

December 2009

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Youth Caroling: Wednesday, December 9

Please pray for this outreach. Pioneer Girls, Boy Scouts, Girls of Grace, and youth group members will be caroling at the Buckner Retirement Village (4800 Samuell Blvd., 75228). Arrive **there** at 5:45 PM with a good jacket and two dozen homemade cookies. After some singing and cookie eating, the carolers will leave at 7:30 PM.

Seasoned Saints Event: Sunday, December 12

55-and-older crowd, we know your holiday social calendar is filling up, but (if you are able) plan to be with us for an after-church get-together in two weeks. As usual, we'll be making some good memories, and they'll be better if you're part of them!

Operation Friendship Weekend: Jan. 23, 24

Begin praying and planning now for our church-wide outreach next month. **Pastor Hornok** and local evangelist Larry Moyer will lead us as we host a Saturday night dinner, Sunday morning worship, and Sunday night evangelism training. (Check out an overview of this outreach approach at www.evantell.org/livetraining.) Ask God to begin preparing our church family and those who will hear the Good News through us. Then, pre-decide to obey as God reveals your role in this exciting event.

Redeemer's Eleventh Christmas

Candles and banners, poinsettias and choirs, bright children and warm carols will adorn our Christmas praise to Jesus this year. Our worship will include songs, Scriptures, and sermons highlighting many of the values of Christmas seen in the Christmas story. We'll enjoy three Advent worship services that will focus our hearts, minds, and praises on the newborn King. Special highlights include music from Handel's *Messiah*, handbells, harps, children's choir, orchestra, and you, the Redeemer family, singing the beloved carols and hymns of the season. We have a lot to look forward to during this, our eleventh, Christmas as a church family as we worship God and thank Him for the matchless gift of His Son, Jesus.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:00 PM

One of Redeemer's annual highlights, our Christmas Eve service will be a thoughtful flow of Scripture, carols, uplifting music, and a special Christmas message from **Pastor Hornok**. We'll wrap up the service and prepare for Christmas morning by singing *Silent Night* and watching the Christ candle's flame slowly fill our sanctuary. Begin or continue a meaningful family tradition by participating in this service with your friends and loved ones.

Christmas Child Boxes on Their Way

Thank you for generously filling 156 shoe boxes for the world's neediest children during this year's Operation Christmas Child drive. Please continue to pray that those who receive these special gifts will also receive God's greatest gift: His Son, Jesus. As a reminder, if you donated online through their "EZ Give" method you can track your boxes as they make their way around the world to their God-intended child. Thank you for your part in bringing joy to these children and hope for the nations. To God be the glory forever!



From the Pastor's Pen

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

Dr. Paul Brand in his book *Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants* relates how in the 1960s he was embarking on an overseas trip and was in need of a haircut. He visited a shop in the Los Angeles area which had gleaming tile and stainless steel along with the latest equipment, including four hydraulic chairs that went up and down at the press of a foot pedal.

A crusty man in his late fifties owned the shop and began to grouse about the miseries of modern barbering. "I can hardly make a living these days," he said. "I can't get responsible help. The barbers who work for me gripe about their tips and demand raises. And everything I make I have to pay to the government in taxes." The barber went on with bitter commentary on the lag-gardly state of the economy and the ingratitude of his customers. When Brand arose from his chair, he felt like asking for a therapist's fee. Instead, he had to pay him five dollars, an excessive price for a haircut in the '60s.

After a month of traveling, Dr. Brand had business in Vellore, India, and once again needed a haircut. This time he visited a storefront barbershop across the street from the Vellore hospital. The barber motioned Brand toward his single chair, a crude contraption of rusty metal and cracked leather that lacked all upholstery stuffing. When Brand sat down, the barber disappeared out the door carrying a battered brass basin in which to fetch water. On his return, he laid out an array of scissors, combs, a straight razor, and hand-operated clippers. Dr. Brand was struck by his air of quiet dignity.

Just as the barber was noisily stropping the razor and preparing to cut Brand's hair, the man's ten-year-old son showed up

with a hot lunch from home. The barber looked at Dr. Brand and apologetically said, "Sir, you'll understand that this is my lunch time. Could I cut your hair when I'm finished?"

"Certainly," Dr. Brand replied. He watched as the boy spread the lunch on a banana leaf. Sitting on the floor, his bony legs crossed at the angles, the father partook of rice, pickles, curry, and curds while the son stood beside him.

"I suppose your son will become a barber after you," Dr. Brand said, observing the reverent way the boy treated his father. "Oh, yes!" the barber beamed proudly. "I hope to have two chairs by then. We can work together until I retire. And then the shop will be his."

