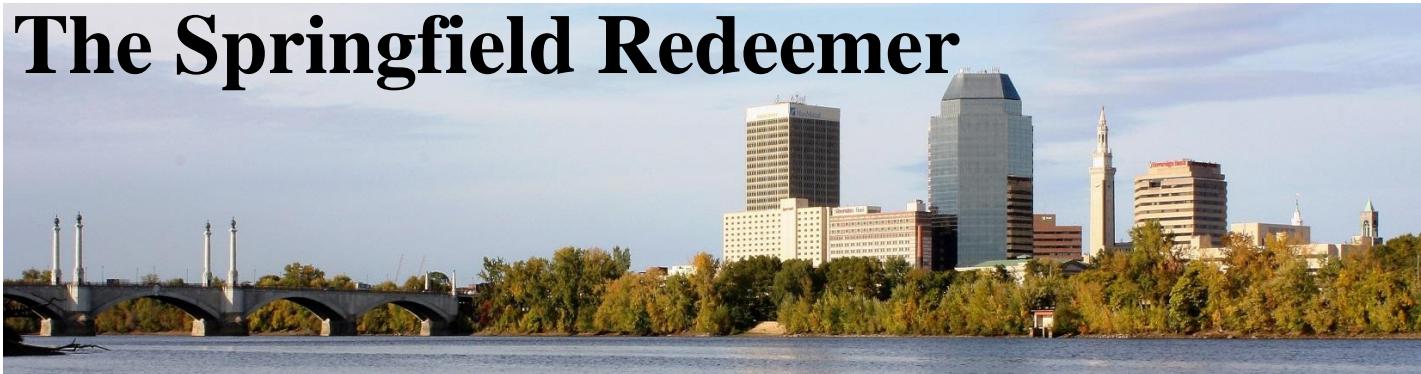


The Springfield Redeemer



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God gave . . . pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry . . . Ephesians 4:11-12

Holy Grounds Chooses New Leaders by Roberta D'Amico



Brasino Dagonceicao was recently appointed to be a leader, facilitating at the morning Bible Study at Holy Grounds Coffee House and ministering to the high school students at 7 a.m. with Denise, Shelly, and others who serve the kids. The kids come in to have their coffee and snacks, but before they leave for school at 7:15, they will come up and tell him, "we're leaving now!" And then he prays with them.

Denise opens for the kids Monday mornings, and she says, "We want to be salt and light for them, to cover them in prayer for protection. At 6:45 a.m. they are often waiting at the door to come in. I will ask one student to pray and thank God for this day, and encourage them to be kind to the kid at school who is alone, without friends. I might pray 5 or 6 times with different students or small groups."

Then by 7:15 they have to leave to get to school on time, which is down the street. As the remaining students get ready to leave, Denise tells me, "We gather them together and read them a

verse from the Bible. Many of them do not know the Lord or the Bible, so I explain to them, that this is a verse from the Bible. I want to read out of Proverbs 3:5-6, and I explain chapters and verses. Proverbs is a book full of sayings from God. Kind of like the way Facebook has lots of sayings posted on it, but these are all God's sayings."

Is all this effort making an impact on the students and ultimately on Springfield? Here's what the students say: "I used to go to church with my grandma." "I love coming here!" "I used to go to a Youth Group." "I love it." Many young people today are searching for meaning in life. They are searching for the Lord. Here's a story of one of our students: Pastor Cooley saw her, she's now going to Gordon Cromwell. She has started a ministry at college, and gives the credit to the Coffee House Student Ministry. Brasino's vision is that students from every high school in the city hear the gospel and be able to share it, as they do at Holy Grounds.

