

October 2008

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Reading Families — A Winning Combination

With books for toddlers to seniors, Redeemer's library draws readers of all ages. Enjoying this summer's reading program were the younger and older members of many families. In fact, two Redeemer families had multiple winners in the program's prize drawing. Both **Cathryn** and **Andrew Wisely** joined their grandmother **Leah Krauss** as prize winners. Siblings **Ashley** and **Andrew Higgins** won as well.

As one of the earliest activities parents share with a child, reading widens a child's world. The wonder of reading never fails those who continue to follow its path. Wherever you are in the Redeemer family, the church library welcomes you to the reading adventure!

Annual Thanksgiving Banquet on Nov. 21

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend our annual Thanksgiving Banquet on Friday, November 21, at the Dallas First Assembly of God, located on Northwest Highway between Jupiter and Lake Highlands. We'll enjoy a great meal, warm fellowship and uplifting music. More information will be given in the bulletin and in the weekly email. We'd love for you to be there!

You Can Make a Difference with Operation Christmas Child

Again this year, we at Redeemer are privileged to partner with Samaritan's Purse in blessing needy children around the world with a real Christmas gift. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope through gift-filled shoe boxes and the life-changing message of the love of Jesus. Your gifts demonstrate God's love to families in difficult circumstances and prepare hearts to hear the gospel.

WHAT: Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.

WHO: Pick either a boy or girl and an age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Fill out the label available in the church lobbies. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

HOW: DO fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Include items such as small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, small books and candy. **DON'T** include used or damaged items, war-related items, chocolate, food, liquids, lotions, medicine, vitamins, breakable items or aerosol cans.



Include a seven dollar donation to Samaritan's Purse. Write, "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line. Place the envelope on top of the gift items inside the box. Place a rubber band

around the box and lid.

WHERE: Bring your shoe box to our collection center inside the main church lobby. So that children can receive the gifts by Christmas, *please bring your boxes by Sunday, November 16.*

Redeemer to Host Costume Carnival

Whether your children love playing the role of a cowboy protecting the innocent townspeople or a princess dancing in a beautiful gown, they are invited to a fun-filled evening on Wednesday, October 29. In place of the regularly scheduled child and youth programs from 6:15-8:15 PM, there will be a costume carnival for them and their families. Our

youth will be leading carnival games with the children, and there will be live music in the Oasis. All children are invited to come in their favorite costumes, and families are encouraged to invite their neighbors and friends.

Also for those interested, there will be Halloween tracks from ATS available in the lobby.



In a Word

Little things count!

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

This month's encouraging word is, *the little things of life really do matter!* The following proverbial rhyme has been around in one form or another from at least the fourteenth century, and for good reason!

*For want of a nail the shoe was lost;
For want of a shoe the horse was lost;
For want of a horse the rider was lost;
For want of a rider the battle was lost;
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost;
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.*

Ever think to yourself or tell your spouse or friend, "My life consists almost entirely of little things that don't really matter that much to anyone." Truth is, all our lives are made up mostly of seemingly endless little things, the routines so necessary to sustain life, but, as far as we can tell, of little or no lasting significance to ourselves or anyone else. It's easy to think, "Does it really matter whether I . . .

- Strive for an A in this boring class? I'll never need this information anyhow.
- Keep our home neat and attractive for my family? No one seems to notice.
- Get to work on time? Few others do.
- Be scrupulously honest, even to the smallest detail? Who is these days?
- Take the extra time and trouble dreaming up ways to make my Sunday school lesson a real interest grabber? I already know it so well I could teach it in my sleep.

- Send a get-well card to an older friend who is ill, or a note of congratulations to a young person for his or her achievement?
- Follow my good impulse to write that note or email, make that call, provide a meal, or get in my car and go see that shut-in?

Make your own list of the 'little things' you may be tempted to let slide.

I suspect that, deep in our hearts, we all know just how big a seemingly little thing can be. Three casual comments led me to investigate and choose Dallas Seminary, a school I had barely heard of. That decision changed the direction of my life. It may have been a 'little thing' that introduced you to the school or job you chose, or to the one who became your spouse! Think through your life, looking for those little things that have made a big difference. Call to mind the encouraging notes, phone calls, visits, thoughtful gestures that brightened your day, gave you courage to press on when you were about to quit. Odds are that most of the friends whose little things were very big things to us have no idea just how big they were. And so with the little things we may be tempted to neglect. Take it by faith; they matter a great deal to someone.

