

May 2013

Linking us with the ministries of our church

### *Annual garage sale*

Redeemer will hold its annual garage sale May 24-25 to raise funds to send teams to work at Word of Life Hungary this summer. We will take donations for the sale each Sunday after church beginning May 5. Drop items off at the storage building on the church parking lot. Volunteers are available to pick up larger items from your home. So, clean out your closet or garage while impacting the lives of young Hungarians for the Lord. Many volunteers will be needed the week of the sale to pick up items, sort, set up, price and clean up after the sale. If you are interested in helping or have items for pick-up, contact **Janet Ramler** at 972-742-7618.

### *Host an international pastor*

Five families are needed to play host to international pastors who are attending the Global Proclamation Academy sponsored by RREACH during June. The commitment will include welcoming an international pastor to stay at your home June 15-16 or June 22-23 and providing them a fun Texas experience. That might include taking them to the Dallas Arboretum, a ball game, shopping or other activity. Hosts will pick up their guests at Dallas Theological Seminary at noon on Saturday and return them to the seminary at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. The Global Proclamation Academy is a three-week, once-in-a-lifetime experience for international pastors that features master coaches who join Dr. Ramesh Richard as faculty each year. Instruction focuses on three basic needs of pastoral ministry: biblical spirituality, theological discernment and effective preaching. For more information, contact **Bert Howard** at the church office at 214-340-3633.

## Search Committee, Elder Board unanimously recommend Mark Fortney for senior pastor

After 12 months of diligent searching, the Search Committee and Elder Board both have unanimously and enthusiastically recommended that Redeemer members call Mark Fortney as senior pastor.

“Mark is a man of God, a strong expository preacher, a proven leader, and is passionate about making disciples and reaching our community and world for Christ,” said Scott Shaffer, who chaired the Search Committee. “We are excited, enthusiastic and optimistic about recommending Mark to the church body.”

Search Committee members voted unanimously to recommend Mark to the Board of Elders. The Elder Board voted unanimously on April 24 to affirm the Search Committee’s recommendation.

### **Mark Fortney**

Mark and his wife, Lisa, have been married for almost 23 years and have two sons — Jonathan, 21, and Andrew, who is 18. The Fortneys currently live near Rochester, NY.

Mark, who is 48 years old, has served as a senior pastor, an executive pastor and as president of a missions consulting firm. He is a strong leader who has a heart for the Lord, a deep love for the local church, and a passion for discipleship, missions and outreach, and expository preaching. He left a successful business career to enter the ministry.



Mark Fortney, candidate for senior pastor

Mark has served in churches that practice both traditional and contemporary worship. He has affirmed Redeemer’s philosophy of worship and his commitment to a progressive-traditional style of worship done with excellence. His first ministry position was as an executive pastor at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, which practices traditional worship. Mark also has affirmed his commitment to expository preaching and to maintaining Redeemer’s presence at our current location.

Mark earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University, an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University and a master of theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary.

### **The search process**

Since the Search Committee began the search process in late April 2012, its members have reviewed the resumes of nearly 100 men. They have listened to many sermons and interviewed several men face-to-face.

Over the last couple of months, the committee narrowed its search to one man: Mark Fortney. Committee members

*Search Committee continued on page 4...*

## Schedule of events

### Sunday, May 12

- 10:30 a.m.: Mark will preach during the morning worship service
- 11:45 a.m.: Reception in the Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, May 15

- 6:30 p.m.: Town Hall meeting in the Sanctuary. There will be a time of questions and answers.
- 7:30 p.m.: Reception in the Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, May 18

- 3-5 p.m.: Reception in the Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, May 19

- 10:30 a.m.: Mark will preach during the morning worship service
- 11:45 a.m.: Reception in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m.: Special congregational business meeting. Redeemer members in regular attendance who are at least 18 years old will vote whether to call Mark as senior pastor.

# "We are to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ"

## Q & A with Mark Fortney

### How did you come into a relationship with Christ?

My world changed when I was a senior in college. A couple I had just met began sharing their views on the Christian life. What they said was new, foreign and threatening to me. One of them said, "Because man is unable to save himself, God provides a solution to our sin in the form of his son, Jesus Christ. We are saved and set free only through faith in Him, receiving the gift of eternal life." Contemplating such a drastic change in worldview frightened me. However, I knew I'd made a mess of my life and that something had to change.

