

JULY/AUGUST 2017

## WE HAVE A SEMINARY??

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BY KATHY KELLER

When Tim began announcing his intention to step out of the preaching rotation in order to begin teaching and training leaders as a seminary professor, the most common reaction (after “WHAT??”) was “We have a seminary??”

It’s not meant to be a secret, but apparently it is not very well known, so here’s the cool stuff you need to know.

The idea for the seminary was birthed in the summer of 2009 in discussions between Tim and several leaders in the administration of Reformed Theological Seminary, which

included the Chancellor/CEO of RTS at that time, Ric Canada, and the present Exec. Director of RTS NYC, Steve Wallace. The brainstorming occurred fitfully. But then the strategy for New York arising out of the RISE campaign — and RTS gaining all the NY state and accreditation agency approvals — brought the accredited program into operation for the 2015–2016 academic year.

That strategy for reaching New York is “New Churches, New Leaders, New Buildings.” The need for new churches is obvious, but where will all

the leaders come from for all those new congregations? We do not have enough. And we have learned over the years that importing church leaders from other parts of the country is time consuming and not always successful, as there is a steep learning curve in acclimating to the city. The solution is to build our own leadership pipeline, drawing men and women already living here into ministry. And the centerpiece of this pipeline is “from the ground up” theological and ministry training.

Redeemer City to City and  
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## “SABBATH IN A TIME OF UNREST”

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Restlessness is a part of living in New York. We over-schedule. We under-rest. We live in a moment of significant cultural tension. Yet God has equipped us with tools and promises that bring rest even in the most stressful times.

In light of this, on May 18 the Center for Faith & Work held the event *Sabbath in a Time*

*of Unrest*. The featured speaker for the evening was author Judith Shulevitz, (“Bring Back the Sabbath,” *New York Times Magazine*; *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time*). Shulevitz pointed out the importance of keeping Sabbath consistently in order to reap its full benefits. “What does ‘not working together’ do?” she

asked. “It creates community. Not just a sense of community. Real community.”

Redeemer member Lolita Jackson also spoke on how her own discipline of keeping Sabbath had transformed her life and work, sharing that it had opened up discussions about her faith among her colleagues.

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# TURNING THE PAGE IN OUR STORY

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BY BRUCE TERRELL

It was a beautiful July 4th morning and I was sitting on my back porch enjoying my first cup of coffee, reading the morning paper, and happily anticipating the family cookout that was planned for later in the day. Little did I know in a few short moments, July 4, 2005, would end up becoming a pivotal day in my life and the life of my family.

God began writing a new chapter in our lives when the phone rang that morning just as I finished reading the paper. To my surprise it was Tim Keller calling. Tim and I had become acquainted through my 20 years of working at our denomination's foreign mission agency, Mission to the World. And the reason for his call was a surprise as well. He wanted me to consider the possibility of serving as Redeemer's next executive director and six months later I accepted.

Now, 11+ years later, I'm profoundly grateful for having had the opportunity to partner with Tim and many others to help lead Redeemer through some of it's best years of growth and a few challenging years of change. And while I rejoice in what God has accomplished, if I'm honest, there's also sense of loss. The loss of an amazing ministry partnership Tim and I have shared, and for which I'll be forever grateful. But God also forged a deep friendship. We'll certainly remain friends; we just won't be working as closely together as we both pivot to new roles.

While there is a sense of loss, there is also an opportunity for great gain. Tim will be positioned to better leverage his profound teaching and equipping gifts, as well as providing more leadership to the broader movement. And in this new chapter I have the great priv-

ilege of partnering with Abe Cho and the Redeemer East Side staff team and congregants as their new executive director I'm convinced it will be as full of amazing stories of God's grace and as consequential as the last decade has been at Redeemer.

That's especially true as Redeemer East Side begins to write its next chapter of loving and serving a our particular part of the city, while keeping sight of the broader vision to bring gospel renewal across the entire city. Even in this next ministry year, with God's provision we will finalize the plans for our first East Side site launch, create new opportunities by moving up the time of our evening worship service to 5 p.m., and work to find an East Side property for seven-day-a-week ministry space. Now that's a next chapter I can't wait to help write!

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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.

# A TASTE OF CHRIST'S LOVE: THE IMPACT OF THE DIACONATE'S MEALS MINISTRY

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The care of God's people comes in a variety of forms. One of the unique and effective avenues the Diaconate has established for congregants to serve one another is its Meals Ministry. Through the simple act of cooking and delivering a hot meal to an individual or family in need, the love of Christ is spread in a tangible and practical way.

Our Meals Ministry Coordinator, Christine Kim, along with many of our Meals Ministry volunteers, sacrificially make this ministry possible. Below you can read in their own words how Meals Ministry recipients have been directly blessed through these simple acts of mercy extended to them by members of our faith community.

