

April/May 2012

Linking us with the ministries of our church

David's Song Gospel Trio to Perform May 20

Mark your calendars for the evening of May 20 and plan to attend a special concert featuring the gospel trio David's Song. The concert will begin at 6 p.m. The award-winning group performs, leads worship and shares the message of Jesus Christ at churches and other venues in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Visit www.davidssong.com for more information about the group.

Booking Kids to Camp

"God can use anything to help spread His Word."

"God touches [some] to go and others to pray and give! Everyone can do something."

"Every heart with Jesus is a missionary. Every heart without Jesus, a mission field."

"Missions is good because people tell people about Jesus."

These quotes come from reader reports in last month's missions Readathon. Because nearly 30 children, youth and adults read mission books from Redeemer's library, young people in Europe can attend camp at Word of Life Hungary this summer. They can go on scholarships paid with more than \$900 in pledges by Readathon sponsors.

Thanks to all the readers and sponsors who helped book kids to camp. Come by the library to see all the readers' reports and to check out a book yourself!

Missions Conference Challenged us to Reach the World For Christ

Redeemer's annual missions conference — with a theme of "Missions: Possible" — was held March 23-25 and provided opportunities to learn more about what God is doing in our city and around the world.

In addition to great opportunities for fellowship, interaction and learning, Redeemer members raised about \$5,000 for two special projects during the conference. We will provide funds for **Kristen Raikes** to buy a motorbike so she can minister more effectively in northern Thailand, and we will provide scholarships for Hungarian youth to attend the Word of Life camp where we have partnered for more than 10 years.

Friday Night Dinners

The "Dinners for 8 or 9" potlucks were held Friday evening, March 23, in eight homes. These dinners combined fellowship, missions and prayer to encourage and connect Redeemer members with those taking God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Saturday Night Speaker

On Saturday, March 24, we heard from Dr. Celestin Musekura, a Dallas Seminary graduate and global leader in reconciliation and forgiveness. He founded African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries after members of his family and church were murdered in the Rwandan genocide. Dr. Musekura delivered a powerful message entitled "The Christian Response to Global Needs," exhorting those of us in America to recognize our responsibilities, roles and

opportunities to join God's work amidst global suffering and need. His penetrating message is on the Redeemer website.

Sunday Morning Speaker

A wonderful worship message on Sunday, March 25, was delivered by Laci



Kadar, a former member of Redeemer who serves with Word of Life Hungary. His message — "Missions? Possible!" — asked how we can better serve God. He expounded upon Exodus 19:1-6 and 2 Peter 2:9-12, declaring missions are possible when Christians respond in obedience. Christ's message is powerful because it stands in such contrast with "the lost

world." Listen to Laci's message on the Redeemer website.

Garage Sale

Redeemer's annual Garage Sale is scheduled for May 25-26 and will help fund our teams' work at Word of Life Hungary camps this summer. This is a great opportunity to clean out your closet or garage, make donations and impact young Hungarians for Christ. Donations can be dropped off Sundays after church. Larger items such as refrigerators and furniture can be picked up after May 19. Many volunteers are needed to help pick up, sort, set up, price, run and clean up. Prayerfully consider helping — it is a great blessing and way to serve. For details, contact **Janet Ramler** at 972-742-7618.

From the Elder Board

Blessed, Thankful and Confident

Don Geiger Jr., Chairman, Board of Elders

Redeemer Bible Church is blessed. Since our founding 13 years ago, God has clearly led our congregation each step of our journey. He's brought wonderful people to the church. He provided a campus that is perfect for our needs. We benefit from strong leaders and hard-working volunteers. Most important, the congregation is full of prayer warriors. And He is continuing to lead us today, even as we trust Him again to bring us a new senior pastor. Here's why we, as an Elder Board, are so optimistic about our church's future:

- Redeemer is a congregation of spiritually mature, positive, hopeful believers.
- We have a terrific staff and godly, mature leaders. Every member of the staff, along with many volunteers, pitches in every week to support our church and its people. For example, in the absence of a worship pastor, a number of people have stepped up to help plan our worship services.
- Every decision is bathed in prayer.
- We have a great lineup of interim preachers. We are very fortunate that our founding pastor, **Don Geiger Sr.**, agreed to serve as our primary interim preacher. He will preach, on average, about three Sundays out of four. He currently is preaching a series through the book of Philippians. Other guest preachers will fill the pulpit when he's out.
- Even in the midst of uncertainty about who our next senior pastor will be, our Sunday morning worship services are well-attended and we are meeting our financial obligations.

