

OCTOBER 2015

BEGINNING A NEW MINISTRY

BY ABRAHAM CHO

This summer was a time of reflection and preparation for my family and me in anticipation of my new role as Lead Pastor of Redeemer's East Side congregation. Perhaps most moving was discovering that the East Side prayer team invited inviting the entire East Side congregation to commit to praying for us for 100 days as I began as their pastor.

I have been humbled and truly overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have received. So, on the one hand, this is a sincere thank you to so many of you for your kindness and affection. On the other hand, this is also something of an invitation. Let me explain.

My first years of pastoral ministry were spent serving in the Korean immigrant church. It was a wonderful community of remarkable people. I still remember arriving at church very early on Sunday mornings (usually to finish up the sermon!) and the kitchen would already be full of women who had gotten up at some early hour to prepare a full Korean lunch for the several hundred people who would come through the doors of the church that day.

Meanwhile, the men would be cleaning the bathrooms and setting up tables and chairs in the reception hall. Even the children would be pitching in, neatly wrapping silverware in paper napkins and placing them

carefully at each table. Even before I, or any of the other pastors, got there, the church was very much alive and active, transforming empty space into nothing less than home.

In addition to this vibrant hospitality, the Korean church was also a community of honor. Pastors were held in such high regard. We were often given seats of honor at meals. (I can't tell you how many times I was invited, indeed forced, to cut in line to get food, even though I was going for seconds!) Congregants would be outraged, in fact deeply offended, if a pastor offered to pay for a meal at a restaurant. From medical care to dental work to dry cleaning,

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CFW LAUNCHING FAITH & ART LECTURE SERIES

BY CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK

This fall the Center for Faith & Work is introducing a new Faith & Art Lecture series for artists and those interested in the creative process. Throughout the year, CFW will host several talks given by top arts practitioners and thinkers, exploring the intersection of faith and art, alongside highlighted performances and fol-

lowed by a reception with food, drinks and community.

The inaugural lecture will take place on Thursday, October 21, at the W83 Ministry Center, where artist and pastor Vito Aiuto will be delivering a talk on *Three Visions Necessary for a Christian Artist*, exploring the practical overlap between spiritual and creative sight.

Vito Aiuto was born and raised in Michigan and is a graduate of Western Michigan University and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has lived in New York City since 1998 where he has worked in a variety of ministries including leading a team of homeless outreach workers, and directing

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A BETA GROUP TESTIMONY

BY ISABEL LODGE

I'd like to share a little about my experience joining a Beta Group.

I grew up in the North Shore of Massachusetts in a family that had a respect for religion, yet kept it at a distance. Though I was baptized in the Episcopal church, I had not been brought up with religious faith. This started to change a year and a half ago, when a friend of a friend invited me to a community group that was just starting at Redeemer, and I eagerly accepted. At the time, I had recently graduated from NYU's Gallatin School, but I was experiencing a great deal of anxiety about the future and depression as well. I didn't know how to make sense of my life. I grew increasingly more apathetic about the direction of my life, and going out all the time wasn't helping me. I was pretty lost.

Looking back, I never thought I'd be a 'believer,' but I wanted to know what being Christian was. I had a pretty negative, cynical impression of Christian community, seeing Christians as brainwashed, unquestioning idealists. But I was raised to believe that feelings alone weren't grounds for belief in anything, so I decided to find out more. I started reading books about Christianity,

even venturing into the Bible. Though I found the books persuasive, I still had a lot of questions, so when my new friend brought me to her community group in Chelsea it was a game changer. Instead of reading about faith, there I experienced thoughtful people living it, and struggling in it ... and doing so *with Hope*.

They welcomed me and made me feel appreciated, even when I tried to make them uncomfortable with blunt questions and attitude. A few weeks in, my fear and prejudices still had a hold of me and I found myself thinking, "*Well, they must be hiding something. Wake up, Isabel, don't let your guard down.*"

So that night I asked the host of the group what I knew was a tough question, thinking his answer would reveal some incriminating truth. He thought for a moment, then explained that what I asked, "was hard for him, too ... but even in his struggle to understand he couldn't *demand* full understanding from God as a prerequisite to belief. Complete understanding lies with God alone, he explained, and though it could be challenging, he trusted in the goodness of God through these challenges and moved forward in

faith." This touched me. I had expected him to give me impersonal, memorized answers, but instead he told me the truth, which was more complex. I was immediately embarrassed by the fact that I had challenged him about something that I'd given almost no thought to, but which he clearly had, and (through this) he continued to show me respect and compassion. The kind of friendship I saw between people in the group kept me coming back and slowly something began to seep into and change my life.

