

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

www.redemptiongate.org

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on His name

July 1, 2013, Volume 2, Edition 6 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Read Your Bible • Go To Church

FAMILY DAY JOINS CONVOY OF HOPE! *By Roberta D'Amico*

Ten Times Bigger This Year!

For five years Redemption Gate Mission Society has held its Annual Family Day, but this year it will be very different. This year we will be joining with the Convoy of Hope International which is planning a huge event in Springfield on August 17th. It will be held at Riverfront Park, and hopes to serve 5000 people that day, and many days to follow.

The Convoy of Hope is coming to the Pioneer Valley to help transform Springfield by drawing churches together to serve the poor. Hundreds of us from many area churches, including Redemption Gate Mission Society, will be providing a fun filled day at the park for families. For the adults, we will offer many services, lunch, and especially love and respect. On the way out of the park, each guest of honor will be offered prayer and free groceries.

Convoy of Hope, a faith-based initiative, was established in 1994 and has helped 55 million people around the world, especially with hunger and disaster relief. They have come to bring prayer and hope to our Springfield area, which is one of

50 events they are having across America this year. Their goals are to bring churches together in unity, motivate Christians to serve their community, and reach out to people with prayer. After the event, guests will be invited to attend local churches and events. This will help the church grow, while benefiting the community.

Children will have fun in the Kids Zone with face painting, bounce houses, clowns, games and crafts. There will be a large tent for the 2000 children's shoe-giving, 4 bicycles to give away, free family portraits, musical entertainment all day, along with other services. Medical services being offered include a pediatrician, Tapestry Health, women's health, eye-mobile, dental, and pregnancy care. There will be free haircuts, free lunch, and other community services, all in addition to the free bags of groceries.

All of this, of course, requires a great deal of funds and an army of volunteers. Most of the hundreds of contributors, organizers, and volunteers will come from all the participating ministries, which will be blessed even as the volunteers themselves will be a blessing. Please pray

specifically for funds needed, volunteer workers and good weather on August 17th. To volunteer for this event email elainewalker111@yahoo.com

~Family Day 2012~



HOME FROM THE FRONTLINES



Recently, April 10th, our own Jonathan Abel returned from his service in Southeast Asia. In 2008, he made his first trip to that part of the world, a 3-month short term medical service trip. He had finished medical school in 2002, then residency, and was finally established as a Family Practitioner. God laid it on his heart to serve in a third-world country. After the first 3 months in Asia, he asked the Lord, "Do you want me to come back here long-term? Where would Jesus go if He were me?" The answer was "Here".

The country where Jonathan served is in the 10/40 window, that part of the world that has the most unreached people groups. Here live the poorest of the poor in the world, but they are among the most hospitable. The people are beautiful and friendly. Life there moves slowly, and family is hugely important. If a visitor shows up at your door (they do not call ahead) they will be offered tea and something to eat. The

people would never ask, "How long are you staying?" They spend a lot of time visiting, talking, and socializing. They do use modern technology like TVs and cell phones, which are inexpensive.

In Southeast Asia, Jonathan spent some time learning the language and practicing medicine at the Christian hospital. When people come to the hospital or out-patient clinic, they have opportunities to hear about Jesus Christ. This is made possible by the work's focus on humanitarian service, to take care of the people's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.



Healthcare is provided by the government, but there is a lack of doctors and hospitals to take care of the people's needs. Even the Christian hospital is badly under supplied. There might be only 4 or 5 pediatric ventilators in a whole city the size of Boston, so practicing medicine is challenging, but badly needed. The problem of poverty in Asia is multi-faceted, as it is in all parts of the world.

Jonathan recalled a book on poverty by Dr. Steven Kern when in Oklahoma. He concludes, "Hearts must first change before for a real solution to poverty can come."

While in Asia, Jonathan met a young lady who was a medical assistant at the hospital. They plan to be married soon, and then will seek God's direction as to where to serve next. In many Asian countries, decisions are made in the light of community, family, or village. Not as individualistic as we are in America, they think in terms of what is best for the group. Behavior is influenced by the desire not to bring shame on the family or group.

Around the year 2000, some versions of complete Bibles were available to the people in some languages. However each country has more than one language. In some areas, the local dialect is an oral language only, so parts of the Bible, like Genesis, are being made available on audio. Christians are persecuted in areas, so it takes a strong faith to accept Christ. It is so easy to be a Christian here in the United States; it can almost make you feel like you are not a real Christian. Please pray for Dr. Abel's future plans.



Ongoing Events at Holy Grounds Coffee House

Sunday Services 10am & 2pm

Monday thru Friday Morning Bible Study 7:30am

Tuesday & Thursday prayer 11am

Wednesday Bible Study 4:30pm.

Wednesday Celebrate Recovery 6:30pm

2nd & 4th Thursday 7pm FIAT 'Faith In Action Team'

1st Saturday monthly Marriage Seminar 4pm

Saturday Dinner 2-4pm monthly

Save The Date!

**Family Day Joins
Convoy of Hope 2013**

Saturday, August 17th

Open Mic Nights 7pm Friday (TBA) & fourth Saturday monthly *Share~ music~ poetry~ testimonies!*