

REDEEMER Report



DECEMBER 2013

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGE AT REDEEMER

BY TIM KELLER

The last two years have been as exciting and momentous a chapter of Redeemer's ministry history as we have ever seen. In 2009 we announced our plan to transition Redeemer from a single centralized multi-site church to a "collegiate" network of three congregations that would eventually generate other sites and other worshipping communities, as well.

In 2012 we opened the W83 Ministry Center on the West Side and launched our Downtown congregation. As 2013 closes we are now completing our first full year operating as three collegiate congregations. I want to thank the members and friends of Redeemer who have poured so much energy into becoming

such strong congregations. One immediate result has been a significant growth in attendance. In the last two years our fall attendance has grown from approximately 4800 to 5600 on a Sunday, a very healthy increase.

There are reports across the congregations of greater involvement in volunteer work and ministry and of deeper engagement in community. People are "owning" their congregations and their ministry in "their" part of the city. This fall's *Public Faith* initiative has challenged and stretched our people toward more loving and courageous engagement to friends and colleagues. Perhaps most significantly of all, many new leaders—more lay ministers, staff, and

pastors—have grown as a result of the collegiate model. It is this that gives us assurance that Redeemer's ministry can change lives in the city for a long time to come.

There is overwhelming consensus that congregationalizing Redeemer in this way has been the right decision. We can already see how crucial it has been for renewing and more deeply establishing Redeemer's distinct way of serving. We are seeing Redeemer's gospel ministry vision released across the city. This is most definitely the way forward for us.

However, we must emphasize that the continued fruitfulness of this congregational model comes

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CFW SELECTS A FIRST ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

BY THE CFW TEAM

The Center for Faith and Work is proud to announce its first ever **Artist-In-Residence, Rebecca Locke**. From October to December of 2013, Locke's body of work, and the concepts behind the artist's approach, will be highlighted amidst several public CFW programs. As part of her residency, the artist has been commissioned by the CFW to create a new public

installation using the theme of celebration. The exhibition will be shown December 12–14 at Gallery Four81 and open to the entire city. To view Rebecca's work, please see go to her website: www.rebeccalocke.com.

CFW's new artist-in-residence program is a way to not only support artists but to integrate and celebrate the intrinsic value of the arts into the fabric

of the city. CFW hopes to extend the artist residency program into 2014, providing opportunity, resources, financing, and support to established artists of all mediums, faiths, and backgrounds working in New York City. Rebecca Locke, the first Artist-in-Residence, was announced at the October City Rhythmsevent, appropriately

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DIACONATE MERCY FUND SPECIAL OFFERING

“While New York City is one of the greatest cities in the world, full of opportunity and excitement, life in New York City can also be a very cold, lonely, and incredibly isolating environment as well. Thanks to the diaconate, I found New York City to be the place where God truly and completely met me and transformed my life. Because of the compassion shown to me, what was a very dark hour became a time where God showered His grace and love over me.”

– Diaconate Care Recipient

Often times giving and sharing become more amplified as Christmas approaches. It is a holiday that is so universally celebrated even those who don't quite yet believe in Jesus Christ participate in giving and receiving gifts. We as believers delight in receiving the gift of hope that comes from the mystery of Jesus Christ's birth, the incarnation of our Lord for our redemption and restoration.

We on the Diaconate have the privilege and joy of experiencing redemption and restoration of ours and others' brokenness through our ministry. The Mercy Fund we are able to draw on enables our deacons and

deaconesses to be Jesus' hands and feet in serving the needs of our congregants. The money raised at our annual special offering goes towards providing direct financial help and various types of support such as counseling, career coaching, budgeting, meals delivery, post divorce care, and etc. to those who need help in our church family.

On Sunday, December 8, at all East Side services and West Side evening services and on December 15 at all Downtown services and West Side morning services, the Diaconate will receive our annual special offering. We rely on your prayer support, and invite you to partner with us by giving to the Mercy

Fund. In addition to prayerfully considering contributing to this vital ministry of mercy, please encourage those congregants around you who are in need to contact the Diaconate for help. Our Mercy Fund is available to members and regular attendees of Redeemer.

