

# The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*But now in Christ  
Jesus you who were  
once far off are  
made near by the  
blood of Christ.  
Ephesians 2:13*



April 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 3 Trust Jesus • Seek Unity in Christ • Love Goodness • Share Your faith

## ***Easter; Christian, Jewish, or Both?***



by Brianna Blanchard  
Brianna is presently enrolled at Liberty University. She is a youth leader with Bethany Assembly of God's Revolution youth group and is on their worship team on Wednesday nights.

Ah, Easter; the day of bunnies, candy, and pretty pastel colors. As pleasant and nostalgic as this day can be, the modern celebration has nothing to do with the actual meaning behind this significant and profound holiday.

When asked, "what is Easter about?" most Christians would say something like, "it's a celebration of Jesus' resurrection!" True. However, but only barely scratching the surface of what Easter, or Resurrection Day, is truly about.

There are four Jewish holidays that play a huge part in the Easter holiday: Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Pentecost. Each of these represents a significant aspect of the life of Jesus in His first coming.

In the Passover story, there are symbols that represent the life and sacrifice of Jesus. In the first Passover, the blood of a flawless lamb was painted on the doorposts of those who followed the Lord's command (Ex. 12:7). This represented the blood of Jesus, His flawlessness, and His sacrifice for us.

Directly following Passover is the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The most common bread we consume during celebration of these holidays is matzo bread. It's unleavened to fulfill the command

of Christ to consume no leavening (Ex. 23:15). Leavening symbolizes sin. Just a little bit of it can permeate the entire lump of dough. Matzo also has stripes and holes, which speaks of the beating that Jesus' body took as He sacrificed Himself for us (Isa. 53:5). During the Passover meal, the matzo is broken (1Cor. 11:24).

Next, the Feast of First Fruits: giving of the greatest offering as a sacrifice to God to show their thanksgiving for the Lord's deliverance out of Egypt (Lev. 23:9-14). This kind of perfect sacrifice was modeled to mankind through the life and sacrifice of Jesus, who was the ultimate perfect offering of First Fruits. (1 Cor. 15:20).

Lastly, there was Pentecost, to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church, the body of Christ. This took place on the fiftieth day following Easter (Acts 2:1-4). The significance of this in relation to Jesus' life is that after He had died, been resurrected, and ascended to heaven, He continued to be with us through the Holy Spirit Whom He sent to dwell in our hearts. It's a reminder to us as Christians that Christ is alive and powerful, and His Spirit is within us.

At Easter, the Christian Church is celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah. At the same time, we see that the Jewish people have for centuries celebrated what we know now to be *a dress rehearsal of the same thing*, God's wonderful plan to send a Redeemer to save us from our sins. He is the last sacrifice, the Perfect Lamb, the First Fruit offering, and is forever in the hearts of all Believers, Jew and Gentile. Remember this Easter that Christ is indeed alive and is reigning powerfully and magnificently.

# Defending the Faith

by Roberta D'Amico

Saturday, March 21, 2015, was a busy day at Pastor Juan Feliciano's Calvary's Love Church. Many people came to the last annual Apologetics Seminar. We met in their beautiful spacious former synagogue. Most of our Coffee House volunteers were there serving coffee, registering attendees, running sound, ushering, leading music.

Pastor Steve Cooley opened with prayer and explained about "Apologetics". "We are not apologizing for being Christians," he said. "We go out evangelizing, God with us and empowering us."

After Pastor Scott spoke briefly on the history of Redemption Gate, Charles Weidman was introduced. Apologetics is about knowing what you believe and why, and being able to defend your faith, Weidman explained, and went over some basic principles like living what you say you believe. Then he went on to explain about asking questions, the right questions, like, "Why do you not believe? What is Truth?"

"You can't invent truth," Weidman says, "Just because a culture says it is right, that doesn't make it true! Does God exist? Your own scientists say that according to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, energy is not infinite, it is being used up, therefore, it had a beginning. A beginning requires a creator. The universe had a beginning, therefore it had a Creator."

Science is always changing as new discoveries are made. Even Einstein was mistaken about some of his theories. Why is evolution even an issue? Because it questions the veracity of Genesis. Only God's Word never changes. Weidman next discussed the evidences of this truth, comparing Biblical manuscripts and original writings with all other ancient pieces of literature. It was a fascinating talk.

After breaking for lunch and enjoying lots of pizza, salad, dessert and coffee, Pastor Scott mentioned the Four Blood Moons scheduled to appear on Passover and Feast of Tabernacles in 2014 and 2015, plus the eclipse that had just taken place.

Monumental things are happening in our world, especially the rise of the homosexual movement, as Scott explained. Concerning the "Gay Marriage" case currently in the Supreme Court, the celebration of this is a situation that has not existed since the days of Noah.

In the afternoon, Pastor Zachary Reynolds took up Apologetics again, saying "a verbal defense (of the Gospel) is necessary to convince people to change their views, put their trust in Christ, and serve Him in His Church." (1 Pet. 3:15)

Reynolds urged us to see the world through God's eyes, a world of hurting people, a plenteous harvest. Some think that people don't want to hear about Jesus, but God says the problem is that "the laborers are few."

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## Seeing Is Believing

*A Testimony by Melody Trudeau*

I remember the first time I came to the Redemption Gate Coffee House early enough to see Mrs. Cooley pray with the kids from Commerce High. Like a mother hen, she gathered the kids around her and began to pray with them. Right then I saw in that one moment a culmination of the importance of this ministry.

God's Word says to suffer the children to come unto Me for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. The benefits of this morning gathering and the impact it is having on the students at Commerce cannot be overstated. God is at work it is plain to see. The Redemption Gate Mission has touched many lives for the good; to God be the glory for the things He has done.

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## Ongoing Events Holy Grounds Coffee House

**SUNDAY SERVICES 2 PM**

**MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 AM**

**TUES & THURS PRAYER 11 AM**

**TUESDAY NIGHT Men's Bible Study 7:30 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**

[www.redemptiongate.org](http://www.redemptiongate.org)

## New Saturday Night Activities

**Movie night, April 4<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**

**Band night, April 11<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Open Table Fellowship 6:30 PM**

**Open Mic night, April 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM**