



NOVEMBER 2018

GOD IS DOING A NEW THING DOWNTOWN

BY JORDAN TANKSLEY

In 2015, thousands of our Redeemer family said, “I’m in!” and joined the Rise campaign initiative to bring the Gospel into every corner of New York City. Through prayer and the generous financial support of many, Rise continues to mobilize people to grow the gospel movement in NYC through a new worship site — Downtown LAB — launching Wednesday, November 28 at Baruch College.

Downtown is in the midst of fostering a spirit of being “On Mission Together” through an eight-week Catalyst season — special worship services geared toward equipping people to

understand the centrality of the gospel and live it out fully. This new congregation — Redeemer Downtown LAB — invites everyone to pray, serve and bring their friends to the launch of Redeemer’s *first ever mid-week service*. Our new congregation is called “Downtown LAB” (or, DT LAB) because it will be a place where we try new things and experience the gospel in different ways as we seek to live in line with the verse of its core mission: “*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Through offering a Wednesday evening midweek worship service, LAB is “making room” for others in a whole new way. Our hope is to reach a new generation of people who may have never understood the good news of the gospel and need a place to initiate their journey of discovery within a community that’s centered on Christ. We’re also excited to foster deeper community by inviting our neighbors and friends to a new, post service spotlight hour. This hour will feature faith and work initiatives, interactive Q&A with performing Christian artists who will be involved

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INSPIRE MERCY NIGHT — MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018

Come meet the Diaconate to learn more about this prayerful and holistic ministry at our annual Inspire Mercy Night on Monday, November 12 at Redeemer Church Offices, 1166 Avenue of the Americas, 16th Fl. Light refreshment at 6:30 p.m. and program starts at 7 p.m.

More information at redeemer.com/nominations.

THE REDEEMER DIACONATE: EMBODYING GOD'S MERCY TO THOSE IN NEED

BY JENNY C. CHANG, DIACONATE DIRECTOR

We read in the epistles Paul's vision for the body of Christ, that through our union with Christ we find communion with each other by sharing our gifts and bearing one another's burdens. As our current sermon series is so beautifully reminding us, mercy as a lifestyle was at the very foundation of the early Church and was modeled during those early days in the book of Acts. As a family of churches with a growing and continuing focus on spiritual formation, we strive to embody God's mercy to those within our congregations who are in need. It is this vision that guides the work of the Redeemer Diaconate.

During November the Diaconate invites you to be inspired by God's mercy, putting your faith into action.

We invite you, our Redeemer church members, to identify those within our church community who are spiritually mature and who you believe are uniquely suited for this expression of mercy, and then we

encourage you to nominate them for the Diaconate. Please do so by November 30, 2018, after which we will follow up with all nominees. By nominating a prospective deek (our affectionate term for deacon and deaconess), you fulfill what we read in Acts 6:3, when the twelve disciples gathered everyone and asked them to choose leaders who were known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom, tasking them with the responsibility of caring for those in need. It is remarkable how empowering and encouraging a nomination can be for someone who is gifted in care and mercy but has not considered themselves for such a position.

In addition to your nominations, we ask also for your prayers. The responsibility of electing church leaders is a significant one, but we know that the Lord provides, and that He delights in answering the prayers of His people. We ask that you would pray both for and with the Diaconate, that God would raise up lead-

ers from among us to serve as deeks, and that those individuals would respond eagerly and faithfully to His call.

Finally, we see mercy extended and restoration initiated through the selfless acts of the early believers in Acts 4:32: "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had." Please consider sharing your resources by giving a financial gift to our Mercy Fund. The Mercy Fund is set up specifically for the purpose of meeting the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families in our churches, and we need your generous partnership to enable the Diaconate to meet those needs.

Inspire Mercy Month is underway, and you can make a difference by being a conduit of God's mercy, bringing about restoration for those in your church family! You can read more about the Diaconate and give online at redeemer.com/diaconate.

REDEEMER REPORT

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Hunter College Auditorium
E. 69th St.
(btw Park & Lexington)
Services: 10:30 a.m.
and 5 p.m.

W83rd Ministry Center
150 W. 83rd St.
(btw Columbus & Amsterdam)
Services: 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
and 5 p.m.

