

# the *Kerygma*



NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## THE CHURCH AND RUF

BY MICHAEL NOVAK

**A**s an 18 year old freshman at Trinity University, John was thrown into a new world of opportunity. John had grown up attending church his whole life, and he was active in his church youth program through middle and high school. Now at college, John is miles away from his family, his friends, and his church. He is also having to make some very hard decisions for the first time in his life. How will John respond to his science professor when at the beginning of the semester he looks at the class and says, "Some of you may have grown up believing in Christianity, but in my class you must push that nonsense out of mind in order to succeed."? Who will John turn to when the luster of college begins to wear off and he feels like he is slipping into depression, because he cannot find meaningful friendships on campus? How is John supposed to find a church and get plugged in to a community of believers in a new city that is strange to him? These are just a few of the many questions that a typical college student faces in his first few months at Trinity University. College is an exciting time for sure, but it can also be a lonely and challenging season for students. The college context is fertile ground for gospel conversations to take place. College students have left their families for the first time in their life, and they are exploring what it means to be independent—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. How can the church help in reaching

college students for Christ in this time of intense transition? How can the church help in not only reaching, but also discipling students during their years spent at the university? These are the questions the church should be asking as a caring, outward facing community. Reformed University Fellowship is an organization that seeks to serve the church and help the church in their desire to reach college students with the good news of the gospel.

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) is the national campus ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America. RUF sends ordained Presbyterian ministers onto the college campus in order to reach students with the gospel and to nurture them in their Christian faith. Redeemer Presbyterian had a vision for how God could work in the hearts and lives of Trinity students. They also knew how critical the college years can be for spiritual growth and development. Five years ago Redeemer Presbyterian Church was influential in launching the ministry of RUF on the campus of Trinity University. Since its inception the ministry of RUF at Trinity has witnessed God at work on the campus and in the lives of Trinity students.

One unique aspect of RUF is its close relationship with the church. The university is a place where ideas are developed, future leaders are trained, and culture is formed.

*"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*

*Ephesians 5:25*

*"It is crucial for the church to have a presence on the college campus in order to proclaim the historical and life transforming gospel of Jesus Christ."*

# REDEEMER EXTENDING THE KINGDOM

## MISSION MINUTE: Youth Trip to Laredo

By Matt Beham

At Redeemer Presbyterian Church it has been very important to remind our Youth how important they are to God's Kingdom. We reject the prevailing cultural notion that they just need entertainment; we believe they are worthy of all the benefits of Christ and partakers in the same grace as adult believers; and we recognize that they bring particular gifts which are indispensable for the growth of God's Kingdom. For these reasons, the Sr. High Youth of Redeemer Presbyterian Church will travel south to serve Iglesia La Vid, a church plant in Laredo, Texas, where we will aid in the construction of their sanctuary, preparations for VBS, and outreach to their neighborhood. This will be the second trip taken to Iglesia La Vid—we were there in July 2009—and we expect to reconnect with some old friends and continue helping this church's ministry as they seek to become a particular church. We first heard of this church through the ministry of Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM, [www.beamm.org](http://www.beamm.org)) and the work of Dan Young, the Eastern Regional Director for BEAMM. BEAMM is an organization that is working to impact the border between the United States and Mexico for Christ through planting churches and performing deeds of mercy. At Redeemer Presbyterian Church we have always expressed a desire to be an anchor church which will cause 'ripple effects' through the Southwest and Latin America as Christ's kingdom expands, and so working with BEAMM is a very natural extension of this core value. We sincerely believe that our students have an integral role to play in this Kingdom expansion, and we look forward to sharing our story with you. Please mark your Calendars for July 9-16<sup>th</sup>, and pray for our mission trip.

## MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT:

For more information about Local Missions please contact Victor Martinez at [victor@redeemersa.org](mailto:victor@redeemersa.org); USA and World Missions, contact Jason Smith at [jason.smith@optimaliq.com](mailto:jason.smith@optimaliq.com).

### MISSION SAN ANTONIO:

Agape Pregnancy Help Center  
Stan Young, Executive Director  
Gwen Bridgeford, NW Director

Christian Medical/  
Dental Association  
Scott Phillips, Area Director  
Kelly Hooker, Asst. Area Director

Edison High School  
Sandra Villarreal

Rogers Elementary  
Marie Rodriguez,  
Community Liaison

Young Life-McCollum High  
School  
Annie Mays

Strong Foundation Shelter  
Jim Gipson, Director

International Shelter  
Lupe Fernandez, Director

Redeemer Annual Events  
Christianity & Contemporary  
Culture Conference  
Christmas Food Baskets  
Redeemer Fine Arts Series

### MISSION USA:

Leadership & Ministry  
Preparation  
(L.A.M.P.)

