

March 2007

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Pictorial Supplement

Redeemer's 2005 pictorial directory contained two hundred and twenty-five family units, with twenty-four family units added in 2006's supplement. More than eighty family units have begun calling Redeemer home since our last supplement, so it's that time again!

This month we plan to begin taking portraits for our second directory supplement. If you are not yet included in our directory or its first supplement, we want you in this one. Following are some highlights that we hope will put you at ease and motivate you to participate:

- **on-site studio...**
Photographs will be taken in a specially-configured room in the main church building.
- **ease of scheduling...**
7-10 minute portrait sittings will be scheduled on Sunday mornings.
- **professional portraits...**
Pictures will be taken by skilled photographers from within the Redeemer family using high-quality digital equipment.
- **FREE ...** You will not be asked to pay for a sitting fee or portrait package, and you will be given a free CD containing all images from your session.

If you consider yourself part of the Redeemer family, we want you in our family photo album. In the coming days you will hear more about how to sign up. Please do!

Redeemer Café

The bold aroma of "Cowboy Java," energetic strums from a resonant guitar, unguarded laughter over the click of checkers... these are just some of the sensations you'll encounter in our soon-to-open, MidWeek Coffee House. Opening in late March or early April, this ministry seeks to create a safe and inviting mid-week environment that allows interested high school seniors and older to connect with God and one another.

From 9:00 to 11:00 PM on Wednesdays in *The Oasis*, coffee house patrons will gather with believing and non-believing friends alike for free gourmet coffee, live music, board games, poetry reading, karaoke, and more. When all the equipment is installed, the coffee has arrived, and the musicians are booked, we will let you know about our grand opening. So, if you or those you know would benefit from this ministry, spread the word and find a good mug.



Hamburger Fry

Has mesquite-laced smoke from your neighbors' grill ever wafted over your fence, tempting you to mosey over unannounced? For all those times you resisted, your reward is at hand! On **Saturday, March 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**, our men's fellowship plans to grill hot dogs and hamburgers in Redeemer's newly-finished outdoor grilling area. And they *want* you to drop in on them, unannounced. The men hope you'll use this event to take a night off from cooking, gather with some friends, and enjoy a cool spring evening. There is no charge, and you do not need to make a reservation. You do, however, need to mark your calendars and make plans to be there. Remember: when you pull into the parking lot, crack open your car door, and that succulent smoke wafts in, mosey on over to the grill... guilt free!



Moody Women's Concert Choir to Perform

Join us on Tuesday evening, March 13, at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary for a concert by the Moody Bible Institute Women's Concert Choir and Bell Ensemble. Founded in 1955, the choir has sung and played to enthusiastic audiences all over the United States, as well as Europe, South America, the Caribbean, and the Far East. The group, composed of 50 women representing a variety of academic majors, seeks first and foremost to worship God with their music while emphasizing

musical excellence. Our own **Emily Bailey** was a part of this group for five years during her studies at Moody.



In a Word

Celebrate the best in all seasons

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

Every morning these days a pair of turtle doves smooch on our backyard swing, visited now and then by a couple of cardinals that seem to be adopting us as well. Last year's long-dead red oak leaves are finally and reluctantly releasing their grip, soon to be replaced by the swelling buds of new life. And we saw our first daffodil the other day — just outside **Neva Haron's** front door. That harbinger of spring and suggestion of resurrection life stirred a note of quiet joy in the three of us that first day after **Carl's** Homegoing. It's wondrous what a difference such a small flower can make. It's springtime in Texas (almost), and with it comes the weather that I like to call *the best of Texas!*

Spring is my favorite season, except possibly for summer, fall, and winter. Long ago I decided to embrace and enjoy each season for its unique qualities. The same goes for every kind of weather. As the saying on my wall enjoins, *Live with (and enjoy) what is.*

Long and often hot summer days seem to slow life's pace a bit, and those extended daylight evenings afford time for leisurely walks or visits with family and friends. Crisp, colorful fall days call for rides through brilliantly hued hills. Fall stirs hope for a better Cowboy season, or at least for a few wins for your favorite high school team. And winter, with its cold gray days

and long foggy nights? Winter invites us to wear sweaters, brave the elements, or curl up with a good book. Winter grants growing things the respite of dormancy, so necessary for both plants and people. Besides, winter's *good for our character*. (Another saying on my wall, in case you didn't know.) 17th century writer Anne Bradstreet put it well: "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." How true!

