



AUGUST 2019

CHANGED LIVES CHANGE THE CITY

BY CREGAN COOKE

Redeemer's vision is to see a city renewed by the gospel. To see that vision become a reality, people who are not Christian have to encounter the gospel. And for people to encounter the gospel, we who have the joy and hope of knowing Christ must share that joy and hope with the people in our lives. Or as you may have heard the phrase — “live out the gospel.”

But what does it mean to live out the gospel? It can be helpful to think of three levels of “living out.” At the first level, we simply live in a way that reflects our identity as children of God: to always be looking for ways to treat people around us with kindness and respect. To be curious about their lives, to listen well, and be generous with them as we're able. It is a seasoning of the gospel into our everyday routines. This is living out the gospel at a level that many Christians are typically comfortable with and capable of doing.

Then there is what we could call a second level where we engage with people in our lives who don't identify as Christian. We seek to have deep, meaningful relationships with these

friends. We pray for them regularly and we make time for them, share meals with them, and invite them into our lives. We don't hide the fact that we are Christians, and in ordinary ways demonstrate how our faith shapes us. It could be as simple as mentioning that we attend church. This requires a more intentional investment of our time and energy and allows us to demonstrate the hope and joy we have in the way we approach life's twists and turns. Based on past Redeemer surveys over 50% of regular attendees for our Redeemer churches do this.

The third level of living out the gospel is where we are actively finding ways to share our faith with friends who are not Christian. We may invite them to read a book with us, listen to a talk, attend an event, or even join a bible study with others who don't identify as Christian. We do not do this alone, but with much prayer, and a praying community. This requires hopefulness and a vulnerability that can be challenging for most of us. But this third level of living out the gospel is critical to our vision for a renewed city. And yet when we look at past

Redeemer survey results only about 8-17% of regular attendees at our Redeemer churches do this with regularity.

As we are changed by the gospel we naturally bring positive change and renewal to those around us.

When we reflect on the challenges of actually sharing our faith there are many barriers to doing it regularly and doing it well. One way we can become better prepared is by preaching the gospel to ourselves with regularity. To reflect on how broken and in need of a savior we are and how wonderfully and beautifully we are loved and adopted as children of God through Christ's sacrifice. If we preach the gospel to ourselves it changes us and reminds us of the incredible joy and hope we have in Christ. As the gospel changes us, God works through us to change others.

We also gain confidence as the Holy Spirit shapes us through regular time in God's word and through Christian community. As we engage in
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HOW GOD REDEEMS AND RESTORES!

BY THE REDEEMER DIACONATE

The ministry of the Diaconate, while incredibly valuable and undeniably impactful, often happens behind the scenes, unbeknownst to a large majority of Redeemer congregants. For those of us serving on the Diaconate, we have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the unbelievable stories of God transforming lives. This is one such story.

Within the structure of the Diaconate, we call the brothers and sisters who receive care “clients” because we want to convey to them that we are here to serve them and work with them. When the Diaconate initially connected with this particular client, he was a single man who had made his living for several years “busking” as a street musician. He supplemented his income with other gigs over the years, but in early 2017, the money wasn’t coming in as it had been, and the client needed help with rent. He came to the Diaconate for help. We had the opportunity to help him with financial assistance and walk beside him

spiritually during that time.

After receiving help intermittently for a year and a half, the client got married to another musician. Though they struggled financially, they were able to make ends meet until the wife became pregnant and was no longer able to work. The Diaconate once again stepped in with financial assistance, and the husband also volunteered with our “Free Indeed Community Cupboard” (food pantry) to supplement his growing family’s nutritional needs. In the spring of 2018, the client couple was blessed with the birth of a healthy baby boy.

The couple still didn’t have long-term financial stability, and the prospect of raising their child in NYC seemed daunting; however, having come here to pursue careers in music performance, the idea of leaving the city for a more stable, affordable environment near family would mean walking away from all they’d worked towards for most of their lives. After receiving much prayer and counsel from the Diaconate

and others at Redeemer, they decided to make the move. As difficult as it was, they accepted that it was necessary, and in faith they trusted God to meet their needs. The Diaconate was able to cover the cost of their move.

Three months later, the client couple sent this email to the deacons and those in the Redeemer family who had faithfully walked with them on their journey ...

