

SEPTEMBER 2016

## THROUGH PERSONAL MINISTRY, GOD BRINGS RENEWAL

BY CREGAN COOKE

While on vacation this summer I was visiting a church and the pastor's sermon that Sunday was from Luke 5:17-26, where the paralytic is lowered by four of his friends through a hole in the roof because the crowd was so great they couldn't find another way to get him to Jesus. His friends made this extraordinary effort to get him to Jesus so that he could be healed.

In the spring, as we went through the Rise Campaign, we talked a lot about multiplying the Movement of the Gospel that God has been growing in NYC. This story of the paralytic made me think about our calling to help grow this movement in three new ways.

**1) Actively pursue the opportunities God presents to us.** In the story of the paralytic, the friends had obviously heard about Jesus being able to heal people and so they took an

active role in seeking help for their paralyzed friend. By making the time to take the paralytic there and then lifting him onto the roof, they brought him to a place where he could meet Jesus face to face. They engaged in personal ministry where they lived, in a relationship they had with their friend.

**2) God has a role for each of us that is essential.** The pastor spent several minutes in his sermon stressing how critical it is that each of us take inventory of our lives to make sure we are prepared and have allocated time to serve where God leads us. There were four friends. Imagine how much more difficult the task would have been for just three of them (and close to impossible for one or two of them!) There was a specific purpose and necessary participation needed from each of the paralytics' four friends.

Many times it can seem like

there are enough people already serving in a ministry or it can feel like it's just too hard to make a commitment to do something. But when we open our hearts to God's call we get to be part of something amazing — gospel renewal. We talk about it a lot, but sometimes it can seem like it happens outside of our everyday lives. The fact is, God is doing amazing things all around us and we all have a role to play in ministering the gospel.

**3) When the gospel is presented, life-changing renewal happens.** When the paralytics' four friends opened a hole in the roof and lowered him down to where Jesus stood, they were simply doing manual labor as friends, but their faith was in the restorative power that only Jesus could offer. They knew if they could help get their friend to Jesus, he could

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## SIGN UP TO BE PART OF A 7-WEEK BETA GROUP

Never been in a Community Group? Are you new to Redeemer? Each fall, we launch seven-week Beta Groups for people new to Re-

deemer or Community Groups. **Visit the Beta Group kiosk during coffee hour after one of our Sundayworship services** where you can talk

to staff and leaders to find a seven-week Beta Group near you. Visit [redeemer.com/betagroups](http://redeemer.com/betagroups) for more information or to sign up.

# CIVILITY: AN EVENING WITH NICHOLAS KRISTOF, JOHN INAZU, AND TIM KELLER

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Christian faith demands a high view of human beings. This means, among other things, that civic engagement requires the type of nuance that transcends a liberal/conservative divide. Our public discourse requires conversation over obstruction, vulnerability over combativeness, diversity, sacrifice and humility. In short, our civic lives require civic love. Join Redeemer West Side and the Center for Faith & Work on October 24 for an evening with Nicholas Kristof (Pulitzer Prize winning *NY Times* editorialist), John Inazu (author of *Confident Pluralism*), and the Rev. Timothy Keller to discuss rediscovering civility and dignity in the public square.

**Nicholas Kristof** has been a columnist for *The New York Times* since 2001. Kristof has won two Pulitzer Prizes — for his coverage of Tiananmen

Square and for covering the genocide in Darfur, along with many humanitarian awards such as the Anne Frank Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. He grew up on a farm in Oregon, graduated from Harvard, studied law at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and then studied Arabic in Cairo. He was a longtime foreign correspondent for *The New York Times* and speaks Chinese, Japanese and other languages. With his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, he has written several books, most recently *A Path Appears* (September, 2014) about how to make a difference. Their last book, *Half the Sky*, was a No. 1 best seller. Mr. Kristof, who has lived on four continents and traveled to more than 150 countries, was *The New York Times*'s first blogger and has 1.4 million followers on Twitter, 1.3 million followers on Google+

and 600,000 followers on Facebook. His column appears every Sunday and Thursday.

**John Inazu** is a Professor of Law and Religion at Washington University in St. Louis and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He teaches courses in criminal law, law and religion, and the First Amendment. His scholarship focuses on the First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion, and related issues of political and legal theory. John is the author of *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving Through Deep Difference*. He has written broadly for publications including *USA Today*, *CNN*, *The Hedgehog Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*. He holds a BSE and JD from Duke University and a PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill.

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**Join Redeemer West Side  
and the Center for Faith & Work for this event.**

Monday October 24 at 7:30 p.m.  
W83 Ministry Center, 150 West 83rd St.

Registration for this event is now open at  
**[civilityinthepublicsquare.eventbrite.com](http://civilityinthepublicsquare.eventbrite.com)**.

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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  
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.

