

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

www.redemptiongate.org

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THE MEANING OF HOLIDAYS

By Roberta D'Amico

Most Americans enjoy the Fourth of July. I have fond memories of past years, picnics with the kids when they were young, marching in parades, watching fireworks. We must not forget why we celebrate, though. As a youngster, I learned the history of our country, our fight for independence, and how by building our society on biblical principles, we became the most successful country in the world.

In June, we also celebrated Father's Day. People joke about fathers and Father's Day. That tells us something sad about our society today: in the wake of "women's lib," fathers have been dismissed as unimportant. The truth is, fathers are the leaders of the family by God's design, whether they realize it or not.

Here in Springfield, where fatherless families are prevalent, children growing up without fathers are far more apt to get into trouble: 63% of suicides, 80% of rapists, 70% of drop-outs come from fatherless homes. We see all around us the dissolution of families, the building blocks of society, and the tragic results of the unraveling of society.

In thinking about these two special days, could there be a connection between the strong, father-led families of past generations and the success America has enjoyed from 1776 until recently? One of Redemption Gate's strategies to re-Christianize Springfield is to strengthen families. God created family; He put all the instructions necessary for successful living in His Word, the Bible.

At the Coffee House, we encourage men to be good fathers and godly leaders. We instruct couples in how to have strong marriages. We teach young people to honor, love, and respect family. Springfield and all of America will continue to be prosperous and independent to the extent that families are Godly, responsible, and hard-working.

We appreciate your support in our mission; we want to thank those who volunteer, who give of their resources (as God provides), and especially those who pray for Redemption Gate, the Coffee House, and for Springfield.



Sixth Annual Family Day Coming August 16

It all comes down to turning our backs on God. When Springfield was a nice city to live in, most people still believed in God. Now, most of our young people do not go to church, do not fear judgment, and do not even know that Jesus Christ is God and died for our sins, rose again, and is coming again!

There are spiritual forces present and at work in all our lives individually and as a society. Now, as more people "forget" God, evil powers take the opportunity to move into the realm. We believe that's what is happening here in Springfield.

As I write this early in June, there have been three murders and 8 shootings in the last two weeks. That is horrifying news for our city. And that is before the casino comes here! We desperately need revival. We must repent and turn back to the "old paths" as the Bible calls them, following God's will rather than pleasing ourselves.

The 6th Family Day is dedicated to allowing God to strengthen our families for His glory. It will include live music,

games, the water slide, bounce house, balloons, lunch, Bible stories, face painting, making gospel bracelets, and a prayer tent. We will also be baptizing again this year! To accomplish this, we need lots of help.

Volunteers are needed. Donations are needed of lunch supplies, hot dogs and rolls, chips, cookies, etc. You or your church can help by providing volunteers, Godly activities or games, prizes, donations, and

equipment.

Soon we will have a flyer ready for you all to distribute at your churches. Please call Pastor Cooley or send an email to get on the volunteer list

Complete Serenity by Deborah Albury

As a relative newcomer to the many ministries in place at Redemption Gate a.k.a Holy Grounds Coffee House, I have sampled most of the menu: the morning outreach and prayer time with High School students, the uplifting 7:30 AM Bible Study (O, Job is me, lol), witnessing to whosoever, afternoon Bible Studies, the Saturday Shabbat congregation, Sunday afternoon end time discourses, praying for one another and of course, Oh, Lord, give us Springfield!

In all these ministries, I contribute my God given gifts. There is, however, there is one ministry where God has placed me to be served, to heal and to recover. At some point in time, every believer is in need of Recovery. Recovery is a word that is associated with addiction, specifically, drug or alcohol abuse, but must not be limited to these.

On Wikipedia.org, addiction is defined as "continued repetition of a behavior despite adverse consequences". Every believer is in Recovery from

continued repetition of behaviors that transgress the commandments of God.

Complete serenity is essential for a life more abundant {John 10:10}. In secular Recovery programs, addicts must continually confess "I am an addict" and recite an abbreviated and therefore powerless version of Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer. Powerless because the name of Jesus has been removed; powerless because deliverance is never discussed –"once an addict always an addict."

This condemning repetitive utterance mirrors the insufficiency of animal sacrifices, forgetting that if the Son of Man {Jesus} shall make you free you are free indeed [John 8:38]. We have received such liberty in Christ, through the transforming and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit. Come on Wednesday nights 6:30pm and recover life, liberty, power. Thanks to all of you who support and sustain Redemption Gate

Here is the original Serenity Prayer, attributed to Niebuhr:

"God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,

Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,

Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it,

Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will,

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen."

Ongoing Events at Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 10 AM & 2 PM

MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 AM

TUES & THURS PRAYER 11 AM

TUESDAY SOLID ROCK NIGHT MUSIC FORUM 7:00 PM

WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30 & CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:30 PM

SATURDAY LUNCH 2-4 PM WEEKLY

1ST SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4 PM

~For more Information call 413-301-0918~

Saturday Night Activities

Movie nights, July 5 & 19

Open mic nights July 12 & 26

6:30 PM

Play Music, Read Scripture,

Sing, Poetry, Testimonies

Share Your Talents!