

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

www.redemptiongate.org

1 Thess. 5:18
Give thanks in all
circumstances, for this
is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus. NIV

December 1, 2013, Vol. 2, Ed. 10, Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Read Your Bible • Go To Church • Seek Unity

For Thanksgiving

by Roberta D'Amico

November 15, 2013

Jesus says, "I have come that you might have life, life more abundantly." (John 10:10) What does that mean? Did Jesus mean that I would have riches, material goods, vacations, etc.? Well, that has not happened! As Thanksgiving approaches this year, I have again been meditating this.

How do we experience abundance in the context of our daily lives here in America? Yesterday, I purchased a number of items to fill my annual "Shoe box" for needy children, courtesy of Samaritan's Purse. I had to include it in my budget, since I am on a limited income. But, it was only a small sacrifice. I still have plenty for my needs. Today, I am baking mini loaf breads to give to the homeless people at the next outreach. This took a good part of my morning, but today was a day I had some time to spend at home, so I had plenty of time. The other day, my granddaughter came over to visit with the baby, who is three months old and adorable, of course! We invited them to join the four of us for supper, and

as it turned out, we had plenty. The common thread in these three anecdotes? The word "plenty"!

There it is: the definition of the phrase, "abundant life"! It means we have plenty! What do we have plenty of? Well, to start with, air, water, food, clothes, time, resources, and opportunity to give praise and glory to the Lord. Wait a minute, you may say, I *do not* have plenty of all these things! Oh yes, you do, if you have more than you need at the moment, if you have more than you need for survival, if you put away leftovers in the refrigerator, if you have clothes in your closet, then that is plenty. That is abundant life. God created life in abundance, and then made things grow in abundance to support that life. Why did God make such abundance? So we could share! As I pondered this, I remembered how God loves to use ordinary things in our everyday lives to reveal truth to us. I have found that "Godliness



with contentment is great gain." (1st Timothy 6:6)

One last thought: if you have trusted Jesus for salvation, you now have eternal life. How could life be any more abundant, than to be eternal? Today and every day, let's give thanks for this wonderful, indescribable gift, which includes the forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and a purpose – to glorify God always, to give thanks in all things, and to share His Word as we go.

Thoughts on Spiritual Warfare by Shelley Saunders

Everyone needs to recognize the authority of God and His Word. He wants us to be more focused on Him and less on self. Everyone has different positions in His plan and different gifts. Accept what God gave you and use it all for His work. When you have struggles within yourself, don't isolate yourself from other Christians, but study the Word of God with them.

These are some of the things I have learned at the Holy Grounds Coffee House, especially in the morning Bible Study. Put on the full armor of God. We become

stronger by praising and reading our Bible, being around other Christians, fellowshiping & lifting up praises to the Lord. Give Him all the glory, day and night.

To hear what God is trying to tell you, you must exist in the moment, knowing God is God and He is listening to you. You must be obedient to His word. Live your life in line with the Word. If you make a mistake, brush yourself off and apologize. Don't get stuck in your failures. Here is where you need the power of the Holy Ghost. He will show you the way to fight the battles and win the war against the devil.

It's time to wake up, and come together as one in Christ. God is working in all corners of the world, through the Holy Spirit, bringing holiness, righteousness, and understanding to each one's heart. So come together and pray daily. Endure until the end by living in peace, the peace of mind, that is only possible through Christ, who is our peace.

***Why Come to Open Mic Nights?
By Roberta D'Amico***

Expectations ran high and a crowd gathered on Saturday night,

November 23, 2013, as Brother Bruce opened the doors of Holy Grounds Coffee House at 6:30 and welcomed people to the monthly Open Mic event. This month the crowd was bigger and more enthusiastic than usual, perhaps getting into the holiday spirit. It was a full night, and I cannot list all the many participants, but I will mention a few highlights.

First of all, the guests and participants numbered at least 40, possibly setting a record. We began with some inspiring songs, the sweet, sweet sound of praise,



Brandon

and even Brianna took a turn on the guitar, singing a couple of songs of our beautiful Lord and Savior.

Bruce brought a skit, about his "castle" and car (jeep), sharing a very powerful testimony about how easy to forget the God Who gave you the blessings. When we take credit for what God has done, we usually end up losing them again.

"It was 10 years ago at Thanksgiving," Bruce tells, "I was so bitter, I hated human beings. I finally got tired of my sin and let Jesus turn my life around. This place (Holy Grounds) was critical in letting the power of God in my life. I am sorry for the way I was. I love you all."

We enjoyed poetry by Amanda; an exciting game of Bible Trivia (Bruce brought prizes!); a saxophone special by Wayne; Linda's monologue on being 'real'; Rod's comedy routine; and a testimony from Doug Price. Special music was plentiful, along with Scripture reading, and more testimonies. Jonathan shared how we are all in recovery . . . from rebellion against God! He sang us a very moving song he often uses when folks like to remind him of his past: *I Know I've Been Changed*.

The guests who shared their God-given talents ranged in age from 16 to 82! The fellowship went on quite late, as nobody was in a hurry to leave. Come next month; we will have more blessings to share.

~ Save the Date for the Annual Apologetics Seminar ~

**Saturday January 18, 2014,
at Calvary's Love Church, a former Jewish Synagogue.
Theme: Defending the Bible through Prophecy.
Speaker is Stephen Sherman, author of 2 books on prophecy,
Hebrew roots, and a Messianic Jew.**

Ongoing Events at Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 11AM & 2PM
MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30AM
TUES & THURS PRAYER 11AM
TUESDAY SOLID ROCK NIGHT MUSIC FORUM 7:00PM
WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30 & CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:30 PM
SATURDAY DINNER 2-4PM WEEKLY
1ST SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4PM
~For more Information call 413-301-0918~

Open Mic Worship Nights

Saturday December 7th, 6:30 PM

Saturday December 28th, 6:30pm

**Play Music, Read Scripture,
Sing, Poetry, Testimonies**

Share Your Talents!

*Special Notice: Holy Grounds will
be open Christmas Eve and New*