

The Springfield Redeemer

March 1, 2024
Newsletter of Redemption
Gate Mission Society,
Holy Grounds Coffee House
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Pastor Cooley Celebrates 75th Birthday!

An enthusiastic crowd of over one hundred guests greeted Pastor C.S. Cooley and First Lady Jackie Lee Cooley as they made their grand entrance into the Banquet Hall at Ludlow Country Club on Saturday, January 13th, 2024. For the first hour, guests spent time greeting friends and making new acquaintances. We also had opportunity to see the video photo display of the Cooleys which was running continuously.

Then, after the opening prayer by the Master of Ceremonies Superintendent Zachary Reynolds, some words of welcome, and a little music, dinner was served. The food was excellent, served buffet style. Following dinner, several people shared some “fun facts” about Pastor Cooley, which included testimonies also. Several people shared remarks, especially Godfather Herbert Norman who is 102 years old!

Several people spoke about Pastor Cooley’s amazing life and how God brought him from the streets to the pulpit, touching so many lives along the way. An announcement was made from Mayor Sarno and Rep. Bud Williams, who couldn’t be here, to honor Pastor Cooley for his tireless efforts over many years to unite people, especially the Body of Christ, across racial lines. He has joined with Pastor Daniel Torres and Mission Pioneer Valley to bring about reconciliation between people! The crowd at the Birthday Party January 13th was quite a testimony to Pastor Cooley’s success, just to see the room filled with men and women of all ages, color, denominations, and churches sitting together, eating together, fellowshiping and celebrating Pastor Cooley’s birthday.

Finally, our elected officials, Mayor Sarno and Rep. Bud Williams honored Pastor Cooley by declaring that Saturday, January 13th, 2024, as Pastor C.S. Cooley Day!

What Does God Have to Say About It?

By: Iris L. Jenkins, PhD

United Temple Church of God In Christ

Psalms 118:8. “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” (KJV).

Often when we are faced with life’s challenges, we share our difficulties with those we trust. Sometimes that may be a family member, sometimes a friend, or other times, people who hold positions of authority that we believe can help us. Many times we’ve already made up our minds about the kind of feedback we would like to receive. We want people to agree with us, to see things our way, to confirm that we are correct rather than offering a different perspective. So, when we approach the family member, friend, or other person we’re seeking counsel from, we move along quickly if it turns out that their perspective is different than ours. We will keep trying people until we encounter the one that sees us as right in the situation, sees our decisions as the right ones, sees us as worthy of sympathy, or even as justified in the way we’ve handled things thus far.

What becomes clear is that we really don't want the truth. We want to hear what will validate us and make us feel better regardless of whether it is right or wrong. We choose to ignore those who don't provide the soothing words we want to hear while upholding the single voice that does. Too often we don't consider what God has to say. Even when we say we are seeking Godly counsel, we limit ourselves to those we are certain will hold our own point of view.

Isn't it interesting that we aren't concerned that we can receive so many different suggestions depending on how many people we talk to? Isn't it interesting that it doesn't seem to bother us that people's opinions change? They may give us one suggestion one day and an entirely different one on another day, even when none of the details we share with them have changed. The idea of placing all of our confidence and trust in the opinion of one who happens to agree with us today seems unsteady, yet we do it so often. We wonder why our unsteady approach is not yielding stable results, but we are missing the key ingredient: GOD!

God is the One who we should bring our troubles to. God is the One we should put our full confidence in. God is the One who is unwavering. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever more. God is the One who will never steer us wrong. We may not always like what He has to say, but He is never wrong. People may have good intentions that end up pointing us in the wrong direction. But our God is not just operating with good intentions. He's also operating with full knowledge. He already understands every circumstance. He already understands everything and everyone involved. Let's not start with people. Let's see what God has to say about it first and follow His lead. Things will turn out so much better for us.

Pastor Renzo Report – January 2024.

As the Evangelist and Revivalist from Redemption Gate Mission Society and Holy Grounds Coffee House since August 2020, Pastor Renzo Ventrice submits a report every month, of his efforts to contact pastors and share the need for New England churches to come together in fervent prayer for revival and evangelism. After forging relationships with about 268 pastors, including 4 new pastors this month, his hope is to preach revival and teach Christian History.

On New Years Eve, Pastor Renzo and Betsy visited Goshen Congregational Church and presented the mission of Redemption Gate and also Dr. Michael Youssef and Rise Up New England's coming Celebration in June 2024. Then, January 2, he was on the one hour broadcast "Live Mike" in Brattleboro VT, sharing his testimony and mission, for RGMS and Rise Up New England!

Also in January, he visited Pastor Chuck Wimer's Jubilee family Outreach in West Springfield and Lifepoint Church in Chicopee. He and Pastor Kevin will be discussing hosting a training class for R.U.N.E. in May. With the rest of the New England Executive Committee, he is working to enlist 50 pastors for training classes for the Evangelistic Celebration with Dr. Michael Youssef.

Coming Soon:

March for Jesus, Saturday – March 30, 2024 – Holy Grounds Coffee House

We need you and your church to come out and support this event. We are still a people who believe in Jesus! Help us lift His Name up in Springfield Massachusetts, contact Pastor Cooley at (413) 626-6807

Regular Events:

Morning Bible Study is open to all to learn more about the Bible - Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

We are having great studies in the book of Psalms! Come and learn with us!

Sunday Services at 5 p.m. with Pastor Bobby Quinones.

Coming June 22, 2024 – Big Celebration at the Mass Mutual Center, with Dr. Michael Youssef and Leading the Way Ministries. Many churches will be involved, so be praying about bringing people, especially unsaved!