

# The Springfield Redeemer

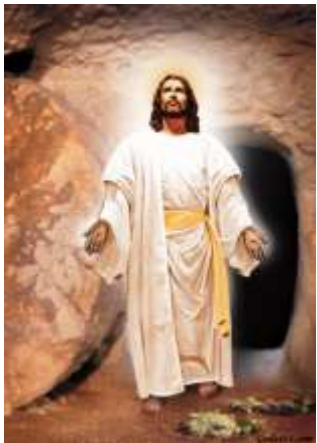
November 1, 2023  
Newsletter of Redemption  
Gate Mission Society,  
Holy Grounds Coffee House  
Vol. 12, Ed. 11

## The Many Faces of October by Roberta D'Amico

Life is a mysterious thing – not only life in a biological sense, although that is often a mystery – but life as we live it in this world. Seen from my perspective, and I have lived longer than many of you, it seems to be constantly changing. The month of October, it seems, features dramatic changes! In October we said goodbye to the hot days of summer and got out our sweaters for the chilly weather! With the change in temperature comes the change in colors. From the lush green of summer gardens to brilliant reds and yellows of leaves, then to bare trees!



Another feature of October is Halloween, although I've noticed that the stores have begun selling Halloween stuff as early as August! The dominant theme used to be more toward harvest, apples, corn stalks, pumpkins (at least when I was young!) Now, it is more ghosts, skeletons, graves, and death-related. For a time, as a Christian, I saw this emphasis on death as an ungodly thing, but I changed my perspective on this when the Lord showed me the spiritual message in people's obsession with death. Without Jesus, all they see at the end of their earthly life is death. We have a powerful message of Life!



The Bible tells us that all men die, as we know, and we must be ready to stand before the Lord Jesus at any time. Each day is a gift, but the next day is not guaranteed! (Proverbs 27:1) So, all the ghosts, ghouls, and graves that we saw in front yards in October should remind us that although we might live to be a hundred, our turn could come at any time! Are you ready? Our blessed Savior Jesus Christ died to pay a great price for our sin debt, and having overcome death, He offers us eternal life! Anyone who has trusted Him for salvation has eternal life! John 11:25 says "He that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!"

And then there is Columbus Day, a day which has become like a "forgotten holiday", where nothing historic or patriotic was mentioned, just a day off from school! I, for one, am grateful that Christopher Columbus discovered America and that I was born here and not in some other place or century! God has richly blessed our country and allowed us to prosper and has used America to bless the world, both spiritually through sharing the gospel and Bibles, and materially – providing food and other benefits.

This year, there are more things to deal with besides leaf-peeping, Halloween, and Columbus Day. There is the usual flu-season, Covid, getting ready for winter, plus we have war in Israel, riots in America, financial crises. But, has God given us life and put us here on earth, only to deal with all these things that are a part of our lives here on earth? The Bible says our life here is brief and full of troubles, but He has a greater purpose! We are here to glorify Him! To know Him and make Him known! To build His Kingdom. Even in the midst of our daily challenges, we can make it a priority to be about our Father's business, Kingdom business.

We could get involved in missions and evangelical work. There are so many opportunities right here at home, in our community, and our country. Here are some ideas for Kingdom building: Organizations like Samaritan's Purse has a huge project every October, to fill Shoe Boxes with gifts and the gospel and sent them to thousands of children in other countries where the children do not have all the things we do, and cannot hear the gospel. Right here in Springfield, Massachusetts, there are many organizations that need volunteers, the Rescue Mission for one. There are homeless people in need and organizations like Between Bridges that reach out to them, including Holy Grounds Mission! International missionaries to encourage and support, and of course, your own home church where you can serve.

For all of us who are born again, God will reward us in eternity for serving Him, so this life is a time to lay up treasures in eternity. Read First Corinthians, chapter 3, verses 11 – 15! It is easy to let the daily routine distract us from God's purpose for us. But trust God who calls us to be 'Kingdom-minded' and live each day with eternity in mind!

## **Pastor Renzo Report – September / October 2023.**

As the Evangelist and Revivalist for Redemption Gate Mission Society and Holy Grounds Coffee House since August 2020, Pastor Renzo Ventrice submits a report every month of his efforts to contact pastors and share the need for New England churches to come together in fervent prayer for revival and evangelism. After forging relationships with about 254 pastors, our hope is to preach revival and teach Christian History.

To this end, Pastor Renzo has recently visited First Baptist Church in Colrain, MA; attended a Breakfast / Lunch New England Leaders' Conference with about 50 great disciples on Enders Island off the coast of Mystic, CT; visited Greater Grace Church of CT in Enfield; and Lighthouse Church in Agawam, MA.

In October, Renzo also attended Board Meetings of Rise Up New England, the organization presenting Pastor Michael Youssef Evangelistic Celebration in Springfield Massachusetts this coming June of 2024. They are working to involve churches from MA, Northern CT, Southern VT, and NH. They have now visited over 210 churches!

Finally, Renzo had the amazing privilege of attending a seminar sponsored by Camp Constitution, held at Camp Sentinel in Osipee, New Hampshire. Renzo met a very special man, Reverend Steven Craft, and learned some things about the true history of slavery and abolition in America. Camp Constitution is an organization dedicated to understanding our Judeo-Christian moral heritage, our American heritage of courage and ingenuity, including the genius of our United States Constitution, and the application of free enterprise, which together gave our nation an unprecedented history of growth and prosperity, making us the envy of the world. Hearing Reverend Craft was a highlight of this event! He is an old-fashioned 'fire & brimstone' preacher, but with an up-to-date relevant message!



**Rev. Stephen Craft**

### **Regular Events:**

Morning Bible Study is open to all to learn more about the Bible - Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. We are having great studies in the book of Job! Come and learn with us!

Sunday Services at 5 p.m. with Pastor Bobby Quinones