Search Committee

Additionally, as a result of Pastor Doug Hornok's resignation in March, the Elder Board recently appointed a pastoral search committee. The committee has just begun taking the initial

steps in a search process that will identify a candidate to be our new senior pastor. The committee is chaired by **Scott Shaffer**, a member of the Elder Board. The team also includes: **Ann Fleming, Don Geiger Jr., Brad Hepp, Tom Newcomer, John Rack, Debbie Raikes** and **Lillian Rees**.

This committee will conduct a thorough search, which likely will include considering individuals we know might be interested and others referred by people in our congregation, reaching out to Dallas Seminary and possibly other schools for recommendations, and advertising in appropriate venues. The committee will review resumes, listen to lots of sermons, visit other churches, conduct interviews, explore backgrounds and check references thoroughly.

Ultimately, the committee will narrow the list of candidates to one individual and recommend that person to the Board of Elders for consideration. The board will conduct its own interviews, and, if it agrees with the recommendation, will recommend the candidate to the entire membership for consideration. The candidate will preach and will have plenty of opportunities to visit with members and various groups in the church. Members will have the ultimate decision by voting at a business meeting whether to call the candidate as our pastor.

This likely will be a long process, so please be patient. We don't know how much time it will take, but it's not unusual for a search process to last up to a year.

Looking ahead

We are thankful for Redeemer. We as a board and as individuals pray regularly for our church and its people, and we know that many of you do the same. Thank you!

We are confident in God's provision for us and in His plan for our future.

Annual Workday Recap

This year's annual Redeemer Workday (April 28) drew approximately seventy volunteers, who worked all over the campus, tending to the flower beds, cleaning furniture, toys, windows, floors, and removing clutter.



Getting to Know You: Howard and Fran Joslin

Tommie Loveless

Howard and Fran Joslin lost their spouses to cancer, only two months apart, in 2008.

“In the mist of our paralyzing grief, the Lord surprised Howard and me with the gift of each other,” Fran said. “In 2010, He gave us something we never thought possible — the blessing of falling in love again.”

Their relationship began when a close friend told Howard about a widow who was experiencing his same, devastating grief. He sent her his favorite book on grief, *A Grace Disguised*. They soon met.

Fran was born in Papua, Indonesia, to missionary parents. “I loved climbing the mountains in bare feet, as the tribes to which my parents ministered did not wear shoes,” she said. When she was

3, Fran heard her sister preach “hellfire and brimstone.” Fran ran to her mom, who better explained the Gospel message, to which she immediately responded by accepting Christ. Fran’s family left the mission field when she was 12, and she always considered herself a “third-culture kid.” After Fran’s father died in 2006, her mother published his journals as a book, *A Missionary’s Journal*, which is in Redeemer’s church library.

Howard, with his brother and sister, grew up on his grandfather’s farm in central Iowa.

“When I was 16, my mom and dad separated, and divorced on their 25th anniversary,” he said. “Granddad was my primary father, and taught me humor, honesty and hard work through his example.” Howard accepted Christ his senior year in high school after hearing a speaker from the Gideon Bible Society. Going on a mission project to Japan during college gave him

great interest in ministering overseas. “Missions is a passion that Howard and I share,” Fran said.

His life took another direction after he graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in agriculture business.

He moved his family to Texas in 2007 to attend Dallas Theological Seminary. He graduated eight years later, receiving the Merrill Unger Award in the Old Testament.

“My dream, when I grow up, is to teach the Old Testament at a Bible College,” Howard said.

Fran graduated from Philadelphia College of Bible with a major in Bible and minors in missions and counseling. She considers herself a hard-working homemaker. “I call that being a medical-care coordinator,

chef, transportation manager, financial adviser, counselor, training manager, drivers ed teacher, cleaning services manager, etc.,” she said.