Three quotes come to mind. **Mother Teresa:** *We can only do little things, but we must do them with great love and care.* **Amy Carmichael:** *A little thing is a little thing; but faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing.* The third quote is off the wall – my wall. *It's good for your character!* The small things of life are a big deal; they are the school of life. Character is proven and developed in the small and ordinary things of life. In our Lord's words: *Well done! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!* (Mt 25:21). He also said, *Whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much* (Luke 16:10).

Be encouraged! Our 'little things' are a big deal – to God and to others – in ways we may never know this side of heaven. So remember, *faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing.*

In a word ... little things count!

Redeemer Partners with Asian Christian Academy to Plant a Church in India

In May 2008, Redeemer began supporting Asian Christian Academy church planter, **Hanok Bangennawar**. Hanok is a recent graduate of ACA and will begin planting a mission center in Karnataka, India, under the guidance of Redeemer missionaries, **Joy and Leela George**. Each year, one or two students are selected from ACA's graduating class to plant mission centers which both train leaders and help lay the foundation of a fully functioning church. Hanok was raised in a Hindu family, but lived among a community of Christians and trusted Christ through their influence.

For the four years he studied at ACA, our choir took up a monthly collection to help pay his tuition costs and have



regularly prayed for him and for the Georges. During his theological studies, Hanok prepared for a church planting ministry. He joins several other graduates who are establishing mission centers and churches and spreading the gospel throughout India. Recently, we were able to provide Hanok with a motorcycle, which will greatly facilitate his work and ministry in the region.

Lately, believers in the state of Karnataka have come under heavy persecution, sanctioned by the pro-Hindu government. Please pray for Hanok and the other believers as they

face much difficulty and opposition. What a privilege it is to share in God's work around the world!

Getting to Know You: George and Audrey Carson

Tommie Loveless

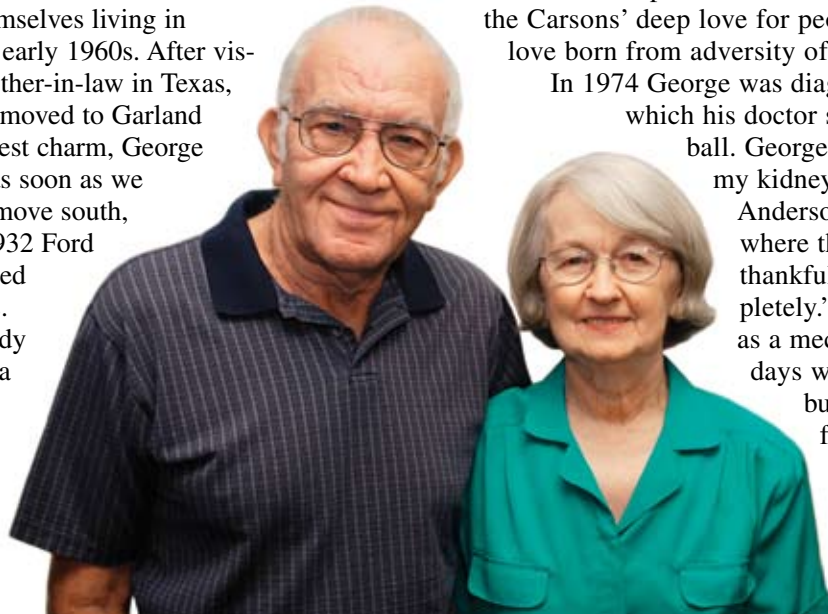
George and Audrey Carson were both born in Pennsylvania, but found themselves living in Baltimore, Maryland, in the early 1960s. After visiting Audrey's sister and brother-in-law in Texas, the Carsons felt the tug and moved to Garland in 1961. With his usual earnest charm, George quipped: "We got to Texas as soon as we could!" Reflecting on their move south, George said, "We drove a 1932 Ford and a 1955 Ford, which pulled a trailer with our belongings. Since we had two sons, Randy and Daniel, each of us took a boy as we traveled to Texas! Later we were blessed with another son, Rodney." Now, after fifty-four years of marriage they are the proud grandparents of four boys and two girls, and two great-grandchildren—a boy and a girl.

