

# The Springfield Redeemer



**“He gave . . . pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry.”  
Ephesians 4:11-12**

**The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society**

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## Antonio's Story

Editor's note: Many people have come to Holy Grounds Coffee House and found Jesus, or come back into fellowship with Him, and grown into His Disciples here in the Coffee House. One of these dear brothers-in-the Lord is Antonio, who has a story to tell of God's grace and mercy, in his own words:



November 30, 2018, “I first came to Holy Grounds Coffee House about 10 years ago, but 9 years ago, after 22 years of marriage, my marriage ended. It was my fault, but we could not reconcile. I lost my job, my apartment, my kids. I did not want to deal with life, and my world went dark. For a time I was living at the river. I became one with nature and enjoyed it.

“One night I had a dream that there was a woman in my tent. I was afraid of what she would do, even though she was not hostile. Then I woke up! In the morning, I went to the shelter to eat breakfast like I usually did and saw a woman that looked like the woman in my dream. I was drawn to her and found out that she was in recovery. We became friends and she came to visit me at my tent. I wanted her company, but

winter was coming and it was getting cold.

“One day, I was passing by the Coffee House and went in and met a man named Martin there. He took me around to the back of the building and said that the porch needed repair. “You have to talk to Scott Lively if you want to work on the porch,” he said. So my girlfriend and I talked to Anne Lively and they let us work and stay in the basement, rather than at the river. Pastor Scott married us so we could work in the ministry.

“Soon Pastor Scott made me a manager here, work I enjoyed doing, but my wife turned back to alcohol. I was a new Christian, and I couldn't control the situation, and I became controlling. My life was in turmoil; I was trying to be a lukewarm Christian and keep my relationship with her, and at the same time be faithful to the ministry.

“Eventually, I had to leave and while I was away I drew closer to God, studied the Bible, and was baptized, but I still had a resentful heart. I felt that everybody let me down. I never wanted to come back to

Springfield, except I had to come to see my daughter and grandkids. I went by the Coffee House a few times. Some memories were good, some bad, and I still had resentment.

“The more I came, the more I listened. God is showing me how to forgive and forget. I am learning that there are people here who are willing to help one another. I never wanted to receive help from others, but now I am not afraid to ask. I have been shown true Christianity. I have brothers here and I am growing spiritually. I am learning not to be so proud and not to judge. I try to pray every morning and be careful what I see and watch.

“In the morning, the first thing I do is thank God for the breath of life. I have no more sleep apnea where I wake up with no breath. When you finally surrender, you have confidence in the Lord. If something were to happen, I will trust God, I love God.

“This morning, I asked God to show me His will. I am happy for little things - a meal, a place to sleep, and Pastor Brasino, who has been a great brother to me. He showed me real Christian love.”

## Message From Pastor Scott Lively

In the third week of January, Pastor Scott spent several days here in Springfield, taking care of business and teaching at the Coffee House. What a blessed time it was of encouragement and enrichment from the Word of God. On the Sunday before he left, January 27, 2019, he preached at the afternoon service at Holy Grounds.

His theme was about how we have worked to develop Holy Grounds Coffee House as a model of what the Christian Church should look like according to the Bible, without the influence of the times, tradition, and the culture. This has been Scott's intention from the beginning of this ministry. So now, as he is living in Tennessee, he is planning to plant a church there according to this model. He is naming it the First Century Bible Church!

The First Century Bible Church will be based on the Whole Bible, sometimes called the Hebrew Roots, although it is not to be confused with putting oneself or one's church back under the Jewish Law. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, all Scripture is given by God and is profitable for correction and instruction. The Old Testament or Tanakh (to the Jews) is basic to understanding the New Testament. The Old Testament in Greek, called the Septuagint, was the Bible of the First Century, the one that Jesus read and quoted from!

The New Testament was compiled from the writings of the First Century Jewish Christians, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It records the fulfillment of the plans, promises, and prophecies that God had revealed before Christ came.

However, in the latter decades of the First Century, Pastor Scott explained, the church shifted away from the Hebrew perspective to the Greco-

Roman (Hellenistic) thinking. Then, in the 3rd century, Christianity was adopted by the Roman Emperor Constantine which led to the Catholic Church and to many human traditions being added.

After the reformation, there was a return to more biblical doctrine by many groups of Christians, but still over the centuries, traditions became an accepted part of belief. Today there has been an even greater departure from the Old Testament. The devil has been working for centuries to destroy Christianity, the Bible, and the Jewish people who brought it to the world.

There are several factors influencing the increased aversion to the Old Testament. In the philosophy of today, it is considered outdated, hard to understand. Also, many Christians consider it violent, brutal, and in the vernacular of the 21st Century, "intolerant." There is a prevalent socialist-Marxist influence in America, based on evolution and Darwinism, that opposes the authority of God. *Mankind has gone from fearing God's punishment all the way to criticizing God for condemning sin!*

So, today, many churches only teach the New Testament, and then, only the parts they like to hear. At best, many pay lip-service to the Old Testament, using examples from it while focusing their preaching on urging people to be good.

This is not the vision Pastor Scott has for the First Century Bible Church. The message he has from God is for a church fellowship according to the whole Bible, teaching the whole plan of God from Genesis to Revelation without adding anything; following the pattern in the Bible as best as he can discern it, and that will be the plan of the First Century Bible Church in Tennessee.

### Ongoing Events

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** 8 a.m. Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene (new time); 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim.

**MONDAY – FRIDAY:** Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

**WED –** Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

**SATURDAY: No Saturday lunch until further notice. 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY:** March 2, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY NIGHT:** March 30, 7 PM. Open Mic and Fellowship! For more details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242.