## **Logan and Nate Lo**

*My wife Alison was diagnosed with the single most deadly cancer possible, a butterfly glioma, five days after giving birth to our only child. That was heartbreaking. Everything was a struggle: constant hospital visits, a newborn, and of course the pain of the situation. The Meals Ministry was a quiet and reassuring constant in our lives. Countless wonderful Redeemer members provided meals for well over a year. That was one worry that we didn't have to concern*

*ourselves with. My wife ultimately succumbed to the cancer only a few weeks ago, but the kindness shown by Redeemer and the Meals Ministry was one of the very few positive things from this whole ordeal. I know that we will never forget it.*

## **Gloria Wong**

*In May, during an emergency health issue, I was unable to eat due to resulting nausea. A loss of six pounds in one week left me too weak to manage daily chores, including cooking and shopping. Through the Meals Ministry and their volunteers, I was offered nutritious meals every other day, which allowed me to gradually regain strength. In addition, prayer with volunteers blessed me spiritually during my struggle to overcome nausea and loss of appetite. I am thankful for these volunteers who extended their love for Christ to the gospel community of Redeemer.*

## **James, Mizy and Judah Juhn**

*We were so touched by the time, effort and resources sacrificed to help our days go by much smoother following the birth of our son. These meals helped save a lot of time and energy for us in a time when those were scarce. But even more importantly, it helped us feel loved as part of the church community.*

## **David and Heather Bixler**

*When I was informed that the meals ministry would be providing dinner for our family during the time of our son Sean's brain surgery, I thought it was a nice gesture, but I hadn't thought about meals at all, and I certainly hadn't placed them high on the priority list. I was soon grateful that someone did have the foresight to understand that eating would be essential, and as his hospital stay extended to almost three weeks, I began to see what a great need it actually met as we shuttled the length of Manhattan between our home and the hospital daily. In this act of a meal, we humbly experienced God's care through an outpouring of generosity of the church community.*

## **Kathy and Tim Keller**

*I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in early 1990, shortly after we started Redeemer. By 2001 I was very sick, and practically had a revolving door at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Throughout my many surgeries and sometimes lengthy recoveries, the Meals Ministries brought a wide variety of wonderful dinners all the way over to Roosevelt Island (which is no mean feat!) Because we lived on the island, Tim and the boys didn't even have the option of relying on*

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# CELEBRATING \$2 MILLION IN FUNDING AND FIVE NEW AFFILIATES AT HOPE FOR NEW YORK

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This past year, Hope for New York celebrated 25 years of doing justice and loving mercy in NYC. We also launched our 10-year vision to see a citywide movement of demonstrating Christ's love to the poor of our city — to see even more non-profits and more local churches engaged in demonstrating Christ's love in practical acts of compassion.

By 2027, we want to grow from 45 to 90 non-profit partners, and from 3 to 30 church partners, including strengthening our relationships with Redeemer Downtown, Redeemer East Side, Redeemer Lincoln Square and Redeemer West Side, as well as new Redeemer sites. To get there, we need to expand — our investments, our partnerships, and our reach. This year was definitely one of growth for HFNY!

## **Investing \$2 million in funding to our affiliates**

One area of growth is our grant making. This year, we're **investing more than \$2 million** in funding to our non-profit affiliates. That's our highest grant distribution to date! It includes \$1.7 million in direct grants, which fund existing affiliate programs (like soup kitchens, mentoring, and job readiness training), \$75,000 in capacity building grants, which fund trainings to increase the

effectiveness of our affiliates, and almost \$200,000 in volunteer impact grants, which empower our volunteers to creatively support our affiliates with funding for supplies and activities.

So why are we expanding investment in affiliates by 16 % over last year? The first reason is that we're seeing a **growing number of emerging organizations with growing budgets, growing programs, and growing impact** — and we want to support that growth and build into their organizational sustainability. The second is the **growing depth and breadth of programs** we're investing in, particularly those with a high potential for increased community impact. A third reason is our **investment in matching grants** in an effort to help some of our affiliates diversify and attract new funding sources.

## **Partnering with five new affiliates**

Another area of growth this year is with our partnerships. We're excited to announce that we added **five new non-profit affiliates**, expanding our network to **50 HFNY affiliates!** Our newest additions are: Thrive Collective, The Dream Center NYC, Prison Fellowship, Urban Hope NYC, and Expect Hope. We're excited to

come alongside these organizations as they love and serve our neighbors in need. Here's a bit more about the work they do and how you can get involved:

### *Thrive Collective*

Thrive Collective mobilizes students, parents, artists, and community stakeholders to partner with public schools for transformational change. Our volunteers do one-time community mural projects and serve as a mentor or teaching artist in a New York City public school, helping students find their creative voice through arts, music, and media.

