

link

a publication of Redeemer Bible Church

Serving Together

Saved to Serve

We recently spent some time together studying Ephesians 2:8-10, examining the relationship between our faith and works (*acts of service*). We saw that we are saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We had nothing to do with our salvation; it was a gift from God.

However, Paul does tell us that we are God's masterpieces, saved with a purpose in mind ... to do good works. Put another way, salvation should lead to good works but good works DO NOT lead to salvation. **Our good works are a natural outgrowth of God's work in our lives.**

Here at Redeemer Bible Church, acts of service equate to the SERVE step along the discipleship pathway. This pathway — *consisting of WORSHIP, CONNECT, and SERVE* — represents the "basics" of how we go about maturing as a disciple of Christ.

So, maturing disciples SERVE others, tangibly demonstrating the love of Christ and helping them grow. In God's economy, engaging in service to others helps us grow too! Thus, it's important that we seek out SERVE opportunities and dive in! At RBC, we SERVE others through in-reach (*serving church members*), neighborhood outreach, as well as local and global missions (*serving cross-culturally*).

This issue of the *Link* focuses on ways we, as a body, are impacting one another, our community, and world through acts of service. But we need you to be involved, too (*assuming you're not already*)! So, you'll also find a list of service opportunities. Find one that interests you and get started! You'll not only be a blessing to others but also find a new source of joy and satisfaction. To paraphrase the words of Paul, "*We are NOT saved by our good works but we are saved to DO good works!*"

Serving Together,
Pastor Mark

Mark Fortney, Senior Pastor

Easter at Redeemer

If you knew you only had 30 days to live, you'd look at life differently — live life more purposefully — right? Well, unlike us, the Son of God knew when He had only 30 days to live. So by looking at His last month on earth, we can glean important insights into the things we ought to prioritize too ... so that we can live a fuller, more satisfying life today. Join us as we explore the final month of Jesus' life and apply those insights to our own.

Easter Dates and Times

Palm Sunday Service with children's processional, April 13 at 10:30 a.m.
Good Friday service will be held on Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m.
Easter Service will be celebrated on Sunday morning, April 20, at 10:30 a.m.
(There will be no mid-week activities on April 16 or Sunday Fellowship hour on Easter morning.)



Waves of Service

by: Patrick Boyd

The student ministry of RBC spent the weekend at the Church for our inaugural *Serve's Up* event on March 8.

We joined together in fellowship, worship and service with more than 50 members of our church family ranging in age from 6 to 80 years old. We sent people to Our Calling, a homeless outreach ministry in Dallas; Genesis Women's Shelter, a thrift store that supports the ministry to battered women and children; and White Rock Center of Hope, a ministry providing clothes, food and other assistance to the needy in our community.

We also hosted a free random-act-of-kindness car wash in the church's parking lot, while inviting people into the church and handing out invitations to celebrate Easter with us. One young man from the community whose Jeep we washed was rejuvenated after having a rough week. He said, "I really needed a blessing this week!" Gene Burrows, who led the group sent to Our Calling said,

["If you want your eyes opened to the true impact of homelessness in our city, go on a search and rescue operation with Our Calling. You will probably wind up in your own neighborhood!"](#)

And on *Serve's Up* Sunday, we took a special offering to help one of our missionaries, Kristen Raikes, get a car to better serve in the rural areas of Thailand.

We are saved to serve and we pray that we may continue to seek opportunities to do so throughout the year!



On the cover: Avery Smith washes a car at the *Serve's Up* event on March 8.

Serving in Hungary: The Kadar Family

by: Tommie Loveless



Recently, our church had the privilege of hosting the Kadar family, our missionaries from Word of Life (WOL) Hungary. On Feb. 2, Laci shared from God's Word, and told about their ongoing teaching and camping ministry to the youth in Hungary and Central Europe.

As camp director and Bible teacher, he oversees a ministry where over 1,100 young people come to the beautiful 740-plus acre facility to hear the Gospel and receive discipling as they begin to grow in Christ. The campers also learn English and participate in baseball and other sports during their stay.

Every summer, the Kadars enthusiastically welcome short-term missionary groups from Redeemer, who come and help teach English, sports and participate in needed construction and updating the property. In 2003, Blake Barbre and Jerry Loveless led the first group of 26 people from Redeemer to Hungary and join in this exciting ministry. This began an annual pilgrimage, and for the past 10 years over 200 RBC members have gone to be involved in this dynamic ministry.

