

March 2013

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Set Your Clocks Forward



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10 at 2 a.m. Set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night.

Easter Worship

Holy week at Redeemer begins on Palm Sunday, March 24, with a service featuring special music, palm branches and a Christ-focused message from Don Geiger Sr. On Good Friday, March 29, we will gather to remember our Lord's sacrifice during a moving and reflective service that begins at 7 p.m. and ends with the Lord's Table. We will celebrate Christ's victory over death on Easter Sunday, March 31, with glorious hymns and worship.

Eggstravaganza!

Join us for our annual Easter Eggstravaganza for children at the Raikes Ranch on Saturday, March 23 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. For a map, go to www.redeemerbiblechurch.org/raikes/ (password = easter). The kids will enjoy an egg hunt, face painting, bounce house and a tractor ride. Bring chairs and a blanket and a side-dish to share. Please RSVP to Heidi Regier in the church office.

Children's Choir

Redeemer's new choir for children begins rehearsals on Wednesday, March 20, from 6-6:40 p.m. in Room 211. See Heidi Regier, director of Children's Ministries, for more information.

Small Groups: Connecting & Growing

Russ and Dianna McClain love their small group. It's close to their home and gives them an opportunity to connect with others from Redeemer. But — more importantly — it helps them grow in Christ.

"It has helped us deepen our understanding of what Christ has done for us and how that translates into the way we live our daily lives," Russ said. "We hope to start a small group someday soon in our own home."

The McClains, who are part of the small group held at **Tom and Chris Newcomer's** home in Rowlett, are among a growing number of people who are joining small groups that began last summer in the homes of Redeemer people. Others are members of groups that have been in place for many years. Redeemer's small groups meet at different times, but all help our people live out a dynamic and growing faith through the vehicles of fellowship, Bible study and prayer.

"Why should you be in a small group?" said **Bert Howard**, pastor of assimilation. "These groups help us fulfill our church's mission statement: to glorify God, build up each other in love and reach out to unbelievers to win them to Christ. They are a great way to get personally engaged in our mission."

He said there are several other good reasons to get involved in a small group:

- To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Develop a deeper sense of community.
- Have opportunities to participate in all we have been called to do as believers.
- Get to know and become known by friends who will care for, pray for, encourage, inspire and share life experiences.
- Minister to others.

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Kids to Make Easter fun with Eggstravaganza



A family day: Families are invited to the annual Eggstravaganza on March 23 to enjoy fun activities for the children.

Missions Conference April 12-14

Learn how you can get involved in missions

Redeemer's annual missions conference will help you answer a question that every Christian should ask: How can I go and be part of the Great Commission?

"This is one of the great questions that each of us as Christians should ask ourselves," said **Paul Ramler**, chairman of the Missions Leadership Team. "No matter our stage in life or abilities, we are commanded to go into all the world, but what does that look like and how should we fulfill that command?"

The missions conference will be held April 12-14. Events will include:

- **April 12:** Dinners for eight or nine. These meals will be held in 10 homes selected by the Missions Leadership Team to provide opportunities to fellowship and learn more about how God is working around the world. Watch for your chance to sign up to attend a dinner.
- **April 13:** Saturday evening activities will include an international meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. and then a session at 7 p.m. featuring a message from **Dr. Ed Smith**, who will speak about his family's experiences as tent-maker missionaries in Egypt and about our responsibilities for global missions. Ed and his family attend Redeemer.
- **April 14:** On Sunday morning, choose to attend one of six classes featuring the work of various ministries during the 9:15 hour. **Doug Livingston**, the president of the Camino Global missions agency, will be the guest speaker during the morning worship service, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

In addition, **Dr. Oscar Lopez** will be our guest speaker on Sunday, April 7. Oscar, who was a Redeemer member for many years, is senior professor emeritus of pastoral ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary. He played a key role for more than 30 years as a pastor, church planter and seminary faculty member in Latin America. He also is an international worship consultant who has taught seminars in the United States, Canada, Latin America and Spain.

"The missions conference is a great opportunity to learn more about how God is working around the world and our responsibility to be part of the Great Commission," Paul said. "Come, and learn how you can go."



Hanok: "We need lots of prayer."

Q & A with Hanok Bangennawar

Redeemer supports the ministry of Hanok Bangennawar, who is the founding pastor of Mysore Bible Church in south-central India, about 90 miles southwest of Bangalore. He and his wife, Shalini, were married in 2010, and their son, Herschel Levi, was born in 2012. They have faced opposition and threats for their work for the Kingdom.

How did you become a Christian?

I was born and brought up in a Hindu family and was named for the Hindu god Hanamant. When I was a small boy, I had the privilege of playing with Christian friends because our house was located near a Methodist church. As we played in the church compound, some of the youths in the church used to call us inside the church and tell Bible stories to us. I started knowing more about Jesus.

A gospel meeting was held on March 24, 1996. The preacher was preaching about the sinful nature of human beings and our need for salvation. On that day,



I came to know that I am a sinner and need a savior. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior and I got baptized with the name Hanok. After my salvation, even my family members got saved.

How did you get involved in ministry?

I was involved in youth activities of the church and felt a great burden to share the gospel with my people and do full-time ministry. I talked with my pastor, and he helped me get into full-time ministry. On Jan. 29, 1999, I left my hometown and went to Bangalore to assist one of the pastors there. As I was helping him, I thought of learning God's word more because I had no theological training. Without knowing more about Him and His word, the ministry will not be effective and successful. If I know more about His word, I can share more with His people.

Hanok continued on page 4...