And if you are a Redeemer member or regular attendee with a financial or other practical need, please call the Diaconate Helpline, (917) 719-0259. For more information, visit www.redeemer.com/diaconate.

Thank you in advance for your partnership. Merry Christmas.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGE... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

with an increased financial cost. It is much more expensive to maintain three different locations than it would be to put everyone in one large space. Like all major projects, the Redeemer collegiate model is being funded with start-up capital—the RENEW Campaign and the Downtown

Challenge—that are being spent down. We must continue to grow our annual giving significantly over the next three years in order to support the entire operating budget without the seed funds.

To date giving in 2013 has been consistently stronger than last year and we expect to finish

the year exceeding our goal of \$13.9M. But it is important to see that we will have to grow our giving to the operation budget at a similarly significant pace for at least two more years to bring ourselves to the place where the annual giving covers our yearly
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REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Heather Klein

Hunter College Auditorium
East 69th St.
(between Park & Lexington)
Services at
10:30AM & 6PM

W83rd Ministry Center
150 W. 83rd St.
(between Columbus & Amsterdam)
Services at
9:30AM, 11:30AM, 5PM, 7PM

Salvation Army Auditorium
120 W. 14th St.
(between 6th & 7th Aves.)
Services at
9:30AM & 5PM

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Office: 1359 Broadway, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10018-7102
(212) 808-4460 (T) (212) 808-4465 (F) www.redeemer.com

DIVINE DETAILS

BY THE CFW TEAM

CFW's Gotham Alumnus Tina Chang and current Gotham Fellow Esther Mun of Little Fury have created a hybrid store/gallery that re-envision the retail experience with a goal of honoring the Designer. Many in the Center for Faith & Work community have contributed to this endeavor and the pop-up shop is open through December.

Divine Details is an exhibit and store for extraordinarily well-designed everyday goods. A collaboration between AIGA (the world's largest professional design association) and the downtown boutique design studio Little Fury, this hybrid store/gallery provides a thoughtful and savvy reprieve from the holiday shopping frenzy.

From November 1 to December 28, housed in AIGA's gallery in the heart of the Flatiron district on 5th Ave., Divine Details will feature some of the world's most beautiful and well-crafted common goods. From the perfect bottle-opener, to a shatterless crystal wine glass, to the most fashionable and functional tote for your CitiBike, this is a space for creator and consumer to connect in a whole

new way.

Curated alongside each designer product is an accompanying fictional story, commissioned from some of New York's most exciting writers, including acclaimed music writer Garnette Cadogan (Rolling Stone, Vibe), Brooklyn food blogger Cathy Erway (*The Art of Eating In*, Eater's Top 10), and playwright Bekah Brunstetter (*OOHRAH!*, MTV's *Underemployed*). In addition to daily store hours, the exhibition will also host a series of events entitled "Further Details" focusing on the collaborative relationships between design, food, music, and story.

"Divine Details is a place we built on one very simple idea: things matter. An object's design helps us flourish or falter," says creative director Tina Chang.

"The exhibition/store reflects this in a unique way, but is also very accessible. We've created this space with AIGA to transform the holiday shopping rush into an experience that is thoughtful and imaginative, that engages culture as opposed to being consumers of it. It is an exhibition committed to the little 'Ah-ha!' moments we all have when a well-designed object comes to life."

Upon the exhibition's closing, Divine Details will roll into Divine Monthly, a subscription program where participants receive three Divine objects over three months, "perfect for gifting, keeping, or ogling" accompanied by an original commissioned story inspired by the product. The first season of Divine

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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS EARLY WITH HIS TOY STORE

This month, because of your generosity, over 2,000 moms and dads in deep need across the city will be able to provide new toys for their kids this Christmas.

In November, you gave **over 5,000 new toys** to our His Toy Store Christmas outreach. That's the largest number of donated toys we've ever received!

