

MARCH 2017

## THE RISE CONTINUES

---

BY TIM KELLER

Almost one year ago we kicked off the Rise Campaign with Redeemer Night. The prayer was for God to send Redeemer out to reach the city in new ways.

In just one year, God has used Rise to generate new leaders, start new churches and raise \$62M in pledges from Redeemer congregants and supporters outside Redeemer. Though we still have some ways to go until we reach our goal of \$80M, both Redeemer and City to City have been able to start working towards this joint vision of ultimately tripling the body of Christ in city-

center New York through new churches, new leaders and new homes for our churches.

Last year, City to City helped plant 10 new churches and this year we are projected to more than double that number. The West Side congregation is sending out the first new site, Redeemer Lincoln Square. For all these new churches we will need far more leaders trained to do ministry in the city. City to City has begun a new ministry training sequence with an accredited master's degree, with 14 students last year and 24 this year. In addition Redeemer has been able to bring on four pas-

toral residents who are already serving in our congregations. The caliber, enthusiasm, and promise of even these first students and pastoral residents are all I had prayed for.

This spring Redeemer will officially become three churches. This will be the business before us at a very important congregational meeting on May 20. In that meeting Redeemer members will vote to "particularize" each congregation — transitioning from one church to three churches, each with its own lay leadership, elder boards, staff, and senior pastors.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## SPIRITUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

---

Almost a year ago, during the Rise campaign, thousands of you said, "I'm In" to engage and serve the city. This ministry year, Redeemer challenged its congregants to *Rise Where You Are* and reimagine how to live out the gospel in New York City in new ways. Why? Our future depends on every-member gospel ministry; giving ourselves away for

the gospel and the good of the city.

We are encouraged by all the stories of those already doing this! One way we are gauging this momentum is through a *Spiritual Self-Assessment* designed to prompt reflection on the areas of life God may be calling individuals to grow. The assessment focused on five spheres of life: Chris-

tian Identity, Church & Mission, Family & Relationships, Neighborhood & Justice, and Work & Rest.

Over 1,400 Redeemer congregants participated and here is one story that was shared with us, of a woman God is actively using to minister to her community:

*(Continued on page 7)*

# REDEEMER LINCOLN SQUARE LAUNCH ON APRIL 16

---

BY MICHAEL KELLER

We are just about one month away from Redeemer Lincoln Square's first service on Easter Sunday, April 16. Since we announced in November that Redeemer Lincoln Square will be launching a new congregation *at the New York Society for Ethical Culture (64th and Central Park West)* we have had prayer nights, vision nights, and weekly Catalyst classes filled with congregants getting to know each other in anticipation of that day.

We know community is a complicated matter that takes time, proximity, commonality and vulnerability. This mixture solidifies as a group of people decides to do life together, to be known and cared for.

We are excited to do just that at Redeemer Lincoln Square, but it means engaging with each other. We have been saying for months now, "Redeemer Lincoln Square is a church that values questions and the people who ask them." This means we see questions as a form of dialog that can lead to relationships, both with one another and with God, and eventually to community. Too often we as New Yorkers are

comfortable in our own little spaces. We hope to energize people to reengage with each other, both outside and inside the church.

One of the ways we hope to do this is to each week have a time after the worship service for people to ask questions. People will be able to text questions in anonymously, and we will respond and wrestle with them publicly — because we want to be a community that is learning and processing together.

This is more than a Q&A, but also way of being an honest community. God is knowable — but in the Bible we also see that God often makes himself most clearly known in response to peoples' questions. So bold questions are what we'll expect as, together, we seek both to understand and experience what the gospel is and does.

Each person behind each question matters to us. Questions, therefore, are not mere intellectual thoughts because behind each question is a story and a person that we want to know more about. The Q&A time, or rather Q&R (Question and Response) time is also

a way to demonstrate our attitude towards our whole community. We want to be a dialoging place where people all over the spectrum of belief don't just feel listened to, but also engaged and cared for.

We really do feel that the gospel changes everything and the gospel is for everyone. So we exist to be a community that seeks both to understand and experience the gospel — internally in our lives and externally in how we relate to our neighbors. We will do this through public dialogue, intentional relationships, acts of service, and love for our city in the hopes of seeing the neighborhood of Lincoln Square flourish.

Redeemer Lincoln Square is going to be sent out next month. Please pray for us as we go out to start this new congregation. Also, pray that God would reveal to us the people we should be praying for to invite to Redeemer Lincoln Square.

We aren't doing community for communities' sake ... we are starting this church so all people (including ourselves) can get to know Jesus better.

---

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.  
Office: 1166 Avenue of the Americas, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10036  
212-808-4460 (T) 212-808-4465 (F) [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com)

## 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.

# DISCOVERING GOD'S DESIGN FOR COMMUNITY

---

BY CHRISTINE CHOE

I had always thought of Christian community as the act of sharing life together. From the day-to-day act of sharing a simple meal to the momentous milestone of celebrating marriage, I felt fortunate that my Community Group had truly become my family in New York.

However, as my Group continued to meet regularly and deepen our relationships with one another, there was also a creeping sense of inward momentum. We continued to focus on one another, pray and talk amongst each other, and build roots that were deeper — but not necessarily broader.

As Christians, we are called to pursue Shalom — the total flourishing of every dimension. While my Community Group regularly thought about the flourishing of ourselves and our daily lives, we were not focused on the true purpose of Christian community: to bring about counter-cultural change in our society at large by pointing to Christ.

In December, my Community Group was invited to serve at *His Toy Store*. For those not familiar, *His Toy Store* is a pop-up store where low-income families in our neighborhoods can shop for Christmas

gifts for their children at no cost. We traded in our typical Friday evening to unpack, sort, and wrap presents in preparation for the parents who would be Christmas shopping. The next morning, we greeted over 200 families and helped them shop.

As my Community Group reflected on the weekend, we were each eager to share our own experiences, which included learning how to expertly wrap odd-shaped gifts like a basketball and realizing that Dora the Explorer is still inexplicably popular after 16 years of her existence.

More importantly, we also shared stories of the conversations we had with the families: how empowered a father felt through the simple act of being able to pick out a gift for his child; how a mother gushed about being treated like a queen as we offered her coffee and guided her through a personal shopping experience.

I'd love to be able to say that this one experience immediately transformed my community. Instead, *His Toy Store* has been one of several experiences that have led to a slow and subtle, but real, change in our group. Whether volunteering with HFNY, engaging in lo-

cal community initiatives, or stopping to have a conversation with the homeless man on our way to work, these regular rhythms of service have led to a gradual but steady change in the intent of our community. I can see it in the way our topics of conversation have shifted to focus less on our own lives and more on issues of justice and equality in the world. I can see it in what we pray as a group — we are quicker to think of those who are marginalized than we once were. And I can see it in the personal responsibility we feel to enable justice and empower others through our work and relationships.

Serving with my Community Group has been a reminder that the primary purpose of community is not for my own fulfillment, but to be outward facing and make this city more whole by pointing to Christ. My Community Group is still very much my family in New York. We like to share meals and send each other funny pictures of dogs. Yet, through service, we have glimpsed God's intent and design for community, the purpose of which is greater than just serving those on the inside, but turning our focus outward to seek the flourishing of those around us.

# WHAT IS PARTICULARIZATION AND HOW DO WE GET THERE FROM HERE?

BY BRUCE TERRELL

**I**s “*particularization*” *actually a word? If so, what does it mean and what does it have to do with Redeemer?* I’m glad you asked! Yes, Merriam and Webster (and if you can’t trust those two guys, who can you trust?) confirm it’s a word and they define it as “the act of particularizing.” Don’t you appreciate when the definition clarifies things so amazingly well?

In fact, “the act of particularizing” is precisely what we’re planning to do at our Congregational Meeting on May 20.

Redeemer members will be voting to transition what now functions as one church in three congregations into three *particular* churches. In other words, our three congregations will become a tight-knit family of autonomous churches bound together by strong relationships and a shared theological vision — the Redeemer Network of churches — each with their own senior pastors, elders and lay leaders.

***So how do we get there from here?*** Well, once again, I’m glad you asked! We will be communicating many more details about this in the coming weeks through announcements

in worship services, a series of Q&A sessions and Town Halls and more.

For now, it’s important to know a few things. First, if you’re a Redeemer member, please mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, May 20, when we’ll gather for a Congregational Meeting at the W83 Ministry Center. Also, please avail yourselves of other congregational-level gatherings in the coming weeks like Q&A sessions after worship services and Town Halls in which you’ll have an opportunity to hear more details and have your questions answered. In addition, stay tuned for the imminent launch of a webpage with FAQs, videos, etc. that will provide further information.

Redeemer members will be taking several important votes at the Congregational Meeting including items such as the creation of three churches, Tim’s transition as senior pastor to pastor emeritus, calling our current lead pastors as senior pastors, and bylaw revisions.

Also, one key item for Redeemer members to know is that each will need to determine which of the three

churches they will join as a member. For the vast majority of members that decision will be fairly straightforward and align with what they have already determined as their current congregational affiliation. All members will be sent written communication about this membership transition in order to facilitate that process.

In many ways, this is the coming to fruition of the vision that began as far back as 1997 when Redeemer conducted a capital campaign to launch a worship location on the Upper West Side. Even then our vision was to become a movement of churches for the good of the city instead of a megachurch. During the Renew Campaign in 2009 we described becoming a collegiate model of “one church in three congregations.” And most recently during the Rise Campaign in Spring 2016 we outlined how we would transition into an interdependent family of three ecclesiastically particular churches — Redeemer Downtown, Redeemer East Side and Redeemer West Side. That time has now come and it’s particularly (yes, pun intended!) exciting!

