

# The Springfield Redeemer



For to us a son is born, to us a son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

January 1, 2020, Vol. 9, Ed.1

## The Messiah Christ Jesus Has Come by Roberta D'Amico

Now that we're all finished with the shopping, the gift-giving, the Christmas cookies, what really happened at Christmas, that we celebrate so enthusiastically with trees and lights and cards and carols?

For centuries in the time that we now call B.C., or to be politically correct, BCE (Before Common Era), God's Chosen People brought lambs to sacrifice for their sins. Daily. Yearly. Lambs by the hundreds, bred and born for this purpose - to die as a substitute for themselves - because all have sinned. For without the shedding of blood - there is no forgiveness of sin!

But God had a promised a Better Sacrifice, of which the innumerable lambs that were sacrificed daily in the Temple were but a shadow or "type"; a preview, like a dress rehearsal. And so on that first Christmas 2020 years ago (the exact date doesn't matter) a Baby was born, in Bethlehem, as God had said. He was born possibly in the Tower of the Flock in Bethlehem where the lambs were born that were bred to be the Temple sacrifices.

This event that went unnoticed by the world except for the angels, shepherds, and some Magi, marked the beginning of the end of the people's need to sacrifice animals. It began the fulfillment of the

Promise God made to Adam and Eve in the Garden, that is, to send a Savior who was Christ the Lord.

And so it was that this one Jewish Baby was born, sent from Heaven by the Father as a Gift to the world - to die in our place as an atonement for our sins and to reconcile us to God - marked from birth as The Sacrificial Lamb.

Now that we have celebrated His birthday, and know that He came into the world to seek and save those who are lost (all of us!), what are you going to do with Him? Will you go on living your everyday life as if Christmas is over? Or will you ponder in your heart the meaning of Christ Jesus coming into the world to save sinners? Will you believe and put your faith in Him to save you from your sins? Will you give your heart to Him Who loves you and receive the best Christmas Gift ever, God Himself indwelling your life and bringing Life eternal to you?

If you have received the gift of salvation which is God Himself, will you live for Him in 2020? That is, 2020 A.D. which is in Latin, *anno domini*, literally, "in the year of our Lord!" Make Jesus Lord of your life this year!

### Happy Birthday to Pastor Cooley



The big day is January 10! Pastor C.S. Cooley's birthday, but the celebration begins on Wednesday and Thursday, January 8 and 9. To celebrate his birthday, he is having a three-day Revival at 7:30 p.m. at United Temple C.O.G.I.C.,

culminating in the final meeting on Friday, his actual birthday. On this night the speaker will be Rosemary Lockett, the Elect Lady and Evangelist Missionary.

The program will include singing by the State Choir, the Greater Massachusetts Choir. There will be refreshments every night, and of course, a birthday cake on Friday. There is no cost, but an offering will be taken to cover the expenses and speakers.

This will be a powerful way to begin the New Year, hearing from the Lord, worshipping Him! Pastor Cooley, who is the State Evangelist President in his denomination, says "my life has been one adventure after another, and by teaming up with Pastor Scott Lively, we have done things with God's

power that he never thought he would do, all for His glory! By the way, Scott plans to be here on the 10th!”

He goes on to say, “Being in church with the Lord and His people is the best way that I love to spend my birthday! It’s so much fun; there is nothing better in this life!”

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### Shelly Saunder’s Testimony December 12, 2019



I had a Christian Godmother who brought me to church when I was 9 years old. At church they gave an invitation to surrender my life to the Lord, and God saved me. I enjoyed the church; it was a lively Spirit-filled church where I learned a lot of things

from the Bible. But, I also was told some things were in the Bible that weren’t there, such as “you can do whatever you want and God will forgive you!” As a child I often talked with God, but now I know what things are true because I have seen them myself, and I know that God is with me, guiding me.

Later, I heard a word from God, through a friend. He told me that I needed to stop doing what I was doing or I would die. Soon after I got into a car accident and they said I died briefly and had to be resuscitated. After rehab, I made a promise to quit drinking. That’s when I started learning that God was in my life, revealing things to me. I avoided a car accident when God told me to slow down, and I did, just before I had a flat tire! God also sent someone to help me learn about God. Then I started bringing my children to church.

When I moved to Springfield, the Holy Spirit began revealing the meaning of the Bible to me. Sometimes, when things got bad, I would drink again. Finally, I heard a preacher say, “when you do that, it’s like turning back to your own vomit!” A lady in my church told me to learn to call on Jesus’ Name instead of drink. After that other things started falling away.

Here in Springfield, my life became more about Jesus. I met a friend at church who told me about the Coffee House, and I volunteered to help out at Family Day, where I met Anne Lively. She invited me to the morning Bible Study. I loved it so much that I walked blocks to get here. By the next year, 2013, I was working here!

Once in a while I get discouraged and want to leave, but God sent me a message to confirm that I was in the right place. I kept hearing the same message: come to the Coffee House! I learned a lot of good things here, such as it’s all about God, not all about me!

Through the Bible I learn about myself and that I’m here to help others through Christ being in me. As we help one another, we grow strong. Our previous weaknesses can become our strengths.

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Saturday, December 14, we had a wonderful Birthday Party for Jesus! United Temple decorated with a tree and was filled with excited children and parents. They enjoyed the festivities, music, the Christmas story, gifts, food, and of course, with Pastor Cooley leading, the singing of Happy Birthday to Jesus!

### 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. ***Come and be blessed studying the Bible with us!***

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

**WED** – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.(or later!)

**THURSDAY:** Women’s Bible Study 1:00 p.m.; FIAT 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7 p.m.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY:** January 4 , “Marriage with God” 4 to 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY NIGHTS:** Open Mic and Fellowship! Jan. 25, 2020, For details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242. 7 p.m.