As the boy cleaned up, the father began work on Dr. Brand's hair. Occasionally it felt as if his ancient clippers were pulling the individual hairs out by the roots, but all in all, Dr. Brand got a fine haircut. At the end, the barber asked for a fee: one rupee, the equivalent of an American dime. Dr. Brand writes: "I glanced in the mirror, comparing this haircut with my last one, and as I did so, I could not help comparing the two barbers as well. Somehow the one who earned one-fiftieth of the other's fee seemed to have the happier life."

"From people like the barber in Vellore I learned that contentment is not the absence of discomfort or mere avoidance of pain. It is an inner state, a truth that easily gets lost in the jangle of high-pressure advertising in the West."

Sadly today, even among many Christians, the quality of contentment is absent. Paul wrote "*Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am*" (Philippians 4:11). The key word is **learned!** Content is a spiritual discipline that must be learned. With so much pressure brought to bear upon us by advertisers and others towards discontent during this Christmas season, the best gift we can give ourselves — and others — is cultivating an attitude of contentment.

Urbana, Here We Come!

Jesus said, "*Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field.*" At Redeemer we take that call to both prayer and missions very seriously. As God continues to grow our church family and expand our global vision, many of us are praying God will raise up some from Redeemer to become career missionaries.

We are thankful as a church to be sending 16 of our college students, young adults, and their leaders to this year's Urbana Conference. Since 1946 InterVarsity has been providing a place for college students and young adults to see, hear, and respond to God's call to "go into all the world and make disciples." Over 20,000 young adults will be gathering in Saint Louis, Missouri, December 27-31, 2009. Those in attendance will hear from experts about critical global issues like immigration, migration, human trafficking, environmental degradation, and poverty. They will also discover how these complex issues affect global missions.

They will have opportunities to interact with over 300 mission agencies and groups to explore practical ways in which they can get involved in God's global work. They will also be challenged to focus and reflect on God's will for their lives. Jim Tebbe, the conference's director, said, "At a time when young

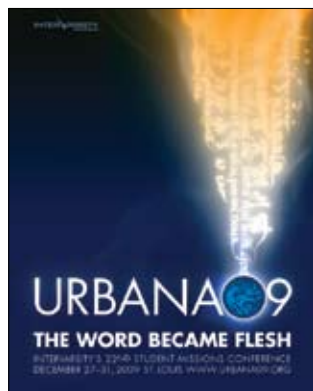
adults are looking and are prepared and are open to what it is that God may be saying to them, we're showing them the world, showing them what God is doing there, and then inviting them to be a part of that."

Let's be praying **by name** for those from Redeemer who will

attend this conference: **Melissa Anthony, Grant Bridgman, Hillary Bridgman, Anna Escobar, Meredith Escobar, Chad Geiger, Rebecca Rack, Kristen Raikes, Jonathan Raikes, Lauren Raikes, Stephen Raikes, A.J. Ramler, Janet Ramler, Kevin Ramler, Paul Ramler, Michaela Ruffino, Saralynn Spears, and Liesl Tanksley.** Perhaps God will send some of them out into the harvest field. Isn't it exciting that we can have a critical part in sending them by praying? Pray that God will be preparing their hearts now for what He has to say to them at the conference, and then be praying while they are at the conference that God will speak to each one

about the part He wants them to play in His global mission.

There may be others from Redeemer who would like to attend, but have not yet signed up. It is not too late! If you would like more information, please contact **Kristin Raikes** or visit the Urbana website at www.urbana.org/home.



Getting to Know You: James and LeEtta Detrich

Tommie Loveless

One of the highlights of Sunday mornings at Redeemer is enjoying the excellent teaching and fellowship of an Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF). On occasion, when a teacher is out, talented and gifted individuals are willing to step in to share lessons from God's Word. **James Detrich** is one of those who has taught in several ABFs when needed, and his teaching is always a blessing. James graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) in 2008 with a Master of Theology degree, Academic Ministries emphasis, and has just begun his first semester of Ph.D. studies. James explained: "My desire is not only to teach professionally in the classroom but also in the local church. I sincerely believe that it's the local church's responsibility to teach the distinctives of the Christian faith to its laypeople. I love being a part of that mission and plan to continue to do it in the future. It is important to me that we as the Church think properly about God and His will."