"It's been cool seeing in parents' eyes their surprise at the wide variety of the toys," said a volunteer at our Washington Heights store last year. "These

are really great gifts that parents are surprised that people would donate, and that they would be proud to give these gifts to their kids."

On December 8 and December 15, we'll work with over 20 local churches and ministries and 400 volunteers to host 14 stores all over the city—in neighborhoods from West Harlem to Coney Island, Bushwick to Washington Heights, and Chelsea to the South Bronx.

"I chose to volunteer with His Toy Store because I love seeing

smiles on children's faces," said Mark Chang, a His Toy Store site captain from Redeemer East Side. "His Toy Store does just that—it brings joy to the children and their family by extending God's love for them."

Want to follow all the His Toy Store action this month? We'll be posting photos and stories from the outreach on Facebook [facebook.com/hopefornewyork](https://www.facebook.com/hopefornewyork).

We'll also be tweeting and Instagramming from the sites using [#HisToyStore](https://twitter.com/HisToyStore).

THANKS FROM CITY TO CITY AND HELLO FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Many of you gave to City to City through the Special Offering in September. City to City thanks you and so do the 13 international church planters whose training you helped underwrite. One of these church-planting couples, Confidence and One Mokgatle, send their greetings from Pretoria, South Africa:

It's been a little over two weeks since I arrived back in the City of Pretoria and to say the last 2 months have been eventful would be an understatement!

We spent all of September and October in the United States attending the Redeemer City to City International Church Planting Intensive. We trained alongside people from India, Chile, France, Switzerland, Canada, Amsterdam, United States and another couple from South Africa.

The Intensive both challenged and inspired us. We learned a lot about what it means to plant a church in a city and how to think it all through as we seek to share the gospel with those who don't know Jesus. We also

left with a greater understanding of ourselves, our gifts and talents, our strengths and weaknesses and how we can ensure that our marriage continues to reflect the nature and character of God, as we begin on this adventure of planting a church in Pretoria. Not only were we loved and served well, but we felt a great sense of partnership and commitment to seeing the success of this future church plant.

In South Africa we say it takes a village to raise a child. We believe the same commitment is required when planting a church. Its going to take the prayers of multiple communities and individuals to see this church plant become healthy; not only for its existing community, but

to witness it go on and plant other healthy churches. For that reason we thank you for being a prayer partner and lifting us up to God as we seek His wisdom, strength and provision.

What lies ahead for us, at least until the end of the year, is to process everything we have learned and begin to answer the question: What does 2014 look like for us? Many questions are still unanswered, but what we do know is that in the new year we are starting a new home group that will meet weekly. This group will be made up of individuals who are interested in being part of the launch team for the church plant in 2015. We will begin to dream together

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FIRST ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

focused on the Arts and Architecture.

Artist Bio:

Born in the UK, Rebecca Locke is based in New York City which has proved formative in the development of her installation art, film, photographic, sound and performance-based artwork. She is a graduate of Goldsmiths, University of London, and has studied at the International Center of Photography and the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

She is a visiting fellow at The Center for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths, University of London, an inaugural member of the Association of Urban Photographers and curator of the City to Sea Project. City to Sea developed from Rebecca's practice, specifically her work based on her hometown Bognor Regis.

Rebecca exhibits internationally and recent exhibitions include the Lab Film Festival, London; Visual Urbanism: Perspectives on Contemporary Re-

search, The British Library, London; *Festival de la Imagen*, Columbia and the first *Bienal de Fotografía*, Lima, Peru, which featured the artist's video and sound series *Lugares qui fui* (everywhere I've ever been). The artist's City to Sea Project recently collaborated with Magnum Photos for a workshop and screening at the Urban Encounters festival at Tate Britain. The artist is currently working on a film, *E pluribus unum*, and a self-portrait based series exploring narrative identity.

DECEMBER 2013 ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 —

West Side Lessons & Carols at morning services (9:30AM and 11:30AM)*

**No classes for Kindergarten–5th grade. (Children are welcome to participate in this special service with their parents.)*

Downtown (9:30AM ONLY)

Downtown 5:00PM service canceled.

