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Investing in Others

INV3ST

A simple strategy that helps us to live out Redeemer's mission in our everyday lives , p. 2

LIVE A LIFE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We can all learn to encourage one another, as Scripture instructs, p. 2

CLIMBING ISN'T EASY

"Reach the Hill" builds relationships with middle-school students, p. 3

WORSHIPPING BY INVESTING IN OTHERS

One way we worship God is in the way we interact with others , p. 3

INVESTING IN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Discipleship opportunities abound in family activities , p. 3

OTHER FEATURES

"Let Freedom Ring," p. 1
Children's Ministry, p. 4
Outreach, p. 5
Missions, p. 6
Getting to know the Rodgers, p. 6

The Importance of Investing in Others

WHEN I SPEAK TO PEOPLE WHO VISIT REDEEMER, they typically mention how friendly everyone is. Yes, we are a welcoming church! We like each other and enjoy being together. And that shows when people visit.

“But “friendly” only goes so far. People don't ultimately need “friendly.” They need a friend.”

It turns out that loving relationships are an essential part of our faith. When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, He did not hesitate. To paraphrase, He said, “Love God with all that you are and love your neighbor as you love yourself” (Matthew 22:36-40). This special kind of love is called agape, which is a selfless, others-oriented love. And it's hard to love someone unless we have a relationship with them.

So, we need each other! Christianity is more than me and Jesus. It's like our missionary Vladimir Pickman said, “When you marry someone, you not only get a spouse but you get their family too.” And the same can be said for Christianity. When we enter into a relationship with Jesus, we get His family too—the church. So, this is important stuff!

Therefore, in order to encourage the development of new, meaningful friendships, we've set this year's theme as INV3ST—“Invest in 3.” Everyone is encouraged to pour deeply into the



lives of at least three people.

1. Someone newer in the faith— an equipping relationship

Just as Paul mentored Timothy, we too need to build into the life of someone who can benefit from the wisdom that we've acquired since trusting in Christ.

2. Someone more mature in the faith— an encouraging relationship

Not only is this a chance for you to learn from their wisdom, but you can be an encouragement to them, blessing them with the joy of authentic Christian friendship.

3. Someone who's not part of the family yet—a reaching relationship

The average believer does not have any meaningful friendships with the unchurched. Thus, we need to get intentional about fostering this kind of relationship so that they might one day share our love for Jesus.

It's time to move beyond friendly to friendship. I invite you to get started by listing three people of the same gender with whom you hope to enter into a new relationship. Pray that God would open the right doors. Invite them to spend time with you over coffee or whatever works for you.

We can do this. I've seen you open your hearts to new people and new relationships firsthand. This will be a blessing for others and for you!

Forward Together,

Mark Fortney, Senior Pastor

“Let Freedom Ring” Talent Show and Ice Cream Social

COME CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY AT RBC with a fun-filled talent show and ice cream social! Our annual patriotic festivity is set for **Sunday, June 28 at 6pm** in the worship center! This year's show features talent we've known and loved for many years and also some hidden gems never seen or heard before. Highlights include vocal numbers, instrumental works, poetry oration, dance interpretation, and, as always, an abundance of humor. Included are performances by the Sanctuary Choir, Men's Ensemble, RBC Staff, and many

others. Masters of Ceremony for the show this year are Bert Howard and Patrick Boyd, reliable as always to keep the audience in stitches as they guide the program effortlessly.

The show will be followed by a time of fellowship accompanied by the best ice cream anywhere. You'll want to invite friends and family to this annual holiday tradition. Flyers are available in the lobby to give out to your friends, family, and neighbors.

INV3ST: An ABF and Small-Group Priority

by: Bert Howard

Redeemer's ministry theme for 2015 is INV3ST, which means "invest in 3."

MORE THAN A WORD PLAY, this simple strategy provides a practical way to live out Redeemer's mission in our everyday lives: "To glorify God, build up each other in love, and reach out to unbelievers to win them to Christ."

INV3ST calls for each of us to pray for and pour ourselves deeply into relationships with at least three people:

- An unbeliever—someone we can reach for Christ
- A new believer—someone we can equip and build up in love
- A more mature believer—someone we can encourage to continue to bring God glory

INV3ST

A great way to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ is to become a member of one of our six dynamic Adult Bible Fellowships, which meet Sundays at 9:15 a.m. You can also participate in any number of wonderful small groups that meet outside of the church at various times during the week.

Learning life principles and sound biblical doctrine from trusted and capable teachers while immersed in a nurturing fellowship is a proven and effective way to build a solid foundation on God's word. Get equipped to live out our faith and engage our theme of INV3ST.

Take advantage of these great opportunities—now!—to get involved.

