

DECEMBER 2014

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF GIVING AT REDEEMER

BY TIM KELLER

Our 25th anniversary weekend was a wonderful experience. We not only praised God for what he has done in our past, but we looked at our plans for Redeemer's future. We want to become a family of highly collaborative churches that will multiply in the city in a way that we have never done before.

This means the establishment of three strong, large, rooted congregations in the three main locations around Manhattan with the leaders, resources, and commitment for multiplying worshipping communities. This also entails me stepping out of my role as Senior Pastor of the whole and

anchoring new leader-multiplying, recruiting, and training centers that will supply all the congregations — as well as other churches in the city — with new staff, pastors, and church planters well-versed in the values and core competencies of Redeemer.

Many people expressed excitement at this prospect. But I'm convinced that we will not be able to step into that future unless we make some significant changes to the culture of our giving at Redeemer. I have two specific changes in mind.

First, we *should all plan our annual giving to the church*. Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

*"Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."* (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Paul tells the Corinthians to think out the proportion of their income they are giving away ("*a sum ... in keeping with your income*") and then to lay some aside every week. Studies — and common sense — reveal that people who plan their giving to the church and give it every month or at other regular intervals end up being far

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## HIS TOY STORE — THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hundreds of you who gave His Toy Store in November! You helped Hope for New York stock our His Toy Stores with over 2,100 toys for 750 families in need!

On December 6 and December 13, we'll work with several of our affiliates, as well as other ministries, and hundreds of volunteers to host 7 stores all over the city — in

neighborhoods from Bushwick to Chelsea to the South Bronx.

At these stores, parents can shop for toys at no cost and will also be able to connect to local ministries for year-round resources. These parents include the working poor in low-income neighborhoods, formerly incarcerated individuals reconnecting with their families, and moms and dads in residential

recovery programs.

However, we don't see this outreach as a one-time giveaway — our hope is that parents connect with a caring community for year-round support and spiritual community.

Anna Mandile, one of our partners at Living Waters Fellowship in Brooklyn, tells us that His Toy Store is an indis-

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# CFW CHOOSES THREE ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Center for Faith & Work has chosen three Artists-In-Residence for 2014 this fall: photographer Sasha Arutyunova, writer Kamilah Aisha Moon and writer Carey Wallace.

The three artists were chosen from invited proposals that explored the idea of “Nascency.” Each resident artist is now in the process of creating a brand new work on that theme, as it is uniquely expressed through their respective forms of photography and writing.

## Sasha Arutyunova

Sasha Arutyunova is a Moscow-born, Brooklyn-based freelance photographer. The primary focus of her work is the exploration of personal narratives through intimate detail, by way of photography and short form video. Sasha is a co-founder of documentary production company and artist collective Nomadique, for which she serves as a producer, curator and community organizer. She has also served as a camera operator and photographer for audiovisual collective

Mason Jar Music since 2010. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Time Out NY*, *Le Monde* and *DETAILS*. (Her Instagram account won her free cupcakes for a year.) You can follow her at @sasha-

Prize winner and finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the Audre Lorde Award from the Publishing Triangle, Moon is the author of *She Has a Name* (Four Way Books) and holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.



## Carey Wallace

Carey Wallace is the author of *The Blind Contessa's New Machine* and *The Ghost in the Glass House*. She lives and works in Brooklyn.

In practicing patronage of the arts, the Center for Faith & Work's artist-in-residence program has a two-pronged purpose: to support emerging and established

local artists through the commissioning of new work, and to celebrate and contribute to the intrinsic value of the arts as a vital fabric of the city.

## Kamilah Aisha Moon

Being devoted to the flourishing of all New York City, the Center for Faith & Work is proud to offer selected resident artists the opportunity, resources, financing, and support to create works of art that contribute to the excellency of New York's rich and creative culture.

A recipient of fellowships to Cave Canem, the Prague Summer Writing Institute and the Vermont Studio Center, Kamilah Aisha Moon's work has been featured in *Harvard Review*, *jubilat*, *Poem-A-Day* for the Academy of American Poets, *The Awl*, *Villanelles* and *Gathering Ground*. A Pushcart

Photo. Sasha's photographs were featured at the Faith & Work Conference in early November.

