

The Springfield Redeemer



The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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“Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; let this be known throughout the earth”... Isaiah 12:5

Family Day Goes On Through Heat and Storm by Roberta D’Amico

What a Day! Saturday, August 13th, was a special day at Magazine Park! It was our 7th Annual Family Day event - with some special challenges! Family Day is a neighborhood event that is sponsored by Holy Grounds Coffee House and some area churches to minister to the inner city families of Springfield.

Early in the morning, men from the Coffee House showed up to set up tents and canopies, tables and chairs, and that all important lunch counter! Soon the Band Shell was rolling in! The day promised to be hot and sunny, at least ‘til the afternoon.

The Registration table was busy, where people signed in. Denise and little Jackie from the Coffee House sat there for hours handing out lunch tickets.

There were most of the usual activities, with a giant truck-shaped Bounce House one of the favorites. By noon, people were



lining up to get their free lunch hot

dog, chips, and drink. Under a shady tree, children gathered on a blanket for Bible-Stories. As the day went on, more kids came by the Bible-Story blanket, where they heard a Bible story and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The event officially began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, led by Joanne Abel, and followed by her leading in the Star Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. She said, “I come here because I love God’s people.” She brought a popcorn machine and was busy all day popping the corn. “I love to see the faces of the kids when I tell them there is free popcorn, and that they can come back for seconds. I especially love God’s people in this community! The church has to get out of the four walls of their buildings and into the community. That’s why we’re here!”



Many people made the effort to come out to help, like John from

the Coffee House Ministry, who came in spite of recent medical problems. People came from many different churches, Restoration Worship Center, Macedonia COGIC, Holy Trinity COGIC, Mt. Zion, United Temple, Cottage Hill, Faith Bible Church, Holy Grounds Coffee House, Greater Grace of Enfield, and others. Some were in the crowds sharing the gospel with others. Greater Grace Church set up a tent and had a table with Christian literature. I met a lady named Marie who was sitting by the Bounce House watching the kids to make sure they didn’t get hurt. I asked her where she came from, and she said that she was from the neighborhood, just going by and stopped to join us!

Bruce was there making balloons for the kids. The “balloon swords” were very popular with the boys! I saw them playing with them in the bounce house.



There were a few tables offering various things, some of them new

this year: a nurse's station manned by Faith Care, a Christian medical organization out of Hartford. This year was our first time having them, and they were a welcome addition to our event. They set up a tent and offered blood pressure checks and other tests to the people, free, of course. Comcast was there, and a group from the Grace of God Church who



brought clothing to sell, for a dollar or less.

Pastor Cooley, who was everywhere all day keeping things running, was most excited about the Prayer Tent. Ron and Susan Kessler of Grater Grace of Enfield ran it, and it was such a blessing, as many came and asked for prayer, trusting God to move in their lives.

Back at the Band Shell, Cathy Marvici introduced the Kesslers,



who are also singers. A number of musicians had come to minister on

Saturday. The Grace Connection played Will the Circle Be Unbroken? I hadn't heard that one for years! My heart was thrilled to hear the old-time hymns. The audience was small, not as many people came as in former years, because of the heat, bad weather report, and other local events competing. But what we did offer made it worth it all, especially the Prayer Tent response, Pastor and Jackie Cooley said.

Then, by 2 o'clock, a few rain drops fell, and we picked up our stuff and scurried under the tents. Then, the skies opened and the rain came down in a deluge! Everything stopped, except the music! In spite of the downpour, the band played on! It rained so



hard, everyone got wet even under the tents, where we continued to share the Bible Stories. Joanne had to unplug the popcorn machine because the cord was under water, and then the whole area under the tents flooded. I picked up the blanket and ran for the car.

Pastor Cooley saw his boys still jumping around in the bounce house. Some water had gotten into

it, turning it into a slip-n-slide, but the kids did not want to come out, they were having so much fun. The rain cooled everyone off, kids were out dancing in the rain, then in minutes the sun came out, the sky turned blue, and the band was still playing. This second group was The New Prodigal Sons. Nothing deterred them, even though they



had come to play for us at no cost to us, just to serve the Lord. Instead of leaving as I had thought to do, I stayed and listened to the music, singing along with some, as the remaining people gathered around. It was great! One of the best parts was when Matt's wife, Josie, got up and shared a message with us, challenging us to see that as ambassadors for God, our lives reflect our commitment to Christ.

We want to thank all the volunteers who came, all the churches who participated, and hope to involve even more local churches in the future. Time is short and Jesus is coming soon, so we must be about our Father's business reaching the lost and encouraging fellow Christians while we still can.

Upcoming Music Events schedule is as follows:

September 10th Band Night

September 24th Open Mic Night

For more Information call 413-301-0918

Ongoing Events:

SUNDAY SERVICES 11 a.m. Pastors Bobby and Kim,
2 p.m. Pastor Renzo Ventrice.

MON thru FRI BIBLE STUDY 7:30 a.m.

WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30 p.m. & RECOVERY 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY Sabbath 9 a.m. -12 noon

1ST, 3RD SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4 p.m.

SATURDAY LUNCH – 2 P.M.