# YOUR GIFTS TO RISE ARE MAKING THESE INITIATIVES POSSIBLE

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The story isn't over. The first phase of Rise initiatives is under way. Our strategy to reach a tipping point of gospel-teaching churches in NYC over the next 10 years depends on new churches, new leaders and new buildings rising in neighborhoods across the city — and **your generosity is making it possible.**

## New Churches

New Churches are shown to be the most effective method of reaching those not already part of a church. **We are therefore excited to announce the upcoming launch of a West Side daughter church led by the Rev. Michael Keller.** Michael has been the Director of Reformed University Fellowship City Campus Ministry in Manhattan for the past seven years. He has spoken to groups of students at least three times a week, and grown the weekly attendance to 150, while adding staff and raising a budget. Michael has now joined the West Side staff to prepare for an expected launch date for the new worship site in mid-2017.

## New Buildings

New Buildings are crucial in order to be rooted in the fabric of a neighborhood and Redeemer is dedicated to raising the remaining amount needed for our projected purchase and construction budget to move ahead with owning a new East

Side worship center.

## New Leaders

New Leaders are needed in both ministry and the marketplace. We are excited to announce three leadership initiatives that are being launched *this September* as a part of the Rise vision!

- *RPC Residency Program*

This fall Redeemer will launch a full-time residency program to prepare pastors for gospel ministry in New York City. The program will run for two years, from September, 2016, to August, 2018. The inaugural cohort will be comprised of four pastoral residents who will receive intensive training, feedback and coaching from Redeemer pastors and directors. We believe this program is an integral part of the Rise vision for growing the gospel movement in the city, as it will expand our pipeline of leaders for the new churches that will be started in the years ahead.

- *Apprenticeship Program*

As part of the “New Leaders” portion of the Rise Campaign, Redeemer City to City is rolling out an Apprentice Program this September. Designed as a partnership between CTC and NYC churches, the Apprentice Program helps NYC pastors develop young men and women within their congregations who show leadership potential.

After an extremely successful pilot that included 21 apprentices from 11 churches, this year CTC will welcome 70-80 apprentices from more than 30 churches across NYC. The nine-month program aims to help participants deepen their daily experience of the gospel, identify their unique calling, and understand what it takes to engage the city effectively. CTC will lead apprentices through five Saturday morning learning sessions, two site visits, and other related assignments. Meanwhile, an experienced church leader will supervise each apprentice in a ministry assignment in the church and meet with them at least every other month for coaching.

- *23 Seminary Scholarships Awarded*

Because of Rise, 23 scholarship awards are being offered to incoming and returning students for the fall 2016 semester of Redeemer City Ministry Program (RCM). RCM is a strategic partnership between Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) and Redeemer City to City (CTC), with the goal being to provide theological education and practical ministry training in New York City. This program is a key part of our strategy for supplying pastors to serve the growing movement in the city in the years ahead.

# A STORY OF GOSPEL RENEWAL FROM EAST ASIA

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*Redeemer City to City provides training, resources, grants, and coaching to leaders in global cities, including the great cities of Asia Pacific. Here's one leader's story. For security purposes his name is withheld.*

In 2010, Redeemer City to City invited me to join the International Church Planter Intensive Training (the Intensive). I had already helped to plant sixteen churches and originally thought they wanted me to come teach. I was surprised when I realized they were inviting me to participate. I'll admit, it wounded my pride a little, but nevertheless I decided to participate in the month-long training. I'm so glad I did! During the Intensive I was personally and pro-

fessionally challenged, and I completely changed my plan for church planting.

Before the Intensive, my vision was always for a large church. I studied mega-churches in America and South Korea, with their large audiences and even bigger buildings. Such churches don't exist in my country, and to copy this model would have been the highlight of my career. So I made it the goal for our church.

During this time, I was struggling through some big questions: What is the church? Who will attend? How many will we save? I was focusing on my personal legacy, that one day it would be my church with my name, and generations would look back and remem-

ber me. The church was becoming my idol.

The CTC Intensive changed all that. It reminded me that I need the gospel. I am a servant of Christ. This is all of grace. In my whole life, I may never build a grand church, but I can build up people.

For the past five years, we've walked that path, and we now have a grand vision for urban church planting. Using the training provided by CTC, I've started discipleship training in the church. I've led hundreds of disciples, 20 of whom have become pastors themselves. Hallelujah!

*Read and watch more stories of gospel renewal in the cities of Asia Pacific as well as support this work at [redeemercitycity.com](http://redeemercitycity.com)*

## RENEWAL GROUPS: RECONNECTING WITH OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER THROUGH INTUITIVE EATING

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The Renewal Group for Intuitive Eating is for all women who struggle with body image issues, disordered eating, or simply an unhealthy relationship with food. In this group, we will be working on body attunement, making peace with food, finding satisfaction in eating, and learning how to rebuild a healthy body image. We will learn how to restore the connection between food, mind and body within a gospel framework.