Live a Life of Encouragement

by: Kent Barnard

NO MATTER OUR AGE, ONCE WE TRUST IN JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR, WE ARE TO LIVE ALL OF OUR DAYS ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER. In scripture, we are admonished over and over to "encourage one another." Some people have the spiritual gift of encouragement (Romans 12). Encouraging others comes naturally to them, almost like breathing.

For others, even though they may not have the gift, the scriptures clearly teach that all Christians must encourage. In the same way that children learn to ride a bike, once learned, encouraging comes naturally, almost without forethought.

And who teaches us to care for others? The great comforter, the Holy Spirit (John 14). The Lord told us that, if we indeed love Him, we will obey his teaching. Fruit will follow as the evidence of our love for Him. Believers in Jesus become known for their love for one another. No matter our age, once we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we

are to live all of our days encouraging one another.

So how do we learn to encourage one another? First, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, our greatest example, who dwells within us. Second, look to the Word for insight. In the book of Acts, Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement, gave from his personal resources to house, feed, and provide for the physical needs of the early Christians. Barnabas boldly and bravely supported his cousin Mark and the Apostle Paul at their own personal level of spiritual maturity, without apology.

As believers, we are to accept others where they are by encouraging them with love and by giving from our resources (food, money, clothing), our friendship (a listening ear, compliments, a greeting card, a phone call, an email, or by showing up at birthdays, weddings, funerals, and graduations) and prayer.

Remember: **"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging symbol."**

May our love for one another grow deeper and deeper as we encourage one another in the faith. Are you looking for someone to encourage? Contact me or, better yet, ask the Lord to open your heart to those you can encourage.



Climbing Isn't Easy

by: Patrick Boyd

"Reach the Hill" builds relationships with middle-school students.

WE PARKED OUR VANS AND BEGAN WORKING OUR WAY TO A SMALL PAVILION IN THE DISTANCE. As we looked around, we were amazed at the number of 30-foot cacti that covered the mountains around us.



The Youth Group—in Arizona last summer on a short-term mission trip—was going to climb Gates Pass in the Tucson mountains. The 20 of us prayed together, assigned climbing buddies, and began our ascent. Within 15 minutes, five of us had been attacked by a jumping cactus—yes, it's real! Some lost footing on unstable ground. Most of us concluded that mountain climbing is hard work.

After we returned to Dallas, we began another journey up another mountain. We call this journey Reach the Hill.

We have begun our journey of reaching the hill—Robert T. Hill Middle School—both metaphorically and literally. Now we have to start climbing. Since the beginning of the school year, we have gotten to know 89 students, each with a unique life story. Praise God!

Perhaps you are reading this and thinking, "What is he talking about?" In September, we dragged a couple of basketball hoops into the church parking lot, opened the Oasis, and began offering snacks and homework help to students attending the middle school across the street.

Our goal is to **establish relationships and earn the right to be heard** with the message of grace and forgiveness offered to everyone who believes in the name and work of Christ Jesus. We have a lot more climbing to do, and it isn't easy.

As you pray about engaging in a "reaching relationship," think about those 89 faces. Have you seen them? Have they seen you?



Worshipping by Investing in Others

by: Kendall Carter

When we invest in the lives of others—whether by guiding, learning or witnessing—we are offering to God a pleasing measure of worship.

HOW WE ACT REGARDING OTHERS IS AN EXPRESSION OF WORSHIP. Romans 4 prompts us that when we are worshipping Christ we are pleasing to God.

The framework of this Scripture teaches that we are to be insightful and receptive to the needs of weaker believers. When we invest in the lives of others—whether by guiding, learning, or witnessing—we are offering to God a pleasing measure of worship. It honors God, who formed and loves mankind, and it displays God's concern and nurture.

Romans 15:16 also speaks to evangelism as a suitable practice of worship. Paul indicates that extraordinary grace was provided to him "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God." The Gentiles who were won to Christ by Paul's ministry became an offering of worship to God. As an added benefit, these Gentiles became worshipers themselves.

It is beautiful to observe the fruits of devotion to one another, and it is invigorating to know we may be used as God's instruments to reach others by proactively and intentionally investing in their lives.

Children's Ministry Building Up and Reaching Out

by: Heidi Regier

The Children's Ministry is building up our children and reaching out to children in our neighborhood for Christ. Here's a look at what's going on:

SPORTS CAMP: We have the opportunity to impact children (4 years-5th grade) for Christ as we host our VBS Sports Day Camp from June 15-19 (9 a.m.-noon). Volunteer coaches and assistants need to contact Heidi Regier and bring a servant's heart along with organizing, decorating, singing, or counseling skills. Sign up your child **TODAY** by clicking on the "Sports Day Camp" banner and link at www.RBCdallas.org. Space is limited!