I began an internal debate. First: "Is it really true? Saved by God's grace alone?" Then: "No, it can't be. What about your good deeds? You've got to earn it!" This debate raged in my mind for what seemed like hours. However, just as it threatened to escalate into despair, the turmoil ceased. In my mind, I stood before Jesus. His message was simple: "Trust in me, for I know what I am doing. Although it seems foreign to you now, it is part of my plan and I am in full control." I experienced a sense of total peace. Joy replaced fear. At that moment, I put my trust in Jesus and gave my life to Him.

### What is your perspective of ministry?

I believe that each follower of Christ is uniquely crafted and divinely enabled to fulfill a God-given purpose. Although

the roles and gifts may vary, each member is called to help the Body fulfill its earthly mission, which is found in the Great Commission.

The Commission charges the church to make disciples, which encompasses both the evangelization of the lost and the edification



Fortney family: Jonathan, Andrew, Lisa, and Mark (taken 2 years ago)

of the saved. From our neighborhoods and cities to the ends of the earth, we are to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

### What is the role of a pastor?

The pastor's role is to equip the saints to do the ministry of the church, with the purpose of strengthening the Body

**Listen to sample sermons at**  
[www.redeemerbiblechurch.org/fortney](http://www.redeemerbiblechurch.org/fortney)

## Search Committee

- Ann Fleming
- Don Geiger Jr.
- Brad Hepp
- Tom Newcomer
- John Rack
- Debbie Raikes
- Lillian Rees
- Scott Shaffer, chair

## Elder Board

- Gene Burrows
- Larry Foster
- Don Geiger Jr., chair
- Dave Higgins
- Jim Jenkins
- Don Regier
- Scott Shaffer



(Ephesians 4:11-12). This has both qualitative and quantitative components, as found in Acts 2:42-47. A qualitatively strong church is a healthy church firmly grounded in biblical truth. A quantitatively strong church is a church that is growing numerically ... “the Lord added to their numbers daily, those who were being saved.”

But how does a pastor go about shepherding the flock? A survey of the New Testament points to three primary duties, including (1) feeding the flock (teaching God’s Word), (2) overseeing the flock (providing leadership and direction), and (3) doing life with the flock (modeling the faith and leading by example). This is done out of a deep sense of love and care for God’s people, and the responsibility is shared with other pastors and elders. A reading of Paul’s writings adds several other activities to the pastor’s job description, including loving, praying, caring, defending, encouraging, exhorting and correcting (just to name a few found in 1 and 2 Thessalonians alone). I do not claim to be an expert at all of these things, but I do promise to do my best — with the help of others and the Holy Spirit — to be the pastor that Redeemer needs and deserves.

#### What do you see as the primary purpose of Sunday morning services?

Assembling together on Sunday mornings to worship God, by definition, encompasses the idea of God’s children gathering together to acknowledge His supreme worth. Thus, Sunday mornings are not about us but about God. He is the subject and object of our worship.

However, as we gather together on Sunday mornings, we as God’s children should also “get” something out of it. Why? Because all true encounters with the living God should result in you and me being changed in some way. The bottom line is that we should come out different than we went in.

Sunday morning worship services are primarily for the believer because only a child of God can worship Him in spirit and truth. Thus, I am not a proponent of seeker-sensitive services. However, we need to be aware that unbelievers are in our midst on Sunday mornings. So, we should try to avoid using language that is confusing to new believers, as well as long-time believers, and we should share the Good News on a regular basis.

#### What is your philosophy of worship?

I fully support Redeemer’s worship philosophy as articulated on the website. Thus, I have used it as the foundation for my response as seen in points 1-6 below (note that I’ve added points 7 & 8). Points 1-3 describe the “feel” or heart of our worship. Points 4-8 describe the specific activities we will undertake to worship God, whether every Sunday or over the course of several Sundays.

1. We seek to exalt the Triune God in worship and praise that is joyful, reverent, and heartfelt. Our goal is to experience the presence of God and to hear a word from God.
2. We desire worship that is uplifting and encouraging, that gives hope, and is characterized by grace. We seek to balance celebration with reflection, energetic worship with quiet praise, joy with contrition and repentance, encouragement with exhortation, and creativity with predictability.
3. We emphasize the awe, holiness, and justice of God as well as His grace, mercy, and love.
4. We will make full use of the great hymns and anthems of the church, both old and new.
5. We will include the reading of Scripture and prayer.
6. We will emphasize expository preaching in its many forms.
7. Because our God has given us so much, we will demonstrate His supreme worth to us by giving Him the first fruits of the monies He has entrusted to us for use to further His purposes.
8. In obedience to the Lord’s commands found in Scripture, we will routinely engage in believer’s baptism and Holy Communion as part of our worship of God. Also, child dedication, as appropriate.

