

The Springfield Redeemer

May 1, 2023
Newsletter of Redemption
Gate Mission Society,
Holy Grounds Coffee House
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News Update of the Holy Grounds Coffee House – April 10, 2023

On March 30, 2023, there was an Official Board Meeting of Redemption Gate Mission Society, the parent organization of Holy Grounds Coffee House. The main item on the agenda was the coming transition of Holy Grounds to a new location! We have discussed moving the Coffee House for several years now, but God had always directed us that the time was not right.

So, now officially, God has moved on us to go ahead with the prior plans that we had already made, but were not able to do at that time. It will be a process, but we anticipate the move happening this year! We will update you as the project unfolds. As Nehemiah did not declare his plans to the devil, but just worked his plan, so shall we! We only ask your prayers as we transition, that God will get the glory!

March For Jesus 2023 a Success! By Roberta D'Amico

God was smiling on us Saturday morning, April 8, 2023, as about a hundred and fifty people gathered on State Street at 10 o'clock to March For Jesus! The weather was glorious, not as cold as predicted. Believers from many different churches, languages, nationalities, and ages came to lift up and glorify the Name of Jesus. It was the day before Easter, the day we commemorate our Lord Jesus, the Christ, Who, not only gave up His Life, suffering and dying from crucifixion, but also rose again to save us and promised to come again to take us to be with Him forever!

The Holy Grounds Coffee House, the assembly place, was packed with marchers, balloons, flags, and signs! Spirits were high as we stepped off down State Street on our way to City Hall. Led by Parade Marshal Richard Howell, families with children and strollers went in the front following the banner, then groups of young people singing and shouting and praising God, with the faster marchers in the rear so as to keep the group together, all being directed by the young men who guarded the street crossings.

What a blessing that we live in America where we are still able to speak publicly about Jesus! Once we got to City Hall steps, all the marchers gathered on the steps, and the dozen or so pastors and leaders lined up in front to pray, one at a time. Sound system and speakers had all been set up by Keith Davis.



One of the leaders who came to pray at City Hall was Bishop Byrnes of St/ Michael's Cathedral. He was amazed at how many pastors came to pray and the number of churches involved in the March! We are glad to have him as an ally in the effort to make Jesus known in Springfield and turn our small corner of America back to God! Another pastor who prayed at City Hall was Pastor Fikiri Amisi from the Congo in Africa, now serving as a pastor at Juan Feliciano's church – Calvary's Love. The Congo was involved in civil war, and after coming to America as a refuge, he found Calvary's Love Church, where he felt God saying, "This is the place for you!" He is now a pastor at Calvary's Love Church, in addition to attending Westfield State University. He also helps sponsor 4 Bible Institutes in other African countries! Other pastors prayed in turn, some in Spanish with Daniel Torres of Mission Pioneer Valley translating.

It was a special blessing to meet a family from Ellington CT, who brought their son. They said, "We came because we read about the *March For Jesus* in the Redeemer Newsletter!"



Rise Up New England – Michael Youssef Comes to Springfield

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, the Kick-Off Celebration, held at La Quinta Inn in Springfield, put into motion the extensive preparations for Dr. Michael Youssef of Leading the Way Ministry to come to Springfield in October, 2023! God put it on his heart to come to New England, reputedly the hardest place in the country to reach with the Gospel.

The October event will be at the Mass Mutual Center downtown in Springfield and will involve many churches, especially for Follow Up and Discipleship. At the Kick-Off Celebration, pastors and churches came together across racial and denominational lines, uniting in prayer, worship, and communion, preparing their hearts for what God was going to do through them and their church members in October. This event, they emphasized, is not about filling the arena, it's about bringing the unsaved to hear the Gospel. But now, in preparation, it's about bringing churches together and getting Christians working together to be effective in presenting the Gospel, following up new Christians, and discipleship.

The goal? Transformation by Christ! The means? Awaken a spirit of evangelism in our churches! The method? "Come and see" (John 1:46) what God wants to do in your life!

Big Evangelistic Outreach! On May 2 - 5th, Holy Grounds will be helping to host!

A group of men and women from the Region 10 COGIC Evangelistic Department, from all over the Northeast, will be coming to Springfield for May 2 through 5, four days of community outreach. As President of the Evangelist Department of the Greater Massachusetts Jurisdiction, Pastor C.S. Cooley will be leading this event. Others are welcome to participate.

The out-of-town people will be meeting with Pastor Cooley's church people for prayer early every morning, then meeting at Holy Grounds for the street ministry in the morning, followed by worship at church at noon, then to a meeting at Macedonia Church for an evening service where they have opportunity to testify as to what God is doing in Springfield. This will be their daily schedule.

Pastor Renzo's Monthly Report:

On April 1, 2023, Pastor Renzo attended a powerful pastors' monthly prayer meeting sponsored by Pastor Chuck Wimer of Jubilee Family Outreach Center in West Springfield MA. They are prepared to serve God in the Rise Up New England evangelistic event in October. (Last March, there was a meeting of the soon coming Leading the Way with Michael Youssef, and Pastor Renzo was chosen to serve as Training/Discipleship Chairman!)

April 10th, Renzo helped Pastor Tim Kezar of Leading the Way and Pastor Josephus Housey of Redeeming the Time Ministries in Agawam, formulate a list of area churches and pastors who will host Follow Up & Discipleship classes for Rise Up New England!

April 16th, Renzo attended New Life Church of East Longmeadow, which has offered his chapel for a night of the Leading the Way Follow Up & Discipleship classes!

Coming Event: National Day of Prayer 2023!

Thursday, May 4th, 2023, at Springfield City Hall, 36 Court Street, at 5:30 p.m. The theme is "Pray Fervently in Righteousness and Avail Much" James 5:16b. Please come and join us for prayer for our city and our nation to turn back to God; for revival of the Body of Christ; and salvation for the unconverted. It is urgent, as Jesus our Lord and Savior is coming soon!