Thank you for supporting us emotionally, financially, and prayerfully, walking with us as we made this transition. It’s been a tremendous blessing to have such caring friends and wise counselors.

We both had a lot of trepidation about moving out of NYC. We had no plans and no prospects; just blind faith that God would raise up the people and things we need. And He’s done just that.

An elderly woman offered us the use of her finished basement temporarily while

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REDEEMER REPORT

Cregan Cooke
Kathy Keller
Heather Klein

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) redeemer.com

Redeemer East Side

Temple Israel Sanctuary
112 E75th St.
(btw Park & Lexington)
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
& 5 p.m.

Redeemer West Side

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

Redeemer Lincoln Square

New York Society for
Ethical Culture
2 W. 64th St.
(at Central Park West)
Service: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Downtown

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

A SNAPSHOT FROM THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH SURVEY

Earlier this year with the assistance of the Barna group, Redeemer's churches conducted a Redeemer-wide census and each church conducted a spiritual health survey. Below are three areas of comparison that provide a snapshot of some areas where we have seen growth.

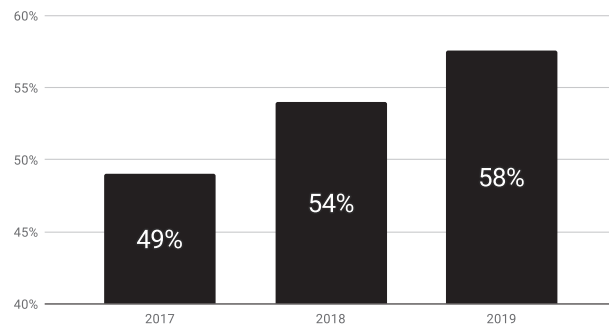
Please note that 2019 saw a decline in survey participation from previous years, and despite efforts to cast a wider net, this year's sample includes a higher proportion of those who are more engaged at Redeemer.

1. Knowing God's Word

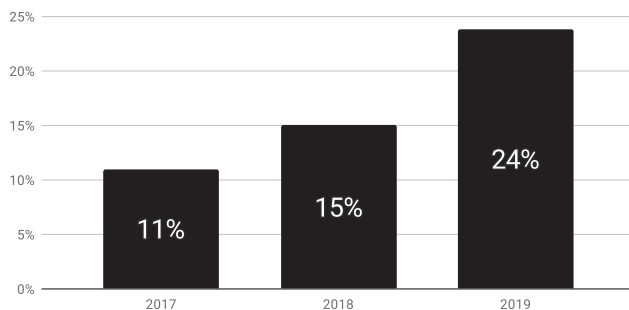
% Reading or Listening to the Bible Every Day or Almost Every Day on Their Own

Sample Sizes: 2017: 1549; 2018: 1425; 2019: 905

Respondents Reading Bible Daily, by Year (Redeemer Wide)



Respondents Serving the Poor and Marginalized Very Often, by Year (Redeemer Wide)



2. Living Out God's Call

% Serving the Poor and Marginalized

2017-2018: "Very often" was undefined. 2019: "Very often" defined as at least several times per month.

Sample Sizes: 2017: 1549; 2018: 1425; 2019: 905

3. Sharing God's Love

% Sharing the Gospel with Non-Christian Family, Friends, or Co-Workers

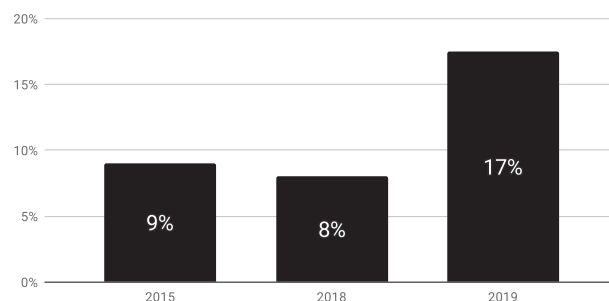
2015: "Very often" defined as more than eight times in the last year.

2018: "Very often" was undefined.

2019: "Very often" defined as at least monthly.

