

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
Ephesians 4 : 6*



Sept. 1, 2014, Vol. 3, Ed. 8 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Read Your Bible • Go To Church • Seek Unity in Christ

AN AWESOME BIBLE STUDY

by Roberta D'Amico

The morning Bible Study at the Coffee House is a fascinating study, attended by people of all different backgrounds, education, and cultural influences. Here we all get a chance to speak, ask questions, share our struggles, and benefit from others' experience and knowledge (Prov. 11:14).

Together we are all seeking to acquire a deeper knowledge of God and His Word, and to learn to walk our talk. Our studies here at the Coffee House have included the Hebrew Roots of Christianity and the Hebrew perspective of Scripture.

The Hebrew Roots Movement seeks to re-introduce Christians to the real Jesus; the Son of God Who fulfilled the Messianic prophecies and paid the debt for our sins and rose again to establish His Church, Who was also the son of Mary and Joseph of Galilee. So then, why is it that pictures of Jesus have white skin, Anglican features, and long brown hair? What about brown skin with middle-eastern features and dark eyes and hair?

I personally have come a long way from my childhood thinking that Jesus only belonged to Christians and not Jews. What a revelation to discover that Jesus Christ was indeed Jewish, as were all the early Christians; I had mistakenly thought that the Jews were the bad guys! You were one or the other. But a Christian Jew? I had so much to learn about our "Hebrew Roots".

I recently interviewed Jonathan McNeil at the Coffee House to get his perspective on Hebrew Roots. He gave me some interesting background on the history of Christianity. The Church first had only Jewish believers in it. Jesus specifically told His followers to go first to the House of Israel. When the

Jewish nation rejected Jesus, God initiated the inclusion of Gentiles.

"The animosity had begun when Jesus declared Himself to be the Messiah, and grew when God brought Gentiles into the church. One of the goals of the Hebrew Roots Movement is to heal that animosity. It was never God's intention to reject the Jews, His chosen people, forever," McNeil told me. God has always had a believing remnant (Romans 11). The church is to be a fellowship of believers composed of Jews and Gentiles of all nations, people of every station in life (Galatians 3:26 – 29.) The



Hebrew Roots Movement describes how they are all being built into one Body of Christ, the universal church, which cannot be complete without both.

There are other ways the Hebrew Roots are influencing Christianity today. Rather than trusting the church organization itself to save them, as I did for many years, it encourages Christians to turn to God through saving faith in Christ. Having entered into a personal relationship with God, will I obey God's will as I discover it in His Word? For example, *Who owns all that I have, me or God?* As McNeil puts it, "When we claim things as our own, we are stealing from God the things that belong to Him. Will I let God use whatever He wants of "my" stuff? Having possession of it, we become stingy and selfish. If it belongs to God, we are willing to give it."

This emphasis on obeying the Word requires serious study of the whole Bible, Old and New

Testament, often with the original meaning or historic context. We must be careful not to err in the direction of legalism or of license. Christians sometimes say the Old Testament doesn't apply to us today. Others say we must keep its laws. Taken together with the New Testament, we learn that keeping the law does not save us from our sins, only the blood of Christ can do that, but it does teach us to know God and how to live for Him.

Celebrating Hebrew feast days, instead of the pagan holidays the world exalts, is part of Hebrew Roots. So should we give up Christmas, Easter? What about keeping the Sabbath? How about giving up unclean meats and eating Kosher? Jesus said that He came not to do away with the law but to fulfill it. Some Christians, especially Jewish, continue to observe Jewish customs, but Gentiles are not under

obligation to do so. We are not to judge one another concerning what to eat or drink, or what to abstain from, or what special days to celebrate (Colossians 2).

What if I don't understand all these issues? Even the 12 disciples did not always understand. When they got upset with Jesus' words, and the crowds left Him, He said, "Will you also go away?" They responded, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." We grow as each one studies the whole teaching of the Scriptures and do what God is telling them to do. The Holy Spirit is with us to reveal truth to us. In eternity we will understand all. Now, we each must obey what we do believe, for "whatever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:23)

Report on Family Day 2014

Glory to God, what a gorgeous Family Day it was! The weather on Saturday August 16th was perfect, sunny but not too hot. The mood of the crowd was happy. We still drew a good number of people, around 600, even though there were two other events going on in Springfield that day, at Blunt Park and at Forest Park.

We had planned to have our usual water slide, but Springfield was under a water ban. A Bounce House substituted. The music bands that played were much appreciated; face painting, thanks to a last minute volunteer, was very popular; and the Prayer tent and the Recovery tent were new addition this year. It was a blessing that we had a wonderful team of volunteers to make the Gospel Bracelets with families.

This year we saw many poor and needy people, more disadvantaged than ever. Fortunately, we had an ample supply of food for the free lunch, so we continued giving out lunches all afternoon. The line for lunch never seemed to diminish. Perhaps we can add free haircuts next year.

We want to thank all the volunteers who make this event possible. The set-up crew was great and volunteers who ran all the activities; especially the children's games. The Restoration Church across the street helped with the Baptisms and we baptized five people. Our goal was to supply some needs, physical and especially spiritual. The blessings are not only to the guests, but also to each volunteer.



Making Gospel Bracelets

Ongoing Events at Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 10 AM & 2 PM
MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 AM
TUES & THURS PRAYER 11 AM
TUESDAY SOLID ROCK NIGHT MUSIC FORUM 7:00 PM
WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30 & CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:30 PM
SATURDAY LUNCH 2-4 PM WEEKLY
1ST SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4 PM

~For more Information call 413-301-0918~

Saturday Night Activities

Movie nights, Sept. 6 & 20

Sept. 13 – Band Night with Matt W.

Sept. 27 – Open Mic Night 6:30 PM

Next 5th Saturday Event

Will be November 29 – All day!

Theme: Evangelizing the Holidays