

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call His name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14*



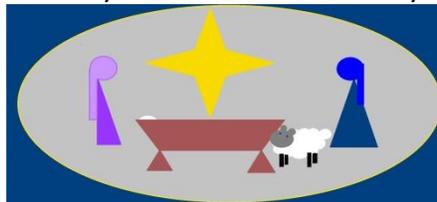
December 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 11 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Seek Unity in Christ • Love Goodness • Share Your Faith

What Shall We Do With Christmas? by Roberta D'Amico

The culture is the “report card” of the church! Nowhere is this statement truer than at Christmas time. What does our culture of Christmas say about the church in America? First of all, our culture has created an ever-lengthening *season* for Christmas. We have just survived Halloween, with its ghoulish displays, unending racks of costumes, and death-worship. In every store, the Halloween decorations have been pushed aside and Christmas stuff comes out. This used to happen right after Thanksgiving, but now it occurs November 1!

Second, consider the unavoidable Christmas advertising: TV, newspapers, store windows, magazines, radio - you can't escape it. The culture, driven by commercialism, insists that you cannot have a successful Christmas without spending oodles of money on house and yard decorations, trees, entertaining, and deluging all family members with expensive gifts that you can't afford and they don't need. All this is very easy to do with credit cards.

But, is this what Christmas is really all about? How lavish the entertaining and the decorations are; how expensive the gifts? What about Jesus? Isn't it supposed to be about Jesus coming to earth to save us? We have gone so wrong. Should we even celebrate Christmas? Some Christians think not, after all, it isn't even Jesus' real birthday (how many of us celebrate our birthday on the exact day?)



Plus, nowhere in the Bible does it say anything about celebrating any days except the Jewish feast days and keeping the Sabbath. But Romans 14:5-6 reminds us not to judge one another for how we celebrate days, as long as it is done as unto the Lord.

So that is the key, doing it as unto the Lord. So, if I celebrate Christmas, how would He want me to do it so that it glorifies Him? There are a myriad of ways. It may be as simple as sending cards that point to Jesus. Or,

inviting people for dinner, praying together and fellowshiping around His Word; singing Christmas Carols that tell His story; taking part in a Christmas program at church and inviting friends and neighbors; sharing tracts that explain that Jesus came to save us from our sins.

It doesn't mean that we can't have traditions, but Jesus must be the main focus. When I was a kid, the Nativity Scene was my favorite part. Others like to use an advent calendar, a week-by-week teaching tool of the Christmas Story. It could even be helping needy people, serving at a soup kitchen.

One of Jesus' main concerns is taking care of others in need. Instead of spending a great deal of money “exchanging gifts” with people who don't need the stuff we are contributing to their already over-stuffed houses, consider asking God where you can use some of the wealth He has supplied to help someone less fortunate; a neighbor, a needy child across the world, or right here in Springfield.

Called to Resist by Deborah Albury

Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you! James 4:7

The first Saturday of each month has become very special at Holy Grounds Coffee House, in this second seven years of urban community ministry.

Community Missionaries as defined by Pastor Scott are those believers who take responsibility for advancing the Kingdom of God in any area, not necessarily geographic, but wherever they come in contact with others.

There are two couples who continue to be on the cutting edge as Community Missionaries, Pastor Cooley and his wife Jackie, and Pastor Jonathan McNeil and his wife Joanne. They are committed to instructing and counseling for Holy Matrimony in obedience to God and for the sake of natural families.

Both couples, while 'newly-wed' to their current spouses, were once widows and widowers until God blessed them with love and matrimony anew. The Cooleys' Saturday counseling opportunities focus on those single believers who are

contemplating and preparing for marriage, actively dating, or recently engaged. The Cooleys' counseling curriculum includes a very special video but you'll have to attend; no spoilers here! See Facebook page *God's Marriage Counselors*.

The McNeils' seminars have God as the centerpiece and head of existing marriages, and have practical application of the living Word to sustain the marriage and the life of the married couples.



Jonathan & Joanne McNeil

The marriage seminars promote the order of a household: husbands submitting to God, and wives submitting to husbands while husbands are leading the household with God's covering.

The most recent seminar hosted by the McNeils was very informative and well attended: four couples including the

presenters, two want-to-be marrieds including a divorcee and one spouse who has been married for 26 years.

The discussion points included: husband and wife are the family, and children belong to God and are the families-in-waiting.

The first necessity is being subject to God, for both husband and wife. Submission and reverence to the husband does not come easy because even a godly woman has had independence and God as her head – and now needs to figure out what to keep of herself and what to let go. Join the McNeils on November 28 for the next seminar; more details available on Facebook under *Marriage with God*.

At Holy Grounds Coffee House when you bless us with your financial support you help build strong, vibrant, Bible-based, distinctly Christian families. They are a critical part of protecting our faith and living it out; solid marriages, father-and-mother households re-Christianizing Springfield until Christ comes.



Happy, Blessed Christmas to all.



Ongoing Events Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 11 a.m. , 2 p.m. , 6 p.m.
MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 a.m.
TUESDAY NIGHT outreach 5:30 p.m.
WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30, CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY LUNCH 2-4 p.m. WEEKLY
1ST SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4 p.m.

For more Information call 413-301-0918
www.redemptiongate.org

Saturday Night Activities
Second Saturday, December 12, 2015
The Core Worship Band