All this happened before I'd ever attended a Redeemer service (or heard a Tim Keller sermon) but when I did attend for the first time, as intimidating as it was, seeing my friends from community group helped. While I couldn't claim Jesus as my Lord and Savior yet, I thought and spoke about Jesus very differently now and I felt called to keep searching.

In addition to the community group, Redeemer created other spaces for people like me where it was safe to doubt and explore. I attended Questioning Christianity and this brought comfort to a lot of my intellectual unrest. I also met with a pastor

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REDEEMER REPORT

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.

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REDEEMER SHORT TERM MISSION TEAMS 2015

BY CHRISTINA STANTON

The summer of 2015 was a very busy season for Redeemer's Short Term Mission teams. Ten teams made up of 106 teammates went to Guatemala, South Africa, and Madagascar to work with churches that are connected to Redeemer through City to City. If you're not familiar with mission trips, they are special volunteer endeavors where a team of 10 to 20 people serves in an international, cross-cultural context. Over the summer, each team carried out social justice and mercy projects while spreading the love of Christ. We at Redeemer have a unique opportunity with Short Term Missions through City to City, the church-planting arm of Redeemer. We partner with churches around the world and continue the Redeemer relationship by supporting their ministries.

This past summer, the teams supported these churches and their ministries by

these kids' caregivers in Madagascar

- Facilitating a large fundraiser in Chennai, India, to benefit a non-profit



Leaders of the 2015 Redeemer Mission Teams

organization that cares for marginalized women

- Providing a two-day training session for local health care providers, a two-day medical clinic for the local



Teaching Occupational Therapy in Madagascar

- Providing occupational therapy professional development classes to elementary and high school teachers and administrators in Madagascar
- Conducting a camp for children with special needs and providing training for

homeless population, and two days of dental care for the children in an orphanage in Madagascar

- Facilitating multiple field trips to the cinema, museums, a zoo, and the beach for children in

orphanages in both Durban and Johannesburg

- Funding and facilitating outreach events such as a "Portrait Painting Party," and "Herb Garden Party," in Bangalore, India, for a local church

- Teaching classes with topics such as Social Media and Job Interview Coaching to teens in Durban

- Providing dental care given by a dentist-teammate, who saw over 100 children and adults in an orphanage in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

- Providing a series of entrepreneurship classes for over 100 adults in Madagascar

Because of financial donations that were raised by our teammates, we were able to fund multiple specific projects that were requested by our hosts. These included infrastructure upgrades, special dinners

and events for target groups, and gifts in the form of practical items like printers and computers, a stove, backpacks for over 100 children, a keyboard and more. Our teams worked with over 50 non-profit organizations and churches! Anri-Louise

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FAITH & ART LECTURE SERIES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

a ministry to college students at NYU. He helped to found Resurrection Brooklyn, and has been the lead pastor of Resurrection Williamsburg since it began in May 2005. Vito has written one book of poems, *Self-Portrait as Jerry Quarry* (New Issues Press), and he and his wife, Monique, enjoy playing music as The Welcome Wagon.

The evening will also include a performance by the CFW 2015 Spring Artist-in-

Residence, choreographer Miro Magloire. Magloire's company, New Chamber Ballet, will perform *Friction*, a piece created during his residency with CFW. As the founder and artistic director of New Chamber Ballet, Magloire has created over 60 ballets in his signature style, all distinguished by sweeping elegance, a striking theatricality, and bold musical choices. The subject of a 2008 full-page profile in the Sunday NYTimes, he recently received

an O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation Grant. Born in Munich, Germany, Magloire started his career as a composer. He studied Modern Dance at the Ailey and Martha Graham Schools before founding New Chamber Ballet in 2004.

Artists and art lovers alike are invited to join us in exploring how God uses the creative process to bring about greater flourishing in our city.

A BETA GROUP TESTIMONY ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

and his wife several times, who fielded my questions with humility and transparency.

Pretty soon I was able to stop fighting and let my guard down. It was then that I was able to ask God to look inside my heart and take over. I know now that Jesus was behind each event last year, and that it was

his Spirit at work drawing me to him.

I am so grateful that he broke through the walls that I had built around my heart and I'm amazed that, in his gentleness, this mighty God used community to move me toward him. I look back on who I was before I became a Christian and

I see someone who found no meaning in her life. Christianity was just a label to me, my future an impersonal dream, and my time filled with empty conversations and superficial distractions. At Redeemer, I found new community, a renewed heart, and a new life through Christ.

