

The Springfield Redeemer



**“Whatsoever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.”
Matthew 25:40**

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Holy Grounds Holds Open House By Roberta D’Amico

On September 5 and 6, 2019, Holy Grounds Coffee House will open its doors to invite you in! We are inviting everyone who has ever been a part of Redemption Gate Mission Society to come, along with all churches in the area, and all those who ever came to the Sunday Services, special activities, Family Days, or just walked in the door one day! On Thursday, Open House at the Coffee House will be open from 9 a.m. the morning to 7 p.m., on Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then from 7 to 9 p.m. at United Temple Church, the future site of Holy Grounds Coffee House 2 , for a Dessert Social. You will be able to take a look at the plans for the expansion.

For the last 10 years, Holy Grounds has been sharing the Gospel message with people: how much God loves us in spite of our sins, and sent Jesus to pay our death on the cross so we could be reconciled to Him. We have seen God work in many ways – bringing hope to the High School kids at Commerce, preaching the Gospel to those who come on Sundays (now many), winning souls, and changing lives. But to continue, we must build a stronger financial base to support the ministry and advance the Kingdom of God. Many of the regulars who come to Holy Grounds are poor, some are homeless, most of limited

means. So we are reaching out to both the churches of the area and individuals to invest in God’s work here.

This is a very rewarding ministry. I have been serving in this ministry for 11 years. The Bible says whoever gives to the poor lends to the Lord. God doesn’t say “gives to the poor,” He says **lends!** That implies that you will get repaid. Not in money, although God sometimes prospers people financially, but certainly in blessings. God is a generous Father, and will not fail to bless those who lend to Him, even though what we lend is already rightfully His.

Some of us have been investing in Holy Grounds for years. It’s like planting a garden. You plow and work the soil, plant the seeds, and water and weed. Then suddenly, though the wait may be long, at the right time, you get to enjoy the harvest! God gives the increase! So we diligently do the work and in faith believe for the results. Now we are asking you to invest, so the work can continue here on State Street. In Matthew 25:14-29, it says God expects us to invest in His Kingdom!

Next week the students will be coming back, and after that hungry people seeking shelter from the chilly days to come. Please help us keep the doors open!

A Word From One of our Pastors

Every weekday morning, even most holidays, we come to Bible Study to hear from God. The attendance ranges from 6 or 8 up to 20 or more, with usually one, two or more pastors joining us. They don’t necessarily serve as leaders (the Holy Spirit is the real Leader, but they function more as participants.) However, our Pastors are a definite asset, for their contributions, knowledge, and guidance. God speaks through everybody!

Recently on August 7th, 2019, after an inspiring Morning Bible Study, Pastor Brasino, who has been with us a few years, had some comments to make about the Morning Bible Study. He says that in reference to the group participation, it is good to hear about other people’s experiences, especially concerning their walk

with Christ. It is edifying. Even hearing from those attending the Study who are not saved can be useful.

It is possible to allow God to use you, even without a leader running the whole show. In the Holy Grounds Bible Study the leader is not dominant. Everybody gets to participate. That way, anybody can be led by the Holy Spirit to share. It may be something pertaining to the day’s Scripture reading, or a verse God brings to their mind, or a testimony of personal experience.

You become a blessing even more if you prepare by prayer, reading the passage in advance, and asking God to give you things to say. In everything you say, you can edify someone, a brother or sister in Christ, but only if your heart is prepared so God can bring healing and

encouragement to the others. We hope everybody comes with hearts prepared to hear from God and speak as the Holy Spirit leads, because otherwise they can bring havoc.

We know that everybody in attendance may not be saved yet, but they also can speak in their innocence along with the new Christians in attendance. Often they

have very good questions.

We try to give the gospel regularly, providing people help to get saved or recommit their lives to Christ, along with instruction, Biblical, and even secular for daily practical problems, or how to share the gospel, and how to edify and encourage others.

Angie's Testimony



Angela Banks is one of our faithful volunteer staff people at Holy Grounds Coffee

House, and this is her story. She has been working at the Coffee House for a few years now, and we appreciate her very much. She makes coffee, prepares lunch, cleans up, and is growing strong in the Lord. This is a result of attending Bible Study almost daily, reading her Bible at home, and asking great questions!

It was 2016 and Angie, as we affectionately call her, was at the time volunteering at Arise, an organization a few doors down the street, which helps people find housing and other benefits. We had been open around 6 years by then, and Angie came out of curiosity. There was some controversy between Arise and Holy Grounds at that time, which was confusing to her, but she wanted to help. Pastor Scott had some paperwork and office work for her to do, but she decided she couldn't volunteer at both places, so she had to choose, and chose Holy Grounds.

When Angie was younger, she went to church, but didn't understand what it was all about. In 2009,

her mother died and she stopped going. After a brief marriage and the death of her son, things went from bad to worse and she was homeless, living in the woods and walking around the streets at night with nowhere to go. But she was not forgotten, God was at work in her life!

It must have been 2014 that Deborah from the Coffee House Ministry began talking to her about Christ. Angie was living in Northampton at the time and traveling here to Springfield every day to the Coffee House. After coming daily for a while, she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior.

"My life has changed so much, and I've learned so much," she says. "I am alone, but I am happy. Today, I would not change a thing. I have my own ministry as a house manager, besides Holy Ground. I see my mission here is to be here to help people.

"I have learned a lot here at Holy Grounds, like that God and Jesus are One, and that He died for my sins. And I learned about grace, what it is. I ask a lot of questions, but they tell me it is good to ask questions. At first, I was scared to ask questions, being shy, but no more. It is comfortable being here. Some people here know a lot about the Bible, but they have been studying it for years.

"I am grateful for Holy Grounds Coffee House, just to be here in the morning, learning new things from the Scriptures every day!

Opps! Family Day has been postponed! But mark your calendars for the Open House, September 5 and 6!

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8 a.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene; 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim;

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

TUESDAY – Calling All men – 6:30 p.m. – for Meeting and Fellowship!

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.

1ST SATURDAY: Sept. 7, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m. **SATURDAY NIGHTS:** No Open Mics for now.