

The Springfield Redeemer



The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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Romans 12:2a “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...”

Obsessed with Buying and Selling by Roberta D’Amico

Buying and selling is one of the things people are going to be doing when Jesus returns. If, of course, you have the mark required by the coming global totalitarian government to buy or sell! (Rev. 13:17) Meanwhile, we have elevated consumerism to an obsession. And not just in America. Shopping is the number one pastime in the United Kingdom! In a store in September I found Christmas decorations filling the shelves! Followed by Halloween merchandise, as soon as the Back-to-School stuff was gone! I was shocked at how early in the season the stores are putting this stuff out! This is not a bad thing for the economy, but the excessive buying of stuff, which is increasing exponential, foretells bad things for the culture.

As an example, Amazon says it is increasing seasonal hiring by 20% this year. The Washington Times reports that \$350 million was spent on costumes *for pets* in 2014, and there was more spent on adult costumes than on children’s costumes. And this in a bad economy!

As a country, we are drowning in debt. The average household

owes over \$15,000 in credit card debt. According to Nerdwallet.com, the total consumer debt in 2015 was way over \$12 trillion! The question we should ask is, is all this stuff good for us? I can understand how the unsaved world seems to need to acquire things. If this world is all you believe in, then make it the best that you can. But what about us Christians?

Read Ecclesiastes chapters 4 to 6 about consumerism. Much of it comes from envy. No matter how much you have, it does not satisfy. People spend so much time buying and working to pay for it, they have little time to enjoy life.



Then, all that stuff becomes a problem, to take care of it, to keep it safe from decay and thieves, and the fretting because it is not being used (think about that home exercise equipment!)

As we approach Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, let’s

think about how we can celebrate these special times in a godly manner. Don’t let overtime rob your family time. The best memories are the fun times: Getting together with friends and family; cooking and eating together; singing and playing games together; going to church together. Don’t let buying stuff take precedence over everything else. If we let it, even Christmas can center on buying and paying the bills instead of on Jesus.

Meanwhile, thousands of people are homeless in America, and more without even food and water in Haiti, and around the world. There are many ways to use holidays to promote God’s kingdom: pass out gospel tracts; have a Harvest party instead of celebrating witches and devils; deliver meals to needy people at Thanksgiving. Celebrate Jesus at Christmas. Give a Bible as a gift. Donate to an organization that helps people in need. Discover the satisfaction of helping others. There is no lack of people to help right here in Springfield, and some of them are at the Holy Grounds Coffee House!

New England Experts Gather for Summit by Roberta D'Amico

A large panel of experts gathered at Bethany Assembly of God Church, Agawam MA, on Tuesday evening, October 4, to discuss how to protect and preserve our Christian culture in America. Fifteen Christian ministers, rabbis, Jews, preachers, pastors, and conservative leaders took turns addressing five questions on how to best meet the current challenges to Biblical values now in the 21st century. In addition, they also discussed how conservatives can cooperate more effectively and how we can better influence young people.

Pastor Cooley, executive director of Redemption Gate Mission Society, opened in prayer. Pastor Scott of Abiding Truth and Defend the Family ministries began the meeting by posing the first and main question:



“What is the biggest challenge to Biblical Values in New England today?”

The responses were varied: the first response, “Biblical Illiteracy”, illustrated by 10 questions from the Bible, only some of which were familiar! Lack of Biblical worldview was a belief held by many there. The encroachment of Islamic Culture was another response. Pastors are afraid to speak the truth about moral issues, others said. But, without God, social structures crumble. If pastors do not speak out, who will? The IRS system has become a snare and a trap. Churches do not want to jeopardize their tax-free non-profit status. The pressure from society is to make us keep our values inside the church.

Society today is mostly controlled by the liberal left wing who are well-funded, militant, and control the media, education, churches and government. We have been afraid to oppose them on social issues like sanctity of life, sacredness of marriage, and moral issues like honesty, faithfulness, and especially spiritual issues like the sovereignty of God and the freedom to be a Christian in public. As if God needed permission to have a place in America!

We need to be involved in the running of our country. We all need to get behind the Black-robed Regiment and make our voices heard. It seems our opponents are all in for the fight, and we are too busy! The normal Christian life is to be a soldier. We can at least use the editorial page.

These are many of the ideas that came out of the Summit. In conclusion, having this Summit advances communication. Just coming together is important, even though we come from different theological positions. It overcomes disunity and sets the stage for collaboration.

The participants were as follows: Dr. C.S. Cooley, Redemption Gate Mission (MA). Brian Camenker, MassResistance (MA). Michael and Paulie Heath, Helping Hands Ministries (ME). Dr. Steven Craft (NJ). Pastor David Levandusky, Living Waters AG (MA). Pastor Renzo Ventrice, The Black Robed Regiment, (MA). Dr. John Rankin, Founder, Theological Education Institute (CT). Harold Shurtleff, Founder, Camp Constitution (NH). David Ayers, Businessman (VT). Rabbi Noson Leiter, Torah Jews for Morality (NY). Andrew Beckwith, Massachusetts Family Institute (MA). Rico Cahon, New Hampshire Cornerstone (NH). Peter Wolfgang, Family Institute of Connecticut (CT). Dr. David Berman (NH). Pastor Juan Feliciano, Calvary's Love Church (MA). Dr. Scott Lively, Defend the Family International (MA).

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES 10 a.m., Pastors Bobby and Kim;
2 p.m., Pastor Renzo Ventrice.
MONDAY – FRIDAY Morning Bible Study 7:30 a.m.
WED. Bible Study 4:30 p.m. and Recovery 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.
SATURDAY Sabbath 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
1st, 3rd SAT Marriage Seminar 4:00 p.m.
SATURDAY Lunch 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday Nights:

November 12th - CD Release Party;
Matt Walker Band 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Cathy; with Potluck!

November 26th - Open Mic Night.