But the student ministry is only one of the roles Brasino is taking. He also facilitates morning Bible Study. It is important to keep the Bible Study strong and 'on course,' because God uses it to "grow" new Christians and help more mature Christians find a place of service here in Springfield. As I have said, the Holy Grounds Bible Study, that brings out 12 to 20 men and women morning after

morning at 7:30 a.m., is an unusual Study in that we do not use a manual or pre-designed course of study, but only the Bible, and that, verse by verse, chapter by chapter! And it is not 'taught' or controlled by a leader or speaker, but led by a facilitator, who takes his turn speaking along with everybody else at the table! Someone makes a list of each one who raises their hand to speak, in the order that they request a turn. All denominations are welcome. As Pastor Scott often has said, "Non-denominational unity on the essentials and charity on the rest."

We depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and speak through any person at the study. Through studying Moses in our Bible Study, we learn that even he did not go to Pharaoh in His own strength, but humbly spoke God's words. As we often experience at our morning Bible Study, God will speak through anyone who is 'tuned in' to His Voice.

Brasino is also interested in helping people here start small businesses. He came from Mozambique 15 years ago and has traveled a lot. His vision includes helping people prosper and not be indebted to the government. His experience helping to build businesses should be helpful, even to those who want to start small. "If God saves and heals," he says, "surely He will help His people earn a living and provide for their families!"

Brian Greene Leads Coffee House Church by Roberta D'Amico

On March 26, 2017, Brian Greene came to Holy Grounds Coffee House to begin the work to which God has called him, that of pastoring. Pastor Renzo and Betsy Ventrice, who had been leading the Sunday afternoon service this year, had stepped down from the pulpit to be installed as Head Pastor at the Wachogue Congregational Church of Springfield, leaving a vacancy. But God is good and has provided a pastor for us.

Brian Greene came to the Bible Study at Holy Grounds, and began ministering to the high school students in the mornings and doing street evangelism. After a time, God blessed him with a job at Smith and Wesson and an apartment, making it impossible for him to get to the Coffee House in the mornings.

He continued doing street outreach and planned on starting a church, meeting at Forest Park Middle School near where he lived. Meanwhile God was working to put him in a place to Pastor here at Holy Grounds Coffee House Church, something for which he

had been preparing for many years.

Brian was saved 24 years ago, February of 1993, at New Hope Pentecostal Church. He said he was



sick and tired of doing drugs and stuff, and gave his life to Christ. It was a drastic change for him as God filled him with the Holy Spirit.

The first place he studied for the ministry was at Christian Embassy Ministry in 2001, where he planned on being ordained, but the program ended before he could finish. This turn of events hindered his progress, but he tried again in 2011, attending classes at First Cathedral of Bloomfield, Connecticut's Blue Hills Academy, and ministering in Hartford. He could not continue because he could not get transportation to classes. While waiting on God to open the right opportunity, he

continued to serve the Lord here in Springfield.

Then 6 weeks ago or so, Pastor Scott asked him to pray about pastoring here at Holy Grounds! So begins a new chapter in his ministry. Coffee House Church will take on a new look, I'm sure, as the ministry tends to be non-traditional. He said that he has studied Moses to learn about leadership.

On April 9 he held his second service, opening with prayer, of course, and a few songs. His text was Ephesians 3:1-3 and his message was that God has a purpose and ministry for every person. We can get guidance from our spiritual leaders and wisdom from the Word of God, but revelation must come through our personal relationship with God Himself. I'm looking forward to his next service!

Brian will be ordained on May 21 here at Holy Grounds! Pastor Scott will be coming for this event. Come and share in this blessing, and rejoice with Brian as he takes this step in serving God.

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Pastors Bobby & Kim; 2 p.m.- Minister Brian Greene; and 6 p.m.- Transformation Centered Healing Ministries with Prophet Eric Thomas & Pastor Susan.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

WED.: Bible Study - 4:30 p.m.; Recovery at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY: Lunch 2 to 4 p.m.; except NO LUNCH ON MAY 6 & 27

1ST SATURDAY: "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

3RD SATURDAY: "Singles with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHTS: May 13, 7 p.m., Band: The Leftovers; May 27, 7 p.m. Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.