Now spring, the best of Texas, is on us. Naked, dormant trees and bushes will soon be clothed with fresh growth. Our better-than-average winter rains bode well for a bumper crop of blue-bonnets, primroses, and Indian paint brushes. Azure blue skies, crisp morning air, washed clean by cool spring showers, invigorate us with new life and fresh hope. As Christina Rossetti (1800s) put it, "Spring is when life's alive in everything."

Spring finds us digging in God's good earth, planting, mulching, watering, and eagerly watching for those first sprouts of new life. Spring catches us cleaning house, or at least the garage, taking a load of stuff we seldom use and don't need to Goodwill, watching doves or finches nest in the bushes and rear their young.

And by God's grace, spring nudges us to do some needed spiritual housecleaning, hauling off the useless junk and unneeded clutter. To borrow our Lord's illustration, spring invites us stir the rich soil of the heart, sow God's Word, and bear fruit in lives — our own as well as others.

Let's make the most of this best-of-Texas spring season. Then we'll be prepared to enjoy an almost-best-of-Texas summer, fall, and winter!

In a word, celebrate the best in all seasons.

Jon and Barb Baker to Visit

Our missionaries in Mexico, **Jon and Barbara Baker**, will be at Redeemer on Sunday, March 11. They gave a brief report to our *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* class on February 19. The Bakers serve with CAM International as church planters. They work in an area called Pachuca, ministering through evangelism and discipleship. On January 21 their church baptized six people, five of whom came to know Christ last year. During their six-month home assignment, the Bakers will be traveling extensively. Let's keep them in our prayers. Welcome Bakers!



Five Mission Trips Planned For This Summer

Building in Serbia

June 1-11 features a small group of our skilled construction helpers assisting **Miro and Milotka Cizmanski**, our missionaries in Serbia, in building their new home. The construction will free up Miro to focus on his ministries, and encourage his entire family.

Three Word of Life Camps in Hungary

Laci and Szandra Kadar direct the vibrant summer camp ministries that use language and sports instruction to draw youth to the camp, where they experience the love of God and hear the Gospel. Three separate trips will include different teams of 4-6 people leading **Baseball Camp** June 15-24, teaching **Conversational Spanish** July 13-22, and teaching **Conversational English** July 27-August 5.

Installing Stoves in Guatemala

Helps International relief staff will assist our team of 16 people in installing simple, safe, and efficient wood-burning stoves in the homes of needy residents in villages near Lake Atitlán August 11-19. The team will also enjoy fellowship with local CAM churches that will later provide evangelistic follow-up with the families receiving stoves.

Those interested in participating in the trips may contact **Paul Ramler** at 972.476.9959 or **Blake** at the church office.

Getting to Know You: Bob and Paula Ibach

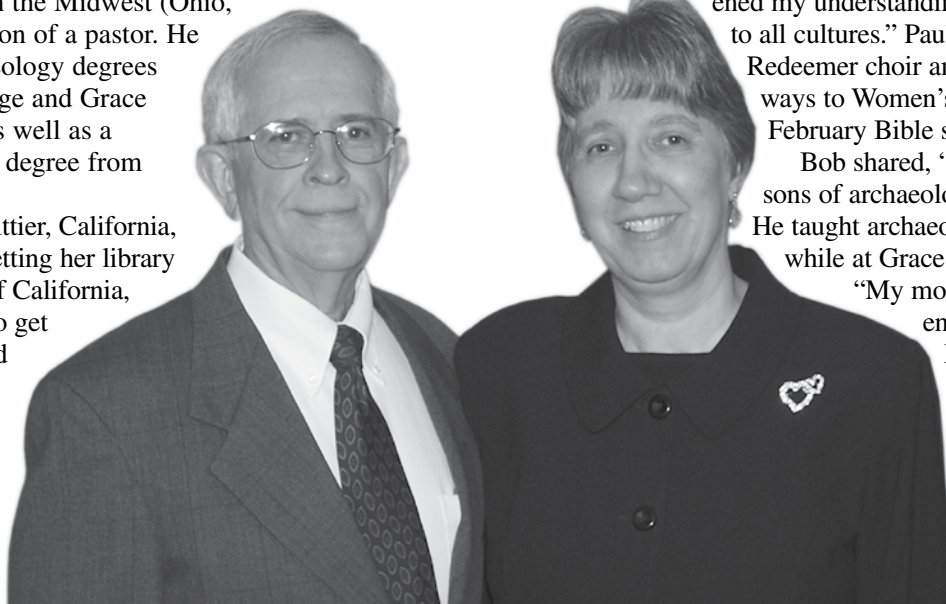
Tommie Loveless

Bob Ibach grew up in the Midwest (Ohio, Illinois, Michigan), the son of a pastor. He shared that he earned theology degrees from Detroit Bible College and Grace Theological Seminary, as well as a master of library science degree from Indiana University.

