

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

APRIL 2012

CONFIRMING THAT CITIES MATTER

BY TIM KELLER

Every week it seems I read more authors and scholars who are pointing to the increasing importance of cities. The theme in most of these articles is that cities are where the future will be forged. Jim Clifton, CEO and Chairman of Gallup, points to the vast shortfall in new job creation. What is the solution? He writes, “My answer would be... cities...[as] goes the leadership of the top 100 American cities, so goes the country’s economic future.” (Clifton, *The Coming Jobs War*, p.63) The journal *Foreign Policy* did a special issue on cities near the end of 2010. The lead article announced, “The 21st century will not be dominated by America or China, Brazil or India, but by the city. In an age that appears increasingly unman-

ageable, cities rather than states are becoming the islands of governance on which the future world order will be built.” (Parag Khanna, “Beyond City Limits,” *Foreign Policy*, Sept/Oct 2010.)

Several years ago *The Guardian* newspaper in Great Britain did a special issue entitled “the Future of Cities.” One writer opined, “Just 10 years ago, cities were seen as vital contributors to the global economy. That’s no longer true. Today, cities *are* the global economy...the 40 largest cities, or mega-regions, account for two-thirds of the world’s output.” (Ian Wylie, “Knowledge is Power,” *The Guardian*, Sept 2008.) Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY, read through the 2010 Special Report—“The Future of Cities” by the *Financial*

Times, and he responded with some strong language. “If the Christian church does not learn new modes of urban ministry, we will find ourselves on the outside looking in. The Gospel of Jesus Christ must call a new generation of committed Christians into these teeming cities.” (Al Mohler, “From Megacity to Metacity” *AlbertMohler.com*, April 22, 2010.)

The writers of these books and articles come from very divergent points of view. Jim Clifton’s book is intensely pro-U.S. and pro-business. His concern is American economic interests. *The Guardian*, *Financial Times*, and *Foreign Policy* are secular, British and international publications. Their concern is to understand the historical moment. Al Mohler is the presi-

(Continued on page 4)

INTRODUCING COMMUNITY GROUPS: FELLOWSHIP GROUPS GET A NEW NAME!

BY PAMELA BROWN-PETERSIDE

“Different Name, Same Game!” “Community Rules, Fellowship Drools!” “Community is Cool!” Those were just a few of the catchy slogans we brainstormed to announce this change. Not really. We have no plans for a big name change campaign. But we do want to tell you about it.

From the very early days of Redeemer, there has always been

a major emphasis on community: being known, cared for, and living out our faith in the context of the Body of Christ, which sounds spiritual, but practically translates to “other people.” In fact, in many ways, building community is the essential component at Redeemer for our growth and flourishing.

Life together, lived through small groups that meet regularly

to engage in worship, study the Bible, pray, share, and serve the city is the way this has primarily occurred. These ways of life together are not changing. In fact, as we move into distinct congregations, the desire for community is as great as it has ever been and we’re hopeful that our three Redeemers will lend themselves

(Continued on page 4)



2012 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 5 AT 7:00PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

This is a service in which we solemnly reflect on the events which took place on the eve of Christ's crucifixion—Jesus' washing of the disciples feet, the command to love another as He has loved us, and the last supper. There will be a worship service with the Lord's Supper, a foot washing ceremony and a communal meal. Nursery will not be provided, but all children are encouraged to be present in the worship service.

RSVP at www.redeemer.com/downtown to attend. Optional meal is \$10 per person. You can pay when you register. Meal is limited to the first 200 people.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6 – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

East Side Services:

5:30PM & 7:00PM at All Souls Unitarian Church, Lexington Ave. & 80th St.
Childcare through age four. To inquire, please email lindsey.schultz@redeemer.com with your service preference and age of child(ren).

West Side Services:

5:00PM & 7:00PM at W83 Ministry Center, 150 W. 83rd St.
Childcare through age four. To inquire, please email bethany.griffith@redeemer.com with your service preference and age of child(ren).

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

A special sacrificial offering for Hope for New York will be received at all services on Easter Sunday.

East Side Services:

9:45AM & 11:30AM at Hunter College Auditorium, 69th St. & Park Ave.
Orchestra of the Redeemer and Choir perform works by Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven
Miriam Burns, Conductor

6:00PM at Hunter College Auditorium, 69th St. & Park Ave.

West Side Services:

9:15AM, 11:15AM, 5:00PM & 7:00PM at W83 Ministry Center, 150 W. 83rd St.

