

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

www.redemptiongate.org

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Trust Jesus

Pray Daily

Read Your Bible

www.trustjesus.us

Pastor Steve Cooley Receives a Degree!



It was a warm summer night on June 8th, 2012, as people gathered to honor Pastor C. Steve Cooley and other graduates from the *Jesus Christ Enlightened Christian Bible Seminary*. The delicious banquet and commemorable graduation exercises were held at the *Church In the Acres* in Springfield Massachusetts.

Steve Cooley, the Senior Pastor of *United Temple Church of God in Christ* on Walnut Street, and manager of the *Holy Grounds Coffee House* on State Street, earned a Doctor of Divinity Degree in Theology after writing a summary of Old Testament Books from Genesis through Second Kings.

Pastor Cooley, a Vietnam Veteran, attended Westfield State College, and has been active in the Springfield School System. In addition, he was an elder in his

church, while at the same time worked as a postal Supervisor and acting Postmaster. Retiring after 25 Years with the US Postal Service, he became Pastor of the *United Temple Church of God in Christ*. He became active with *Redemption Gate Mission Society* in 2008, and started managing the Holy Grounds Coffee House after it opened in late 2010. This ministry serves the community by offering coffee, lunch and snacks, and an inviting place to come, rest, and hear about the hope, comfort, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In addition to marriage counseling and a monthly Marriage Seminar, Pastor Cooley has created a mecca for youth in the neighborhood. This haven for young people at Holy Grounds Coffee House draws 20 to 30 High School teens before school at 7 a.m., providing a bridge to a deeper relationship with God, in addition to what they might be getting from home. This helps strengthen the teens for their often stressful day at school. While remaining manager, Pastor Cooley will soon be named Executive Director of the Holy Grounds Coffee House.

Celebrate Recovery! Trust Jesus Recovery Ministry Changes Lives

September 28, 2012, will mark the one year anniversary of the Holy Grounds Trust Jesus Recovery Meeting held at 455 State Street, and facilitated by Jonathan McNeil. The meeting is designed to help those struggling with addictions, hurts, hang-ups, and out-of-control behaviors. Using materials from the Celebrate Recovery program and Life Recovery Bibles, they have been able to touch the lives of many who desire to be free from addictions and from making poor 'life choices'. Brother Jonathan, with the help of others, has been purchasing and distributing Celebrate Recovery materials. The goal for 2013 is to fully adopt the Celebrate Recovery program, which also includes a meal and additional time for the meetings. The meeting is held on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and is open to both men and women. Coffee and snacks are available, along with the discussion, counseling and prayer. Designed to change lives by showing the loving power of Jesus Christ through the recovery process, this meeting is a part of Springfield becoming a community where God is glorified and people 'Trust Jesus', our only hope for troubled lives.

Family Day Success!

On August 4, 2012, the Redemption Gate Mission Society held its 5th Annual Family Day at Magazine Park in Springfield, MA. Children and parents in the McKnight neighborhood and surrounding areas were invited to come and celebrate a family day in the park with their loved ones.



In spite of the 90 degree hot weather over 400 people came out for a fun day at the park to enjoy a free lunch and

many activities. The water slide was especially welcoming and refreshing for all who participated in it! Festivities began at 11 a.m. and ran until 4 p.m. As always the Gospel tent was busy all day with several volunteers sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making Gospel bracelets. New this year was the Western Mass Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship, Matthew Currier, his two teenage children, and the Mass State Director of CEF, Tim Beachell. Also volunteering from the Coffee House were Doreen Kimball, Ramona Benbow, Cathy Marvici, Linda Jordan, Brianna Blanchard, and Roberta D'Amico. In response to the sharing of the gospel, at least 15 people made

decisions for Christ and 16 individuals chose to be baptized later in the afternoon.

There was no lack of activity for all to enjoy. Children ran around from one activity to another, enjoying the Bounce House, Bible Story Readings by Anne Lively, Tiny the Clown making balloon animals, Face Painting, and Pre-school Games. Children joined parents for family photos. Teens and older children participated in the usual Basketball Tournament.

The Music Tent featured several area artists. Families were encouraged by the presence of the popular Christian Radio Station, The Q 99.7 FM. Other support came from Pastor Cooley's United Temple Church of God in Christ, who gave out free bread to all.

Presenting a special feature this year, from Oklahoma City, were Dr. Steve Kern, Pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, and Paul Sublett, the Head of Oklahoma Christian radio stations. They set up a giant display of facts supporting creation versus evolution for all to see. Available for purchase were DVDs and books on the subject. Dr. Kern had previously given a seminar in Springfield in February of this year at Calvary's Love Church.

The day concluded with joy as many free gifts were raffled off to those who remained for the afternoon. Families went home hot and tired but with happy memories at the end of the Family Day. People were reminded to pick up their family photos at the Holy Grounds Coffee House later in the week.



Ongoing events at the Coffee House

Sunday Services 10am & 2pm
Morning Bible Study 7:30am Monday thru Friday
Tuesday 7pm Outreach
Wednesday Bible Study 4:30pm
Wednesday Celebrate Recovery 6:30pm
Thursday 7pm FIAT 'Faith In Action Team'
Marriage Seminar 1st Saturday of each month
Open Music Mic 7pm last Friday or Saturday monthly

For more information call Holy Grounds Coffee House 301-0918

SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 9, 2012 6:30pm

Annual Fundraiser

'Thanksgiving To God Banquet'

*Bethany Assembly of God
580 Main Street, Agawam, MA*

*Featuring Guest Speaker & Historian
David Barton*