West Side Church Plant:
NY Society for Ethical Culture
2 W. 64th St.
(at Central Park West)
Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

GET TO KNOW HFNY'S THREE NEWEST AFFILIATES!

At Hope for New York, we are so excited to continue expanding our network of affiliate partners to reach even more New Yorkers in need. This year, we added three affiliates (for a total of 53!), and we can't wait for you to get to know each of them better.

We asked each of our new affiliates to share a little bit about what they do, why they do it, and why they're excited to partner with Hope for New York. Hear from them in their own words below:

GLOBAL EMPOWERMENT SERVICES, INC.

Q: Why does GEmS exist and how is it making an impact on the city?

A: As we began learning about our community of Jamaica, Queens, over and over again, people said the most valuable opportunity is education. Our community, like all of NYC, is full of immigrants who want to work and learn and achieve their dreams. GEmS wants to come alongside our neighbors with programs like English as a Second Language courses for adults and after-school tutoring for children to help people realize their goals.

Q: What does being an affiliate with HFNY mean for GEmS?

A: We are so excited to be able to be more visible in NYC. Our volunteers are key in our educational outreach programs, as the best thing for an English language learner is to have conversations in a comfortable environment. We hope to have many people come to volunteer and leave as friends of our community.

Q: What can volunteers expect when serving with GEmS?

A: Laughter. Freedom to make mistakes. A community that is growing together. Our students are encouraged to speak English, even if they might make mistakes. We always say that in language learning, we all make a million mistakes, so this is the best place to get started. Our students practice together, make mistakes together, and ultimately grow together.

VIVA UPTOWN

Q: Why does ViVA Uptown exist and how is it making an impact on the city?

A: We aspire to see our Washington Heights and Inwood community flourish by collaborating across racial, ethnic, and socio-economic barriers in a spirit of reconciliation and unity. Through youth development, wellness initiatives, housing support, and land renewal, our diverse community members will be empowered to take part in the care of our neighborhood leading to physical, social, emotional, and spiritual vibrancy.

Q: What does being an affiliate with HFNY mean for ViVA?

A: ViVA will greatly benefit from being an affiliate with HFNY as we are seeking to equip volunteers to serve in their communities as good neighbors. We will also benefit from HFNY's resources for non-profit development as we are a new organization in the process of building our foundation.

Q: What can volunteers expect when serving with ViVA?

A: We believe we will give HFNY volunteers a rich experience and education in community renewal and development. Our Pathways Mentorship Program will offer the opportunity

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MISSION TO WOMEN

BY CHRISTINA STANTON

A place of colors, rich culinary heritage, lush landscapes, cross-cultural intellect and talent: these all describe the beautiful country of India. Yet according to a 2018 study by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, **it's the most dangerous country in the world for women** — rated on factors of health care, cultural traditions, discrimination, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, and human trafficking.

In response, a Chennai and Kolkata-based nonprofit that focuses on empowering women (who must remain anonymous to protect their work), continues tirelessly in their anti-sex trafficking, anti-sexual harassment, and anti-gender based violence campaigns. For our six-member team, India was the place where God's call of making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) and doing justice (Micah 6:8) in conjunction with this non-profit coalesced.

First up: the non-profit's fundraising gala. Attending provided us a chance to meet their local supporting community and learn about their story, ongoing projects, and future hopes. We were encouraged by the success of their silent auction, put together by items purchased with the help of our supporters (that's you!).

Our first few days included joining rehabilitation programs for girls and women who had been rescued from the sex trade. This spanned two gatherings: an outreach event at a women's hostel and an afternoon at the non-profit's office spent with girls receiving counseling. While we came prepared with testimony sharing, an art therapy activity, and dance and song, there were surprises as well.



Making new friends.

From the girls' eye-popping reactions when we brought out the gel pens to their deep gazes when posing for portraits — these were just a few of our humbling moments.

We exchanged stories, we laughed, we danced, and we drew. Despite the language barrier, our shared humanity led to organic interactions. The Rehabilitation Director revealed that she had never seen the girls relax and open up as they did that day.

New day, new gears. We drove four hours from Chennai to a countryside school to teach

ESL to the local elementary, middle, and high schoolers. As it is with kids, a day of enthusiasm and unbridled curiosity ensued. We came with lesson plans, children's books, and craft supplies. We left with humidity sweat stains and renewed senses of joy.