The Joslins married in November 2010 and lovingly began blending their families — **Chad** (21), **A.J.** (17), **Nikki** (14), **Paul** (24) and his wife, **Steffi, Drew** (22), **Hannah** (18) and **Matt** (15). Is it any wonder that they have been called the “Brady Bunch?”

Joining Redeemer this past year, Howard is sharing his gift of teaching in the Seekers Adult Bible Fellowship, with an inspiring series on Prayer ... Expecting God to Answer, “Yes!” He is the author of a soon-to-be-published book, *Honest Wrestling: Questions of Faith When Attacked by Life*.

Howard and Fran, your Redeemer family looks forward to your continuing ministry to and with all of us!



Student Summer Series to Focus on “People of Courage” in the Bible

Redeemer’s youth have an exciting summer of activities planned. Students will be challenged to **ble**ss those around them with the **life** of Christ they possess. On Tuesdays from 5:45-7 p.m., junior-high and senior-high students will cool off in the summer heat with **Swim n’ Study**, our poolside Bible study and game time. This year, we will be spotlighting “People of Courage” in the Old and New Testaments.

There will be various events scheduled throughout the summer, so be sure to check the church calendar for posted activities, or contact Redeemer’s student pastor, Jeremiah Bakk, at jeremiah@redeemerbiblechurch.org.

Troop 48 Boasts Two More Eagle Scouts!

Redeemer Bible Church played host to an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on April 25. This year, Redeemer’s Boy Scout Troop 48 presented two scouts with the rank of Eagle Scout: **Jared Shaffer** and **Benjamin Lambourne**. Jared is a member of Redeemer and plays an active role in the church’s student ministry. Congratulations to both young men for achieving this prestigious honor.



Ben Lambourne

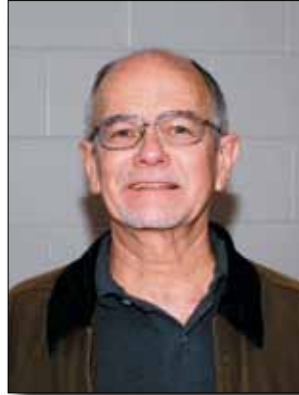


Jared Shaffer

Welcome, New Members



Brian Doriot



Steve Tompkins



Ree Witt

VBS is Coming in July!

Vacation Bible School will be held July 10-13 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. This year's theme will be *Gold Rush: Discovering the Rock of Ages* from Answers in Genesis (AiG). Bring your children, grandchildren and their friends.

AiG writes, "Grab your bandana! Pick up your pick axe! We're headin' to the Old West to search for true gold and discover the answer to the most important question ever asked: 'Who is Jesus of Nazareth?' With Gold Rush, children will learn that Jesus is not just another religious leader, as some claim. He is the Creator, the Redeemer, the Son of God, the resurrected Messiah, the Great I AM!"

Redeemer needs your help to make VBS a success. You can teach or assist a class, help with crafts, perform skits, provide snacks and more. Contact **Heidi Regier** at 214-340-3633 if you are able to bless the children at VBS this summer.

Summer Day Camp Opportunity

Are you interested in a day-camp opportunity for your first-through fifth-grade child?

Redeemer children will have the opportunity to attend Faith Adventure Camp on the campus of Faith Bible Church in DeSoto the week of June 25-29. The cost will be \$60 for three days or \$90 for five days. The children will enjoy a climbing wall, ropes course, BMX biking, horse-back riding, crafts, sports, games and teaching from God's Word each day. Parents are welcome to attend with their children.

Register your child at www.faithbible.com/index/faith-adventure-camps. Faith Bible Church is holding spots for Redeemer children, so register as soon as possible and let Heidi Regier, director of Children's Ministry, know that they are signed up. Contact her in the church office at 214-340-3633 if you need a ride for your child.

Meeting Location:
721 Easton Road
Dallas, Texas • 214-340-3633

P.O. Box 570545
Dallas, TX 75357-0545

B I B L E C H U R C H
Redeemer