Getting to Know You: Philip and Rebecca Paris

Tommie Loveless

Philip and Rebecca grew up near Redeemer and have been loved, taught and counseled by many of the same people while sharing life-shaping experiences.

They were raised in God-centered homes by faithful, Christian parents, and have deep roots at Redeemer. Both Philip's parents, **Steve and Kay Paris**, and Rebecca's parents, **John and Charlane Rack**, are members of Redeemer. Philip's sister and brother-in-law, **Sarah and Hunter Matthews**, are also members.

Philip, Rebecca and their families were members of Reinhardt Bible Church for many years before coming to Redeemer. Philip came to Redeemer when he was 18 and Rebecca and her family came when she was 13. Although growing up in the same church, they did not date and fall in love until after college. They were married on Aug. 4, 2012.

"We honeymooned in Seattle before coming back to start getting settled in our home," Phillip said. They enjoy snow-skiing, watching the Texas Rangers and spending time with their families.

"Philip also enjoys cycling and cooking, while I like to read and enjoy quilting and crafting," Rebecca said. They also like taking long walks together, and they are presently getting ready for their new kitty, Mae, who will join them when she is 8 weeks old.



photo by Leonard Rees

Philip graduated from Garland Christian Academy and earned a bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M University at Commerce. He has worked in document management for the past eight years. Rebecca was home-schooled before earning a degree in education from Dallas Baptist University. She is teaching 22 4-year-old children at Mount Auburn Elementary School in Dallas.

Philip and Rebecca accepted Christ at the early ages of 3 and 4, respectively. "I was baptized by my dad when I was 9," he said. "My grandparents and parents, as well as **Shelby Johnson**

(Rebecca's adopted grandfather), and **Blake Barbre**, greatly influenced me spiritually."

Rebecca also named Shelby, along with her father, as people God used to reinforce her faith. "My dad always talked with me about all kinds of things, and prayed for me daily. His life of faith is a great example to me. My mom is one of my closest friends and I wouldn't be what I am today without her."

Philip and Rebecca, we are thankful God brought you together as husband and wife, marrying right here at Redeemer. Individually, and now as a couple, you are a very significant part of the church family.

Troop 48 Boys Enjoy Activities

February was a busy month for Boy Scout Troop 48. The boys participated in the annual Scouting for Food canned food drive, which produced more than 500 pounds of canned and dry goods for the White Rock Center of Hope.

Early in February, the troop traveled to **Milvern and Aloha Harrell's** property in Lone Oak for an extended campout, where they completed a service-project challenge, won by **Thomas Barbre** and **Andrew Ortiz**. Each scout practiced building a cooking fire and then used it to cook. They also learned the value of a good shelter when a large rainstorm moved in and forced them to construct makeshift coverings for their fires. Even with the challenging weather, **Jonathan Hepp** proclaimed it "one of the greatest trips!"

The Scouts will travel to the Caney Creek Wilderness in the Ouachita

Mountains of Arkansas for a 10-mile backpack trip March 8-10. The spring Court of Honor will be held March 27, highlighting the achievements of the Troop 48 boys this past year.



Welcome, New Members



Bill & Luci
Alderdice



Rebecca
Paris



Don and
Virginia Reed



Peggy
Spruiell

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I went to Faith Bible College in Kerala and finished with a bachelor's degree in theology in 2004. The same year, I went to Asian Christian Academy and graduated in 2007 with a master of theology degree.

The ACA mission board appointed me as a missionary in 2008, and I am working for the Lord in Mysore. By His grace, we started Mysore Bible Church with a small group of people.

Please describe your ministry.

We are able to reach some people who did not know Christ, and they have started accepting Christ as their savior. We are training people in our church to get more souls for Christ. We are encouraging our believers to testify about what God has done to the people around them. We also visit other villages around Mysore where people are unaware of the gospel.

What are the biggest obstacles you face?

The people of Mysore are still entangled in their old traditions and cultural beliefs. And there are many groups who are opposed to us and who would not allow us to share the gospel openly.

We face opposition. Every Friday, about 20 or 30 people

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“Throughout the weeks and months, small group leaders and members gather to grow in their knowledge of our savior and develop a vibrant Christian community within our church,” Bert said. “When you gather with Christians as Christians in an informal small-group setting, you put feet to your faith.”

To join a small group or to get more information about them, contact Bert in the church office at 214-340-3633. Or, contact one of the small-group leaders: **Dave Higgins, Charlie and Janet Reibenstein, Mike and Eunice Gick, Susan Millet, Mike and Monte Howard, Tom and Chris Newcomer, David and Lisa Wisley, Allen and Kim Sandlin, John and Barbara Arms, Eddie and Jan Boyd, and Martha King.**

“By joining a small group, you’ll be warmly welcomed and blessed as you help Redeemer Bible Church to glorify God, build up each other in love, and reach out to unbelievers to win them to Christ,” Bert said.

used to gather for fasting prayer in the village of Sitapur. Many Hindus there accepted Christ as their personal savior and were baptized. God did many miracles. God blessed their fields and blessed them with good harvests.

Several months ago while we were gathered for fasting prayer, some of the people from the village — relatives of those gathered for prayer — visited us and started scolding us for leaving their gods and worshiping Jesus Christ. We continued to pray, and they warned us that they would call the police and take harsh action if we continued to pray. They went away, and we finished our prayer as usual.

The people at the prayer meeting told me to stop coming until the matter becomes calm. One of the sisters there is continuing to lead the prayer, but the people are not coming to church and I don’t have any contact with them.

How can we pray for you?

Please pray for this situation in the village. We are disappointed, but have hope that God will open the minds of those who oppose us. Pray earnestly, regularly and without fail. We need lots of prayer.

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