KING'S KIDS REMODEL: The Children's Ministry plans to update children's classrooms throughout 2015. Plans include fresh paint, new furniture, logos on some of the walls, and pictures of our children in the classrooms. As we continue to make improvements in our children's facilities, we will design rooms so they can be easily identified.

The Children's Ministry theme—The King's Kids—will remind children that everyone who believes in Jesus is His prince or princess and is given the privilege of representing their Father, the King.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

Midweek activities provide some great opportunities for boys and girls to play, create, learn and grow in God's truth. Fun activities abound and creative juices flow each Wednesday as boys and girls enjoy building relationships with their friends and leaders in Boys Brigade and Pioneer Girls.

TUTORING AT REILLY:

Each year, we have the opportunity to reach out to the students at Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School in our community. If you have a heart to serve our neighborhood's children, why not consider volunteering as a tutor or lunch buddy to a boy or girl who needs a friend? Throughout the years, Redeemer has been a welcome presence at Reilly, and our continued involvement is a tangible way to reach boys and girls in our neighborhood with the love of Christ.

Investing in Children and their Families

INTRODUCING CHILDREN TO GOD IS DEAR TO HIS HEART. WE SEE THIS CLEARLY IN DEUTERONOMY:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children." (Deut. 6:5-7)

Transforming everyday family activities into teachable moments about God turns each day into a discipleship opportunity, and, here at RBC, we rejoice in guiding young lives to their Maker and equipping parents (and grandparents) to fulfill their God-given mandate. In the near future, we'll introduce a simple and fun way for you to tie-in with what your kids are learning in children's ministry at home.



Whether you're tutoring children at a local elementary school, volunteering in children's church, or guiding your kids

in their faith at home, you are investing your time wisely. As Wess Stafford, president of Compassion International, writes, "Just know this: What you will do among children is as close to the heart of God and central to his kingdom as anything we could mention."

Do you desire to get involved in something of eternal significance? We would like to invite you to serve the children of RBC and their families. For more information contact **Heidi Regier, Director of Children's Ministry** (Heidi@RedeemerBibleChurch.org).

Outreach Corner

MISSIONS GARAGE SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

Spring cleaning served an eternal purpose for Redeemer Bible Church members at our annual Missions Garage Sale which was held May 22-23.

“Despite the weather, we had another banner year,” Bert Howard, Connections pastor said. “The sale has generated almost \$18,000, and additional funds will continue to come in as certain items are sold on Craigslist. As a result of relocating its studios, KCBI Radio generously contributed a lot of furnishings and equipment to the garage sale. And, as always, many others also donated additional items to sell.”

“We are so grateful for our members who cleaned out their garage and attic, set aside cash to buy stuff, and scheduled time to volunteer,” said Bert. “This was a huge undertaking with a huge purpose—to raise money for Redeemer’s summer missions program.”

The sale, which has become known citywide, included furniture, knickknacks, decorations, books, clothes, shoes, jewelry, electronics, and much more.

“Many people hear the Gospel and come to Christ every summer because of the generosity of the people of Redeemer,” Bert said. “And our members who go on short-term mission trips come home fired up to continue to serve God.”

Men Investing in Men

By Bert Howard

THE MEN OF REDEEMER CALL THEMSELVES THE GIBBORIM, which is a Hebrew word that means “mighty men.” Breaking free from the passivity that so easily entangles, **they are committed to knowing God as if nothing else matters.**

“When we, as men, stand and serve together, united in Jesus Christ, guided by Scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God and help transform lives, families, and communities,” said Bert Howard, connections pastor.

The Men’s Group is a great way for men to pursue Redeemer’s ministry theme—INV3ST—to pour deeply into three specific relationships: an unbeliever, to bring him to Christ; a newer believer, to equip him in the faith; and a more mature believer, to encourage him in his Christian walk.

Join the Gibborim and make a difference for the people and families in our church and community through the disciplines of prayer, study, fellowship, service, and a great monthly breakfast.



Women Investing in Women

Through relationship, a mature believer can pour deeply into the life of a woman newer in the faith.

WEEKLY WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIPS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDEEMER LADIES TO INVEST IN THE LIVES OF OTHER WOMEN.

Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening meetings focus on growth through Bible study. Multigenerational friendships form as women come together in small groups to engage in dynamic discussion of God’s Word at work in their lives.

Through relationship, a mature believer can pour deeply into the life of a woman newer in the faith. In return, she is blessed with encouragement from her younger friend. When asked why she invests in friendships with older women, a young mom said, **“I value the perspective a mature woman has gained through life experiences I currently face.”**

This year’s study of 1 Peter has challenged women to be intentional in fostering relationships with unbelievers. Many practiced “giving a reason for the hope” that is in us, by relating a gospel testimony within their small group. Presentations about local ministries have given women avenues to build reaching relationships with unbelieving women in our community.

