

The Springfield Redeemer



**“If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone.”
Romans 12:18**

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Pastor Cooley Calls Springfield Leaders to Pray

By Roberta D’Amico

On Tuesday evening, June 2, 2020, a couple of hundred spiritual and civic leaders came together with a multitude of citizens to pray and petition Almighty God for justice and not violence in our city of Springfield, Massachusetts. Standing on the steps of City Hall, people from different faiths and ethnic groups stood together in solidarity for justice, equality, and non-violence.

The rioting in many cities across our land, an aftermath of the egregious murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, brought Pastor C. S. Cooley to his knees in prayer for our city. Following a suggestion by his brother Ed Cooley, Pastor called a list of pastors up, asking them to join him on the steps of City Hall for a Prayer Gathering. “Before the riots and violence comes here,” he said, “we must get out in front of it!” When he called Mayor Sarno, the Mayor agreed that it would be a good thing, and said that he would join.

So word spread and by 5 o’clock a good number of people had gathered, even the City Council, many local pastors, three Rabbis, a couple of Catholic bishops, our Congressman Neal, and other public servants. The mayor himself started the event. One of the Catholic Bishops opened in prayer for all the people who died recently, that the

people would have respect and cherish life, and for unity.

Then Mayor Sarno spoke, “This is a vigil for healing. We hope and pray for justice for the officers involved in this tragedy. We must remain vigilant for outside agitators who will start more trouble, also respect peaceful protestors. Change is in the air; right is right and wrong is wrong. I’m so appreciative of our religious community, because more than ever we need prayer!” Then Cheryl Clapprod, the Police Commissioner spoke, asking people to help by being alert to outsiders coming in to stir up trouble and turn people against each other.

Pastor Cooley’s words went right to the source of the problem: “We as a nation have asked God to get out! Out of school, out of the courts, out of the public square. Don’t mention God, Jesus, or the Bible. And that leaves a void. So the devil moves in, as history has shown. Prayer is what we need. The Pastors here tonight want to put God out in front. We don’t want to give Satan any power. I want peace in the city and in the nation, but to have peace, we have to put God back in everything. God has a plan for this city. Springfield has the potential to set the pattern for the nation. We



together are all one race - the human race - we must be the best race we can be.”

The messages heard that night went like this: God is in charge of the world, but people need to examine their own attitudes. If we love God, who is higher than ourselves, then we can love our neighbor.

Other actions we can take: We need to stop classifying people by “race!” There is only one race - the human race - but many ethnicities. However, there are very few people in the world who are of only one ethnicity. DNA proves this! Everybody has a little bit of other ancestry in them, so let’s stop using the word “race” as a designation. It is the government who does this the most, almost every form that you fill out asks for your “race.”

Each one of us should pray for personal revival, and for our elected public servants. Pray that the system works and justice will be done in every

case; in George Floyd’s, for wrong-doing in the police force, in the government, and for any innocent people who were harmed by the violence. This meeting has been a blessing; it turned out better than expected and violence and destruction has been averted here. Godly leaders have to get out in front before violence destroys our city. We need accountability, from ourselves, our leaders, and our society. We need to teach it to our children. Because we will all be held accountable by God.

Don’t let God be pushed out of our society. Laws and government programs cannot fix the problem. God is the answer; He is the source of our power to be good, to care about one another. As Rabbi Noah Kosofsky read these words from Psalm 121:2 in Hebrew at City Hall Tuesday night, “my help cometh from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth!”

Independence Day! July 4th 1776, these words were written: The opening statement to the Declaration of Independence...

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights; that among these are life, and liberty!”

In an effort to quell the current surge of “racism,” and in defense of America, let me remind you of a bit of history. Slavery did not begin here in America. It existed since the beginning of human history. It existed in African countries where one group sold their fellow men. It was brought here. Since the beginning of our country on July 4th, 1776, the majority of us have struggled to make equality a reality. Admittedly, progress has been too slow. It has been hindered by some who for their own reasons persist in fomenting hatred between people. When they harm others, they must be brought to justice. The answer is not more violence. It just sets us back. America has brought to its citizens a greater measure of freedom and higher standard of living than anywhere else in the world. On our part, we must learn to love our neighbor; turn to God and the Ten Commandments. He can heal our land.

On Friday, June 19, 2020, right after Bible study, we began preparation for the fundraiser. Pastor Cooley began frying fish and many others helped packing up dinners, desserts, and putting out sodas. By Friday a large number of dinners had been paid for so that we could give them to those who could not buy them. At the end of the day we had raised more money than we needed to pay the insurance bill and a lot of people enjoyed their delicious dinners. Praise the Lord!

Ongoing Events

- **SUNDAY SERVICES:** 8 a.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene; 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim. (Will be starting up again soon.)
- **MONDAY -- FRIDAY:** Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. **Come and be blessed!**
- **WED –** Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Still on Zoom)
- **THURSDAY:** Women’s Bible Study 1:00 p.m. - **FIAT** 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m.
- **1ST SATURDAY:** “Marriage with God” 4 to 6 p.m. (To be announced)