### *The Dream Center NYC*

The Dream Center NYC exists to serve New Yorkers right where they are to where God dreams for them to be. Our volunteers will serve at Adopt-A-Block, a community party and giveaway event in Chelsea, and in their Residential Assistance program, where volunteers visit elderly New Yorkers to help them clean, organize, do laundry, and shop.

### *Prison Fellowship*

Prison Fellowship's mission is to restore those affected by crime and incarceration. Our volunteers will be involved "inside" in the Riker's Island Prison Fellowship Academy, a

*(Continued on page 7)*

# BETA GROUPS START IN SEPTEMBER

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BY BEN WALLER

In her book *Hold Me Tight*, Dr. Sue Johnson writes that one of the reasons the love relationship is so central to people's lives today is that "we are increasingly living in social isolation ... Most of us no longer live in supportive communities with our birth families or childhood friends close at hand. We work longer and longer hours, commute farther and farther distances, and thus have fewer and fewer opportunities to develop close relationships."

While this is true of many places, it is particularly true of New York City. Many people that come here don't have family or childhood friends here. Long hours at work is almost a given. In a city with so many millions of people, forming relationships can become even more difficult, as it's easy to get overwhelmed.

This can even be true at our church. Thousands of people attend Redeemer churches each Sunday. Odds are that you won't sit next to the same person twice in one year; how, then, will you develop close relationships and gain the sense of belonging that comes

with community?

The answer is "intentionality." If you want to build close relationships, you'll need to be intentional about it. Redeemer has created a simple way for you to do that: Community Groups. Community Groups are a place where you can intentionally build relationships with real people, where you can wrestle with the Christian faith and its implications together, and where you can find people to walk alongside you through all the joys and sorrows that life brings.

Every fall Redeemer launches new, seven-week Community Groups called "Beta Groups" that are perfect for people who are new to church, new to the city, new to the Christian faith, or new to intentional community. They are perfect for people who are curious or even skeptical about the Christian faith; in fact, some groups are especially designed for those who are grappling with the truth claims of Christianity: these are called "Questioning Christianity Groups." Seven weeks is a relatively short commitment, and it's a great chance to test

community life at Redeemer.

What might you find if you join a Beta Group this fall? One member who joined last year said this: "I was happy to have joined a Beta Group because it made the sermon stick — not only to hear the message but to discuss it with a group helped it become a more tangible part of my life. Of course, the friendships forged are no small part of what makes our group special. At first, it was somewhat awkward, but it has organically grown into a true relationship where we are comfortable talking about any topic, ranging from faith to personal struggles to plain old sports and bar talk — not common in NYC and something to be cherished."

With every step into relationship, there is risk involved. Life is messy, and we're all imperfect. But by intentionally taking the step to build relationships and community, you may find that you have helped build "something to be cherished."

For more information, visit [redeemer.com/beta](http://redeemer.com/beta).



Reformed Theological Seminary have done a somewhat audacious rethinking of theological education for urban pastors, church planters, and leaders. Most theological education grants an M.Div. degree (Master of Divinity) after three years of course work in He-

“...it is important to note that the RTS NYC M.A. program is **not** just for those planning to become pastors or church planters. It is open to, and encourages students from all walks of life — those who hold lay leadership positions on their church staff, or work with para-church ministries, or simply want to be more theologically informed.

brew, Greek, theology, Bible, history, preaching, and some elective courses.

RTS NYC will grant a Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) after two, three or four years of intensive study (depending on how quickly one can complete the degree). Some coursework is online; but most is offered in the NYC classroom. All the academic coursework from the typical M.Div. is covered — Greek and Hebrew, all books of the Bible, systematic theology and church history.

Then, however, an additional year of practical study will be offered, titled the *City Ministry Year (CMY)*. For those completing the M.A.B.S., it will serve as the immediate next step in their training sequence. It will concentrate on those disciplines that usually go by the term *Practical Theology* and will

offer a much fuller treatment of preaching, pastoring, leadership, evangelism, and church planting than any M.Div. offers. Tim will teach a good proportion of the courses and he will be accompanied by experts drawn from around the world, as well as from NYC. It will be taught by urban practitioners always with a view to training people to minister in the urban context. What is important to realize is that the CMY is open to all kinds of church leaders or leaders-in-training, whether they have a full M.A. or M.Div. or not. It will also be less expensive than courses for credit in an academic program.