Sample sizes: 2015: 2193; 2018: 1425; 2019: 905

Respondents Sharing the Gospel Very Often, by Year (Redeemer Wide)



**Notes: 2015 data was from the Redeemer-wide census
Spring 2019 was a Public Faith equipping season**

REDEEMER COUNSELING IS STARTING A NEWSLETTER FOR INDIVIDUALS

BY JUDY CHA

People seek counseling for various needs, but at the root, all of us resonate with the pervasive pain of not being enough regardless of who we are in society. In counseling, we want relief from our struggles, but also to quiet the persistent wondering of Am I enough? Or Am I worthy? The answer to these questions come as we unpack our life stories from the development years and beyond and connect

it back to The Story of God — how he created us for relationship with him and how he is present with us now through victories and failures. In God's story, our identity is affirmed and given the resources to endure through challenges of life and live freely.

For almost 30 years, Redeemer Counseling has pursued making the gospel relevant in counseling care and it has expanded steadily to become a resource for the whole

city, partnering with more than 25 church communities locally and internationally. Our vision is to reach people from all walks of life with the redemptive power of the gospel through 3 focus areas:



1. Providing affordable gospel centered counseling to people in the New York Metro Area
2. Equipping pastors, church staff and professional counselors with gospel centered counseling tools domestically and internationally
3. Sponsoring academic research to understand the effectiveness of gospel

centered counseling for global impact

As the needs for counseling have grown, so has our mission. We are grateful and excited about what God is doing and want to share with you what Redeemer Counseling does in transforming lives, equipping others to do the same, and influencing the field with God's truth.

To that end, we are launching a new monthly newsletter, Redeemer Counseling Updates, to share the latest news and gospel-centered counseling applied to the struggles many people face. We hope it may speak to your needs or give light and sensitivity to those around you who may be going through a difficult season.

Sign up for Redeemer Counseling Update at **counseling.redeemer.com/rcsupdate**

HOW GOD REDEEMS AND RESTORES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

we looked for a place of our own. A very reasonably priced house surfaced near where my family lives, complete with all the space we need and more, for exactly half of what our apartment in Queens cost. To the dollar.

I was able to obtain work as a cook at a busy local Inn. I haven't worked in a kitchen for some time, but I'm grateful that God has given me a skill set that I can monetize while also pursuing other passions. My wife is teaching online and giving piano lessons. We're both playing music and will be starting a monthly show at the local theater nearby.

Life outside the city necessitates having a car. Not only did God provide an amazing car, but just the day before, I was approached by someone about hosting a weekly open mic at a local restaurant which will pay enough on top of our regular income to cover the car and insurance each month. Not with anything left over, but that's how things have

been: just enough for today.

Like manna.

We had a great spiritual community of friends and supporters in NYC, and I was very worried about being able to find fellowship upstate. I googled PCA churches and found exactly one, about 25 miles from where we live. When we walked in, we found that there were many families of all ages; a great mix of people for a small church plant. The pastor is well-spoken, approachable, and doctrinally sound. We now get together with a few families every Thursday night to discuss the Word and the sermon from the previous week. They've really gone out of their way to welcome us to the community.

We're in a good place, things are secure, and I'm hopeful for the future. I'm so thankful for the support and counsel we've received, especially in the last year or so. I just keep thinking with the Psalmist, "... Only He will release my feet from the snare ..." (Ps 25:15). *If you'd told me*

ten years ago we'd be where we are today, it's all just way beyond belief.

This is just one testimony of God's faithfulness and mercy on display through a Diaconate relationship. There are countless others that are equally powerful, and without a doubt there will be countless more to come. We humbly invite you to partner with us and with God in writing more stories like the one above by financially supporting the Diaconate's work at redeemer.com/mercygift.

Redeemer members, you can also consider other members who you believe may be uniquely suited to serve as deacons or deaconesses. Those individuals can be nominated this October and will help the Diaconate increase their ranks and continue supporting congregants in need across all four Redeemer churches. Lastly, please continue to pray for the work of the Diaconate.

Thank you.

CHANGED LIVES ... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

spiritual practices like prayer and Bible reading, as we embrace rich community with others to be encouraged and shaped, and as we invest ourselves in the unique callings God has given each of us, the gospel makes its way deeper into our hearts and transforms

our lives. When we grow in these areas — daily practices, investing in community and pursuing the things God calls us to do — the joy of the gospel springs out in our relationships and it manifests itself in us and through us in the places we live and work. As we are changed

by the gospel, then we can naturally bring positive change and renewal to those around us. As God works through us to change lives, we see more of the city influenced by the hope and joy of the gospel.



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