

# The Springfield Redeemer



The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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**“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”... Psalm 51:10**

## Heart Healthy Questions by Jocelyn Walker



**Matt and Jocie Walker**

The Bible predicts a sign before Jesus returns: “lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12) As I see lawlessness increasing more than ever before in the world, my priority is to strengthen my heart towards Jesus. (James 5:8)

Our first and great commandment is, “You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37) Six months ago, God changed my heart towards Him. When I look back, I loved Jesus, but truthfully He had not been my first love for many years. I was devoting most of my free time towards watching TV, playing online games, and shopping. Reading the Bible and praying were an after-thought. Entertainment had become my first love and priority. But one day in March, the Holy Spirit lovingly

whispered a phrase I will never forget, “time is an element that can never be recaptured.” I remembered the many unprofitable I hours I had lost on entertainment over the years (1Corinthians 6:12). I felt convicted that I could not recapture this precious time to pray and study the Word (2Timothy 2:15). At that moment, I decided to fully surrender myself to Lord. God began gradually changing my priorities as I devoted more time to Him.

In my recent quiet time with the Lord, He gave me seven tips to maintain a healthy balanced relationship with Him. I call them *Heart Healthy Questions* because I think of them a regular check-up with the Great Physician, Jesus.

1. Do I desire to seek God in the morning, noon, and evening? “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.” (Psalm 55:17)

2. When I hear God's Word do I honor and respect it? The dictionary defines *honor*: to show admiration in a public way; to do what is required; to accept as payment (for my personal example, accepting payment of

Jesus dying on the cross); to repay (for my personal example, to follow Jesus and take up my cross).

*Respect*: to regard as being worthy of admiration because of qualities; to act in a way that shows awareness of One's will; to treat in a proper way; to do what is required (for my personal example, to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only).

3. Have I put God on a schedule? Or am I willing to break from routine to talk or pray to Him? “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

4. Am I influencing the people around me (impacting lives as Jesus would want)? Or am I only being influenced? “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

5. Regrets: Do I miss having things from my past prior to Jesus working in me? “I do not count myself to have apprehended; but forgetting those things which are behind.” (Philippians 3:13)

6. Am I walking by faith and allowing God to lead my life into something new? Or have I kept to familiar surroundings? “By faith

Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive...; and he went out, not knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8)

7. What do I choose to do with a majority of my free time? Is

seeking God my first priority? "I delight to do your will, o my God, and Your law is within my heart." (Psalm 40:8)

Beloved, I'm sharing these Heart Healthy Questions in the hope that you will also be

encouraged. The Father draws you and me (John 6:44) and looks forward to every moment we spend with Him. Jesus said, "The one who comes to Me, I will by no means cast out." (John 6:37)

## Students Returning to Holy Grounds by Roberta D'Amico

It is still the first week of school as I am writing this and the students are slowly returning to the Holy Grounds Coffee House. We start making coffee at 6:30 a.m. and the first high school students come in at 6:45. I visited the Coffee House early this morning to see how things were going and at 6:55 there were a few students at the tables. By 7 o'clock, more came in and started filling up the tables. Shelly greeted the students by name, saying, "Where have you been all summer?! I've missed you!" By 7:15 all the students have to leave to get to class on time, at Commerce High School's insistence. We are careful to respect that rule to keep on good terms with the school.

Brian Greene and Shelly Saunders are committed to serving the Lord in this ministry to high school students and are here every morning, even though



**Joyce, Samuel, Shelly, and Brian**

Brian has to go from here to his job. I took the opportunity to talk to some of the students, asking them how long they had been coming here and what initially brought them to the Coffee House. The first young lady I spoke to, Genesis, said that she came for the coffee because everyone at her school was talking about it. Another girl who I spoke to said the same thing, "My friends were talking about it."

Last year Brian and Shelly started a program of teaching the kids to serve by cleaning up, washing tables, taking care of trash, etc. A young man I spoke to, Alex, said he is getting a certificate from Holy Grounds for doing 100 hours community service here last year. Several others also earned their certificates. He told me he has been coming for three years and was brought by friends. He is active in his church and helps in the children's ministry there. This will be his last year coming to Holy Grounds, as next year he will



be away at college.

Some of the kids were first-timers, like Nyari. With so many of our students in their last year

of high school, pray that the kids will spread the word to more freshmen.

A couple of girls in their second year and some newcomers were at another table. As the kids get up to leave, Shelly or Brian pray with them. Finally, we prayed with four young men who have been here in the past, but need to get back in school. They said, "We always meet here." Their mom came in to meet them and help them get back into school. Getting an education is so important, next to the importance of learning about Jesus and how He sacrificed Himself to buy our salvation and give us eternal life.

### Upcoming Music Events schedule is as follows:

October 8th – Carl D coming to Band Night

October 22th - 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.