Janet Ramler, who has gone each year and now leads the effort, said: "Laci's passion for the youth of his country is shown in the way he presents the Gospel to them! In the evening, everyone in the camp gathers to pray, sing and hear Laci preach. **There are always many campers whose hearts are drawn to Christ. It is powerful.**"

Every spring, Redeemer has a huge, church-wide garage sale, and the proceeds help to fund these summer mission trips to Hungary. It is also a great way to reach out to the community, and a fun way to get to know each other. Begin finding items you can contribute and plan to participate in this year's garage sale. See details on this page below.

Laci requested we pray specifically for the following:

- 1) Wisdom in scheduling many speaking opportunities
- 2) His role as director of teaching English in the summer camps
- 3) \$3,000 needed for the Adopt a Dorm program, including six to eight men needed to update the dorm this summer

Please look for the beautiful and complete WOL calendar in the foyer, which gives the history and details of the WOL ministry and shows how God continues to work in the lives of the Kadars. The RBC website tells of their personal calling to the ministry and so much more ... check it out!



Hungary



The Missions Garage Sale is coming May 23-24!

The annual Missions Garage Sale will kick off on Friday, May 23, and run through Saturday, May 24. This is a great way to raise money for short-term mission projects. The church will begin to collect large item pick-ups on Monday, May 12. Volunteer set-up for the event will begin Saturday, May 17. For details, contact Janet Ramler or the church office.

Youth Group

The Youth Group at Redeemer Bible Church is looking for more Junior High and Senior High leaders. This is a great opportunity to encourage the youth in our congregation.

Children's Ministry

Do you have a heart for telling children truths from God's Word while enjoying fun crafts and projects together? If so, join our Pioneer Girls & Boys' Brigade group from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The Children's Ministry also needs volunteers to substitute once per month on Sunday mornings.

Occasional Rides

The Care Ministry is looking for people to occasionally take Redeemer attenders and members to doctors appointments and to church on Sunday.

Urge Someone to Come to Church

Invite a friend, neighbor, or person in front of you at the grocery store to church. Better yet, invite them to the Easter Service! We will have a free Easter Egg Hunt during children's church!

Audio-Visual

Do you want to learn sound-board usage, video production or lighting? If so, we are looking for you to be on rotation for the audio-visual team.

Need Items

We will soon be collecting items for the Missions Garage Sale. More information on page 3.

Security Team

We need two volunteers for security duty on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month.

Eat Donuts?

Just Kidding, but if you enjoy the donuts and coffee on Sunday, join the team that makes it happen. The Fellowship Team is responsible for coffee set up on Sunday morning and Wednesday night.

Redeemer's Partnership

Redeemer has partnered with the White Rock Center of Hope to provide help the second Saturday of every month. If you are looking to get involved in local outreach— this is the place.

Vocals

Kendall Carter, pastor of Worship Arts, is looking for more people to join the Sanctuary Choir.

Encourage Children

Some children in the area need good role models. Reilly Elementary School is looking for Redeemer adults to mentor kids and be a lunch buddy twice a month. Sign up to make a difference in a child's life!

Here are just few ways you can serve now. Contact the church office at 214.340.3633 or email serve@redeembiblechurch.org if you are interested in any of the opportunities on this page.

Ways You Can Serve

Ladies of Redeemer Bless the Homeless

"The first time I heard the idea of Blessing Bags, I knew it was a great idea to help out the hurting in our community. Our ladies small group joined in. The bags contain food, toiletries, drinks, and most importantly a Christian tract! Some had information about RBC and others had a homemade card that said, 'You are loved!' What an awesome way to share God's love. And truly, the blessing is ours as we grow closer to our wonderful God who provides for us so generously!" - Chris Newcomer

Tahlie Carter and Dianna McClain were both a part of an event in Dallas where they broke the Guinness Book of World Records for most number of people making sandwiches simultaneously. But that wasn't the best part. The best part was that over 136,000 additional sandwiches were put together and subsequently delivered to the homeless of Dallas, and Redeemer members were a part of that!



