

The Springfield Redeemer



"I am the resurrection and the life.
Whosoever believes in Me, though he
die, yet shall he live.

John 11:25

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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The Reality of Easter by Pastor C. S. Cooley and Roberta D'Amico



Every year the stores fill with merchandize, advertising the holiday we call Easter. But what are we celebrating? It is complicated! One aspect of it is the coming Spring season.

But for Christians, who know that it is "the Resurrection of Christ, it is one of the most

important observances a Christian can keep. It helps us to remember the reason for Jesus' birth, and it brings to us the understanding of our only means of redemption" (through His death and resurrection.) (quoting from Pastor C.S. Cooley)

There is nothing "Christian" about the origins of Easter, however. "The name Easter comes to us from Oстера or Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. The origin goes back to 2000 BC in Babylonia, honoring the goddess of spring, Ishtar. Ishtar, the mother/wife of their god Tammuz, supposedly brought him back from the underworld.

"In Phoenecia she became Astarte, in Greece Eostre, and in Germany Ostara. Consider also a Phrygian honoring Attis, and Cybele or a heretic Israelite honoring the Canaanite Baal and Ashtoreth. All of these are fertility celebrations of death and resurrection." From C.S. Cooley.

Totally apart from Easter, but coinciding with it on the calendar, is Passover, instituted in Egypt. "The Passover, which is considered the most sacred and Holy time for the Jewish Nation was the rehearsal for Jesus to be sacrificed for our sins. God had instructed the children of Israel to put the sacrificed blood of a lamb over their door and on their doorposts, so that the death angel would "passover" their house and not kill their first born.

"The Egyptians and those that did not honor the only one and true God watched their first born be taken by the death angel because they refused to believe and follow the instructions of God. When Jesus came, He became the true sacrificial Lamb for all sinners. Then, according to the time of the Passover, He was offered up at the 3rd hour and gave up the ghost at the 9th Hour, around 3 p.m. This was the historic time that the lambs were sacrificed during Passover, a clear object lesson! Christ's sacrifice was the only way God would restore us, if we would believe it." (Cooley)

While Jewish people continue to celebrate Passover, those of us who believe celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day! Why? Even though Jesus did die on Passover and rose from the grave on the Jewish feast of First Fruits, in 325 AD, Emperor Constantine decided that Christ's resurrection was too important to be connected with the Jewish festivals. Therefore, he decreed that it be celebrated on the Spring Solstice, known as Easter, when days get longer, which symbolized the annual coming of light into the world.

In conclusion, Pastor Cooley says that "Satan has introduced the rabbit and the easter egg of the pagan worship fertility rites honoring the pagan goddess of spring, Oстера. Since the rabbit seems to be a harmless creature and reproduces quickly and the egg is how life begins, this appealed to human nature. Many believe this to be a harmless activity, but it seems to be one which takes our focus off of the true sacrifice of the Son of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." The world certainly doesn't want to remember Christ at Easter; how about you?



Prayer and Praises from RGMS Evangelist Pastor Renzo Ventrice!

Praises from February:

Visited Blessed Hope Adventist Church in Springfield, MA. We shared our Evangelist/Revivalist

ministry and the vision of RGMS with him.

Revisited Grace United Church in Northampton, MA, and introduced Redemption Gate Ministries!

Prayers for Renzo's Outreach:

Coming soon – A Pastor's Retreat! Jim Rennie from 1st Baptist of Colrain, is organizing it in Franklin Co. Topic to be Revival, Pastor Renzo will be guest speaker.

From Pastor Cooley: Holy Grounds draws people from many ministries in the area, and Pastor Renzo represents RGMS to these ministries. Pray for churches to come together in unity and strength trusting only Jesus and His Word!

Praise Report: March 5 Fund Raiser!

Successful day, we sold close to 40 meals, and met the pressing financial needs! We gained \$773. The food was delicious, and we all enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks to everyone who contributed, God bless all who helped support the ministry.

The Northeastern Regional Evangelist Dept. announces a One Night Revival Service!



Co-Chaired by Pastor C.S. Cooley and Evangelist Rosemary Lockett

April 8, 2021 7:00 p.m. VIRTUAL on

Facebook Live – YouTube.

Topic: Transitioning Through Troubles to Triumph, Romans 8:35-39, Guest Speaker Pastor James Allen, Jr.



In March 2021, Roberta D'Amico, editor of the Redeemer, was given this certificate on the occasion of producing the 100th issue of this Newsletter, beginning in 2012. The Newsletter documents how God is working through Redemption Gate Mission Society at Holy Grounds Coffee House to reach the people of Springfield Massachusetts.



Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8 a.m. - 10 a.m. – suspended

New: Pastor Steve Cooley will be leading Coffee House Church at 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Come and join us!

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. **Come and be blessed!**

THURSDAY: FIAT Thursday 7 p.m. April 22.

Spanish Dinner

April 9, 2021

3 to 6 PM

Menu: Yellow Rice, choice of BBQ Chicken or Pork Shoulder, potato salad, dessert & soda for the small donation of \$10.00. Dinners will be ready for pick up or delivery at Holy Grounds Coffee House 455 State St., Springfield, MA

