true power and how we can, in our distinctive roles, access and steward this power for God's glory. It is our hope that the Forum will impart not only Biblical wisdom to its participants but also exhort them to faithfully use their God-given power to build, support, or invest in culture-renewing ventures.

Helping us to think about *Re-imagine Power* will be speakers, including David Gibbons, founder of New Song Church Network and Xealot; Dr. Tim Keller; Sebastian Traeger, founder of Razoo; Rev. Tim Lucas, founder of Liquid Church and *Christianity.com*; Calvin Wong, founder of ICE Lounge and Community Connect; and other key leaders from the Ei community. For

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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

W83RD MINISTRY CENTER
150 W. 83rd Street (between Columbus & Amsterdam)
services at 9:15AM, 11:15AM, and 5:00PM & 7:00PM

RESTAURANT NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT YOUTH GROUP MISSIONS

Join us for Redeemer Youth Ministry's third annual benefit prix-fixe dinner, inspired by NYC Restaurant Week, on Saturday, March 24. Dinner will be served by students and youth leaders, who will prepare and serve a three-course dinner including choice of appetizer, main entrée, and dessert with coffee or tea. Proceeds raised from the event will further our partnership with the Rock Primary School in Uganda, help support the Student Scholarship Fund, as well as kick-start this summer's domestic mission trip to Lincoln Village, AL.

Youth Auction

This year, further enthusiasm will be brought to Restaurant Night through a Silent Auction. The auction will open online on Monday, March 12, and the silent auction will begin at 6:00 PM on March 24 at the W83 Ministry Center. In conjunction with the auction, we have commissioned a graphic artist to create a Youth "Signature" piece based upon Matthew 6:19-34. Our hope is that this will hang in every home in the Youth Community. Letter pressed prints will be sold online and at the auction, with an opportunity to purchase framed prints for youth fami-

lies who cannot afford to purchase the art at this time. Alongside our "Signature" piece, people may bid on other works of art, as well as helpful services, and a few "priceless" experiences.

Partnership in Uganda.

Last July, our youth mission team of twelve (youth leaders

others cleared and planted a demonstration plot, and painted the Rock Primary church/school. Perhaps more importantly Redeemer's Youth Community through our work and relationships became even more invested in the future of our Ugandan friends and look forward to returning in the summer of 2013.

Location:

W83 Ministry Center, 150 W. 83rd St.

Dinner:

\$75 minimum donation per person (larger donations are welcome!)
Please specify your choice of entrée:
chicken, salmon, or vegetarian
Seating at 7:00PM

Reservations Required:

Make reservation online beginning
Thursday, March 1 at
www.redeemer.com/restaurantnight

Bidding:

Online bidding opens Monday, March 12
at www.biddingforgood.com/restaurantnight

Questions?

Email liane.hill@redeemer.com

Opportunities abound

There are many opportunities throughout the year to support the efforts of Redeemer's Youth. Whether by supporting a student in NYC through the Youth Scholarship Fund, contributing to this summer's domestic mission trip to Lincoln Village, AL or continuing to help our friends in Uganda create a sustainable school program, the students in our church are seeking to live out the Gospel with their friends, city and the world. For the last

three years our community has raised funds to purchase classroom items, musical instruments for a choir and music program, and children's books to help fill library bookshelves at the TAOST school. Now, with sole focus on Care and Share/Rock Primary we are encouraged that this community school is now in session

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HOPE FOR NEW YORK EASTER SACRIFICIAL OFFERING ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8

The annual Easter Sacrificial Offering for Hope for New York, Redeemer's mercy and justice arm, will be received during all services on Easter Sunday, April 8. 100% of the gifts received during this offering will be given to Hope for New York affiliate organizations that support various

New York City populations including inner-city youth, low-income families, immigrants, the homeless, the elderly, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Hope for New York is also accepting online donations at www.hfnyc.org/donate and checks payable to "Hope for New

York" sent to Hope for New York, 1359 Broadway, Suite 410, New York, NY, 10018.

Please pray that our congregation would be moved to give generously on Easter Sunday, and please also prayerfully consider how you might support Hope for New York's efforts to serve the poor of our city.

