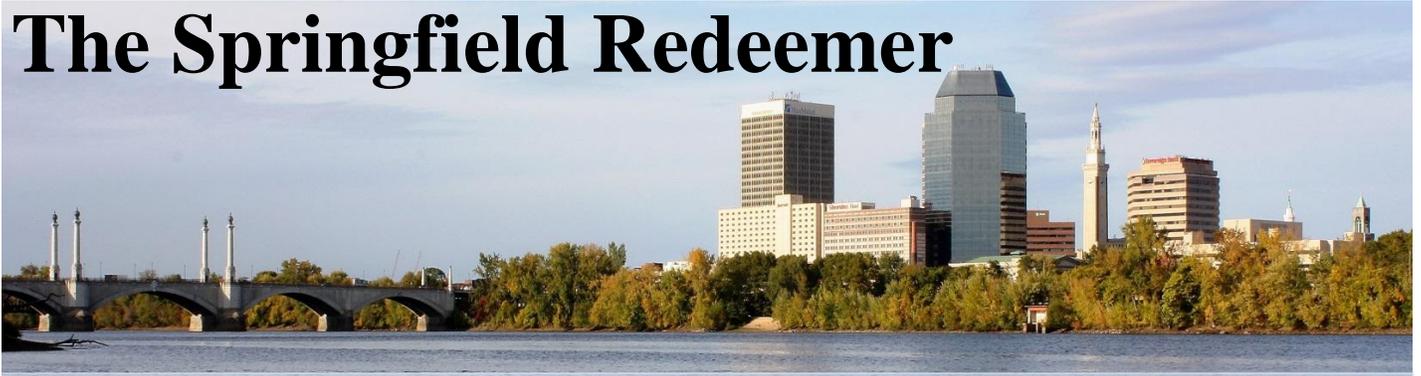


The Springfield Redeemer



The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society, August 1, 2017, Vol. 6, Ed. 8

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

A Call for Unity by Roberta D'Amico

It was not just another summer Saturday in the city. Today, July 22, 2017, was a special day, at Magazine Park, in Springfield Massachusetts, as Transformation Centered Healing Ministries and other churches and businesses presented "The 'I' In Unity Is ME!" This event from 1 to 5 p.m. brought to a troubled neighborhood a day of fun, food, information, but most of all inspiration. We so need revival!

God gave us good weather, a little cloudy with a slight breeze, as we were setting up the tables, tents, and stage to the accompaniment of some lively Christian music. Pastors Susan and Eric Thomas were ready to start, as Pastor Eric took the mic and began with a few words to set the theme of the day: "Put down your guns!" he shouted out in his strong voice. "No more killing. We come together today to stop the violence, murder, and crime!" Then Elder Patrick Smith of the Mission Church officially opened the event with prayer, followed by a lovely young lady from Orchard

Covenant Church, Amoure Joseph, singing the Star Spangled Banner.

Candejah Pink, candidate for City Council, was the MC for the day, and she did a splendid job. Pastor Brian Greene spoke next followed by Ken Gilet, continuing the theme of the problems of violence, substance abuse, etc. "Only by coming together in unity can we make things better," he said. Each speaker or music offering was carefully scheduled throughout the afternoon.

All around the perimeter of the park were the booths and tables – offering all kinds of resources. Even a



free lunch of hot dog or burger and chips. Massachusetts Parents United had a table, advocating for parents, quality education, and safe communities, and handing out free popcorn! A fire Department table was there with stuff for kids to do; a plea for Justice for Darron Jenkins, who was shot on Kensington Avenue in 2014; Keith Davis at our F.I.A.T. (Faith-In-Action-Team), offering Bibles and literature; a Household Corner; and

Ward 2 City Committee manned by Ellen Wade. NoOneLeaves.org is a group who helps people threatened with foreclosure. Re-green Springfield had kids painting "pet rocks" to take home, and also faces! The Ackill's Dance Studio also performed later in the afternoon.