REDEEMER REPORT

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

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

HFNY'S YOUNGEST YOUNG SUPPORTER

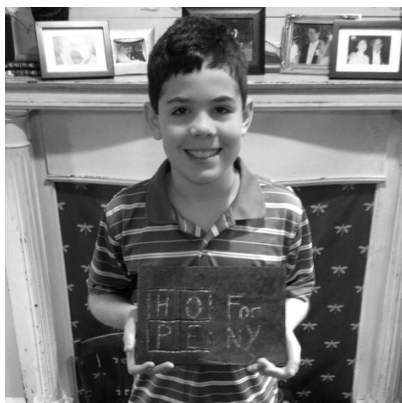
Adam Kramer, the 11-year old son of Upper West Siders Dan and Margaret Kramer and big brother to Eli and Daniel, is most likely one of Hope for New York's youngest donors.

Earlier this year, after hearing a Hope for New York testimony during a Redeemer service and watching a news story about homeless kids in Florida, Adam decided to empty his wallet and give half his money to Hope for New York and half to a Florida-based organization that serves the homeless. His brother Eli followed suit and donated his money to Hope for New York as well.

Adam's mom Margaret said Adam told her that "whatever I was going to buy with that money was so much less significant" than using it to serve those

in need.

That wasn't the first time Adam had been moved to give generously. After seeing the TV



Adam Kramer, age 11, with the Hope for New York plaque he created for the youth group's Uganda fundraiser dinner in March.

coverage of both the earthquake in Haiti and the tsunami in Japan, Adam gave all of his money to support relief efforts.

"He has always been drawn to stories of need," said Adam's dad Dan Kramer, adding that the sixth-grader's generosity "is a very big deal for someone who was saving for a bike after his was stolen in Riverside Park."

Adam has also been using his gifts and talents to serve others. With the tool kit he received for Christmas, Adam worked for weeks to create a wooden plaque with the Hope for New York logo (pictured left) to auction off at the Youth Group's fundraiser for Uganda in March.

Hope for New York is so thankful for donors like Adam, who, having been moved by stories of need, sacrifice their money, time, and talents to show Christ's love to those in our city and beyond.

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

The annual Easter Sacrificial Offering will be received during all services on Easter Sunday (April 8). It has been customary in the church since its earliest years to receive an offering for the less fortunate on the day we celebrate what we have received from Christ. So for the last two decades Hope for New York, Redeemer's mercy and justice arm, has been the recipient of the Easter Sacrificial Offering. 100% of the gifts received 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.

What kind of impact does a gift to Hope for New York have?

- \$100 can provide meals to 60 people living on the street
- \$250 can support the mentoring of 8 at-risk high school students
- \$500 can provide medical and optometric care to 25 homeless patients
- \$1000 can support legal aid volunteers to provide

services to nearly 160 clients in need

In addition to the offering collected on Easter Sunday, Hope for New York is accepting online donations at hfny.org/donate/

Checks (payable to "Hope for New York") can be 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.



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CONFIRMING THAT CITIES MATTER... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

dent of Southern Baptist seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. His concern is to see people converted to Christ. Completely different people and different concerns. And yet, remarkably, they all agree on the absolutely crucial importance of cities. They all argue that “as cities go, so goes the world,” and that to go to cities is necessary for anyone who wants to have an impact on how life is

lived in this world.

I recently learned that a couple of my friends—Stephen Um and Justin Buzzard—are writing a new book for Christians on *Why Cities Matter*. The title says it all. We still need to educate and graciously challenge believers about the importance of cities to Christian ministry. Increasingly there is consensus that ‘cities matter’ yet most American Christians

refuse to live in them or even like or care about them. We need churches everywhere there are people, but the people of the world are moving into the great cities of the world *much* faster than the church is. And therefore we must call Christians to better understand and care for cities, and to consider living and ministering in cities.

INTRODUCING COMMUNITY GROUPS... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

to a deeper experience of community. However, from the start, Redeemer has also always sought to be a church that draws in those unfamiliar with the ways or the language of the Church. So while the word ‘fellowship,’ known in Greek as *koinonia*, is used to describe the rich togetherness the early church experienced, it may not be familiar to our neighbors whom we seek to welcome in to our congregations.

Hence, effective immediately, we are changing the name of our fellowship groups to

Community Groups.

Obviously changing a name that has been in use for more than two decades will take more than merely deciding it is so. It will require a conscientious desire and effort by everyone. Let’s embrace it! Replacing the new name in every instance where the old name is in use is a mammoth task, one we’ve just begun to tackle. For instance, the titles for the staff working with Community Groups are now ‘Community Group Directors’ and ‘Community Group Interns.’ In the

coming weeks and months, we will also be replacing the new name for the old one in our print materials and on the website. Please join the effort: Remind each other that you belong to a “community group” instead of a “fellowship group.” Let us know if you see places where we still need to make the change by emailing CG@redeemer.com—yes, the general email address for Community Groups has also changed. And you’re welcome to dream up your own clever catchphrase if you’d like to!