

The Springfield Redeemer

January 1, 2025
Newsletter of Redemption
Gate Mission Society,
Holy Grounds Coffee House
Vol. 14, Ed. 1

Who are you now?

By Iris L. Jenkins, PhD

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV) 9” But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,

There are things that we are ashamed to share with others, things from our pasts that we would like to keep there. We don't want others to know about the decisions we made and their negative outcomes. We don't want people knowing that we weren't always full of the Spirit of God, that perhaps there was at one time a liquid spirit driving us. We don't want people to know about the times when we didn't care about how we looked, sounded or behaved. When we were dirty and messed up and there was no denying it. Many of us want to pretend those days never happened. We never struggled with addictions, never were abusive to ourselves or others, never were anything except the polished Christians that we are today.

While we might share our story of coming into the knowledge of Jesus Christ and accepting Him as Lord and Savior, we leave out the ugly parts, the parts that might have people think twice about us. We weren't embarrassed when we were out there living it, but we're embarrassed now. We don't want to be associated with the person we once were. Yet, it is the person we once were that gives us a testimony. It is that person who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is that former person that was changed by the power of the blood of Jesus...washed and made whole. That person, the one we're so ashamed of, is the one who was brought out of darkness and into God's marvelous light.

So now we are a chosen generation! Now we are a royal priesthood! Now we are an holy nation! Now we are a peculiar people and now we should show forth the praises of Him who called us out of that darkness and into His marvelous light. We don't need to be ashamed of who we were, but we need to be shouting and praising about who we are NOW! We have a reason to rejoice, we have a story to tell about how we were lost but have been found. We have a testimony to tell about how we used to be messed up, but God loved us, cleaned us up, and claimed us as His sons and daughters.

We are not the mess we once made. We are not what we've done, but through Jesus Christ we have been declared righteous. Who we are now is not tied to who we were then. The Bible says in **Matthew 5:17**, ***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*** We don't have to be ashamed of the past, ashamed of what that old person once did. If we are in Christ, we are new creatures, not upgrades of the old, but entirely new. We all have pasts, but the question is, Who are you now?

Happy Birthday to Jesus at United Temple Church



United Temple, on Walnut Street Springfield MA, was a very busy place on Sunday, December 22, 2024. People were laying out piles of toys for different age children in preparation for the kids and their parents who would come at two o'clock for the annual Birthday Party for Jesus. Over 40 toys were given away to bless the children this year by these gifts in honor of the Greatest Gift of all, Jesus Christ our Savior, Who was giving to us to save us from our sins! So it was a Merry Christmas to all and a very happy birthday in honor of our Lord.

Pastor Renzo's Report – December 2 2024

To Readers of RGMS,

I'm submitting my Monthly Ministry Report for November-December 2024. I've emailed my Ministry Cover Letter, Resume, Letters of Recommendation and other documents to 2 more new Pastors from

Western New England and worldwide. As Evangelist and Revivalist from RGMS, I'm establishing contacts and sharing my vision of the urgent need for NE churches to come together in fervent prayer for revival and evangelism. Having forged new relationships with about 310 Pastors since August 2020, our hope is to preach REVIVAL, teach Christian History Seminars/tours together in NE after I secure enough commitments.

On Sunday December 1st, we ministered at Living Waters Christian Fellowship of Windsor Locks, CT. I gave a word of Exhortation from Hebrews 12:1-3. Title: "Running Your Race Until you see Jesus' Face!" On Saturday December 7th, I attended a great Men's conference at Grace Christian Fellowship in Winchester, NH. 90 year old Pastor George D. Bullock and brothers from Calvary Baptist Church of Dorchester, MA. I preached at First Baptist Church of Colrain, MA. My Advent Sermon was: "The Messiah, The Divine Savior" from Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1 and 2. Our son Henry Talbot shared the testimony of his evangelistic band and was asked to minister to several church members after service! On Saturday December 14th, I participated in the "GET LIT" Men's retreat held at the LaQuinta Hotel in Springfield, MA. On Sunday December 15th, My son Henry Talbot and his friend Reid Howard from their BRKN band and I led a Song Service at Greater Grace Church of CT. Several family and friends of ours attended. Title of my sermon was: "Messiah, the Divine Savior". The texts were from Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7 and 1 Timothy 3:16.

Rev. Renzo Ventrice

Weekly Event: Morning Bible Study Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 (or so). – Now at 191 Walnut Street, Springfield,– United Temple Church