Audrey came to know Jesus as her Savior at the age of twelve during a revival meeting in Akersville, PA. George was saved as a young teenager while living in Hancock, Maryland, and later rededicated his life to Christ. The Carsons have enjoyed serving the Lord together for many years in various ministries, but look with special fondness on their work with Cornerstone Prison Ministries. George relayed, "We were very thankful when the Redeemer family enthusiastically responded to decorating and preparing Christmas bags, which were

delivered to the prisoners." Their prison ministry highlights the Carsons' deep love for people dealing with difficulty: a love born from adversity of their own.

In 1974 George was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor, which his doctor said was half the size of a football. George said, "It was located behind my kidney and liver. I went to M.D.

Anderson Hospital, in Houston, Texas, where they removed it. We are very thankful that the Lord healed me completely." Working at Braniff Airways as a mechanic, George was off for 98 days while being treated for cancer, but returned to work with them for many years. After Braniff closed, George worked with American Airlines for almost twenty years as a ground equipment mechanic. George commented, "We still have free air miles from the years



I worked at American, but we rarely use them because we don't like to miss Sundays at Redeemer!"

The Carsons especially appreciate **Dr. Zuck's** teaching in their adult Bible fellowship. Thinking about Redeemer, Audrey commented, "We enjoy Redeemer more than anything! It is such a blessing to be part of this fellowship. Thanks for accepting us in such a wonderful way. We have learned so much in the teaching and preaching here." We thank you, Audrey and George, for choosing Redeemer as your church home and serving the Lord and His people with us. It's good to know you!

Scenes From the 2008 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic



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

photo by don regier

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Youth Off to Busy Fall

Our youth have had a fun and busy start to the fall semester with two new special meetings and an enjoyable evening bowling for prizes and broomball. A student-initiated gathering of about 15 students called The Breakfast Club meets twice a month from 8:30–9:15 for fellowship, prayer, sharing testimonies and a hearty breakfast prepared by the teenagers themselves. Also twice a month, the youth meet in various homes on Sunday night for a deeper study of the book of Romans. The students are diligently examining this master treatise on God's plan for righteousness in a verse-by-verse in-depth study. On September 19, a group of 35 youth enjoyed competition while bowling for candy prizes, and then played broomball (ice hockey in tennis shoes using a plastic ball) at Plaza of the Americas Ice Rink. They look forward to a fall camping retreat in Oklahoma in October.

Behind the Curtain

If our lives were music, when **Max Hardesty** walked into a room we'd hear: "There is joy in serving Jesus as I journey on my way; joy that fills my heart with praises, every hour and every day." Max is another of our behind-the-curtain ministers at Redeemer who takes great delight in serving others for the glory of God.

In his white Chevrolet pickup, head ringed by a trusty sweat band, Max often helps our church family by doing things like moving mulch, hospital beds, or garbage ... and even the occasional staff member's flat-tired motor scooter. Each Monday morning Max works with Sonja Rose to pick up, deliver, and organize food staples for needy students at Dallas Seminary. On Wednesday nights you are likely to find him in the fellowship hall putting out the salt and pepper or busing tables. But Max doesn't just help serve our



Cub Scouts' Servant Leaders

Each Midweek, the Cub House glows with energy as 50 bright-eyed Cub Scouts, ages 5-10, learn the basics of scouting, make new friends, play games, and join in activities that any little boy would find enthralling. Several Boy Scouts from Troop 4:8 serve as helpers and friends to these precious young guys. In October, Pack 4:8 will be selling popcorn to family and friends to raise money for uniforms and yearly dues. While "Popcorn Colonel" **Leonard Rees** ably manages the details of the sale, **Lillian Rees** stays busy translating and welcoming Spanish-speaking parents into the pack. Cubmaster **Allen Sandlin** treats the boys and their parents to a weekly devotional with a story and a short scripture passage. The nights always end with a loud cheer of "Do Your Best!" (the cub scout motto) and a closing prayer.

food, he often makes it. If at Redeemer you've ever attended a potluck function, bought items at a bake sale, or partaken of a memorial service meal, there is a high likelihood you have eaten some of Max's famous "ooey gooey butter cake" or banana pudding. Yum!

When asked why he is so active in serving, Eagle Scout Max replied with a grin, "Good scouts do a good turn daily!" Pressed a bit, he said, "I've really never thought about it. I guess I just see a need and feel like God has put me there to help. And ... I really feel good when I help someone."

If, as the song suggests, there really is joy in serving Jesus, then Max Hardesty's joy-tank is overflowing! Max, we are grateful God led you

to Redeemer and that you are so willing to serve Him and us here. Thank you.

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

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

BIBLE CHURCH
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