#### How do you define expository preaching?

Expository preaching involves the comprehensive explanation of the Scriptures. True authority rests with Scripture, so the good expositor presents the text honestly and as free from personal bias as possible. The text dictates the subject of the message — not the preacher. An expositor works to

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## Mark Fortney at a glance

### Family

- Wife: Lisa. Mark and Lisa were married in June 1990.
- Sons: Jonathan (21) and Andrew (18)

### Spiritual gifts

- Leadership and administration
- Teaching
- Exhortation

### Education

- Dallas Theological Seminary: Master of Theology in pastoral leadership (ThM). 2002.
- Carnegie Mellon University: Master of Science in industrial administration with a concentration in consumer marketing (MBA). 1990.
- Texas A&M University: Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. 1988.

### Ministry experience

- Executive pastor and consultant at Browncroft Community Church in Rochester, NY. 2011 to the present. Browncroft is a nondenominational church of about 4,000 people.
- Senior pastor at New Covenant Church, Albuquerque, NM. 2007-2011. New Covenant grew 50 percent to about 600 people and the children’s ministry tripled during Mark’s tenure.
- President of Sixteen:Fifteen Church Consulting in Albuquerque. 2006-2007 (board member 2004-2006). The organization helps churches develop and implement strategic plans to impact the world.
- Executive pastor of missions and outreach at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco. 2002-2006 (Stonebriar pastoral intern 2000-2002).

### Business experience

Mark worked in brand management for Lederle Consumer Healthcare and Upjohn Consumer Healthcare from 1990 to 1999 managing brands such as Cortaid, Mycitracin and Rogaine.

*...Search Committee continued from page 1*

listened to sermons, talked to his references and many others who know him, and interviewed Mark and Lisa extensively. The Elder Board also listened to his sermons, read reports of conversations with references, and met with Mark and Lisa.

Here's the process — outlined in the constitution — that we are following to select the senior pastor:

- The Search Committee, appointed by the Elder Board, reviews potential candidates and makes a recommendation to the Board. This step is now complete.
- The Elder Board, which serves as the congregation's Pulpit Committee, conducts its own review of the man the Search Committee recommends. This step is also complete.
- If the Elder Board agrees with the Search Committee's recommendation, it then recommends the individual to the congregation as the pastoral candidate. This step is complete.

- The candidate then goes through a candidating process, which will include opportunities for the congregation to hear him preach and get to know him in a town hall meeting and other venues. Mark is scheduled to preach as a candidate on both May 12 and May 19.
- Redeemer members in regular attendance who are at least 18 years old may vote whether to call the individual during a special congregational business meeting. That meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 6:30 p.m.

"We are grateful for your prayers throughout the search process," said **Don Geiger Jr.**, chairman of the Elder Board. "The decision to call a senior pastor ultimately belongs with the congregation, so please continue to pray for wisdom and direction."

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faithfully communicate what the Author/author intended for the text to communicate.

Once the text is properly understood, the good expositor must take the final step and help members of the congregation apply the text to their own walk. The preacher's job is to clarify the text and call for a corresponding response from the congregation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**What are your passions in ministry?**

I have three great ministry passions.

**The first** is getting the church aligned and then making disciples who make disciples. No matter where I've served I've implemented and supported a very intentional and easy-to-understand disciple-making process.

**The second** is preaching — bringing the Scripture to life and making it relevant and practical. Assuming I've done my job, those listening will hear and respond to God's Word.

**The third** is building a strong staff and developing lay leaders. We can accomplish much more together than alone. I desire to see people join together to accomplish a common goal — each working in accordance with his or her strengths.

**How do you understand the local church's relationship to and responsibility for global missions?**

Acts 1:8 makes it clear that our mission is not either/or but both/and in terms of community outreach and "ends of the earth" ministry — global missions. The Great Commission should not simply be relegated to a department in the church, but must be seen as her heartbeat. It is our mission — our purpose — to make disciples (ie, maturing followers of Christ) of all nations. Thus, we must be actively engaged in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in our communities and around the world. As a former missions and outreach pastor, this is near and dear to my heart.

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

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

