

# The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.  
Matt. 25:35*



Sept 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 8 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Seek Unity in Christ • Love Goodness • Share Your Faith

## *Pastor Visits from Jamaica* by Roberta D'Amico

God is amazing! From seemingly inconsequential happenings, He can work His plans, further His Kingdom, and bring His children together. That's how it happened in Detroit last January, as Pastor Cooley was speaking to a group of pastors. Among them was a young pastor from Jamaica. Later they met to get acquainted. Since then, God engineered the circumstances so that the young pastor, Alton Farquharson, could come to Springfield in April and to visit with us as a guest of Holy Grounds Coffee House and United Temple.

Subsequently, at the invitation of Pastor Cooley, on August 8, he made a second visit to spend a month here at the Coffee House and at United Temple Church, returning to Jamaica on September 11th. We first met him at the awesome morning Bible Study where he spoke to us concerning the state of his church in Christiana. "When I was in Detroit," Pastor Alton said, "God told me to get up and speak about the church in Jamaica."

Pastor Alton's church is in Christiana, a beautiful city set among the mountains of Manchester Parish in Jamaica. It is called the Church of the Living God, and meets in a large tent, in a rather devastated area. The tent was damaged in a storm and the poles and torn canvas need replacing. When it rains there, the rain comes in and they cannot meet for services for a week until it dries out. To buy a new tent would cost \$3000. This week his



wife called from Jamaica with no good news. "The people are restless," she said, "They want to find a place to go."

"These believers in Jamaica should have a place of their own to worship. There are 40 to 60 children, more than the number of adults." Pastor Alton says, "My mission is to see the life of my people transformed; to see these poor children happy. Because of the condition of the church, will it even be able to continue?"

Pastor Alton himself was saved at the young age of 15. He was very ill at the time, but a young friend came and prayed for him. "I got better," he said, "and have always walked with the Lord since." Now he is married with two children. Because the church cannot pay him, he has to go on speaking tours in the Caribbean and USA every 3 months or so to raise money.

When he speaks, he always talks about living righteously and being in unity in the Body of Christ. Pastor Alton says that the state of the world will not get better, so when we exercise the gift of prophecy, we need to speak truth. True prophecy always comes to pass, and if the Lord is speaking through a believer, others will be able to recognize the anointing of the Lord.

Being a pastor is a gift to the church, but not the only gift. A pastor cannot do the job alone, all his people in the Body of Christ need to exercise their gifts, too. Each one needs to find what their gift is and do it. If you abide in the Vine, you will bear fruit, and the Body will grow, with all parts functioning in harmony. Thus, God's Kingdom will increase here in the USA, in Jamaica, and all over the world.

## Convoy of Hope Blesses Springfield. By Roberta D'Amico

The day started out sunny and warm. Shortly after 10 a.m. the people who have been waiting in line since before 9 came streaming in. At the moment it seemed like there were more volunteers than guests, but that would change soon. Then, everyone will be busy serving the 1000s of guests who will come through the gates today looking for help and hope.

As the guests came in, they were guided to the left along a walkway heading south. All along the way greeters said hello and directed people to various services. The message was, "We hope you experience God's love in a real way today!"

The services offered were numerous, and all of them busy! There were locations to take free photos of the family; tents where you could get free organic baby food and information on feeding babies; a tent of the Breast Cancer Awareness giving free exams and information; and a large tent of hairdressers giving free haircuts. The Kid's Zone was spectacular! Games, prizes, all kinds of activities, Bounce Houses, and even Curious George visiting with the children!

The Shoe Tent was twice as big as the last Convoy two years ago, with 100 chairs, 100 shoe fitters, lots of space for strollers, and 3000 pairs of shoes to give away. Usually only children's shoes are given, but this year the Breast Cancer Awareness organization gave away 1500 pink sneakers to women.

There was much more: free lunches made by Bethany Assembly of God Church, a band from Cornerstone Church playing uplifting music, clothing give-away, lots of medical help with eye exams and a



dental clinic, and even help with job searching. On the way out of the park, free groceries were being handed out.

At midday, media gathered to

hear the mayors, Mayor Sarno from Springfield, Mayor Cohen from Agawam, and Mayor Kos from Chicopee, reading their Proclamations announcing that today was *Convoy of Hope Day*. "Government has to be efficient, but this is the compassionate side of it," said Sarno. He was at the Rally Friday night and was impressed with all the people from every color and ethnic background coming together to help make Springfield a better place. Mayor Kos remarked, "This is a wonderful blessing to this area. Volunteering is what we do as church members."

Everywhere crowds of people were finding help and many things to make their lives better; grateful people whose children would have new shoes or a fresh haircut to start school. Most important, in the large Prayer Tent people were sitting in the circles of chairs with the prayer volunteers. Children were gathered in the middle of the tent at tables working with crafts while their parents prayed. Some were finding Jesus, who provides the best help to those who trust in Him.

After lunch, the Prayer Tent was crowded. As some children played at the crafts tables, prayer warriors prayed with many people for their needs: some for salvation, healing, jobs, housing, and hope. Bishop Robinson of the Macedonia Church of God in Christ was there and explained that the burning of his church building in 2008 led to this event today. "The fire inflicted a welter of doubt, anger, and stress, but God brought this blessing out of it."



### 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

### Saturday Night Activities

Matt Walker will be hosting a Music Night on September 12, featuring Patty Bernacki and Cathy Marvici.

For more information call 413-301-0918 [www.redemptiongate.org](http://www.redemptiongate.org)