

# the *Kerygma*



NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6 NOV/DEC 2011

*“But as for you,  
continue in what  
you have learned  
and have firmly  
believed,  
knowing from  
whom you  
learned it and  
how from  
childhood you  
have been  
acquainted with  
the sacred  
writings, which  
are able to make  
you wise for  
salvation  
through faith in  
Christ Jesus.”*

*2 Timothy 3:14-15*

## **THE NEXT GENERATION**

**I**n the corridor of the Redeemer Office sits a very inconspicuous room. It looks like the bullpen in a newspaper office. Piled high with books and binders, you might miss the two young men tucked away behind the whiteboards serving as partitions. But if you came in on a Monday morning before staff meeting, you’d hear plenty of chatter from back there. Of course, you probably wouldn’t be able to understand it—Matt Beham and Curtis Castleberry are quizzing each other in preparation for their Hebrew quiz.

Matt and Curtis are in seminary. We know them as our effervescent Youth Director and the contemplative Hispanic Ministries Apprentice.

Yet three days out of the week they are away in Austin studying hard to become the next generation of pastors. Sharing this cozy little space with Matt and Curtis, I get to see a lot of the impressive work/school balance that they are maintaining, but not everyone has that privilege. I have asked them to share their experience with our congregation.

Both Matt and Curtis have felt a call to ministry since they were fairly young. Matt’s background pointed toward some sort of formal education, but Curtis’ tradition emphasized experience and apprenticeship over classrooms and books. It wasn’t until he started working toward his BA in Biblical Studies/Theology that he realized how valuable it was to learn the philosophy as well as the practice of ministry. Matt also majored in Religious studies, and came to Redeemer through RUF at Trinity University. Curtis came to Redeemer through Victor Martinez who previously was a professor at Baptist University of the Americas, and now serves as Redeemer’s Pastor of Mission and



**BY BEKAH MCNEEL**

Cultural Engagement. Matt joined the staff as the Youth Director in 2007 and Curtis officially joined the staff this summer. Both knew that continuing in ministry meant pursuing their Masters of Divinity, which meant they had to find a seminary. Redeemer Seminary in Austin turned out to be the perfect fit.

For Matt, it was about prioritizing the life he had already. “Haley and I weren’t ready for a move away from our home, and I still felt called to the Youth in San Antonio. After a few conversations with current students and Brandon Eggar (who graduated from Redeemer [Seminary]), along with a visit to a class, I was

increasingly intrigued by Redeemer Seminary. Enrolling at Redeemer was a way of telling my wife that she will always come first in my life while allowing me to continue in my roll as Youth Director and immediately apply my education for the benefit of our youth.”

Curtis, too, has enjoyed the mixture of learning and doing provided by his new schedule. “I am able to put into practice the things I’m learning in seminary in different contexts (teaching the youth, preaching at Strong Foundation, leading a community group, discipleship, etc.) So, it is hard at times to make distinctions between the two different areas of responsibility... I am studying, planning and implementing those plans for assignments in the classroom, and I am able to do the very same thing for the different responsibilities I have for work. I love it. I am able to do some ministry work, then go and reflect over the methods I am choosing to use in my ministry while I am in class.”

# REDEEMER EXTENDING THE KINGDOM

Mission Minute

By Victor Martinez

## 2011 Christmas Baskets

The Christmas Baskets are almost here! Please mark your calendars for December 3rd from 8:30 a.m. through about 1:30 p.m. Through this partnership project Redeemer joins with volunteers from all over the city to work together for those agencies, schools, and institutions that are taking care of families that need special help during this season of grace! We will deliver baskets to institutions like Family Service Association and the Neighborhood Place, Edison High School, Rogers Elementary, Guadalupe Community Center, and KIPP Academies, among others. Each basket is a box containing non-perishable food items to feed a family of four for a week.

One of the best things you will witness is how people from every background, age group, and zip code from all over San Antonio get together as one team. We pray and work hard: while some are filling empty boxes as they move down the assembly lines (they actually roll right by you ...kids particularly love this) others are wrapping the boxes on pallets, and still others load them on trucks to get the deliveries going. We have about 300 volunteers from Redeemer and the other agencies. This year we want to buy even more pizza because we want even more volunteers! Yes, we provide a light breakfast and pizza for lunch for all our helpers. We pray, we eat, we work, we have fun, and we greet one another as one family! This is what we want Redeemer to look like as it welcomes the city. So for a glimpse of His Kingdom in all its diversity and grace, please join us on December 3rd for the Christmas Baskets!

## CHRISTMAS BASKET MAKING FUN!



# REDEEMER EXTENDING THE KINGDOM

Continued from page 1

Redeemer's leadership is committed to their investment in the future leadership of the church. Matt and Curtis feel that support and use it to continue their ministry to the church body.

In Curtis' words, "Redeemer [Church] is a great outlet to put things I've been learning into practice for a couple of reasons. One, there are plenty of people on staff to help correct errors in the ways in which I choose to do ministry, and give positive feedback when I am doing some things right. I feel like this is great place to learn from our pastors, whom are truly doing very many things right. Two, our seminary is very Gospel driven, down to the core. To be in a church with leaders that share that common inclination is great. It's like I'm getting double dose of Gospel medicine, one from my church in our liturgy, CE, and just sitting down with our pastors, and two, from my many professors, classes, and books we are reading. I wouldn't trade it." Matt shares this excitement. "I have always believed in being faithful over a long period of time, and I can see myself continuing in this job for many more years.

Academically, I couldn't ask for a better situation. At Redeemer [Seminary], there is a deep connection to the local church. Many of Redeemer's scholars have also served as pastors in the local church. As a young man who desires to be a pastor, I am excited to learn not just intellectually from these faithful men, but also from their experiences in the trenches."