Getting To Know You: Clark and Gail Rodgers

by: Tommie Loveless

Clark and Gail Rodgers became members in 2014 after attending Redeemer since 2007.

“People were surprised to know we were not already members,” Clark said. “However, we value and hold church membership as very important, and to not be taken lightly.”

Clark and Gail grew up in families that moved often, although for different reasons. Clark’s military family was stationed in Hawaii when he was born. Gail said, “My family’s moves made making and keeping friends a struggle.”

Clark and Gail ended up in Melbourne, Fla., where they met and graduated from high school. Clark later graduated from Embry Riddle with a bachelor’s degree in aeronautics.

He has worked on corporate jet engines for more than 30 years and is currently working for Honeywell. “I’ve fixed things since I was old enough to put tools in my hands, and I like fixing up old cars,” Clark said. “I feel blessed by God with this talent.” He also enjoys driving his 1969 Ford Mustang and officiating high school baseball and football games. “This is where I can live out my faith—and test it too,” he said.

The Rodgers were married in 1985. Gail, a homemaker for 26 years, retired from her career as a manager for Eckerd Drug when their oldest daughter, Brittany, was born in 1989. “Brittany, husband Johnny, and son Cade are

giving us a second grandchild in July,” Gail said. Their family also includes Leanna, who lives in Garland, Katherine, graduating high school this year, and Luke, an eighth-grader. Gail home-schooled all of their children.

“So far, my home schooling career has been 18 years in the making,” Gail said. “It began in 1996, when Brittany came home from first grade saying she wanted to be home schooled.”

She said, “In 1994, God began to work in my life, showing my sin and my need for a Savior, and I was saved by God’s grace. I was invited to Bible Study Fellowship, where I studied for eight years.”

Clark said, “Having a relationship with Christ, I was baptized in 1998. We worshiped at Rockwall Bible Church, where I served as a deacon until 2006.”

The Rodgers, hearing about Redeemer in 2007, made it their new church home. They are members of The Seekers Adult Bible Fellowship and are arranging schedules for their second summer Hungary mission trip. “We feel the importance of helping our youth grow and develop a good spiritual foundation,” Clark said. “We feel obligated to train them up to take on this world we live in today.”

We are thankful that God directed the Rodgers to Redeemer!



Missions Focus

KRISTEN RAIKES: “I’M SURRENDERED TO WHAT GOD WANTS.”

Life in northern Thailand can be tough. Learning the culture and customs takes time. The language is difficult. There are lots of bugs. But Kristen Raikes feels God called her to serve there and gives her the strength to continue.

“Life there can be hard so much of the time,” Kristen said. “But God shows himself faithful to me again and again.”

Kristen, daughter of Jim and Debbie Raikes, began attending Redeemer as a teenager with her family and served as children’s director after graduating from John Brown University. She felt the call to missions during college, got involved in refugee

ministry, attended the Urbana missions conference, and eventually took a vision trip to Northern Thailand, where she felt a tug toward ministry among the Shan people.

She has served in northern Thailand for three-and-a-half years, where she has learned Thai and is now learning the Shan language. She has lived and served in Lopburi, Mae Sai, Chiang Mai and, most recently, in a remote Shan village near the Myanmar border. Daily life in the village involves learning language study, developing relationships, working with children and young people, and supporting other ministries.

The car that Redeemer members purchased for her has made life and ministry much easier. Kristen has been on home assignment in the U.S. since November and plans to return to Thailand in May.

“I’m surrendered to what God wants and to go where He leads,” she said. “I am available to Him—to walk alongside and disciple whoever He brings to me, to always be teachable, and to love my neighbor as Jesus does.”

Remember to pray for Kristen and all of Redeemer’s missionaries as they live out the great commission.

Key Dates

June 24 Summer Mid-Week Activities Begin
June 24 Hill Jr. High Hangout Begins
June 28 "Let Freedom Ring"
Talent Show/Ice Cream Social

July 3 Church Office Closed—
Independence Day Observed
July 11-17 Youth Mission Trip to Chicago
July 31-Aug 10 WOL Hungary Missions Trip
Aug. 12 Last Summer Mid-Week Activities

Aug. 12 Last Hill Jr. High Hangout

Sept. 7 Church Office Closed Labor Day
Sept. 12 Concert—*Water Within*
Sept. 13 Back To Church Sunday

Save the Date

Don't miss
the food, fun,
and fellowship of
"Back to Church"
Sunday!

September 13 10:30am-1:00pm

RBCdallas.org 214.340.3633
Location: 721 Easton Road, Dallas, TX

On the cover: Cesar Reyes and Bert Howard