## REDEEMER REPORT

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.  
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Kathy Keller  
Heather Klein

Hunter College Auditorium  
E. 69th St.  
(between Park & Lexington)  
Services: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

W83rd Ministry Center  
150 W. 83rd St.  
(between Columbus & Amsterdam)  
Services: 9:30/11:30 a.m., 5 & 7 p.m.

Salvation Army Auditorium  
120 W. 14th St.  
(between 6th & 7th Aves.)  
Services: 9:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.

# CITY TO CITY PROJECTS: SEVEN CITIES AND COUNTING

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**A**t City to City, our role is to empower leaders from many denominations and cities around the world to start self-sustaining churches. We do this through resources, training, grants, and personal coaching relationships that last for years. We are privileged to have a front row seat to what God is doing in global cities, in ways large and small.

This April on our website, we unveiled a series we call “City to City Projects.” We have been highlighting specific church plants in global cities using video and stories captured on the ground. Our goal for these projects is threefold: 1) to crowdfund \$5,000 to go

*directly* to those churches, similar to Kickstarter; 2) to pair these new churches with a partner church in North America that will fund an additional \$50,000; and 3) for these churches to eventually “pay it forward” and re-grant that money to another church plant. We hope this financial model will create momentum for new churches where they are the most needed and most expensive: global cities.

So far we have highlighted church plants in the Bronx, the Bowery, Frankfurt, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Vancouver, and Delhi. We have reached our goal of \$5,000 online for 3 out of 8 of these churches, and paired

most “of them up with a partner church. More importantly, we have had our eyes opened to the work these churches are doing in places like East Berlin where “I don’t think there [was] a church they could go to even if they wanted to.”

That statement was made by Alex Deuscher, who was part of our five-week International Intensive in 2012. All eight of these leaders have received training from City to City, so you may see some familiar faces from past City to City Sundays! To check out these projects or give to them directly, please visit [redeemercitytocity.com/projects](http://redeemercitytocity.com/projects).

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR RADICAL GENEROSITY!

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“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

– 1 Chronicles 29:14

**J**oyful Christmas to all of you!

Each year as we come to the Diaconate’s Annual Mercy Fund Special Offering, which we just held on November 23, we are amazed at the way God moves his people in our congregation “to give as generously as this.” The Diaconate Mercy Fund enables our deaconesses and deacons to meet the practical needs of our congregants. And as Christmas nears and the difficulties and struggles of those in need are magnified we are extremely grateful to God for your lavish gifts.

Please know that we consider you our ministry partners. Because of your ongoing faithful prayer and financial support, we’ve been able to provide holistic care to nearly 500 individuals and families within our church community, and we’ve provided \$516,000 for everything from rent, food, utilities and counseling to program and ministry costs as of the end of October, 2014.

If you missed the Diaconate Special Offering and would still like to contribute to the Mercy Fund, please visit [redeemer.com/mercygift](http://redeemer.com/mercygift) to make your

gift. It’s not too late to give. We accept donations throughout the year.

Your radical generosity reflects God’s radical generosity to us when he gave up his only son as a substitution for us. During this season of pondering upon God’s amazing gift to us, may you experience his unending mercy and grace.

If you are a Redeemer member or regular attendee with a financial or other practical need, please call the Diaconate Helpline 917-719-0259.

# DECEMBER 2014 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 —

Downtown Congregation a.m./p.m. services combined (9:30 a.m. ONLY)  
There will not be a Downtown 5:00 p.m. service on this date

### **Regular schedule at these services**

East Side: 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.\*\*

West Side: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m.\*\*

\*\*No childcare at these evening services

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 —

**West Side Lessons & Carols at morning services** (8:30 a.m.\* , 10:00 a.m.\* & 11:30 a.m.\*)

Special morning worship schedule with third service added

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

### **Regular schedule at these services**

Downtown: 9:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.\*\*

East Side: 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.\*\*

West Side: 5:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m.\*\*

\*\*No childcare at evening services

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

**West Side Lessons & Carols at evening services** (5:00 p.m. & 6:45 p.m.)\*

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

**East Side Lessons & Carols at all services** (9:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.)\*

Special morning worship schedule with second morning service added

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

### **Regular schedule at these services**

Downtown: 9:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.\*\*

West Side: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

\*\*No childcare at this evening service

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 —

**Christmas Eve services** 5:00 p.m.\*\* & 6:00 p.m.\*\*

5:00 p.m., W83 Ministry Center, 150 W. 83rd St.