We as a congregation can be in prayer for these men, and their families. Don't miss an opportunity to support their wives, Haley Beham and Marian Castleberry, as they adjust to the strenuous schedule as well. The Castleberrys are also settling into their role as new parents to little JJ, born in July.

We are so thankful that Redeemer Church can foster the growth and learning of tomorrow's pastors and teachers.

## Missions and Ministries that 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) or contact the office, 930-4480.

### MISSION SAN ANTONIO:

#### Agape Pregnancy Center

Stan Young,  
Executive Director  
Gwen Bridgeford,  
Northwest Director

#### Christian Medical/ Dental Association

Scott Phillips, Area  
Director  
Kelly Hooker,  
Assistant  
Area Director

#### Rogers Elementary

Marie Rodriguez,  
Community Liaison

#### Young Life

Annie Mays

#### Strong Foundation

Jim Gipson, Director

#### International Shelter

Lupe Fernandez,  
Director

#### Redeemer Annual Events

Christianity &  
Contemporary  
Culture Conference

Christmas Food  
Baskets

Redeemer Fine Arts  
Series

Redeemer Serves:  
the City!

#### 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 & Heather  
Anderson,

Christ Presbyterian  
Church  
Georgetown, TX

### MISSION USA:

#### Reformed University Fellowship

Michael & Rachel  
Novak,  
Trinity University

Derek and Joy  
McCollum,  
University of Texas

Ben and Beth Hailey,  
Texas A&M  
University

### MISSION WORLD:

#### Mission to the World

Greg & Amy  
Sanderson,  
Limatambo, Peru

Paul & Dawn Fisher,  
Guadalajara, Mexico

Doug & Masha  
Shepherd,  
L'Viv, Ukraine

#### Reformed University Fellowship

Peter Dishman,  
Mexico City, Mexico

#### BEAMM

(Border Evangelism  
and  
Mercy Ministries)  
Gene & LuAnn  
Bowman,  
Texas/Mexico  
Border

#### Campus Outreach

Janet Pursell,  
New Zealand/  
Alabama

# CHRISTIANITY & CONTEMPORARY CULTURE CONFERENCE

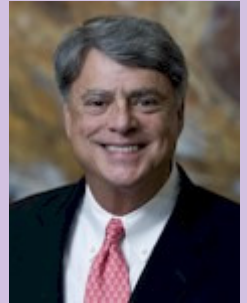
*Join us for our 8th Annual Christianity & Contemporary Culture Conference with Speaker Joseph “Skip” Ryan!*

Skip will discuss and invite a dialog on raising a family in a post modern society with a message entitled; “Forget the Family” How the Family has been Undermined in and by America (And What is to be Done About it).

**Friday, November 4th, 7:00—8:45 pm at Trinity Baptist Church, 319 E. Mulberry**

**Saturday, November 5th, 7:00—8:45 pm at TriPoint, 3233 N. St. Mary’s Street**

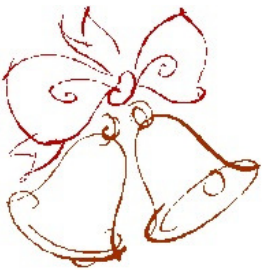
**Sunday, November 6th, 9:30 am at Edison High School, 701 Santa Monica**



Skip is the Chancellor and Professor of Practical Theology at Redeemer Theological Seminary in Dallas, TX.

Free Event, Childcare Provided.

## REDEEMER CHRISTMAS PARTY



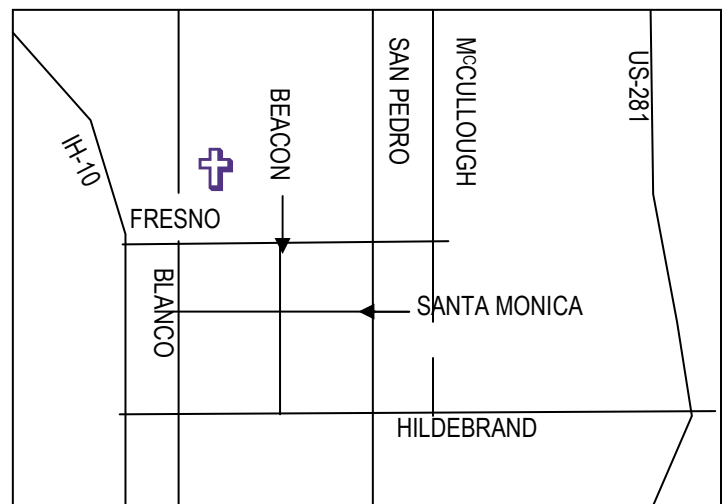
On December 4th join us for a night of great conversation, good food, Christmas reflection, and dancing. Invite a friend to join in the celebration and to see what Redeemer is all about. For more details visit the information booth outside the auditorium after church or look for updates in your email.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 1—Men’s Breakfast
- Nov 2—Rogers Elementary Staff Luncheon
- Nov 2—YP 1st Wednesday
- Nov 4, 5, 6—Christianity & Contemporary Culture Conference
- Nov 9—Newcomers Dessert
- Nov 11, 12—Women’s Fall Retreat
- Nov 18, 19—Intro to Redeemer
- Dec 3—Christmas Baskets
- Dec 4—New Member Sunday
- Dec 4—Redeemer Christmas Party
- Dec 6—Men’s Breakfast
- Dec 7—YP 1st Wednesday
- Dec 24—Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 26, 27, 30—Redeemer Offices Closed

## MAP



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