Missions to Muslims Seminar

Our mid-week fellowship will close out the Spring semester with a special three-day Missions to Muslims seminar led by Dr. Bill Olsen, missionary in residence at Dallas Theological Seminary and missionary to Muslims in the southern Philippines. This free seminar will be open to all and scheduled nightly, 6:30-8:30 p.m., from Wednesday, May 14, through Friday, May 16. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Make an Impact at VBS

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful way to make an impact on the children of our church and in our neighborhood. This year, we will be hosting a sports camp called MEGA Sports Camp, *Breaking Free*. Even though it is a sports camp, you do not need to be athletic to help. There are a variety of ways to help, including decorating, registration, welcoming children, coaching, assisting, serving snacks, donating snack items ahead of time and more. Contact Heidi Regier, director of Children's Ministry, at heidi@redeembiblechurch.org or call the church office if you are interested. VBS will be held from 9 a.m.-12 noon on June 23-27th (Monday-Friday). We hope to see you there!



Meet Our Worship Pastor

by: Tommie Loveless



God has recently blessed Redeemer with a much-anticipated and long-awaited pastor of worship, Kendall Carter. He and his wife, Jessica, native Texans, received Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts and Music degrees, respectively, from Hardin Simmons University. They met at the University in 1999, where their love story began, and married in Dallas, on July 13, 2003. Ten years later, God blessed them with a beautiful daughter, Julia Anne, who celebrated her first birthday on Feb. 11.

Kendall also earned a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of North Texas, and Jessica received a Master of Science degree in speech therapy from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Kendall has been involved in church music ministry for more than 15 years, and he currently directs the Frisco Chorale. Jessica is a bilingual speech language pathologist for the Plano school district and a lecturer in speech language pathology at the Callier Center.

Both Kendall and Jessica received Christ as their savior as children. "Our childhood teaching and mentoring took place in Baptist churches, but neither of us cling to a denominational adherence," Kendall said. "We define ourselves as Christians!"

The *Link* asked Kendall to answer a few questions about his ministry:

How has God used your previous experience to prepare you for RBC?

I developed a strong appreciation for traditional and contemporary forms of music and worship at my home church, which had a particularly rich and vibrant music ministry. I was heavily involved in a volunteer capacity. My first full-time service, as the minister of music, was very much akin to RBC in terms of music traditions and style. Thus, I am excited to continue in this realm while also enjoying the adventures of newly composed music. Since completing my graduate work, I have served in more traditional music/worship-style churches. These experiences have educated me vastly – particularly as related to historical sacred music development.

Where do you see worship going at Redeemer over the next few years?

I see our worship/music currently and in the future as a splendid combination of new songs and hymns, offered to the Lord with excellence and beauty. I also foresee that we will never neglect the meaningful traditions and hymns from the past, which point our minds and hearts to God.

What drew you to Redeemer Bible Church?

I found both a peace and an excitement regarding the ways God might use me in service at RBC. **I believe we are well-stationed to reach people with the Gospel message, and our church leadership is diligently doing the work of the Lord.** On an occupational note, I am very pleased with the fine musicianship exhibited through our music leaders. RBC is blessed with immense music talent, and this makes my tasks unbelievably enjoyable!

Marriage Conference Rave Reviews!

“Excellent presentation. The grounding in scripture was fantastic.”

- John Arms

“It was very refreshing.”

- Brittany Burton



Key Dates

April 12 Men's Group
April 13 Palm Sunday
April 16 No mid-week activities
April 18 Good Friday Service 7 p.m.
April 20 Easter Sunday
April 29 Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon
10 a.m.
May 4 Seasoned Saints Lunch
11:30 a.m.
May 11 Mother's Day
May 12 Large item pick-up begins for
Missions Garage Sale
May 14-16 Missions to Muslims Seminar
(Dr. Bill Olsen)
May 14 Last Mid-Week Activities
May 17-22 Missions Garage Sale Set-up

May 23-24 Garage Sale
May 26 Memorial Day (church office closed)
May 31 Women Discipling Women Workshop
(Dr. Jeanne Ballard) 9 a.m.
June 11 Summer Mid-Week Activities Begin
June 15 Father's Day
July 2 No Mid-Week Activities
July 4 Independence Day
July 25-31 Word of Life Hungary Missions Trip