HOPE FOR NEW YORK & DON'T WALK BY: EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS

Last month hundreds of Don't Walk By volunteers divided into teams and canvassed the city on a search for the homeless, offering the people they encountered care kits and an invitation to return to a nearby church for food and medical assistance. Don't Walk By is an annual collaboration of faith-based organizations that are committed to serving the homeless, and a number of Hope for New York's affiliates (The Bowery Mission, NYC Relief, NYC Rescue Mission) were involved in the outreach. Hope for New York has supported this movement by recruiting volunteers and providing financial support for the past four years.

At each of the four outreaches—Harlem, West Side, Downtown, and East Side—Don't Walk By volunteers engaged the homeless. They sat with their homeless brothers

and sisters, learned their names, heard their stories, and prayed with them. They met immediate physical needs and provided connections to resources and rehabilitation programs that provide alternatives to living on the street. One Don't Walk By volunteer shared this story from the outreach in Harlem:

At the end of the night, the last street team came in with a man named Darren. Since we were all wrapping up to go home, we didn't have much time to chat so I cut to the chase—I asked him if he wanted to go somewhere for the night. He quickly told me that he just needed a second chance. Darren told me that earlier that night in his despair, he cried out to God in the subway station and right after that, this team of Don't Walk By street

volunteers approached him, offering to take him back to the anchor church! I was just floored and we prayed in that moment for God to continue the work that was started in him that night. Darren is at The Bowery Mission right now, getting the care and attention he needs to get a fresh start in life.

We're praying for Darren and the countless other men and women living on the street who were affected by the Don't Walk By events. We're also thanking God for the hundreds of Hope for New York volunteers who helped make this massive outreach a reality, who on four Saturday nights in February decided not to walk by and instead to engage and love and minister to the poorest of the poor in our city.

A WORLD MADE NEW: THE ART OF RESURRECTION AND THE RESURRECTION OF ART

“In Christ, all that is ugly and subversive in the cosmos has been purified, beautified and fulfilled. Therein lies the promise for the transformation of all things.”
—Jeremy Begbie, ‘Voicing Creation’s Praise’

Our next Gospel & Culture speaker, Dr. Jeremy Begbie, teaches theology at Duke Divinity School and is the founder and director of Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA). DITA’s mission not only seeks to demonstrate how theology can contribute to the arts, but also explores how the arts can contribute to theology.

A skilled pianist and gifted communicator, Dr. Begbie will demonstrate through performance and lecture how the arts can convey the transformative hope that Christ’s death and resurrection ushered into the world. While he speaks specifi-

cally about the arts, his presentation is applicable to how we think of *all* work in light of Christ’s renewing action in the world.

God’s faithfulness and love for his creation found its highest commitment through Christ’s death, which then brought the promise of peace for our chaotic world. What does this mean for artists? How should this good news affect our art? Our work? Our callings? Christ’s resurrection signals the ultimate transformation of all things. This movement of grace rouses artists into redemptive action—to create beauty and give purpose

to that which is broken. This high call extends not only to the arts, but to all spheres of culture. How can each of us in our respective roles seek to participate in the work Christ began in making all things new?

Please join us to re-awaken this call to the priesthood of all believers so that we might distinctively engage in cultural renewal in light of the resurrection on Saturday, March 10 at 7:00PM at the W83 Ministry Center, 150 W. 83rd St.

Free tickets for concert and lecture must be reserved online at www.faithandwork.org/gospel&culture

REDEEMER REPORT PAPER SUBSCRIBERS: PLEASE TAKE NOTE

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:

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RACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

AN EVENING WITH JOHN PIPER & TIM KELLER

Moderated by Anthony Bradley

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 7-9PM

New York Society for Ethical Culture | 2 W. 64th Street

 CROSSWAY

Free registration opens on March 8.

Registration is required; walk-ins will be limited.

To register, please visit www.redeemer.com/graceandrace

MOVING IN... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

members and attenders live in the UWS zipcodes of 10023, 10024, and 10025. In 1999 we began worship services on the UWS, and a strong community of faithful congregants have been serving one another and their neighbors for years through Fellowship Groups, Moms Groups, and Hope for New York affiliates, to name a few. So the Redeemer community has been active on the West Side for quite some time.

