

The Springfield Redeemer



March 1, 2025
Newsletter of Redemption
Gate Mission Society,
Holy Grounds Coffee House
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What We're Not...

by Dr. Iris L. Jenkins, PhD

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (KJV) *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

The world we live in today is facing numerous challenges. There is a lot of division and even hatred in places where God's love should shine through His believers who reside there. Many people, even believers, are incredibly discouraged. As believers we don't deny the reality that we face. People *are* going through. There *is* trouble in our land. There *are* terrible things happening. Many *are* facing challenges they never thought they would face. There *are* people feeling confused and even within the body of Christ, some *are* feeling abandoned. Many of us are not dealing with physical attacks, but we are dealing with spiritual attacks, especially attacking our minds. We find ourselves thinking about what *could* or *might* happen and walking in fear of those possibilities. While we may be feeling the heaviness of this world, we must remind ourselves that we weren't meant to carry it. We serve the only true and living God who is not only able but willing to bring us through ANYTHING we could possibly face.

So, while we may be troubled on every side, we are not distressed because we know who our God is, and we know what He can do. While we might be confused about what's happening, not understanding what God has allowed, uncertain about what is going to happen next, we are not in despair. That means we are not without hope. Our hope is in God our Creator who sent His only begotten son to die on a cross, to cover our sins, to rise again defeating sin and death so that WE can have a chance for that also. No, we are not in despair. We are full of the hope of God eternal. We may be experiencing persecution, picked out to be picked on, talked about, or mistreated. We may have people who are intentionally set on sabotaging us and our efforts. Still we know that there is only so much that can be done to us because we are GOD's children and He's not a father who neglects his children. God has not forsaken us, and He never will. Just His PRESENCE in our lives means that we are victorious.

There may be attempts made to cast us down, to throw us away, to call us worthless, to say we don't matter, but thanks be to God who causes us to be victorious! We will not be destroyed! For God says, **"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."** (Isaiah 54:17, KJV).

Jesus went through. We're going to go through. We'll face difficulty, just as Jesus did. Yet, it is the Christ that lives down on the inside that makes the difference for us. What we have on the inside makes it possible to get through what's happening on the outside. What we are NOT is in distress, despair, forsaken, nor destroyed! We are overcomers because of the God we serve.

Humble Servant of God & Springfield, Transitioned Home Submitted by Dr. C. S. Cooley

F74

Bishop Dr. Bryant Robinson, Jr., a devoted servant of God, educational trailblazer, community, and civil rights leader, transitioned peacefully on February 5, 2025. Born on January 21, 1937, in Minter City, Mississippi, to Mrs. Louise Lyones Robinson and Bishop Bryant Robinson, Sr. Bishop Bryant Robinson Jr. lived a life dedicated to faith, learning, and service.

Bishop Robinson received his early education in Mobile, Alabama, before his family migrated to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he continued his education in the Springfield Public Schools and graduated from Springfield Technical High School in 1955. Following his service in the armed forces, he attended Barrington College, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in 1965. His career in education spanned nearly five decades, beginning as an elementary school teacher in the Springfield Public School System. His leadership abilities led him to roles as Director of Title III programs and principal of William N. Deberry Elementary School, where he became the city's first African American male principal. Later, he served as Springfield's first African American Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent and served in the role of Superintendent. He continued his academic journey, earning a Master of Arts degree from American International College and completing his Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

In 1955, Bishop Robinson received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and, shortly after, was called to the ministry. In 1985, he answered a higher calling, serving as the co-pastor of Macedonia and First Church of God In Christ. After his father's passing in 2001, he was appointed pastor of Macedonia and First Church. In 2002, he was consecrated as Bishop of the Massachusetts Greater Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God In Christ, where he faithfully served for nearly a quarter of a century. He also continued to work professionally in academia as Dean at Cambridge College in Springfield and as an instructor at Central Connecticut State University.

Bishop Robinson was deeply involved in civic and community service, serving on the Springfield Police Commission, the American Red Cross, the United Way, and the NAACP, among many other organizations. The recipient of numerous awards, including the Uhora Award and the Ruth B. Loving Civil Rights Award, Bishop Robinson's commitment to social justice, education, and faith impacted all who knew him. Bishop Bryant Robinson, Jr. will be deeply missed. Never forgotten, as his influence inspires future generations

Pastor Renzo's Report – January 2025

To Readers of RGMS,

*Dear Dr. C. Steven Cooley and RGMS Board Members,
I'm submitting my Monthly Ministry Report for January-February 2025. I've emailed my Ministry Cover Letter, Resume, Letters of Recommendation to 1 more new Pastors from Western New England.*

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 316+ Pastors since August 2020, our hope is to preach REVIVAL and teach Christian History Seminars/tours in NE, after I secure enough commitments.

On January 26th, our family finally visited New Boston Congregational church Sandisfield, MA. I met one of their members, Brother Steve Carr, who was involved in the Rise Up New England/ Leading the Way weekly prayer meetings.

We enjoyed a wonderful sermon from Pastor Eric Kriebel. He was so glad we came and is very interested in us getting together. He wants my son, Henry and his band, BRKN to minister there, as well as ministering across the street in their Veterans Home.

I am hoping to eventually preach here often, Lord willing!

Due to snow storms in February, I was not able to preach at Greater Grace Church of CT. I am scheduled to preach at First Baptist Church of Colrain March 5th and in Enfield, CT on March 12th

This was the first time in over 2 years that I had a quiet month. Hence, the reason this newsletter is so brief.

Lord willing, on Feb. 22nd., I'll be participating in the Ignite Kingdom Men's Breakfast and Lunch and then engaging in prayer for revivaat 5 pm and Worship service at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Renzo Ventrice



**Come out and March for King Jesus in a Celebration
of our Risen Savior**

**Saturday April 19, 2025 Starting at 10am from Holy
Grounds Coffee House 455 State Street**



**Starting at the
Holy Grounds Coffee House
455 State St. Spfld,MA.
and ending at the steps of
Spfld. City Hall.**

**Sponsored by
Pastor Dr.
C.S. Cooley
United Temple
COGIC,
Redemption Gate
Mission Society
and clergy
in the
surrounding
area.**

**For more information please call: (413) 626-6807, 330-4658,
316-8982 or 885-5777**

***Weekly Event: Morning Bible Study Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30
455 State Street, Springfield MA, 01105***