

The Springfield Redeemer



**“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
Galatians 6:9**

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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Sharing the Joy By Roberta D’Amico

Some of the special joys of Christmas are singing Christmas Carols, and through the words of these traditional songs or using tracts or even Christmas cards, sharing the message of Christmas.



The meaning of Christmas has been sadly lost for many, and never understood by many others. For myself, I was brought up in church and loved Christmas all my life, but it wasn’t until Jesus saved me from my sins at age 33, that I understood that He came down from Heaven and was born in that manger in Bethlehem to save His people from their sins. Suddenly, the meaning of the words to the beloved Christmas

carols made sense to me, and they become doubly dear to me. Thinking about Christmas caroling always brings back the memories of those special early years of the Redemption Gate ministry, whenever Pastor Scott said, “Let’s go Christmas caroling,” I was so eager to go, even on those cold nights in December.

We had been going out on Tuesday nights all through the first summer of 2008, as soon as he bought the “Redemption House” on Sherman Street in Mason Square, Springfield. We would take his dogs with us because they always attracted people. We’d give out handfuls of tracts, and often even sandwiches we had made to give away. Miraculously, for two years as we did this, it never rained on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m.!

When fall came and it was cold and dark, we talked about resuming the street ministry in the spring, but we were not willing to give it up, so we continued through the winter.

One Tuesday we were walking down State Street and stopped to talk to some ladies at the After-incarceration Support Services, and they invited us in to sing for them!

Another week, we decided to go Christmas caroling at the shopping center at Sherman and State Street, stopping at the stores there to sing of our Savior’s birth. As we circled up and lifted our voices in praise to our Lord Jesus, we realized that we were drawing a crowd! Others were joining us. I can’t remember how many, but I remember a couple and a family with a youngster with them, and they asked if they could join us. They wanted their son to experience what it was like to go Christmas caroling!

What a blessing to be able to share the joy of singing about our Savior with others. One of the people said, “We never hear carolers anymore!” So, this Christmas, find time to go caroling. Bless others by lifting up the true meaning of Christmas.

What Are We Doing? By Roberta D’Amico

As I began to write this, seeking God’s message that will complete this issue of the Springfield Redeemer, which is the monthly newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society, I first thought to list all the aspects of our ministry. I counted eight of them: the morning Bible Study, Student ministry, Recovery Program, open Mic, women’s Bible Study on Thursday, Marriage Seminar, Sunday Services, and Saturday lunch! That does not include the summer outreach, Family Day, the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, various seminars, and other things. Then, as I thought on them, I realized that these things

were only the vehicles for our real work, that of redeeming Springfield from its spiritual and the physical poverty that so often follows.

We are here to be Jesus’ hands and feet; to feed the hungry spiritual and physical food; to help meet the myriad of needs. We endeavor to create here on State Street a safe place; a place where the Holy Spirit is evident; where the atmosphere is godly; where a person can come and sit with a cup of coffee and study, read the Bible or a good Christian book, and listen to uplifting music. But we could do so much more! God has more in

mind. There are tremendous opportunities here for ministry.

Let me explain. First let me say that everything we offer is donation only, no charge. We expect that if God has blessed you, you will want to give something. Giving shows that you have been blessed and that you believe God will provide more. As we give, He supplies abundantly. Also, our workers here are volunteers. Some 'pay back' for what they have received by helping!

Secondly, we seem to have two kinds of people here: those in need, (often dire need), homeless, recovering addicts, those who are desperate, and the volunteers who feel God has called them to come here to minister and serve. This is their mission field! Some of the second group were once in the first! God changed their lives, and they have become Jesus' disciples through the ministry of Holy Grounds and God's Word, and now their lives have been redeemed.

The Carl D Band at Holy Grounds

Saturday night October 27, 2018, at Holy Grounds Coffee House was a lively good time, with the return of the Carl D Band. Carl D. came all the way from



Farmington Connecticut to play for our recent Saturday Night event, which takes place the last Saturday evening

of the month.

On this particular Saturday he had a small but enthusiastic crowd, coffee (of course!) and good snacks. He brought Rose, who has been playing the bass guitar

This is what we're here for, to see Springfield redeemed one person at a time. So we keep coming day after day.

But, there's more to do! Is God calling you to come and volunteer? Perhaps to attend the Bible Study, which is a unique opportunity to grow in God's Word, or if you are knowledgeable in the Word, to share with others. Maybe God would have you serve at the counter and make coffee? Or even sit with someone at the table and encourage them, share God's Word with them, or help in some other way. Our workers are all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, saved by the blood, and learning to walk in His ways by the power of the Holy Spirit. They come from different area churches. If you live in the area, will you consider visiting us and joining us here in Springfield? And if you live in another state or county, will you pray that God would send more community missionaries to help us? Thank you. Please pray!

with him for 5 years, and Frank, who is new to the group, on the drums. He mostly played Christian music which he wrote himself.

The Carl D Band has been playing for years, mostly Coffee Houses like ours, mostly in Connecticut. Carl started playing as a young adult. God rescued him from a lifestyle of drugs and alcohol, and he gave his life to Christ at 24 years old and became a new man. "No man can serve two masters," he said about the radical change.

At first he played music in the church, often doing "special music." Gradually, he began hearing music and words from the Lord, and started writing his own music. "God leads people in all different ways," he says. "I'm just following the Lord."

"Over the years, band members come and go. I needed someone and Frank was available." he says. "God can take what the world does and turn it to His Glory."

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim; 1 p.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene;

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

WED – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.; FIAT 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m.

SATURDAY: Pat and Barbara are back bringing lunch 2 to 4! **1ST SATURDAY:** Dec. 1st, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT: December 30th, 4 PM – 10 PM. Open Mic and Fellowship! Bring a side dish, appetizer, dessert, or drinks to share. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a small gift. Event will be held at Lighthouse Christian Center: 522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. For more details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242.