In Kolkata, we visited the offices and factories of social enterprises to hear how they bridged business and social justice. Both the businesses we visited employ women (previously in the sex trade) in jewelry crafting and apparel and textile production. The employment provides holistic rehabilitation services through professional training, health insurance, and community. We

see these types of products often in the US. But to see and to sit next to the women producing these works of art — that's exposure that instills purpose for purchase.

Additionally, we spent two days in Kolkata's slums and red light districts. We first visited an area called Kalighat. Our time there was led by two women from Estonia and Russia who had already begun outreach efforts in the community. In small bare rooms, we shared prayer and communion with a few local women (prayer in Bengali
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MISSION TO WOMEN



Smiling faces.

is a sound to behold). Our leaders led us through the neighborhood to invite kids to our art workshop and check in with families through their existing relationships. Residents

regularly invited us in to eat and drink with them — though they possessed little, they gave generously.

The art activities were a rowdy time. Whatever rooms we could find were packed to the brim and overflowing with kids, bursting with life and energy. Gone were careful instructions and guided steps; the existing lack of resources gave us an eye-opening lesson of how different our worlds were.

While Kalighat held glimmers of hope, it was another story to walk through Sonagachi. As India's largest red light district, it contains several hundred brothels and 11,000

sex workers. Words cannot express the experience of walking through dark spiritual forces and oppressive groping eyes on all sides. Yet consequently, it's space for the most hope and most justice to come.

Isn't that what life is about? Our entire existence directs us to missions, to bringing hope and light to people and places that lack it. Indeed, doing justice is conditional to the call of Christ (Micah 6:8). In our case, it led us to the women and men, the deeply inbred and unjust industry of sex trafficking, and the spiritual forces of India. We hope our team's stories will convict you to consider joining future teams.

Sex, abused, destroys the soul. But Christ, illuminated — renews the world.

NEW HFNY AFFILIATES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

for them to develop significant relationships with young people and their surrounding community. They will also develop relationships with our staff to receive training, coaching, and encouragement.

RECOVERY HOUSE OF WORSHIP — BROOKLYN

Q: Why does RHOW exist and how is it making an impact on the city?

A: We exist to: **Share** the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **Help** by meeting people at the point of their needs and creating environments where hurting people heal, and **Equip** others in Christ to share and help.

Q: What does being an affiliate with HFNY mean for RHOW?

A: We see this as an opportunity to better serve the countless families who know we are here, as well as the chance to reach a neighborhood that is vastly changing.

Q: What can volunteers expect when serving with RHOW?

A: Volunteers can expect an opportunity to provide a loving, caring, encouraging, and hospitable atmosphere where hurting people can heal.



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HOPE FOR NEW YORK'S HIS TOY STORE IS HERE!

His Toy Store is Hope for New York's annual Christmas outreach to provide toys for families with limited financial resources. In the month of December, HFNY will work with our affiliates and church partners to host **13 pop-up stores** in neighborhoods across the city to provide **4,284 toys** to **2,051 families**. At these stores, parents with limited financial resources are invited to "shop" for new toys like action figures, dolls, jewelry and craft kits, cars, and trucks for their children. But His Toy Store is more than a one-time outreach. Our hope is that families are able to connect with our affiliates for year-round support and spiritual community.

You can give to provide toys for families in need and help make these outreaches happen by visiting hfny.org/hts!

A NEW THING DOWNTOWN ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

in sharing how their gifts are being used for the glory of God and the good of the city. And we will highlight agencies of mercy and justice that we'll partner with to serve downtown. We hope this hour will be one of the ways Redeemer Downtown demonstrates being "a church not for ourselves but for others."

Join Redeemer Downtown in praying for this new con-

gregation and their Wednesday night services. Pray that Downtown LAB will bring joy, peace and flourishing through the knowledge of the astonishing love of God in Christ to all those who attend. Pray for Redeemer Downtown congregants, that they would experience a season of renewal, growth and revival as they are re-energized to love and serve their neighbors. Finally, please

pray that every person attending Redeemer Downtown or LAB worship services would come know and love Christ on a deep and personal level and that their love for Christ would be beautiful, attractive and compelling to their friends, neighbors and coworkers.

More information at downtown.redeemer.com/dtlab

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