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the people would go out of their way to honor and serve their pastor and support him in his ministry. So, where am I going with this, you nervously ask?

While there was so much that I think the Korean church got right, I've come to realize that here was one thing that I think it may have gotten wrong. Of late, I've come to realize that the church doesn't exist to serve the pastor, to support his ministry and volunteer

for his programs. Instead, it is the *pastor* who exists to serve the members of the church and to support *them* in *their* personal ministries — both inside and outside the church. Ephesians 4:11-12 say this: "And he [Jesus Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, *to equip the saints for the work of ministry*, for building up the body of Christ."

It is so easy for us to get this backwards. Pastors aren't called to receive the support of oth-

ers to run their ministries. No, pastors are called to give support and equip others as they are sent out into the city with their own personal ministries and vocations.

So what's the invitation? It's this: as I begin my new ministry on the East Side this month, would you join me by beginning *your* new ministry this month as well? I don't know what that is for you. It might be entering into your current

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NOMINATE A MEMBER THIS NOVEMBER FOR THE SESSION AND DIACONATE

Greetings from the Diaconate!

Fall is a significant time in the life of the church, and as we embark on a new ministry year, we rejoice at the many sisters and brothers who have stepped up to serve in various capacities such as leading/hosting Beta groups and serving on Sunday Service Teams. It has been heartening to see so many of you put your faith in action.

As we anticipate Redeemer's Officer Nomination Month this November, we would like to remind you of the unique opportunity for Redeemer members to nominate their fellow members to serve as elders, deacons or deaconesses. Please partner with us in mobilizing mature Christians to respond to the calling God has given them.

Here are some things to consider as you look for a fellow member to nominate:

Elder candidates must have been Christians for at least three years and Redeemer members for at least one year. A minimum of three nominations is required. They must be men of character, able to equip and care for people spiritually, know their way around the Bible and be able to teach it. They should be comfortable praying with people in need as well as good managers.

Deacon and deaconess candidates must have been Christians for at least three years and either have been a Redeemer member for at least one year or a Redeemer member for at least six months with committed regular attendance at Redeemer for at least two years. They should demonstrate a practical and caring spirit as well as being spiritually discerning, above reproach, compassionate, emotionally and financially healthy and open

to being used by the Lord in a challenging and rewarding ministry of mercy.

Calling: Calling is both inward and outward. A candidate should desire to serve and should be recognized by others as possessing the gifts and graces necessary for the task.

Character: Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he or she must be exemplary, modeling in a consistent way the character of Christ.

Competency: God calls elders, deacons and deaconesses to serve in distinct and varying ways. A candidate should evidence the inclination and ability to fulfill that particular biblical role.

Thank you in advance for your partnership. We are excited to see whom God brings to mind for you to nominate!

For more information, visit redeemer.com/nominate.

FAITH & ART LECTURE SERIES BEGINS OCTOBER 21

Your beliefs will be the light by which you see, but they will not be what you see and they will not be a substitute for seeing. – Flannery O'Connor

Too often, Christian artists hear spiritual tropes that are long on theory, but short on practice. In our inaugural lecture of CFW's new series, artist and pastor Vito Aiuto expounds three modes of vision that engender artistic excellence for the person of faith. Join us for his fresh and practical perspective on seeing the unseen, as well as a performance from former CFW artists-in-residence New Chamber Ballet, followed by drinks and mingling.



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SHORT TERM MISSION TEAMS ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)



Ladies of the Chennai, India team

Oosthuizen, founder of Growing the Nations in Antanarivo, Madagascar (Madagascar's first and only Occupational Therapy program), writes, "Capable. Committed. Kind!

Generous. Fun. Friends. These teams, coming year after year, are such an incredible blessing to this nation, and to me personally. So incredibly thankful for, and blessed by the Redeemer Madagascar teams!"

Many thanks to all the teammates who participated this year, and to those teammates who will travel to Japan, India, and the Philippines in the fall. Please consider making a Short Term Mission trip in 2016! For more information, please look at our Missions website: redeemer.com/missions.



Our Dentists at KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

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personal ministries in the church, your home, neighborhood, network or workplace with a renewed sense of calling and energy. For others, it might mean approaching particular relationships with a new intentionality, being public

about your faith in Christ. For some, this idea of every Christian having a ministry might be new. In that case, it might mean simply beginning to volunteer somewhere with the church as a first step to identifying what your own personal ministry to

the city might be. Whatever it looks like for you, I invite you to join me as we start our new ministries together. The body of Christ and the flourishing of the city will certainly be the better for it.