But with the opening of the W83rd Ministry Center our capacity to serve the neighborhood and one another will be enhanced in new and significant ways. The space will become home to many existing

and new ministries. The classroom space and large fellowship hall will allow for more community building and discipleship. The addition of a 4th worship service will open up new space to our friends, co-workers and neighbors who are exploring Christianity. The possibilities are endless. But the mission remains the same.

Redeemer was planted 23 years ago with the core belief that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the renewing power that will one day bring the beauty, hope, grace and justice of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Through worship, social justice, cultural engagement and deepening commu-

nity we have sought to make Jesus visible to the City we love. As someone who has been a part of the Redeemer story from the beginning I am incredibly grateful and humbled to be able to play a part in this next chapter.

This building is more than a place where we can gather to worship and learn and connect, but is a place where we can experience the mystery of the gospel and increasingly see ourselves the way God sees us, a community that has "Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone....(who) are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:20,22)

RESTAURANT NIGHT... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

and growing! This is hugely exciting because they have gotten there largely on their

own. The Redeemer Youth Group invites you to join us in praising Him and supporting

others as we seek to follow Jesus' command and "do for the least of these." (Mt. 25:40)

THE W83 MINISTRY CENTER IS OPENING— *THANK YOU!*

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the completion of the W83 Ministry Center. The opening of this 7-day-a-week ministry space is the culmination of 8 years of prayers and sacrificial giving.

Thank you to everyone who gave sacrificially above and beyond their regular gifts

Thank you for all those who volunteered for, or gave to, the 2005 Vision Campaign and the 2009 RENEW Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully prayed for this project

Thanks to 1st Baptist Church and The Ethical Culture Society for allowing us to rent their spaces to hold worship services on the West Side

Thanks to God for his provision of this new facility



WELCOME (BACK!) JEFF WHITE

It is my great pleasure to welcome the Reverend Jeff White as the new assistant pastor for the Downtown congregation. Jeff and his wife Rebecca have lived in New York City for 20 years and raised three children here. He was one of the first assistant pastors at Redeemer, starting the Fellowship Group system as well as lay leader development at our church. Redeemer then supported his move to Harlem, where he successfully planted a church, New Song Community Church, and a range of community development programs. After recently turning over New Song to the next generation of leaders, he's back to help us nurture

and lead our congregation Downtown!

Our session has approved Jeff to work with me as an assistant pastor for the Downtown congregation (pending presbytery approval). Jeff brings years of pastoral wisdom and ministry experience in New York and is deeply committed to Redeemer's vision to serve the City. His gifts and experience with Redeemer in the early years and in starting his own congregation will be invaluable to us in our first years as the Downtown congregation.

Jeff will officially start in early March, and we'll be providing as many opportunities as possible for people to

meet him. We've prepared several videos to give you an opportunity to get to know a little more about him. I'm excited to have Jeff join our Downtown leadership team and am eager to have our core lay leadership get to know him in the months leading up to our launch of Sunday services. The next few months and years will be a tremendously exciting time for us as a church. Jeff has conveyed to me his sincere enthusiasm for this new season of our life as a church in the City and I'm thrilled that he will be partnering with us in it.

To meet Jeff and see a video introducing him, please go to www.redeemer.com/jeffwhite

BY JOHN LIN



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JESUS IS THE BETTER...

“Jesus is the Better...” Tim Keller at The Gospel Coalition 2007, read at the conclusion of the sermon February 19, 2012.

Check it out on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmnSnNC8UJk&noredirect=1>

RACE AND THE CHRISTIAN... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

is sponsoring the event, in collaboration with Redeemer's Grace and Race group. The goal of Grace and Race is to help our congregation grow in its awareness of racial and ethnic differences in order to

experience the richness of human community made whole in Christ. *Bloodlines* and other books by John Piper, as well as books by Tim Keller will be available for sale.

You **must** register for this

event. Free registration will open on March 8. Walk-ins will be limited. You can register online at www.redeemer.com/graceandrace. Submit questions for discussion via email at raceandthechristian@redeemer.com

RE-IMAGINE POWER... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

more details or to register visit www.faithandwork.org/eiforum

We look forward to explor-

ing together how God's power can move in and through us to inspire, heal, transform, and

mobilize His people as He uses us to continue His work.