Southwest Church Planting  
Network  
Bill Thomas, Director

Church Planters:  
Carlos and Andrea Cano,  
Iglesia La Vid, Laredo, TX

Whitney and Heather Anderson,  
Christ Presbyterian Church  
Georgetown, TX

Reformed University Fellowship  
Michael & Rachel Novak ,  
Trinity University

Bekah Stolhandske,  
Trinity University

Derek and Joy McCollum,  
University of Texas

Ben and Beth Hailey ,  
Texas A&M University

### MISSION WORLD:

Mission to the World  
Greg and Amy Sanderson,  
Limatambo, Peru

Paul and Dawn Fisher,  
Guadalajara, Mexico

Doug and Masha Shepherd,  
L'Viv, Ukraine

Reformed University  
Fellowship  
Peter Dishman,  
Mexico City, Mexico

BEAMM  
(Border Evangelism and Mission Ministries)  
Gene and LuAnn Bowman,  
Texas/Mexico Border

Campus Outreach  
Janet Pursell,  
New Zealand/Alabama

# REDEEMER EXTENDING THE KINGDOM

*Continued from page 1...*

It is crucial for the church to have a presence on the college campus in order to proclaim the historical and life transforming gospel of Jesus Christ. The ministry of RUF is the vehicle through which the church is present on the campus. The local church supports and is involved in the life of the ministry of RUF. In a sense, RUF at Trinity University is the college ministry of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. RUF is sent to the campus by the church in order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to walk alongside Christian students during their time at college. Through RUF the local church has a ministry on the college campus.

Not only is RUF sent to the college campus by the church, but one of RUF's goals is to send college students back to the church so that they can plug in as a member of Christ's body. Paul reminds the community of believers in Ephesus, "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25). It is impossible to overstate the importance of the church in RUF. Jesus laid down his life for the church, and RUF constantly wants to point students to the church as the institution through which Jesus accomplishes his work on earth. After laying down his life for the church, Jesus ascended into heaven to reign at the right hand of God the Father.

Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father for the sake of the church, as Paul again teaches the Ephesian church,

"He has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). While RUF is an important ministry of the church, it is not the church. Campus ministry engages a limited segment of the church - 18 to 23 year olds. It is crucial for students to plug into the body of the church in order for them to experience all the fullness of Jesus. RUF longs to see college students finding their place in the body of Christ during their college years and for the rest of their lives.

People ask from time to time how RUF at Trinity is doing. Are we accomplishing our goal of reaching students for Christ and equipping them to serve? It is sometimes appropriate to answer that question this way: "I'm not sure yet." Our hope is that we will one day be able to answer that question with a resounding "Yes!" An important gauge of how successful RUF is in accomplishing its goal will not be realized until we see college students graduate and faithfully plug in to their local church. RUF is "successful" if college students are faithfully serving the Lord by serving their church 15 and 20 years after leaving college. RUF is sent to the campus by the church and for the sake of the church. Please continue to pray that God would use the ministry of RUF to grow the church.



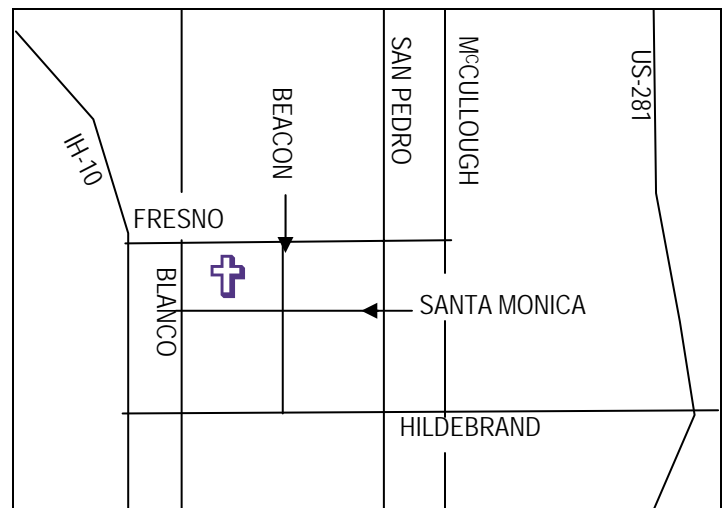
Here is a photo of the current RUF group at Trinity University. This picture was taken after a weekly Monday night "Large Group" meeting.


**Join us**  
**at our worship**  
**location,**  
**Edison High School,**  
**in the Auditorium**  
**on Sundays**  
**at 9:30 a.m.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1**      **Men's Downtown Breakfast**
- March 2**      **YP 1st Wednesday**
- March 4&5**   **Intro to Redeemer**
- March 15**    **Women's Tuesday Prayer**
- March 17**    **Men's Monthly Luncheon**
- April 5**       **Men's Downtown Breakfast**
- April 6**       **Newcomers Dessert**
- April 6**       **YP 1st Wednesday**
- April 7**       **SHE –esta**
- April 19**     **Women's Tuesday Prayer**
- April 21**     **Maundy Thursday Service**
- April 22**     **Good Friday Service**
- April 24**     **Easter Sunday**

## MAP



 Sunday Morning Worship Services  
 are held in the auditorium  
 of Edison High School,  
 located at  
 701 Santa Monica  
 San Antonio, TX 78212.