

June 2006

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Travel Time

Where in the world will you go this summer? Starting June 4, book a seat on "Flight 122," Redeemer's summer reading program. Through July, adults, youth, and children can read their way to fascinating, far-off places — both real and imagined. Adults also can listen to tapes and CDs. Named for Romans 12:2, "Flight 122" takes off from the library in the downstairs wing. Don't miss the adventures and prizes of this summer's flight!

What: "Flight 122" Summer Reading Program

Where: Redeemer Bible Church Library

Who: All ages, from preschoolers through adults

When: June 4 through July 30, 2006

How: Book a flight as follows:

Green Flight: read-to-me/
early readers

Blue Flight: junior/younger
teen readers

Yellow Flight: older teens/
adult readers

White Flight: adult listeners
to audio tapes/CDs

Why: Romans 12:2

Sharing a Warm Welcome

Redeemer has enjoyed a reputation as a warm and welcoming church since its first official meeting back in 1999. As the church grows in size we must embrace the challenge of helping visitors get to know the "real us." Under the direction of elder **John Sparks** we will soon launch a "welcome bag" ministry that will help us do just that.

Imagine, if you will, a recent visitor to Redeemer opening his or her front door in the early evening to find a pleasant member of the Redeemer family who says warmly, "Thanks for visiting our church this past Sunday. We'd like to share a small gift with you that we think will help you get a better idea of who we are." Then the Redeemer member hands the recent visitor a small, two-handled bag containing some practical yet personal items: a

customized pen and notepad, a copy of the most recent *Link*, three or four church brochures, a *Daily Bread* devotional guide, and a fresh-baked loaf of specialty bread. Now *that's* a warm welcome!

Would you like to have been welcomed like that? Would you like to be a part of welcoming others like that? Let your mind wander for just a moment while imagining how God can use this warm, personal ministry to get people connected with our church... and most important, get connected with Christ. Please pray for the success of this outreach initiative as the last pieces fall into place. And, please prayerfully consider how God might have you get involved. In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about our plans to share a warm welcome with visitors. Stay tuned!

Hidden in the Heart

On May 21, Scripture Memory Sunday, twenty-five Redeemer kids enlivened our morning worship by reciting the Bible verses they had hidden in their hearts this year. Every child was awarded a ribbon for his or her participation. Those who learned

them all received a personalized trophy. These youngsters learned them all: **Cathryn Wisely, Maeve Pruitt, Alex Higgins, Joshua Hepp, Alec Rodriguez, Thomas Barbre, Adam Rodriguez, Ashley Higgins, Daniel Sandlin,**

continued on page 4



In a Word

Slow down, enjoy the little blessings.

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

This spring the covered patio just outside our den has become a small aviary of sorts. A pair of wrens built their nest and raised a family in the potted panzies on the table just outside the door. Then a couple of finches made their home in a hanging fern just a few feet away. The finches are currently raising their second family. Neither pair seemed to mind our coming and going and daily watering their habitats. We've had to discourage several sparrows from setting up housekeeping in the rain gutter above the fern. After all, it just might rain one of these days, and we didn't want them to be washed away. We also didn't want the gutter stopped up.

We've enjoyed watching the entire process, as first the pairs scouted out a safe and friendly environment for their new homes, then painstakingly built their sturdy nests, piece by tiny piece. Then one red-letter day the eggs appeared, and protecting and setting them became job one. The little mother wren so blended with her nest that all we could see was her bright eyes, which seemed to warn us to keep hands off. Fascinated, we followed each amazing step. Fresh hatched, the chicks were so fragile we doubted their survival, till day after day we witnessed the parents' diligent attention, feeding, nurture, and protection. Those chicks quickly grew, and we had the good fortune to watch when all five fledgling wrens tumbled out of their crowded little

nest, waddled across the table, and fluttered to the waiting lawn. Coaxed and guided by hovering parents they quickly discovered wings and flight, tree limbs and window ledges. Then all too soon for us, the big world beyond claimed them. We just hope some will find their way back to our back yard and patio. Ferns and panzies will await them.

We've had nesting birds in our yard and trees through the years — mockingbirds, doves, sparrows — but none have granted us such intimate liberties. We almost felt like guests in their home as we tried not to disturb their family life.

Each day as we'd check on our feathered friends, our thoughts would turn to the wonder, beauty, diversity, and splendor of God's creation. We were moved by the powerful parental instincts with which God has endowed all his creatures, and observed that we all can pick up a few parenting pointers from wrens and finches — how important it is to make parenting job one while they're in the nest, how fast they fly... And there was more to learn.