Here are some reasons to join the Renewal Group for Intuitive Eating:

- Hear what God says about food
- Identify what drives your cycle of dieting
- Learn how to feel without using food
- Explore the unconscious food rules you live by
- Celebrate the way God made you in his image

Last year, a group of brave women gathered together to unburden themselves of the

things that had made them feel ashamed, alone, and misunderstood. One woman shared how liberating it was to finally have a safe place to unload her thoughts and to feel understood in return. Another shared with tears how she felt the tenderness of Christ's understanding of her through the talks and scriptural references. Others shared the comfort of the sisterly bond they experienced when exchanging emails throughout the week.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus

*(Continued on page 6)*

# EXPERIENCING LOVE AND GRACE IN SOUTH AFRICA

BY STEPHEN TRAFTON

“Why do you do these things...these ridiculous things you do?” spits Aldonza at Don Quixote in the musical *Man of La Mancha*. He gently responds, “I hope to add some measure of grace to the world.” In the story, Don Quixote seems quite ridiculous. Throughout the musical, characters mock the idealism of striving to right all wrongs, to fight the unbeatable foe, and to dream the impossible dream.

Traveling over 8,000 miles to South Africa on a church mission trip might be met with similar mocking. “Why give up so much time and use so much money to lead a vacation bible school for orphans and tell them about Jesus?” “Why do you do these things...these ridiculous things you do?”

For 11 days in July, our team from Redeemer’s Youth Group

of 16 high school students and 4 leaders served at LIV VIL-LAGE near Durban, South Africa. LIV provides holistic residential care to orphaned and vulnerable children to “Rescue



*Redeemer's Youth Group and Leaders in South Africa*

a child, Restore a life, Raise a leader, and Release a Star.” This holistic care includes: on-site education, a loving foster mother, a medical center, a culinary school, music equipment, sports facilities, a church, and a staff completely in love with these kids. We were told most of these kids would have never had a chance in life. And our

team was deeply moved as we saw them cared for by an organization that embodies the love of our Heavenly Father.

While it was wonderful for us to come in and have the opportunity to give our love to these kids, we learned more about love from them. They took our hands, they climbed on top of us, they ran up to us and they led us in singing and dancing about our “Good, Good, Father.” Even though there is so much pain and sadness in their past, their

joy inspired us. They made us laugh and cry. In a country that has an estimated 3.7 million orphans, many affected by AIDS/HIV, our young team saw the LIV staff and children as an embodiment of the gospel. They point to the gospel story of the one whose immeasurable grace brought him into the middle of

*(Continued on page 6)*

## WE RAISED \$1.1M FROM 1800 NEW DONORS THROUGH OUR 10X10 RISE INITIATIVE!

In August we launched a mini national campaign to invite friends of Redeemer to help us plant 10 churches in 10 days with gifts of \$10 or more. 1800 people responded to the challenge, raising over \$100,000, which unlocked a \$1M matching gift.

As part of the campaign we released a series of posts from Tim about gospel movements:

- *Why You Still Need the Gospel*  
• ([rise.redeemer.com/movement-series-1/](https://rise.redeemer.com/movement-series-1/))
- *Why There Aren't Enough Churches*  
• ([rise.redeemer.com/movement-series-2/](https://rise.redeemer.com/movement-series-2/))
- *The Work of God in the Cities of Man*  
• ([rise.redeemer.com/movement-series-3/](https://rise.redeemer.com/movement-series-3/))

We also released a podcast conversation where Tim Keller discusses what makes a gospel movement and the inflection point we find ourselves in today. We are excited that enough money was raised to fund 10 new churches. please join us in celebrating what God God has done and is still doing!



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## THROUGH PERSONAL MINISTRY ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

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bring amazing, life-altering renewal.

We are being called as a church to multiply gospel renewal all over the city, by rising and giving ourselves to personal ministry. As a new ministry year begins, our prayer is that all of us would invest ourselves in new ways to minister to neighbors, coworkers and friends all across New York City.

It's the perfect time to consider how you can minister the gospel. Maybe it's time to give a community group a chance by being part of a 7 week beta group. Perhaps it's time to sign up to serve with a Hope for New York affiliate near your neighborhood. Or this fall may be the perfect time to bring a friend to a worship service or church event. What-

ever God is calling you to do, your role is essential in bringing gospel renewal to the city. When his friends helped the paralytic meet Jesus, he was restored spiritually and physically, changing his life forever. When you help people encounter the gospel, God uses your personal ministry to bring his renewing grace and love to more of the city.

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## RENEWAL GROUPS ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

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for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

— *Ephesians 2:10*

The next Renewal Groups will be offered this fall. Registration opens in September, 2016. To find out more about

Redeemer Renewal Groups contact Redeemer Counseling Services or go to **[redeemer.com/renewalgroups](http://redeemer.com/renewalgroups)**.

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## LOVE AND GRACE IN SOUTH AFRICA ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

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our brokenness. The gospel is the song of the impossible and hopeful dream of a world set right, that became real when

Jesus rose from darkness.

Please pray that our team will carry with them the amazing grace, hope, and love they

have experienced as they live out the immeasurable grace of the gospel with their friends all over NYC.