LeEtta Detrich, James' wife and greatest supporter, is an Administrative Coordinator at an international law firm. Reflecting on her and James' time in Dallas, LeEtta said, "We have been married a little over six years, and most of that time has been seminary years. I cherish this experience and I am still in awe of the opportunity to be here with James, toiling alongside him day by day." James and LeEtta met when she was a freshman at Tennessee Temple University (TTU). "James was in his



junior year at TTU, Vice-President of Students, and just interested enough in a girl (who was somewhere far away) that I didn't stand a chance for the next year and a half!" At the time, that arrangement was fine with LeEtta. "I had witnessed my parents' relationship after divorce. Honestly, I didn't know of too many happy marriages that I wanted to emulate, so I was committed to not dating seriously during my first year." James then shared the "rest of the story." "We became friends and I got down to the business of dating her. I loved her from the get-go, but she was cautious! After a series of events that caused much prayer, God brought us together in marriage." James and LeEtta desire to have a family in the future, but for now they are contented with each other, their friends, and a dog named, "C-Biscuit." They enjoy games, movies, sports, and often discuss issues that come up in the church and society. James added, "We also like eating out at nice restaurants — when the budget allows!"

James cites Dr. John Hannah, **Don Geiger**, and other godly men as being instrumental in teaching him how to approach life with a philosophy of service and glorifying the Lord. LeEtta concluded, "James and I desire to serve in the church in whatever capacity is needed, raise a family to the glory of God, and expand ourselves in the future to do more missionary work overseas." Redeemer is thankful to have such a dedicated and gifted couple in our church family.

James and LeEtta met when she was a freshman at Tennessee Temple University (TTU). "James was in his

Girls of Grace, Growing in Love

Lauren Raikes

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). The command to love one another has become a foundation on which the Girls of Grace stand. It's something we, as a group, have decided to embody. Through the many changes that have taken place over the past year — be it a change in group leadership, new ladies entering the group, a different Bible study direction, etc. — the love the girls have for one another and show to each other hasn't faded.



I personally see it every week during Girls of Grace when their lovely voices sing praises to God, when they show gratefulness to a guest speaker, or throughout the week as they care for one another. Most recently I witnessed it as the girls poured out their love to children in developing countries by filling Operation Christmas Child boxes with goodies they brought. I also saw it on our recent retreat (pictured) as they paddled around the lake in the boat, wove hair wreaths out of flowers, created beautiful scented candles and shared what God has been teaching them. It was a sweet time of fellowship and a weekend we will all cherish.

We still have much to learn and have much growing to do, but as God continues to lead and guide us, we will strive to honor Christ's command to love one another in a way that marks each of our lives.



Welcome New Members!



Roscoe Foster



Edward Matthews

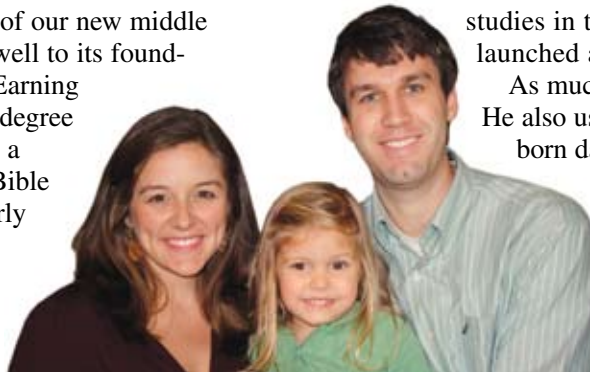


William Matthews

Behind the Curtain

Just last month we featured the launch of our new middle school group, and this month we say farewell to its founding leaders: **Benji and Rebekah Baker**. Earning his Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling degree from Dallas Seminary, Benji has accepted a position as Student Pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Clearly Redeemer's loss is Fellowship's gain, but God will be glorified wherever this gifted and servant-hearted couple goes.

Reflecting on what drew them to Redeemer more than three years ago, Rebekah commented: "We were excited to see a church that encouraged people to serve within their gift set, so we plugged in and got going." Indeed they did! Between the two of them, the Bakers have cared for babies in the nursery, taught college and career students and hosted outings, spoken to the Girls of Grace, volunteered in Vacation Bible School, taught Bible



studies in the youth group, led youth retreats, launched a care group, and more.

As much as God used the Bakers in our lives, He also used us in theirs. After losing their newborn daughter **Gracie** last year, Benji and Rebekah were "blown away" by the love and support God showered on them through us. Benji even bragged on our young people, saying "It really helped sharing Gracie's story with the youth, and they showed us such love and compassion. What a blessing!"

Like many in the Redeemer family, the Bakers faithfully serve God by serving others out of the limelight. As Benji, Rebekah, **Caroline** (and her due-in-April sister!) head for the hills of middle Tennessee, they leave with our deep gratitude and prayers for many more years of ministry impact. Congratulations and thanks, Bakers. You'll be missed!

Meeting Location:
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BIBLE CHURCH
Redeemer