6:00 p.m., Downtown Lessons & Carols, The 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 28 —

**West Side 6:45 p.m. service canceled**

### **Regular Schedule for all other services**

East Side: 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.\*\*

Downtown: 9:30 a.m.\* , 5:00 p.m.\*\*

West Side: 9:30 a.m.\* , 11:30 a.m.\* , 5:00 p.m.\*

\* Limited childcare for infants to Pre-K only

\*\*No childcare at this service

# GIVE HOPE FOR NEW YORK THIS CHRISTMAS

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This year, if you donated to or volunteered with Hope for New York, you helped make some amazing things happen:

## Direct Grants:

Your donations allowed HFNY to give over \$1.3 million in direct grants to non-profit organizations serving the poor and marginalized across the city, supporting programs like food pantries, afterschool programming, job skills training, and more. Visit [hfny.org/affiliates/alphabetical](http://hfny.org/affiliates/alphabetical) to learn more about the organizations

you're supporting!

## Volunteers:

In 2014, HFNY volunteers gave over 52,000 volunteer hours, serving and loving our neighbors all over the city, including the homeless, at-risk youth, the elderly, recent immigrants, and other poor or marginalized populations.

## Training and Consulting:

HFNY worked to strengthen our affiliates to do their work even better, providing capacity building support to our affiliates

in areas like communications, board development, and fundraising strategy.

You can continue this work of hope and renewal for New York City by giving to Hope for New York before the end of the year. Your gift will enable us to go deeper and wider with our work next year — partnering with more churches to mobilize more Christians giving and serving in this city, strengthening more local nonprofits, and loving more and more of our neighbors.

## CULTURE OF GIVING... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

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more generous than those who give only when in church, or give episodically, impulsively, or even just at the end of the year. We will only become more and more generous as time goes on if we set “stretch” goals to achieve a couple of years from now, and then make deliberate plans to get there through planned monthly or quarterly giving.

Second, *all people who attend Redeemer regularly should give to it, and not in a token way.*

In smaller congregations, nearly all regular attenders give financially to support their church. The larger the church, however, the smaller that percentage becomes. The reasons are understandable, of course. A large church looks well furnished, and it is tempting to

think, “They don’t need my giving; I’ll give to these other causes I am committed to.” The problem is, however, that larger churches have larger costs and they need everyone’s giving no less than smaller bodies. Over one-third of all regular attenders at Redeemer give nothing to the operating budget and another one-third give only very small amounts.

I want to be clear — I have never taught that a Christian’s entire tithe must go to the local church — I don’t see a biblical warrant for that. And I’m not talking here about visitors, inquirers, or seekers who are coming to Redeemer to explore the faith. However, the Bible and common sense indicate that if you attend Redeemer regularly and are spiritually

nourished here, you should financially support it.

In conclusion — if everyone who came to Redeemer supported it financially and planned their giving, the difference would be significant, maybe even massive. We will not be able to reach out and embrace the future vision of a multiplying family unless we make these changes to our communal habits of giving. There is no better time to begin these changes than right now, since Redeemer must receive so much of its annual income in the final quarter of the year.

I couldn’t more enthusiastic about Redeemer’s future. This is one of the main ways for us to realize it and become a Christian community that God continues to use in the city.



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## HIS TOY STORE... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

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pensible resource for being able to love and serve families in the neighborhood.

“Many of the families [we see] have trouble paying their bills,” she says. “They often are living with more than one

family in an apartment to make ends meet, and they struggle to give us the \$20 fee per week for our afterschool program.”

Anna added that His Toy Store allows families to “see love without the ‘strings’ at-

tached. They know that they are loved and cared for.”

You can follow all the His Toy Store action by using #HisToyStore, or follow @hopefornewyork on Twitter or @hfny on Instagram.