

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to Me.
Matt. 25:40*



May 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 4 Trust Jesus ▪ Pray Daily ▪ Seek Unity in Christ ▪ Love Goodness ▪ Share Your faith

Convoy of Hope Returns by Roberta D'Amico

The big day is Saturday, August 15, 2015, at Riverfront Park as before. Opening the gates at 10 a.m., Convoy of Hope will be better than ever. This year they hope to reach and give hope to an estimated 7,000 guests in Springfield. Many of these guests of honor are struggling families,



single moms, or unemployed. Just the ones God wants us to help.

Such a huge undertaking will, of course, require a great deal of manpower, but even more important, it must be led by God, just as the last one was. Hope comes from the Lord, and although man can accomplish spectacular things, Convoy wants to do more than give people help and a good time for a day. They want to work with God to bring about lasting change in people's hearts, as only He can do.

Therefore, in addition to entertainment, games for the children, lunch, new shoes, haircuts, an updated resume and

perhaps a job offer, medical and dental screenings, community and veteran's services, 2 bags of groceries, and some other things, we will provide invitations to a local church and prayer.

To provide all this stuff, the leadership of Convoy is partnering with more than 55 area churches, service agencies, businesses, and medical service providers. Perhaps you would get involved in some capacity in what God is doing. Each area in the program will have its own team leaders and a number of volunteers depending on the event.

Altogether, Convoy had over 5,100 guests and close to 2,000 volunteers two years ago. They provided 310 haircuts, took 460 family photos, served 338 medical needs, and more, including giving away 40 tons of



groceries! In the shoe tent alone, over 100 volunteers supplied children with 1,765 new shoes.

I have no information on how many people received Christ or came to church as a result, but there were many wonderful testimonies as to God's working in people's hearts. One lady told us that she was in such despair she was considering suicide, but heard about the Convoy of Hope and decided to bring her children, and there she found hope. The children were especially blessed, and were heard saying, "Look, Mama, I have new shoes!"

Deb Thompson, one of the leaders, shared this testimony from the 2013 Convoy: "I didn't get involved until late June in the planning of the outreach, but I was more than blessed to be a part of what the Lord did as we united in prayer. In early June we only had a handful of churches and about 300 volunteers. Then I saw our awesome God, Jehovah-Jireh, 'The Lord will provide' (Matt. 22:14), increase the numbers. At the Volunteer Rally, about 1,600 volunteers showed up representing 40 churches. The church was full and overflowing! I sat there and wept because He had done abundantly above our expectations. Saturday, (the day of the event,) we had almost

2,300 who served 5,300 guests. We serve an awesome God and He blesses unity among the brethren!"

You, too, can be blessed by any part God leads you to take in

this great ministry. The Convoy of Hope website explains how you can help at convoyofhope.org. Pastor Cooley, director of Holy Grounds Coffee House, is the person in charge of media

coverage. Promotional DVDs are being made to use in churches and in other organizations.

Report On March For Jesus

It was cool and windy on April 4th, 2015, as we gathered for the March at the coffee House and then joined those rallying up and down State Street near the intersection of State and Federal. Not as many people came out as we had hoped for, perhaps some stayed home because of the chilly weather. Finally by the time Pastor Scott Lively blew the shofar, we had over 300. A group from the Russian churches came early and blew up dozens of helium balloons as they have done in the past.

Marchers were enthusiastic as they marched down State Street to gather at City Hall, where 8 pastors prayed in turn for the city in many languages. Music and singing were provided in between prayers. When we finally dispersed, many took Gospel tracts to hand out on the street as they walked back up to the Coffee house for more coffee and a little refreshment.

Our prayer is for a local church to continue this ministry next year, to lift up the Name of Jesus at Easter, really Resurrection Day, and let Springfield know that the Lord Jesus is alive and well!

Thoughts of Wisdom From the Morning Bible Study

This morning we were studying Isaiah 31, on our trek through the Bible chapter by chapter from Genesis to Revelation, Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. Israel was just a little country in between two giant nations, Egypt to the south and Assyria to the north. Today's chapter admonishes them not to run down to Egypt for defense against Assyria. God's people had often gone down to Egypt as a place of escape, in spite of God's warning against not trusting the wealth of Egypt and all their horses and chariots to protect them.

We, too, so like to trust the wealth and power of this world to solve our problems and satisfy us. To gain the world's wealth and power we trade our time and energies, the very things of life that are most valuable for our service to God. But to believe that Egypt is the answer, or anything obtained by riches can solve our problems is to make gods of them. We are not the source of power who accomplishes, it is God. We need to live for something greater than ourselves, to build a life that will be a legacy, and invest in the future, in eternity. All that is in this world, all that is material, will burn up – do not rely on it.

All this we learn from Scripture and more. The Bible teaches us how to live for God. We must read and study it, opening our minds and our hearts to it. If you are not hearing from the Author it doesn't matter which version you are reading. We learn to hear from God at the Bible Study. The Holy Grounds Coffee House is a little place without fancy furnishings but a place of great power. It is like a treasure of great beauty contained in an earthen vessel.

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

New Saturday Night Activities

Movie night, May 2th 6:30 PM
Band night, May 9th 7 PM
May 16th Open Sharing, bring a snack and "your story" 6:30 PM - RSVP
May 23 Memorial Day Praise Party 6:30
May 29-31 2 ½ day Retreat, must RSVP