---

## SAVE THE DATE! – SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

---

Mark your calendars! Redeemer’s next — and possible most important — Congregational Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20 at 6 p.m at W83. Reception to follow.

# DESIGNING YOUR LIFE SPRING PROGRAMS FROM THE CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK

---

The Center for Faith & Work is excited to have Dave Evans, our inaugural Entrepreneur-in-Residence, returning this spring for six weeks of special programming utilizing the principles from his New York Times bestselling book, *Designing Your Life*. CFW will be offering a suite of events that move from the theoretical to a true integration of the inseparable areas of faith and work. Don't miss this rare chance to learn how to apply "design thinking" to your life and vocation.

These hands-on learning experiences will give you a chance to reimagine your calling by growing in gospel-oriented wisdom. The following offerings will explore topics like ambition, uncertainty, prayer, community, collaboration, and discernment all under the expert guidance of Dave Evans. We hope you'll consider one or more of the following opportunities for growth this spring:

- Designing Your Life All-Day Workshop  
Saturday, April 1  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Designing Your Life Introductory Seminar  
Thursday, April 13  
7 to 9 p.m.
- Designing Your Life In-City Spiritual Retreat  
Friday, April 21 to  
Saturday April 22
- Six-week class:  
Applying Calling  
Six Monday evenings  
April 10 to May 15  
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Dave Evans and CFW Executive Director David H. Kim provide practical tools for integrating a theology of calling

Dave Evans started his third career teaching "How to apply the innovation principles of design thinking to the wicked problem of designing your life"

in the Stanford Design Program in 2007. His first career was a failed attempt to solve the energy crisis in the late 70's — a drastically premature venture. Dave's second sojourn was 30+ years in Silicon Valley involving 15 years of inside roles, including leading the early mouse and printer projects at Apple and co-founding Electronic Arts, where he was VP of Talent. In 1990, Dave shifted to the role of the "outsider," working on projects ranging from management consulting to growing tech firms, large and small. Dave holds a BS and MSME from Stanford and a graduate diploma in Contemplative Christian Spirituality from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is the co-author of the bestselling book, *Designing Your Life that has been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Fast Company.*

To learn more about these offerings, visit [faithandwork.com/designingyourlife](http://faithandwork.com/designingyourlife).

## THE RISE CONTINUES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

---

You'll hear more about the meeting in the coming weeks, but what's important to understand is that this is the next step in a plan that we've been working toward for nearly 20 years.

The original vision of Redeemer was to be a church "not for ourselves." The very earliest members agreed that we would

not try to create a church that simply pleased us, but one that also took into full consideration our non-church going and non-believing friends. In 1997, in our first capital campaign, we raised funds to begin worshipping on the West Side and to start the Church Planting Center. Why? We said then (and I

quote): "Instead of becoming a mega-church, we want to become a movement of churches and a servant of the whole body of Christ in NYC." This is also why we sent out many friends from our West and East Side congregations to create the Redeemer Downtown congregation in 2012.

(Continued on page 6)

# A NEW WAY OF “SENSING” GOD: WEST SIDE SENSORY SEEKERS EVENT FOR PRESCHOOLERS

---

*The West Side Children’s Ministry teaches young children biblical truths through sensory-based activities and encourages families to give back at the first ever Sensory Seekers event.*

On a chilly Saturday morning, 50 of the youngest West Side congregants toddled room-to-room through the third floor of W83 Ministry Center. In each room they discovered sensory activities featuring various colors and textures. The scene resembled what one might find at the neighboring Children’s Museum of Manhattan. Unlike at the museum, however, each of these activities was intended to teach the children how much God loves them, how creative he is, and how powerful he is.

At each activity, parents used a guide for talking their little ones through these scripture-based activities: placing mud-colored play-doh over their eyes, casting empty nets to fill with squirmy plastic fish, seeking out the lost coin and sheep, and more. Through the activities, Julia Boyes and Re-

gan Branch, coordinators of the West Side Preschool and Nursery programs, reminded parents that everyday play can be connected to Bible-themed conversations.

Another highlight of the event was the volunteers. A West Side Community Group of young couples served together at the event. West Side Youth Minister Stephen Trafton recruited two of his students to perform live praise music for the tots throughout the morning. Additionally, students from Redeemer’s affiliate college ministry, RUF, chose Sensory Seekers as their February group service project. “It was a great opportunity for one generation to serve another,” said sophomore Katie Nowotny, an RUF student leader.

