

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society



www.redemptiongate.org

*"You crown the year
with your bounty, and
your carts overflow
with abundance."*

Psalm 65:11

January 1, 2014, Vol. 2, Ed. 11, Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Read Your Bible • Go To Church • Seek Unity

My True Christmas Story

By Pastor C. S. Cooley

Christmas is one of the most joyous times of the year when Jesus our Savior is the center. The exact date of his birth has been debated for centuries, but the fact that he was born cannot be denied. With that in mind I want to take you back to one of my early life experiences during Christmas of 1952.

I was about 3 years old when my mother was taken away to a hospital. I thought she would be returning soon, but I did not see her again for 6 years. That Christmas began as a great disappointment, but hope in the impossible is high at Christmas; hope that Santa Claus would bring her back. In time I began to realize that Santa was not God and could not grant miracles. However, my grandfather was a preacher and he had talked so much about Jesus that I began to hope that He would help me.

As a boy I could not understand why I had to be without my mother. Then, as I learned the story of baby Jesus, who was born in a stable, I realized that at least I had a real home and my brother and sisters and father to comfort me. I remember when my baby sister was born and how lovingly my mother cared for her in our home.

In contrast, Jesus was born with no doctor. He only had his mother and father and the manger animals to comfort him. That had to be far worse than what I was experiencing.

It has been over 51 years since I learned about the baby Jesus, and during that passing of time I have committed my life to Him. He allowed me to enter into a covenant with him in 1978 that has lasted until the present. He has taught me that from the simplest of beginnings can come the greatest of miracles.

You might ask, what miracle? Well, He allowed me to care for my mother until her death in 1995. During the 20 years my mother lived with me, God revealed to her how important she was in his plan for the world. She said, "I know that I am good for something, because I have produced a Preacher for a son". So whether you are born in a hospital, a house, or a manger, God has a plan for your life. This Christmas, I pray that you have discovered Baby Jesus, not as Santa Claus, but as your Savior, the greatest gift ever given.

If You Are Hungry

***By Roberta D'Amico &
Donna Blanchard***

Come in to the Holy Grounds Coffee House on any Saturday and enjoy some home-

cooked food. This ministry, like the other meals that the Coffee House offers each week, has been a blessing to many here in Springfield. Those who lack food, or lack a place to cook, are welcome to come in and sit down and get waited on!

Pat and Barbara come every Saturday and open the doors at 2 pm. They serve the food hot and fresh to all until around 4 pm or the people stop coming and the food runs out. They have been doing this meal for 35 years. Some Saturdays they bring Erin, their daughter with them to help serve. She has been helping since she was a small child. On December 7, I visited Holy Grounds Coffee



Barbara & Erin

House, where lively Christian music was playing, and sat down at a table. Barbara brought a tray with hot soup and a thick sandwich. Hot

and cold beverages are always available. Pat told me that they have up to 72 patrons in an afternoon, sometimes more.

A visitor said, "It's great to look forward



Mara & a friend

to coming in on Saturday, to come in out of the cold, especially for the homeless, and the food is fabulous!" Mara, another visitor, said, "The Thanksgiving Dinner was great! It's my first time here. Loved the music! It was very uplifting. It felt good to be here, safe and happy."

This ministry started quite a few years ago, when Pat was on the Board of Directors at the Springfield Rescue Mission. They first worked with Operation Sonshine, which goes out to the streets, riverfront, Court Square, and bus station with lunch.

After several years, they began their own ministry, preparing the food in their home. They did that for 2 or 3 years, until they connected with Scott Lively and Pastor Cooley and were offered the use of the Coffee House. They gladly moved their operation indoors and continued serving. It was good to be in out of the cold! Their first Saturday at Holy Grounds was December 15, in 2012, when they had 20 people for a Christmas Dinner.

Pat has been a Christian for 32 years and has a heart for hurting people. This is his way of serving the Lord.

Don't Miss this Exciting Seminar Coming in January.

Start the New Year by learning something new about the Bible! All the prophecies in the Scriptures have come true, or will come true, exactly as they are written. This is one of the best evidences that the Bible is true, and will be forever true. Learn more about this at our annual Apologetics Seminar called "Defending the Bible Through Prophecy". This event will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2 to 5 p.m. at Calvary's Love Church, 19 Oakland Street in Springfield, a former Synagogue.

Our guest speaker is Stephen Sherman, a Messianic Jew and author of 2 books on prophecy and Hebrew roots. Stephen Sherman, a lawyer, grew up in Indiana. He comes from a very strong traditional Jewish heritage and has many years of in-

depth study of Judaism, Jewish history, and the Hebrew language, but God was drawing him to a saving knowledge of Himself. He says, "I could never keep all of the demands of Torah. I now see that my inability to keep the Torah pointed to my need of a Savior."

He received the Messiah in 1976 and says, "My life has never been the same. At one time I was afraid to give up the Passover, but God is so good. Would you believe that one of things that I have the privilege of doing, over these last 25 years, is to go around to the various churches and share Christ in the Passover."

As a Bible scholar, he has studied the multitude of prophecies in the Bible and how God unfailingly fulfills them. There are 313 predictions just about Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Come and hear Stephen Sherman and have your faith strengthened. The presentation is free to all. Please go to www.Redemptiongate.org for more information. Pastor Scott will be back from CA for this event.

~Save the Date for the Annual Apologetics Seminar~

**Saturday January 18, 2014, 2 to 5 pm
at Calvary's Love Church, 19 Oakland St. a former Synagogue.
Theme: Defending the Bible through Prophecy.**

**Also, Calling all Pro-lifers – March for Life, Wed., January 22, 2014, Washington, D.C.
Buses leave Tues., from Chicopee, Jan. 21st 10:30 PM. Return Thurs., the 23rd, 2 AM.
For more information, contact PV-MCFL office, mornings, at 413-583-5034.**

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 January 25th,
6:30 PM**

**Play Music, Read Scripture,
Sing, Poetry, Testimonies
Share Your Talents!**