Regular schedule at these services with Diaconate Special Offering:

East Side: 10:30AM and 6:00PM*

West Side: 5:00PM and 7:00PM*

**No Childcare at this service.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 —

East Side Lessons & Carols at all services: 9:45AM, 11:30AM and 6:00PM*

West Side Lessons & Carols at evening services: 5:00PM and 7:00PM*

**No classes for Kindergarten–5th grade. (Children are welcome to participate in this special service with their parents.)*

Regular schedule at these services:

(Diaconate Special Offering Downtown and West Side AM ONLY)

Downtown: 9:30AM and 5:00PM*

West Side: 9:30AM and 11:30AM

**No Childcare at this service.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 —

Downtown (9:30AM ONLY)

Downtown 5:00PM service canceled.

Regular schedule at these services:

East Side: 10:30AM and 6:00PM*

Downtown: 9:30AM

West Side: 9:30AM, 11:30AM, 5:00PM and 7:00PM*

**No Childcare at this service.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24: TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES —

5:00PM* at W83 Ministry Center, 150 W. 83rd St.

6:00PM* Downtown Lessons & Carols at Salvation Army, 120 W. 14th St.

**No Childcare at this service.*

(Children are welcome to participate in this special service with their parents.)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 —

West Side 7:00PM service canceled

Regular Schedule for all other services:

East Side: 10:30AM and 6:00PM*

Downtown: 9:30AM and 5:00PM*

West Side: 9:15AM, 11:15AM and 5:00PM

**No Childcare at this service.*

THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE TO HOPE FOR NEW YORK

Did you know that individual donors like you made up **over 70%** of Hope for New York's funding sources last year?

Because of contributions from people like you, Hope for New York was able to support 43 affiliates that served nearly 130,000 poor or marginalized New Yorkers last year.

You helped us make some amazing things happen:

- **\$1.3 million** in direct grants to support our affiliates' programs
- **\$270,000** in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts
- **55,600 volunteer hours**, averaging to 152 volunteer hours each day
- **746 homeless individuals** engaged through Don't Walk By
- **88 non-profit staff** attended professional development opportunities
- **4 new non-profits** added to our affiliate network

Will you prayerfully consider making a Year End gift this month to support our work into next year? In 2014, we're looking forward to continuing our work to accept God's invitation to love our neighbors as Christ loved us, demonstrating His love in practical acts of compassion for New York City.

There are many ways to give:

- Donate online at hfny.org/donate
- Mail a check to 1359 Broadway, Suite 410, NY, NY 10018
- Set up a recurring gift on our website
- Double your gift by asking your employer if they match charitable contributions

Find out more by visiting hfny.org/donate or emailing donate@hfny.org.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGE... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

expenses. These are our goals for the next three years. They are challenging ones, to be sure.

2013 –

\$13.9M in annual giving

2014 –

\$15.8M in ann. giving

2015 –

\$17.5M in ann. giving

This year most of you will receive more charitable year end giving appeals than ever before.

Every year I see more good causes and charitable organizations reaching out to me with their requests for financial support. I have two words of advice.

First, the great majority of those reading these words could probably give a great deal more. We typically give out of what we feel we can spare. And that usually means what we can spare without any emotional cost or inconvenience to our

lifestyle choices. But when we only give what we can spare, we are not tapping into the greater resources we could give if we are motivated by the joy of the gospel. *The Lord Jesus Christ... though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*" (2 Corinthians 8:7,9.)

Jesus did not give out of what he could spare. Jesus did not give
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FREEDOM THROUGH GREATER HEALING

BY A MALE SURVIVOR

When I first saw the information for the Committed to Freedom—Beyond Abuse Seminar in the Redeemer Bulletin, I thought it was a nice resource, but not necessary for me. Sure, I'd been sexually abused as a child, but I was fine and had everything under control. But it was good that others had the option, though.

As the years went by, I got married, bought a townhouse in the Jersey burbs and moved on with my life but it turned out things weren't as "fine" as I'd thought. My life had progressed in every measure, but it was getting increasingly more difficult to mask the pain. Even worse, I found that ignoring the issue wasn't just eating me from the inside-out; it was damaging my marriage as well. I reluctantly pursued professional help via counseling.

