

The Springfield Redeemer



If My people . . . will humble themselves and pray, seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will . . . forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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How To Have a Happy New Year by Roberta D’Amico

Wow, another year gone by! It seems that the world grows more wicked, but God has given mankind a hope for a new year. Once God destroyed the world and gave only 8 people a brand new start. Even then, over time the world has once again become filled with wickedness. As we begin 2019, we have an opportunity both as individuals and as a nation to turn to Him in prayer and repentance, and He will restore our land.

God has not promised us a whole year, nor a month, not even a day. We do not know when He is coming, but He has promised to never leave us, His children, and never stop loving us. He is always working in our lives for our good, and will be with us through every trial.

Praise His name! In our pride and presumptuousness, we think we are entitled to so much more. As if it weren’t enough that He sent Jesus into our world to save us by His Precious Blood and the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts to guide and empower us.

So if Almighty God has ordained that the world continues, and that our country endures another year, and that I live another day, what shall I do with that opportunity? How can I live it in a way that God will be happy with? What choices can I make that will allow God to bring happiness to me, my family, my church, and my community?

All the things that people think are necessary to be happy do not appear to work. We just celebrated Christmas, with the parties, gifts,

company, and hopefully church. How is your life different? There is one thing that will forever change your life, and give you unending hope. If you will make God the number one priority of each day of your life, He will give it meaning, purpose, and joy. I found that out 48 Christmases ago when I made Jesus Lord and Savior of my life.

God’s plan is not just for your life and family, but for our United States of America. Pastor Cooley has a message for our leaders in Boston and Washington. He is urging them to let God restore our nation to its Biblical foundations. Please pray with us that they will hear and take to heart God’s message.

A Letter to the White House by Pastor C.S. Cooley

Our nation is in great need of prayer! In the past, the nation prayed for wisdom from God. However, now we seek wisdom from our computers. Time has taught us through history that any nation or person that learns nothing from past mistakes is doomed to repeat them. Great dictators have come and gone, in China, Japan, Russia, Germany and other countries.

But America is built on principles of a Democracy, where each person is valued because they had one ultimate leader - God. Not a fallible god or dictator without power, but the God of creation, who loves us and has all power. With that knowledge, all

Americans were assured that they were of value. And, we believe it was meant to endure, even when the human leaders change.

Even when slaves compared themselves to other men, they knew that even in bondage, they were free in God. And that God would judge their slave owners according to how they treated them. Therefore even when they fought for their freedom, it was done knowing that their God was watching them, strengthening them to be not just victorious but to be forgiving, loving, and kind. So that, following victory, restoration would take place, with God’s blessings and guidance.

I am afraid in America today, some of us have forgotten God, and in forgetting Him we are losing the opportunity to be restored by God.

Therefore, I pray for all of our leaders. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, the Bible tells me to pray for all those in authority, the Senate, the Congress, the Judges, and especially the President! I pray that all of you will allow God to restore our nation through your leadership and allegiance to Him. We have the Greatest

Nation in the World, not because we say so, but because God ordained it to be so. "A Nation that Prays Together, Stays Together". "Let us pray."

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

It is Thursday afternoon and several people are gathering for the weekly Thursday afternoon



Shelly Saunders

Bible Study taught by Shelly Saunders at 1 p.m. at the Holy Grounds Coffee House. It is usually a Ladies' Group, but on occasion some men join as they did today, December 13th. There were eight of us around the tables, and I thought of all the years of use these tables have seen by all the people who have come in seeking to know God better.

The first topic of discussion mentioned religion, and the statement was made that sometimes religion separates Christians instead of bringing them together. Religion always separates people into denominations, I commented. God created the Body of Christ to be one. Since there are no perfect people, there are no perfect churches or denominations. You

can have a good understanding of God by studying with people from other denominational backgrounds, which motivates you to dig into the Scriptures and compare until, through faith in God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you know that what you believe is true.

After sharing what God is doing in our lives this week, we get into the lesson, Bible Band Topics by Church of God in Christ Publishing Co. Today's lesson is about how to have a successful Christian life, and uses The acronym R.I.P. which usually means Rest in Peace, a phrase used often for someone deceased but should apply to all of us, since Jesus is our peace, and through Him we *can* rest in peace.

In today's lesson, however, RIP stands for Reflection, Introspection, and Projection. Using the analogy of driving a car, Reflection is looking in the rear-view mirror; very necessary to see what is coming behind you! In the Christian life, we are sometimes bogged down by what is behind us. If we do not move forward, we become stagnant, and we all know that stinks! So don't get stuck in the past or with what

others did to you. Forgive and move on. Introspection is looking at the present, especially what's in your heart and in your life. Ask God to show you what needs fixing, not just in your car, but in your life, actions, attitudes. Pray for wisdom, ask God to show you (He often does through people!) Projection, is looking ahead. If you are going on a trip, you must have a destination and a plan to get there. In your Christian walk, set some goals, and the steps to get there.

Finally, be aware that when you begin to grow and prosper, you often will be tempted to forget that God blessed you. It is easy to get caught up in a new job or place to live, etc. and get "too busy" for God. When we are in need, we often spend more time on our knees before God. Then, when the crisis is over, we get distracted. Beware that you do not forget the One who gives it to you. It is for our growth and service to Him. We grow as we take these truths into our hearts.

After the lesson, we finish by praying for the prayer requests from the prayer box this week. We appreciate Shelly's faithfulness in leading this study.

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim; 1 p.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene;

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

WED – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.; FIAT 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m.

SATURDAY: Pat and Barbara are bringing lunch 2 to 4! **1ST SATURDAY:** Jan. 5, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT: January 26, 7 PM. Open Mic and Fellowship! For more details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242.