Twice our Lord used birds to teach us to trust. *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your father. And even the very hairs of your head are numbered. So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.* (Matthew 6:26; 10:29-31)

Thanks, wrens and finches and other feathered friends, for the joy you bring and the lessons you teach! You've slowed us down a little and helped us heed our Lord's invitation to *look at the birds of the air*. Please return soon.

In a word, let's slow down and enjoy the little blessings!

May 2006 Mission Reports

Roger and Suzanne Doriot

We welcomed our missionaries **Roger and Suzanne Doriot** to Redeemer for the first time this past Sunday, May 28. The Doriots serve with CrossWorld (UFM) in Papua, Indonesia, formerly known as Irian Jaya. Roger and Suzanne have been involved primarily in translation and church planting among several unreached people groups in the remotest parts of Indonesia. During their visit



at Redeemer, the Doriots gave a wonderful update of their work since they arrived in 1974. Not only was the New Testament completed in 2000, but now there are over four thousand baptized believers in the Nalca (pronounced, NAL-CHA) tribe, with functioning, indigenous churches in

every major village. These days, the Doriots are working as advisors to the Nalca tribe as they recruit and train nationals for the work of translation. Our own **Nathan Ramler** is planning to intern with the Doriots in Indonesia this summer while on break from Wheaton College. Let's continue to pray for this wonderful ministry and for our missionaries, Roger and Suzanne Doriot.

Joy and Leela George

Joy and Leela George also made a visit to Redeemer on May 14. Joy is the president of the Asian Christian Academy located near Bangalore, India. Joy and Leela spoke to our ABFs and our children's church and gave a brief update in the worship service. The past year has seen many exciting opportunities and successes



for the Georges and their ministry. In December, both of their sons were married. This year the seminary added PhD and Doctor of Ministry courses. ACA built twenty houses for the tsunami victims and established a school and church in that community. Thirty graduates of

the seminary received their Master of Theology degrees in May. These students join the other 547 graduates who serve as evangelists, pastors and church planters throughout India. 720 children go to the Asian Christian Academy, and there are 30 in the orphanage. Keep praying for this strategic ministry.

Kristen Raikes

Our church also welcomed **Kristen Raikes** home from three and a half months spent learning and ministering in Vanua Levu, Fiji. Kristen, a student at John Brown University, left for Fiji on January 17 and returned May 2. She teamed up with the Eduventure Agency and spent the majority of her time learning missions and cross-cultural ministry first-hand. Kristen lived with a Fijian family for several days during her trip. Kristen said that the family welcomed her into their home, and she learned how to spear, catch, prepare and eat fish. Kristen said that she would love to go back someday, having seen the real hardships and the real joy of missions. Kristen will be giving a longer report this summer.



Getting to Know You: The Bridgman Family

Tommie Loveless

All eight members of the Bridgman family are deeply involved in the life of Redeemer Bible Church. A close-knit family, here are a few of their favorite things. Favorite books: *Chronicle of Narnia* series, *Hinds Feet on High Places*, and anything by John Elderidge and Major Ian Thomas. Favorite song: *Let Us Adore*. Favorite vacation: *Estes Park, Colorado*. Favorite family activities: reading, memorizing and dramatizing scripture together, music, drama, scouting, camping, and mission trips. Is it any wonder that they are a happy family, grounded in the Word of God, loving Him and one another!

Shawn was born and raised in the Dallas area, and his parents **Corky** and **Sandy Bridgman** also attend Redeemer. Shawn received Christ as his Savior at a Young Life Camp the summer before his senior year at Hillcrest High School. **Renee** was born in Clarksville, Texas, but grew up in the Dallas area. She was led to Christ at a young age; however, "It was not until I started attending Young Life at Garland High School that I began to desire to live for Christ with my whole heart, soul, and mind."

Growing up only minutes apart, they did not meet until God brought them together at Texas Tech University, seven hours away from Dallas. They married in 1982, and in 1983 they spent their first anniversary in Honduras as a part of a missions



team, *Practical Missionary Training*, affiliated with CAM International. Shawn shared, "We spent that summer under the direction of missionaries in Panama, Costa Rica, and Honduras. This gave us a heart for missions that continues to this day." They spent over seven years working at CAM headquarters here in Dallas as the mission home host couple, while Shawn attended Dallas Theological Seminary, where he received his Masters in Christian Education Degree. It was during this time that **Matthew, Hillary, and Grant** were born, and the Bridgmans began their journey of home schooling, which still occupies the majority of Renee's

energies fifteen years and three more children (**Ian, Susanna** and **Dottie**) later. Shawn is presently facilities manager for Prime-a-Care's eleven properties.

