

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*Thou art the
helper of the
fatherless.
Psalm 10:14*

www.redemptiongate.org

June 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 5 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Seek Unity in Christ • Love Goodness • Share Your faith

The Importance of Dads by Roberta D'Amico

June brings Father's Day, a celebration often overlooked among weddings, graduations, and vacations. What's so special about Father's Day, anyway? Possibly the solution to society's problems! Fathers ought to be more than honored and celebrated. They ought to be restored to their God-given rightful place in the home,



in family, and in society. Many of the problems we struggle with in our society would be eased by the application of the firm hand of fathers; problems such as gangs, over-crowded prisons, drug abuse, crime, etc.

In brief, boys and girls who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty, five times more likely to get involved in criminal activities, and nine times more likely to be

imprisoned. Plus, they are at risk for behavioral issues, teenage pregnancy, and running away from home. Unfortunately, the percentage of the children in America growing up without fathers, which was 5% back in the 60's and 70's, has increased to 33% in the 21st Century!

Of course, it is not just the presence of a man in the home that will make a difference, but the influence of a Godly man who will take his role of father seriously. When boys grow up without a father's influence and example, how can they know how to be productive and responsible men? How can they learn how to be good husbands and fathers?

Pastor Scott Lively explained that much of the problem dates back to the rise of feminism, when many women decided that men were irrelevant and they could manage just fine without them. In the last 50 years since then, with much of the male population effectively emasculated, we have produced a society of widows and orphans.

What does the Bible say about widows and orphans? That as Christians, we are to take care of them! Christian men are to

step in and become fathers to the fatherless. "Be fatherly," Pastor Scott says, "practice fatherliness in the culture, mentoring others and guiding them to do right, acting to restore and reestablish what has been lost through fatherlessness."

Look at our relationship with God. He is the perfect Father, and when we become Christians, we become His children. He loves us, provides for us, and plans our purpose and future. He also develops our characters and gifts through His guidance and discipline, sometimes gentle and sometimes firm. He sets the boundaries and rewards.

Some people see Scriptural principles as harsh, like the Old Testament concept of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Pastor Scott explained that this statement is very misunderstood. He says, "It is really a legal concept, a principle of proportionality and restraint, at a time when there was no restraint, limiting the response to an offense so that you can't take *more* than an eye!" God, the perfect Father, treats people the same way, with justice and mercy in perfect proportion.

The natural family provides this balance. Women are by nature motherly, but a father is needed to lead the young people out into the bigger world outside the home. Pastor Scott explained it like this: "The father's role is to

teach them how to interact with the world, to be safe, how to take risks and balance the risks with common sense. When there is no fatherly guidance, there is a tendency for boys to become passive in the face of the world,

or to be brutal with no sense of self-control over their masculinity; to be bullies. The natural family, children growing up with mothers and fathers, is the ecosystem of humanity."

A New Ministry Comes to Coffee House

Sunday mornings at the Coffee House now feature a new ministry called *Boundless Love Impact*. They are having their weekly Worship Service at 11 a.m. at Holy Grounds right here in the heart of Springfield. Begun last July as a non-denominational church by **Pastors Melvin and Cynthia Coleman**, they needed a place to meet, and God led them to the Coffee House.

"This group is based on grass-roots outreach with an emphasis on street evangelism. My wife and I have fifteen years of experience in this type of ministry. We have trained



people in street ministry," Pastor Melvin says. What a perfect complement to Redemption Gate Missions!

Pastor Melvin grew up in Springfield and is familiar with the needs of many of its residents. Although he lived in the South and met his wife there, they moved back to Springfield. "We wanted to be here," he said, "where the need is great."

One project that they have done is called Hope Boxes, designed to target needy people who would not be able to provide much for their families. At

Last Thanksgiving and Christmas, they got donations and prepared boxes of gifts for needy families. When they brought the Hope Boxes to the families they were able to spend time with them, share the gospel, and invite them to church. Ten or fifteen families were served last holiday season. In the future, with the help of God's people, they hope to expand this program to other times of the year.

Save the Date!

The big day is Saturday, August 15, 2015, at Riverfront Park. Gates will open at 10 a.m., this year Convoy of Hope will be better than ever, expecting to reach an estimated 7,000 guests in Springfield. To do this will require much help. Each of the many events will need a team of volunteers: entertainment, children's games, lunch, shoes, family photos, haircuts, resume help, medical and dental screenings, community and veteran's services, 2 bags of groceries, and prayer, plus set-up and clean-up, to name some jobs. It is very important that we have a committed prayer team, so volunteer now!

Ongoing Events Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 11 AM & 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, June 6th 6:30 PM
Band night, June 13th 7 PM
June 20th Open Sharing, bring a snack and "your story" 6:30 PM - RSVP
Open Mic Night, June 27th 6:30 PM