

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thess. 5:18*



www.redemptiongate.org

November 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 10 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Seek Unity in Christ • Love Goodness • Share Your

Report on Ministry to Students by Roberta D'Amico

Early mornings at Holy Grounds Coffee House are very busy, sometimes even hectic! All of our students are at the door early, on their way to school. Since our numbers have increased, we let them in early, at 6:45 a.m. When they first came back in September, they said, "We missed you!", especially the students who have been coming a few years.

When the Cooleys are here in the morning, they pray with all the kids, group by group. Otherwise, Brian Greene is doing a splendid job praying with them. He has a different relationship with the students, more like a coach. The boys, especially, gravitate to him.

Since we have so many kids, sometimes more than 100, they come in groups to get their coffee, tea, or hot chocolate and snack. Then we pray with them and they go out and more come in! By 7:20, they are all gone so they can be in their classrooms by 7:30 a.m. No high school students are allowed in between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.



We have noted some changes here with the students and at Commerce High, where they attend. Some order has been restored and teachers and faculty have improved the way they work together. In the Coffee House, they are becoming more responsible, clearing their tables and picking up trash. Also, they have become more respectful and often initiate prayer in their groups. Sometimes they pose questions to Brian or other adults here, about personal issues. Other times it might be a simple request, like "help me tie my tie." They so need dads in their young

lives! Other times it might be peer pressure they struggle with. Sometimes, they tell us, they feel like they are the only ones at their school who believe in God. But things have gotten better at school. At one time, students weren't allowed to use the name of



Jesus. Now we get good reports from them all the time. The young people are learning how to stand strong for what

they believe. Some days it may seem like nothing is happening in their lives, but seeds are being planted and when these young people mature, they will be our leaders.

The students appreciate a place where they can come and feel safe. Here we pray against the gangs, against drugs, teen pregnancy, suicide. One girl shared how at school they sometimes feel lonely and unprotected. Sandy, another young lady came here as a very unhappy sophomore. She saw that this was a place with order, God's order. She was able to find stability in God's family, as we provided an orderly place that helped her grow into a strong Christian woman.

When we talk with the students, we encourage them to tell about their goals in life, especially concerning how they want to serve God. One 11th grader shared that he wanted to be a doctor. We tell them that you can serve God in almost any profession. We hope that some of these young people will become leaders in their churches and communities. God, through His Holy Spirit, is doing a great work here.

Blessings in Disguise by Roberta D'Amico

It seems November is the month for thanksgiving. As we think about celebrating Thanksgiving, we often meditate on all we have to be thankful for, as we should. Some people count their blessings and make a list; I have! Food, warm house, good health, family, loving relationships, a job or meaningful work to do; all these and more are common blessings for which we are thankful. They are given by God, His "common grace", not just to His children-by-faith, but to all His created ones.

But, along with these welcome blessings, we all experience problems, hurts, griefs, troubles, even disasters. What does God say about these? If only "good" things come from God, where do the adverse things, the tragedies, the "bad" things come from? Is not God in control of all that happens? On earth and in heaven? Remember that God has a purpose for all things, what we see as good and what we see as bad. He will use all that happens to further His plans. He promised that His plans would be for our benefit, Romans 8:28-29.

The Bible says that we are to give thanks in all circumstances, James 1:2-4. Ought we only give thanks for the things that we like? Sinners that we are, we deserve God's punishment, but we get God's love instead, because Jesus took our sins and our punishment. This is the very first thing to be thankful for, the basis for which we can be everlastingly grateful.

As God works, often we do not understand what He is doing. Our blessings often come with mixed feelings. Someone dies and we grieve, but at the funeral the gospel is heard by others who come to faith. Someone we love is ill, and we have an opportunity to help and bless the family. Another is in prison and that is where they learn that God is the only answer. God, because of His incredible, perfect love for us, is willing that we should suffer for our ultimate good. He is even willing to risk that we might blame Him for our troubles. Seldom do great blessings come without some pain.

Pastor Cooley was sharing with me how God has blessed him and Jackie with 4 young boys

their great-grandchildren, to raise. Out of an unfortunate situation God is bringing great blessing. After four trips down South to court to obtain custody of them, they brought them home in October. It cost them much in time, money, and effort to do this, but God has given them this wonderful opportunity to pray into their young lives a love for God and desire to serve Him. Other family members tried to obtain custody, but God chose the Cooleys. There will be many days when they will need extra strength, resources, and time, (and sleep!) but the rewards outweigh the effort. God brought blessing out of a difficult situation.

So this Thanksgiving, let us remember to give thanks, not just for the things that we like, but for all that God has, in His sovereign wisdom, allowed into our lives. If we have family with us to eat turkey with, bless Him. If we do not have family, then find someone else to bless who needs a friend. The one thing that we can never lose is our Savior and Friend in Jesus. If you have nothing else to share this Thanksgiving, share Jesus.

❁ *Happy, Blessed Thanksgiving to all.* ❁

Ongoing Events Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 11 AM & 2 PM
MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 AM
TUESDAY NIGHT outreach 5:30 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

Saturday Night Activities
Fourth Saturday, November 14, 2015
Carel E. Worship Band