Currently, Shawn and Renee enjoy serving as youth leaders at the church, and Shawn is one of Troop 48's Assistant Scoutmasters. Matthew, Hillary, and Grant are serving overseas this summer with various missions. Ian is earning his Eagle Scout rank and will be assisting with Redeemer's janitorial duties for the summer. Renee shared that Susanna likes working with younger children, and she and Dottie are enjoying their eleven cousins. ***Bridgmans, thanks for the joy you bring to us all!***

Welcome, New Members!



Our newest members are the entire **Shafer** family
Parents: **Scott and Pam**; middle row (l to r): **Regan, Braden, Cameron**; front row: **Jared**.

The Link is Redeemer Bible Church's monthly newsletter, produced by the pastoral staff, Brad Hepp (layout), and various contributors.

Found Your ABF Yet?

God is doing a significant work of grace through Redeemer's Adult Bible Fellowships (ABFs). Our ABFs are more than sit-and-listen classes; they are groups where we can dig into God's Word and life together. ABF folks share things like rides to the doctor, prayers for jobs, recipes for a good potato salad, and a good joke. They love each other. Do you have people like that in your life? You can.

If you are not currently in an ABF or are considering changing ABFs, a couple of recent happenings may interest you. **Andy Woods** has agreed to guest teach in the Barnabas Fellowship (downstairs, room 103) while **Dr. Oscar Lopez** is away for the summer. Andy has guest taught in several ABFs and will be working through the book of Daniel. Just across the hall in room 102, you'll find the 24/7 Fellowship, with newly-appointed leaders **Kris Dain** and **Scott Shaffer**. Scott has just begun a study of Philippians, and one of the group's new goals is to spend time together away from church.

These two ABFs, as well as the other five, are filled with folks just like you — people who want to discover God and serve Him, alongside others. You will be blessed by receiving from — and giving to — an ABF. Pick up an ABF brochure. Check them out. Plug in. You'll be glad you did.

2006 Graduates

Class of 2006 high school graduates and their families were honored May 14 during the annual high school Graduation Celebration.

Bob and Starr Franklin provided a delicious formal dinner, followed by a memorable service in the sanctuary. The graduates are (top, left to right) **Stephen Long, Joshua Oudin, Allen Hoggatt, Geoff Reading, Stephen Tanksley, Jason Pedigo**, (bottom, left to right) **Caroline Jones, Stephanie Burrows, and Melissa Pedigo**.



Our Dallas Seminary graduates this year are (left to right): **Heidi Regier** (M A in Christian Education), **Lauren Walter** (M A in Christian Education), and **Scott Woods** (M A in Biblical Counselling).

Kudos!



Ninth grader **Chad Geiger** was voted “most improved gymnast” by his fellow Rockwall High male gymnasts. Rockwall competed in the State Finals. Congratulations, Chad!

Hidden in the Heart

continued from page 1 **Sarah Gomillion, Nicole Noguiera,**

and **A J Geiger**. Thanks, teachers and parents, for helping our children learn God’s Word!

Aloha Harrell led our twos and threes in learning an astonishing nine verses each! **Jim and Debbie Raikes** jazzed up the Bible verses for the fours and fives with a Steve Green “Hide ‘Em in Your Heart” CD, to which the kids sang along. The sweet-toothed first and second graders eagerly announced their verses to **Martha Druce** and **Carol Morgan**, in hopes of winning the drawing for a candy prize. Our third and fourth graders verbalized truths about the nature of God in response to teacher **Hazel Sandlin’s** questions from the catechism. Finally, our fifth and sixth graders memorized both 1 Corinthians 13 and Exodus 20. Each week these pre-teens recited the new verse along with the preceding ones to **Dawn McCullar** until the entire passage was mastered. As our fifth and sixth graders corporately recited Psalm 119:11, they reminded us all to learn God’s Word so that we might not sin against Him. Our prayer for our children as they hide God’s Word is that they would continue to seek Him always.

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

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

B I B L E C H U R C H

Presbyterian