And God Created Caring” - 11:00 a.m. This Saturday 10.29.11 at 232 West 11th Street, NYC

Saturday - October 29, 2011 / New York City
"And God Created Caring"

A Conversation with the Word--Tony Romeo, Pastor

This Saturday morning, October 29, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.
Manhattan Church, 232 West 11th Street, NYC
In the heart of Greenwich Village, 1.5 blocks west of Seventh Ave.

When I was a small child, about 6 years old, I spent many a day and night in a place called New York Hospital. I had been born in this same hospital and a few years later I spent what seemed to be months there.

When you spend a lot of time in a hospital as a young child, you see things that no child should ever see. I saw some of my young friends die there. But you also see what every child should see at an early age--compassion, caring, and love.

My sister, Theresa, used to take me there faithfully for my eye appointments. I had lost the vision in my right eye when I was only five years old. After numerous operations to save it, the eye had to be removed.

Those of you who know me also know that I have a glass eye. I am lucky to have a glass eye and it has been a blessing to me. I am also blessed by God to have what I refer to as a "good eye."

In those weekly trips with my sister to New York Hospital, I used to wait for hours, patiently, in the clinic until my name was called to see the doctor. On all the benches at New York Hospital was a graphic depicting a man with a donkey, bending over to help a wounded man on the side of the road.

It was a Biblical theme known as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan." Somehow that graphic symbol and story brought comfort to me as I waited to see the doctor. That story still brings comfort to me.

It is a story about caring--about stopping to help someone whom no one else would help. It is the story of compassion and a deep desire to do the right thing for those who are so injured that they cannot even ask for help. To me, it is the story about the "I Am," the God who loves each one of us, who at times are so injured and so broken that we can't even bring ourselves to ask for help.

Who is this God who created caring? Why has religion made knowing God so complicated? Why is there so much debate about who should or should not be allowed to join a body of believers in fellowship?

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"  
[Psalm 8:3-8]

What is meant by caring?

The good doctor, Luke, records the story of the Good Samaritan that follows:

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”


When God created the sky, earth, oceans, fish, animals on the dry land, and birds of the air, and when God created humanity, He looked at it all and enjoyed what was in view. I believe that God also created caring. And God saw that it was very good.

7Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. [1 Peter 5:7]

The ministry of Jesus was one of caring. One of loving. One of acceptance. One of bending down and touching humanity. As God touches each of us with great care, may we in turn touch others with God’s patient care.
2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. [1 Peter 5:2-3]

If you are in New York City this coming Saturday, October 29, 2011, please join us as we explore the subject "And God Created Caring." We meet in the historic Sanctuary of Manhattan Church, 232 West 11th Street, NYC. Our gatherings begin at 11:00 a.m. You are also invited to stay for lunch.

May God richly bless you and give you the peace that passes all understanding. May you enjoy a safe and free day of worship wherever you are.

I hope to see you soon.

Best regards,

Tony Romeo, Pastor
Manhattan Church / The Chapel At Union Square / REACH-NYC

P.S. Please scroll down to view other REACH-NYC activities and interesting gatherings this weekend.

Individual and group Bible study sessions are always available. For more information, write to: reachnyc.contact@gmail.com.

For small-group study we invite you to join our REACH-NYC ministry partner, David Ephraim, at The Chapel At Union Square, 123 East 15th Street, NYC in the Union Square area of New York City, this Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m.
"God Hates Me?"

Join us this Friday night, Oct. 28, 2011, at Cafe Reach as we take a look at religious abuse and what the true meaning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about.

What does the Gospel mean to you?

What have you been told?

What myths might have confused you as you think about religion?

Cafe Reach is a relaxed place to unwind from the busy life of New York City in a candlelit atmosphere where you can enjoy some stimulating conversation and share ideas and questions that may have been on your mind for a long time.

Come and enjoy a hot drink and some simple food and meet new friends.

Cafe Reach
232 West 11th Street
Greenwich Village, New York City

This Friday, October 28, 2011

Members of all faith traditions are welcome. If you like, feel free to share your personal stories on how religion has affected you or those you love.
A REACH-NYC Sponsored Vegetarian Seminar
This Sunday, October 30, 2011
Vegetarian Tasting and Healthy Eating Seminar

Sunday, October 30
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
12 West 40 St. NYC