

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.
Psalm 51:10*



www.redemptiongate.org

Jan 1, 2014, Vol. 3, Ed. 12 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Read Your Bible • Go To Church • Seek Unity in Christ

IN THE YEAR 2014 . . .

What on earth is God doing? Plenty! Even here in our small Coffee House, which is truly Holy Grounds. Together we are impacting Springfield and beyond. To end the year, we want to give God the credit, but of course, this small newsletter can only share a few highlights.

On Sunday, we are glad to have Pastor Renzo on board preaching. He shares the afternoon service with Pastor Scott and Pastor Jonathan. Sunday services always challenge us to live for Christ and serve Him daily.

This year we have seen much growth in the youth at Commerce High School.



Students at Commerce High

Pastor Cooley says, "We have had a major influence on the students and their families. The number of students that come to Holy Grounds Coffee House early each

school-day morning doubled this year, and there is an excitement, a new respect for God, and an eagerness to participate in prayer."

At school, the kids are



Students in prayer

planning a Bible Study, they wear their Trust Jesus pins, and they speak boldly about Jesus without censor! Even the dietician at Commerce observed the change in behavior that the students are demonstrating in the lunchroom.

Other blessings were reported by Jonathan McNeil who leads the Recovery program. He relates, "One day an angry young man called. He was in crisis, had lost his apartment, and became homeless. As he talked to Jonathan, he allowed God's peace to fill his heart instead of getting drunk. Another young man accepted Christ at the Coffee House, and he and his girlfriend want to get baptized. A

week later he brought his friend Andrew, and so it goes!"

"The morning Bible Study is transformative," Deborah says, "everyday, believers and seekers come to immerse themselves in the word of God. The Presence of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the sharing of personal testimonies and keen biblical insights."

A new exciting opportunity is being developed with Public TV here in Springfield. We are in on the beginning of it, and have a crew of volunteers ready to help with the technical aspects of it.

Finally, I want to mention Thanksgiving. Denise, one of our volunteers, was led to organize a Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Holy Grounds. It was a big success! Over 25 people came, and contributed many delicious dishes to go with the deep fried turkey that Pastor Cooley made.

Everybody ate together and shared many blessings. It was so successful, it was repeated for Christmas Day, so anyone who didn't have family to be with would have a place to come and celebrate Christmas, with dinner, music, and fellowship.

Testimony by Louis Moreno, Jr.

On a cold December morning in 2007, I met Pastor Scott Lively at the Springfield Businessmen's Bible Study. Since I was an insurance agent, Pastor asked me to quote coverage for "his new ministry headquarters" in Springfield. The only requirement was that it must be effective by the end of that business day. I spent the rest of that day obtaining all-risk property & liability coverage, not an easy task despite my 25 years of experience.

At that time, 455 State Street had been the home of the long-vacant inner-city AAA TV Repair Shop, which also offered installment plans on new & used television sets. The property included two semi-vacant apartments upstairs. In spite of its appearance, Pastor Scott's vision, presence of mind and conviction of purpose was simply enormous, and by virtue of the Holy Spirit, was not only highly transferrable but nearly intoxicating.

Today area Christians know the Holy Grounds Coffee House at 455 State Street as a place blessed by God for everyone to come and fellowship, pray, study, or just relax in peace. Although the many aspects of this inner city ministry are far too vast to mention in this brief letter, the most notable is the seven-year campaign to re-Christianize Springfield. This wonderful mission started out in a spectacular fashion with the restoration of the annual March for Jesus and the first year theme of TRUST JESUS.

I do quite a bit of traveling throughout New England personally and for business, and can testify that it is no surprise to see TRUST JESUS bumper stickers quite conspicuously displayed throughout my travels, along with the following years' themes of PRAY DAILY, READ YOUR BIBLE, and more. Over the last three years, I have worked independently for several New England-based companies performing underwriting inspections. It is no coincidence that these carriers look to insure inner-city buildings consisting of store fronts with apartments above.

I have visited many inner-city storefront churches in the last three years, and find a common denominator: "TRUST JESUS . . . PRAY DAILY . . . READ YOUR BIBLE . . . GO TO CHURCH" and the new for 2015, SHARE YOUR FAITH signage, stickers, and literature in every single one I visit. As I stated, there is NO COINCIDENCE!

Nevertheless, parking or no parking, thriving neighborhoods or those in despair, God is present everywhere and so are believers willing to carve out a slice of heaven anywhere possible.



Save the Dates: Apologetics Seminar coming soon, dates to be announced.

Don't forget the March For Life in Washington DC on January 22.

Contact Suzie Lopes at 413-592-6015; Rebecca James at 413-733-4580

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

New Year's Eve – Open 6 P.M 'til the sun comes up and beyond!

Jan. 10 – band Night – pending

Jan. 17 – Movie – volunteer coordinator needed

Jan. 24 – Open Mic – "New Beginnings"

Jan. 31 – 5th Saturday – GAME NIGHT!