The program alternated between speakers and music selections. The next speaker shared the gospel and presented the plan of salvation; then Terry Reynolds sang Take Me to the King. A passionate speaker named Messiah spoke on curbing the violence. There was some powerful poetry spoken; and a message from the Nation of Islam. (He asked to speak since this was a community event.) Pastor Cooley preached next, from John 14 and I John 4:14: "Jesus is the Way," he declared, "and the Savior of the world!"

By 4 o'clock the day was winding down, with Cecil Ward from Shiloh SDA Church on the saxophone playing *How Great Is Our God*, the drawing of prizes, and finally closing prayers. It was a good day for the 300 to 400 people who came to join together to share the blessings of God.



Convoy Comes Again

Convoy of Hope is returning again this summer to bring blessings to the people of Springfield, Massachusetts! Convoy of Hope is a faith-based humanitarian organization bringing hope and aid to people all over the world. Established in 1994, they are based in Springfield, Missouri. See the website, convoyofhope.org! The date of the event is August 19, 2017, at Springfield's Riverfront Park, West Columbus Avenue and State Street. Opening time is 9 a.m. Rain or shine, and no I.D. required.

It takes great deal of effort, time, and money to offer, among other things, health care services and screenings, children's shoes, haircuts, kids' zone, career and job services, family portraits, the Prayer Tent and church follow-up, entertainment, and of course, groceries. And don't forget lunch. All is free, while supplies last! With a budget of \$120,000, all donations of funds and supplies are appreciated.

The Kids' Zone will feature Bounce Houses, free backpacks and school supplies for the kids. There will be some baby foods and other things for the kids. I remember the first Convoy of Hope I worked at, giving away shoes, when this youngster ran up to his mom and said, so excited and happy, "Look, Mom, I've got new shoes!" There will be balloons for the kids and college students on hand helping to keep the children happy.

All of this requires an army of volunteers, who will have special tee-shirts to identify them. Participating

churches have sign-ups for the 2500 volunteers needed. They have been having regular meetings at Bethany Assembly of God Church to get ready. So far, 40 churches are involved. Tents, chairs, and a multitude of items, big and small, are being procured, tent layouts, electricity for those who need it, fans, water, hand sanitizer, and so on. Barbers, hairdressers, medical personnel, entertainers, and technicians for sound, computer, photography, etc. and grounds / clean-up crew are needed. Someone has to plan locations and put up all those tents!

Some are doing promotion, social media, and media production. Flyers are being printed! Others are arranging for the purchase of the groceries that will be given away. People who will pray with any interested guest that comes to the Prayer Tent are being enlisted. Necessary items are being collected for the haircuts, like 30 capes! It's going to be a big operation! There will be plenty of security and staff to assist anyone who needs help.

The planning meetings are being held every two weeks now at Bethany A.G. Tee shirts will be given out at the Friday night Rally at Bethany A.G. August 18. Final volunteers will be recruited at the Rally. Pastor Cooley and Pastor Stephen are doing outreach at various locations in Springfield. Prayer Walks are scheduled for August 5 and 12. Pray for the 12,000 anticipated guests!

Congratulations Pastor Cooley on 20th Pastoral Anniversary!

What a beautiful celebration on Sunday July 23, 2017, to honor him.

It was held at the Macedonia Church of God in Christ, 1 Bishop Bryant Robinson Rd., Springfield, Mass.

Ongoing Events:

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Pastors Bobby & Kim; 2 p.m.- Pastor Brian Greene; and 6 p.m.- Transformation Centered Healing Ministries with Prophet Eric Thomas & Pastor Susan.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study - 4:30 p.m.; Trust Jesus Recovery at 6:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY: NO LUNCH in August. Lunch resumes in September.

1ST SATURDAY: "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT: 7 p.m. August 12, John Powells Band; August 26, Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.