Mark Reynolds (on the Redeemer side) and Steve Wallace (on the RTS side) have collaborated and provided the leadership that brought the seminary to fruition. Here is a summary of the partnership that Steve put together:

*Redeemer City to City and Reformed Theological Seminary have partnered to offer theological and practical ministry training in NYC. A Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) degree (66 credits) through RTS NYC, and the City Ministry Year (CMY), a year of practical ministry training through CTC. This combination of RTS providing an accredited theological degree — a comprehensive biblical foundation — and CTC providing the practical ministry training, all in the context of the city, we believe, makes*

*the Redeemer City Ministry (RCM) program unique among seminaries in the United States. The theme of the RCM program is “preparing ministry leaders in the city, for the city!”*

Finally, it is important to note that the RTS NYC M.A. program is **not** just for those planning to become pastors or church planters. It is open to, and encourages students from all walks of life — those who hold lay leadership positions on their church staff, or work with para-church ministries, or simply want to be more theologically informed.

Ten students from the first cohort of RTS NYC students are now ready for their *City Ministry Year*, hence the timing of Tim’s new job description. They will first graduate with their MABS, and then go on to the CMY, along with new students, it is hoped, who are eager for this training.

Here are two upcoming events for the seminary and the CMY. To attend as a guest (seating is limited), please email Sarah Grover at [sgrover@rts.edu](mailto:sgrover@rts.edu).

The Third Convocation for RTS New York City will take place Thursday, September 7, 2017, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at 1166 Avenue of Americas (16<sup>th</sup> floor – Redeemer offices), with keynote speaker Dr. Tim Keller. This Convocation also inaugurates the *City Ministry Year*,  
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## WE HAVE A SEMINARY?? ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

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the practical component of the Redeemer City Ministry program aimed at equipping NYC leaders for urban ministry effectiveness, taught by Tim Keller and other urban ministry practitioners.

RTS New York City will hold its first graduation ceremony on Friday, September 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m., at the Redeemer Westside location, 150 W83rd, NY, NY (5th floor Fellowship Hall). Dr. Ligon Duncan, RTS Chancellor and CEO, will be the commencement preacher and Dr. Tim Keller, Chairman of the Board and Co-founder of CTC, will bring the charge to students. Ten MABS students are expected to receive diplomas.

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## FUNDING AND NEW AFFILIATES AT HFNY ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

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16-week course using Prison Fellowship curriculum, and “outside” as mentor assisting program participants to successfully navigate reentry.

### *Urban Hope NYC*

Urban Hope’s mission is to transform their Staten Island community by equipping, developing, and empowering its inner city youth. Our volunteers will students with homework, tutoring, and mentoring and serve as mentors for Ur-

ban Hope’s Saturday basketball league.

### *Expect Hope*

Expect Hope’s mission is to provide a supportive residence for expectant women while they build self-sustainable lives founded on faith in Jesus Christ. Our volunteers will serve in the Bronx as personal mentors, providing spiritual guidance to a resident, as family mentors, hosting a resident and child for dinner, and as instructors, tu-

tors, and childcare providers.

We’re encouraged by how God is using the generosity of our volunteers and donors to resource non-profits across the city to best serve our neighbors in need. We’re grateful for the partnership of our affiliates, churches, volunteers, and donors over the past 25 years, and we’re excited to see how God will move in our city through expanding partnerships over the coming years!

## DIACONATE MEALS MINISTRY ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

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*take-out, so having a friendly face show up with a hot dinner kept our family going. I can still remember individual people and meals: a neurosurgeon who took time to cook and travel to RI*

*with a meal; the photographer who brought the vegetable lasagna; the private chef who treated us to examples of her skill, and many, many others. Thank you all.*

Here on the Diaconate, we can certainly use your help with our Meals Ministry. Please consider joining our team by contacting Christine at **meals-ministry@redeemer.com**.



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## “SABBATH IN A TIME OF UNREST” ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

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The program concluded with Rev. David H. Kim, Shulevitz and Jackson in conversation with each other discussing practical tools for keeping Sabbath. “When I keep the Sabbath, I feel like I am living life,” Kim said, “Without it, I feel like life is living me.”

As a resource born out of this event, CFW has created a free learning path of curated resources to ground participants in a biblical vision of Sabbath this summer. Sabbath rest allows the still, small voice of God to be heard amidst the buzz of a busy city. This summer season can be an opportunity to reset

our spiritual rhythms of work and rest.

This online course consists of four main parts:

1. A sermon by Tim Keller on this topic that will explore how Jesus uniquely leads us to a deeper rest.
2. Further readings to help you explore the significance of Sabbath and Sabbath practices. The Marva Dawn selection in particular is an excellent resource that we recommend reading in its entirety if you can.

3. A Sabbath worksheet to help you develop a plan for Sabbath rhythms and practices.

4. A substantive 5-day devotional that provides a biblical overview of the Sabbath.

CFW hopes these materials will help members of the Redeemer community consider what hinders them from setting their work aside to rest.

To access this course, visit **[faithandwork.com/sabbathrest](http://faithandwork.com/sabbathrest)**.