I couldn't have found a more qualified therapist. While she counseled me in the evenings, her "day job" was with DYFS (NJ State's Child Services agency) and she too had been sexually abused as a child. However, she

was not a professed believer in Christ so while it was extremely effective using her as a sounding board to tease out issues, I felt there was still something missing. What about God? How did my God fit into all of this?

*We are not alone in
our struggle for health,
balance and healing.
There are others,
and there is most
certainly our God.*

When I saw that Redeemer was offering the Beyond Abuse Seminar again, I was ready. It was still terrifying, but there was a missing piece in my recovery and searching for it helped propel me passed the fear. Attending that seminar was one of the best decisions I made and was a significant step in the right direction of my abuse recovery. It enabled me to build a place for God in the midst of all that

happened to me as a kid (this might sound blasphemous, but understand that sometimes we ignore the ones we love when we're angry and confused with them). While I still left the Seminar with many unanswered questions to struggle through, there was significantly greater understanding, insight and hope. We are not alone in our struggle for health, balance and healing. There are others, and there is most certainly our God.

*Jesus' birth reminds us that we need a Savior. As we celebrate our Savior's birth, we are encouraged to renew our commitment to live a new life that was given to us through our Savior. Does your new life involve greater healing and greater freedom from past traumas? The Redeemer Diaconate invites you to consider this year's Beyond Abuse Seminar on February 8, 2014, from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. And please pass on this valuable resource. For more information visit:
redeemer.com/care/diaconate/seminars.html.*

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGE... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

out of his riches—he gave away his riches. Gospel-shaped giving doesn't even *begin* until it entails sacrifice and scarcity. That makes you nervous and presses you to look at Jesus' cosmic philanthropy for you. But then that comforts us for we see our inheritance in heaven that can never fade or be lost. All other inheritances (and retirement funds) pale before that.

The second practical word of advice is this. If you attend a church regularly for spiritual sustenance you should financially support it at some level, and that support should not be nominal. There are many good and important ministries and charities out there, and our family supports many of them. But there is no more foundational and important giv-

ing for a Christian than giving to the church which ministers to you. Large churches, especially those in urban areas, often have a significant number of people who come and are served but who don't (at least initially) financially support it. Your gifts make it possible to bring the gospel to these people. If you come—please bless us with your gifts. Thanks!



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DIVINE DETAILS... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

Monthly launches January 14, 2014.

The brains behind Divine Details, Tina Chang and Esther Mun—longtime Redeemerites—are the co-founders of downtown design studio Little Fury. As a team, Little Fury has designed for such clients as Johnson & Johnson, Help Remedies, and Vita Coco. Their design has been recognized by

organizations and publications such as AIGA, Graphis, Communications Arts and the Art Directors Club. Brian Watkins acts as the head writer and creative editor for Divine Details. As a playwright, Watkins' work was most recently seen with the downtown company Lesser America, as well as the recent critically acclaimed UK premiere of his play 'High

Plains' with Underbelly at the Edinburgh International Fringe.

Divine Details is located at 164 5th Ave. (between 21st & 22nd Sts.), and open Monday-Saturday, 10:00AM to 7:00PM (open until 8:00PM on Wednesdays and Saturdays). Check out more about Divine Details at www.DivineDetailsShop.com.

THANKS...AND HELLO... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

and cast vision through weekly Bible studies, training and fellowship. We will also continue to pray that God would send us a co-planter, someone who will be excited to partner with us as we seek to reach the City of Pretoria.

Prayer Requests:

1. That we would continue to love God and make

Him known in all our spheres of life.

2. That we would find a co-planter who will be passionate about the Gospel and excited to plant a church in Pretoria.

3. That God would open doors for financial support

to come in, to cover One's church planting residency for 2014.

To know more about this church planting project, the results of the Special Offering, or anything related to CTC, please contact:

michelle@redeemercitycity.com or (917) 206-1464.