

The Springfield Redeemer



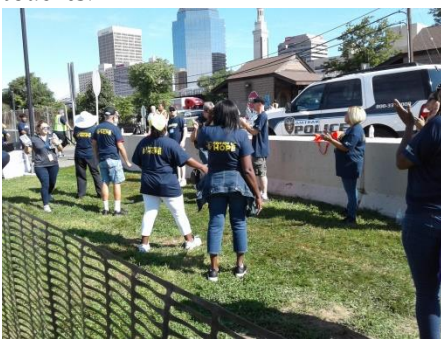
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Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me. Matt 25:40

Seven Thousand Blessed at Convoy by Roberta D'Amico

Thousands of volunteers showed up at Bethany A.G. Church Friday August 18, for the Rally the night before the Convoy of Hope in Springfield Massachusetts. Excitement ran high as we all got psyched up for the big day.

Pastor Adams, along with Bishop Robinson, Pastor Juan Feliciano, and others on the leadership team, said that many churches participated. "Tomorrow you will bring hope to families in Springfield, but the ultimate goal is to bring them to Christ. Most people need three touches of God before they come to Christ," he said. "Let tomorrow be one of those touches!"



Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny as volunteers showed up at 7 a.m.! Every guest was greeted by this enthusiastic welcome. Volunteers in their Convoy of Hope tee-shirts were everywhere. Guests were directed along a pathway, past the Kids' Zone, toward the Shoe tent at the south end.

The Shoe tent was busy fitting children of all ages with new shoes

from Tom's. This has always been an important feature of Convoy because kids always need shoes, especially this time of year when they are getting ready for school to start.



The Shoe Tent, well run by Adam and Bethany, was spacious and inviting with very little waiting in line.

Convoy partnered with others like the Nat. Breast Cancer Foundation.



They had a large, well staffed tent run by Jen. She had 55 volunteers helping women learn about breast cancer, how to do self-exams, or find a doctor who they could talk to. They even had an area for the kids to play in while their moms were busy!

The Medical Services tent was busy all day, helping people and offering

medical advice, inoculations, help for addictions, and first aid. My friend Sue had the opportunity to pray with one of the guests.



Veteran Services were there, helping vets get services that they need.

Hope For Holyoke had a booth. They are only two years old, but are doing a great work helping people with addiction problems.



Haircuts were provided by licensed barbers and hairdressers. One 9 year old said he was glad for his fresh haircut for school.

The Kids' Zone was spectacular!



The children loved the three giant inflatables from Jumping Jack, a local business. The school supplies that were offered were a hit. Missie, the coordinator, worked hard getting donations. Walmart was especially generous. They put matching bracelets



on parents and children so no child could leave without their parent!

Before noon, the entertainment began with music and dancing, and the free lunches were being distributed to all, volunteers and guests, along with plentiful water.

Near the exit where the guests received free groceries, was the large Prayer Tent where volunteers prayed with each person who stopped. They had a table full of free literature, and a New Testament for each guest.

It was a successful day, because even though the crowds were lighter than in

past years, more people than ever stopped to pray. More important than the one million dollars in free services and merchandise that were given away is the blessings God bestowed on the people of Springfield.



Prayer Tent

Gleanings from the Holy Grounds Bible Study by Roberta D'Amico

The morning Bible Study always presents some fascinating discussions. This gathering is different from the usual Sunday School format. There is no prewritten material, nor is there one teacher. The pastors facilitate but the Holy Spirit leads. From 7:30 a.m. until 9, we gather with our coffee, open with prayer, then take turns reading the chapter.

Years ago we decided to do Genesis to Revelation. We are now in Numbers for the second time! Numbers is a wealth of information about God's dealing with His chosen people.

After reading the chapter of the day, the floor is open to anyone to speak. Hands are raised and each one is called on by turn, by someone designated to keep the list of those who want to join the conversation. It can get quite lively as questions are asked concerning a word, a name, place, or an event described in the chapter. It can also be challenging to keep track of whose turn it is to speak. The list can be overruled by the Holy Spirit, who might lead someone to add or clarify something. Then it's back to the list!

We often defer to the pastor's knowledge on a topic. Participants often share their personal experience or a

testimony, perhaps about how God has used the Bible Study to strengthen their faith and their walk with the Lord. We avoid putting a time limit on sharing or limit them to one question or comment, as this would quench the Spirit.

Pastor Scott, who was with us for a week in August, likes to remind us that although God is a God of order and not chaos, He works organically not institutionally. To explain what that looks like in real life, consider one contrasting example: God designed the Tabernacle in the wilderness as a meeting place with Him. It was never in a permanent place and God expected His people to keep their eyes on Him and follow the Ark. Later in the Promised Land, the Israelites built a temple instead, as a permanent structure. God did not tell them to do this, God's plan was to build a "household" or dynasty for David – to preserve his line forever (2Sam7:7). Once the Israelites had God in one place, they took their eyes off of Him and looked to other things! Instead, we must wait on the Lord, and do not presume to know what God is going to do. This is one example of the deeper meanings that we usually get at this Bible Study.

Holy Grounds Coffee House of Redemption Gate Ministries will have a table at the Stone Soul Festival on September 1, 2, and 3 at Blunt Park in Springfield Massachusetts. Come and join us!

Ongoing Events:

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Pastors Bobby & Kim; 2 p.m.- Pastor Brian Greene;

6 p.m.- Transformation Centered Healing Ministries with Prophet Eric Thomas & Pastor Susan.

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

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study - 4:30 p.m.; Trust Jesus Recovery at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY: Lunch resumes in September 2 – 4 p.m.

1ST SATURDAY: "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT: 7 p.m. September 9, Rich O'Reilly Band; September 23, Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.