

# The Springfield Redeemer



“All things work together for good to those who love God.”  
Romans 8:28

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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## Springfield Honors Bishop Bryant Robinson Jr. by Pastor Dr. C.S. Cooley

Bishop Bryant Robinson Jr. has reached a hallmark age, 85 years old. We are so thankful that God allowed him to be here with us and we were able to celebrate with him. I am writing about Bishop Robinson for 2 reasons, first, to remember his accomplishments, in which God has allowed him to succeed. Bishop Robinson has been married to his wife, First Lady Dr. Margaree Robinson, for 62 years, with two sons and one daughter. He graduated from Barrington College earning his teacher’s certificate. He then earned a master’s degree from AIC college in Springfield MA, and later his Ph.D. in education from the University of Massachusetts. He was appointed Principal of William M. DeBerry School and as Deputy Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools and later as the first person of color as the Interim Springfield School Superintendent. While he served, he made sure that God was always present in the Springfield School System by using praying parents as volunteers. These volunteers gave up their time without pay. God also used him to motivate others who in turn worked to better motivate our children with their prayers, love and using their life skills. Among some of the most influential people in the Springfield Public Schools, for the years 1970 through 1990, Bishop Bryant Robinson Jr. would be at the head of the list. He also served for eleven years as a Springfield Police Commissioner.

Second, in 2008, Bishop Robinson watched his newly built church burn to the ground. The Macedonia Church was set ablaze by 3 young men who had been taught racial hatred. However, this was in the plan of God, for him. What Satan meant for evil, God used for good. God gave Bishop Robinson the spirit of forgiveness, which moved the heart of pastors in Springfield, across America and beyond. Churches in the Springfield area came together to pray for God's Deliverance. In doing so they activated their faith by their works and formed The Mission Pioneer Valley Prayer Group, this group consisted of many of the surrounding churches of all denominations and ethnic groups. For many years they came together to sponsor United services. Some of the Churches were: Bethany Church, Agawam, Calvary’s Love, Forrest Park, Evangelical Covenant Church, Wilbraham, United Temple Church, Holy Grounds Coffee House Church, Christian Life Center, Greater Harvest Church, Macedonia Church, Progressive Baptist Church in Springfield, and many others. At the high point of this Godly alliance, these churches sponsored two major events for the Convoy of Hope, where they were able to serve and give aid to over ten thousand people in Hampden County, and gave hope to the region. Because of the Alliance of Mission Pioneer Valley, today we have over 40 Pastors that come together as the Mission Pioneer Valley Trust Jesus Unity Prayer group, which come together every last Thursday of each month to pray. We also come together once every 3 months on a Sunday to worship and praise God, promoting oneness in Christ Jesus. He loves us

all, no matter what our skin color or denomination, as long as we believe in Him and are obedient to His Word. We want to put an end to the concept of Sunday being the



most segregated day of the week.

While God was using Bishop Robinson, he suffered greatly, a heart attack, kidney failure and other serious health problems. But, God had blessed him with a praying wife, Mother Margaree Robinson, who stood in the gap, asking God for his recovery. Her awesome testimony is that when the doctor had given up hope, he had told her that her husband was going to die. But when she prayed, God told the Doctor to try something new, and when he asked permission from Mother Robinson, her reply was to go ahead! That 'something' became a miracle and today Bishop Robinson lives! Through everything, Bishop Robinson endured, never losing his love or faith in God, continuing his prayers for the people of God and for those that had not yet accepted Christ. Because of this, God restored him and allowed him to reach age 85 and to be given an award presented by the Mayor of Springfield, Mayor Dominic Sarno. Mayor Sarno Proclaimed Saturday, February 5, 2022, the day of his 85th Birthday Celebration as Bishop Bryant Robinson Jr. Day in Springfield, Ma. Finally, on April 23, 2022, Bishop Robinson will receive The Lifetime Achievement Award from the Martin Luther King Family Services, Inc.

Future *Trust Jesus Unity Prayer Services* in Pioneer Valley are planned for May 29, July 31, and October 31.

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### Keon Norris Visits Springfield



On Friday, February 11, 2022, Pastor Cooley had the pleasure of seeing his friend and protégé, Keon Norris, here in Springfield, Massachusetts again. The occasion was not the happiest, but it was a blessing to see him. Keon was back here in his hometown for the funeral of his father, who was a believer, hence it was a “home-going,” to Jesus and heaven.

Keon was a 15 year old student when he first came to the Trust Jesus Youth Club at Holy Grounds Coffee House with 4 of his friends. That was ten years ago. He was saved and joined the church. At 17 God called him into the ministry and Pastor Cooley mentored him for 3 years. He became an Elder in the church, married, and now has 3 children!

In 2020, Keon and his family moved to Florida where he serves in a church there. He had wanted to move 3 years earlier, but Pastor Cooley advised him to wait a bit. Finally, when the time was right, he went on ahead before his family to look at the job market. First thing was to find a church, then an apartment. After two years, it was time to move.

So, now Keon came up this February, back to Springfield for his father's funeral, at which Pastor Cooley officiated. It was so good that they could visit together. We praise God that at Holy Grounds, we have been able to influence young people like Keon to follow the Lord and not waste their young lives like too many do. Stories like this are why God has us in Springfield as a haven and a lighthouse.

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### Ongoing Events

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

10 a.m. - Motivated by Faith with Pastor Bobby and Kim Quinones.

3:00 p.m. Coffee House Church with Pastor Cooley.

**MONDAY -- FRIDAY:** Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. ***Come and be blessed!***

**WEDNESDAY:** 1 pm to 4 pm – Coffee House open with Steve Morin.

**THURSDAY:** FIAT Thursday 7 p.m. March 24, 2022.

**FRIDAY:** Women's Bible Study with Shelly Saunders, Fridays at 1:00 PM.