Children also served one another and the marginalized in NYC by bringing clothes and

toys from their homes to contribute to a clothing swap and drive. Parents could shop for items at the swap at no cost; this allowed Redeemer families to support one another, where needs may be present but unapparent. Following the swap, the remaining items were donated to local charities Room to Grow and Avail, a Hope For New York affiliate.

“We are compelled to teach children of every age the gospel of Jesus Christ,” explained Regan Branch, “so we have to make it approachable to them at every level. We want them to hear it, to know it, and to respond to it. At Sensory Seekers we were able to immerse children in Bible stories and gospel truth in an experiential way, and then let them respond to the call to love one another.”

## THE RISE CONTINUES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

---

That is why we acquired a building on W83rd Street, because a congregation can better reach a neighborhood if it lives there 24/7, not just appearing for a short time on a Sunday. This is the long-term vision that gave birth to the Rise Campaign itself. When Redeemer becomes three

churches they will be better able to reach their own neighborhoods, raise up new leaders, and plant new churches in the center city than was the single, centralized, Redeemer.

The vision is just the outworking of the gospel — the way up is down. The way to become rich is to give away.

The way to influence is to not seek influence but just to serve. Up to this point Redeemer has grown primarily by drawing people in, but to renew more of the city and activate each of you into personal ministry, we need to send everyone out.

**And that includes me.**

*(Continued on page 7)*

## THE RISE CONTINUES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

---

For all this to happen I will be pivoting out of my role as senior pastor of Redeemer. You will in essence be *sending me* out to serve the greater movement here in NYC by releasing me to transition into a role where I will primarily equip and prepare new pastors and church planters with City to City and our new seminary. That leadership training sequence is already surging forward and I will be stepping into the middle of it.

And even though I will no longer serve as your senior pastor, I'll certainly have an ongoing teaching role within the Redeemer family of churches. We're already planning for a conference for Fall 2017 on how to really work the gospel deep into your heart in a transformative way at which I will be the keynote speaker. I'll also be freed to do more

evangelism in the city, so in that regard as well I will be of support to those of you looking to reach out to neighbors and friends who don't believe. Kathy and I will remain not only here in the city but will be attending all the congregations and participating in their lives. This is our city and you are our church.

I'm handing the responsibility over to three men to be your senior pastors in whom I have the utmost confidence. Of course, they have already functioned in these roles now for some time — and they have shown every promise to be not merely capable, but great Christian leaders. As I leave regular preaching, and others step into that space, you will see David, John and Abe along with our other pastors, grow into a whole new generation of

fine preachers who know how to apply the gospel to the heart of city-dwellers.

I know that there will be a range of responses — some rather emotional — to all this. Every major change, even the best and wisest, will be experienced in some ways as a loss. I feel it as well, and I know that many of you feel it. I am, in a sense, giving you away as you are giving me away. But when we are unselfish in Jesus' name, he always provides. No one who gives up 'brother or sister or mother or father or houses or lands' for Jesus' sake 'will fail to receive a hundredfold' of blessing and strength and love in this life and the next (Mark 10:29-30).

So remember ... you are giving me away, sending me out to the movement, but I'll be right here!

## SPIRITUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

---

*When I took the self-assessment, I didn't know what to expect since I thought I had a good grasp on my spiritual life. However, the assessment affirmed the feeling I've always had that I intended to get to know my neighbors better. I was encouraged after sharing this with my community group and resolved to spend time and learn more about a new neighbor who just moved into my building. Come to find out, she's a Christian and has*

*been looking for a church. With the invitation to join us, my husband and I have walked to church with her for the last two weeks. I am grateful for this growing friendship and for the reminder that I am called to love my neighbors and share my faith in everyday conversations. I hope this new relationship will hold me accountable to do the same with future neighbors.*

— Celine,  
Redeemer congregant

Although individual responses remain anonymous, we wanted to share some overall results with you. See the results chart on page 8.

Our hope is that, as a community, we continuously encourage and pray for one another as we apply these things to our lives.

If you are interested in learning more, you can visit the Spiritual Self Assessment Resource page at [redeemer.com/assessmentresources](http://redeemer.com/assessmentresources).



1166 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS  
16TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10036

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NEW YORK NY  
PERMIT # 349

## SPIRITUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

42% picked

**WORK + REST**

as an area they would  
most like to grow in

*Average Score: 18 out of 25*

33% picked

**CHURCH + MISSION**

as an area they would  
most like to grow in

*Average Score: 19 out of 25*

34% picked

**CHRISTIAN IDENTITY**

as an area they would  
most like to grow in

*Average Score: 20 out of 25*

55% picked

**NEIGHBORHOOD + JUSTICE**

as an area they would  
most like to grow in

*Average Score: 17 out of 25*

27% picked

**FAMILY +  
RELATIONSHIPS**

as an area they would  
most like to grow in

*Average Score: 20 out of 25*

\*Note: Participants could select multiple spheres to grow in which creates a cumulative % sum over 100%