Paula, a native of Whittier, California, moved to Indiana after getting her library degree from University of California, Los Angeles. "I wanted to get library job experience and take some theological courses before applying as a support person with Wycliffe Bible Translators." However, she fell in love with the seminary librarian at Grace, who was a

"confirmed bachelor!" During the wedding, Bob's father, who performed part of the ceremony, thanked God for letting him live long enough to see Bob marry, which evoked laughter from family and friends, according to Paula! That blessed event took place thirty years ago this summer, on June 11.

The Ibachs moved to Mesquite in 1986 from Winona Lake, Indiana, when Bob became library director at Dallas Theological Seminary. He has enjoyed a library career of thirty-eight years. Paula worked in libraries at SMU and DTS, retiring in 1997 to become a full-time homemaker. Paula added: "The international



students I knew while working at DTS broadened my understanding of God's relevance to all cultures." Paula also sings in the

Redeemer choir and contributes in many ways to Women's Fellowship. She led the February Bible study for the women.

Bob shared, "I participated in four seasons of archaeological digging in Jordan." He taught archaeology for seventeen years while at Grace College. He continued,

"My most memorable experiences came while exploring Megiddo (Armageddon), as well as witnessing the start of the Six-Day War." Bob's present hobby of woodworking results in jigsaw puzzles and other special treasures. He donated some of his items for

the church auction on February 17. He currently serves on the Missions Leadership Team at Redeemer.

When Bob retires in July, the Ibachs will most likely leave the Dallas area. Bob and Paula agreed that even though they were confident the wonderful people at Redeemer would tug at their hearts, if and when they relocate, they still look forward to God's new life chapter for them. Bob and Paula, affectionately known as "the bookish couple," please know that, if the Lord calls you elsewhere, the Redeemer family will miss you. **A special thank-you for your faithful service.**

February Highlights



February highlights included the Boy Scouts' Court of Honor (read more, page four), the Young Marrieds' ABF White Rock Lake cleanup, and an Auction sponsored by the Women's Fellowship. Auctioneer **Larry Foster** had us in stitches!



Four More Eagle Scouts!

Troop 48, families, and friends recognized scouts (pictured left to right) **Grant Bridgman, Jonathan Raikes, Jeremy Reed, and Andrew Ramler** for having earned the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor Saturday, February 10. All four young men were also honored for having completed the 100 Verse Club. The ceremony included the scouts' fathers sharing words of wisdom and a personal challenge, award pins for the mothers, pictures of the boys' involvement in Troop 48, and expressions of thanks for the tremendous help they received along the way.

Eagle Projects included Grant building a fire ring and benches for a camp ranch, Jonathan building wood stairs by the Oasis, Jeremy collecting clothing for the needy, and Andrew painting the wooden camping storage building.



Mortgage Loan Reduction

We are greatly encouraged to have received a recent gift of \$10,000 toward principle reduction on our mortgage loan. We calculate that this will save over \$16,900 in interest over the life of the loan. At this point in our loan, even small gifts of \$10 monthly are multiplied to savings of over \$16 when applied to early loan payoff. We encourage you to participate if you are not already doing so. Gifts toward principle reduction have a much greater effect when applied in the early years of the loan, so now is a great time to get started. To participate in the \$10-per-month plan, simply designate the extra amount on your offering envelope as "debt reduction."

Geiger Island Opportunities

Anticipation is growing for three weeks of remarkable camping opportunities on Geiger Island in Tennessee this summer. Two weeks of Family Camp, June 2-16, provide life-long memories, outdoor adventures, and warm Christian fellowship for folks seeking a restful retreat from city life. Contact **Byron Donaho** at 972.270.0354 for details. Teen Guys Camp, June 16-24, offers all the fun water activities and camping experiences along with daily challenges for young men to grow in all dimensions of life and godliness. Contact **Blake** at the church for details.

Meeting Location:
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