

# The Springfield Redeemer



**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**

**Joshua 1:9**

**The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society    April 1, 2020, Vol. 9, Ed.4**

## **Holy Grounds Has Hope For Springfield**

**by Roberta D'Amico**

We live in perilous times. The Bible elaborates on this in 2 Timothy 3 – In the last days, “perilous times will come.” One of the perils of our time, so far this year, 2020, is the Corona Virus, that actually started late last year, but rapidly became an international crisis. This is not the place to go into details as to what is happening, the media does that. Besides, it changes by the day and hour!

In the face of this bad news, we have good news! God is still on the Throne and in control. Viruses are not new; they have been around since creation. Microscopic creatures they are, fighting for survival like all other creatures. Unfortunately, they do not co-exist well with humans in our fallen world. But this is not a surprise to God! He has allowed them to exist for His unfathomable purposes. What we do know about God’s plans is that He uses situations like this as a tool. God is in the business of drawing people to Himself.

God is sovereign. He is good, perfect, righteous, merciful, and just. We can always trust Him. When He looks right into our hearts, He sees billions of people who are lost without Him, who have turned away from Him, and even worse, are trying to eliminate all mention of Him from our lives, and our cultures.

It is times like this, we need God’s help more than ever. Instead of turning away from Him, we need to turn back to Him. We need prayer, we need faith in our Creator to sustain us, and His Word to guide us. As humans, we have a distorted view of death. Not to make light of all those around the world who have died from this virus, but we need to remember that at the same time many more are dying of other diseases, accidents, old age, and natural causes. All men die, as is sometimes quoted from a movie. And many are born every day. It is the natural cycle of life.

What is important is that each human must hear the gospel, that God sent His Son to die for our sins

and that He rose to life again, so that we may be forgiven, and our relationship with God our Lord and Creator be restored. In addition, those of us who have eternal life through our relationship with God have the security of knowing that they are going to spend eternity with God. But what about now in this life? What should we do? Find out what God has created you to do and use it to help someone!

This is what we do here at Holy Grounds Coffee House. This is what we teach. We do not plan to close our doors because of fear, but to continue to “hold our ground” that God has given us as long as we are able to. People need hope, and we have hope, because we trust in Him. As long as God allows us to be here on State Street, we will share Jesus along with the coffee.

It may happen that we will be required to close to the public for a time. These are difficult times, what with store shelves empty in some places, restaurants, gyms, churches closed. As of March 18, no gatherings over 25 people. Everyone needs to follow the guidelines to prevent the spread of this virus. So what would God have us to do, without all our happy support systems to help us?



God spoke to me this morning: “I am all you need!” This is the time to lean on Jesus. When we can’t go places and be with others, we need to be with God. If nothing else good comes from all this, it is a time to draw close to Him; to discover that He meets our needs; that all these other things are a distraction from the one thing we need in life: to know our God, to seek our hope, joy, and satisfaction in Him. Let’s pray that this message of hope in God spreads faster than the Corona Virus and infects all of mankind!

## Spaghetti Dinner Was a Success!

On Saturday, March 21, 2020, Holy Grounds Coffee House held their Spaghetti Dinner Sale to raise funds for the ministry. The goal is that the Coffee House become self-supporting, and able to pay its bills every month!

This event was planned long before the Corona Virus interrupted our lives, but Providentially, we had already planned it to be all take-out, and had sold many tickets even before the restrictions began, so we were able to go forward with our event as planned.



Kudos to the crew who managed the event, especially Manny who cooked the spaghetti and Sam who filled the takeout boxes as they were ordered, and Denise who took the tickets and money. Others helped as needed, Angie and Jackie helping with the salad, and Pastor Brian who stayed until the end and helped clean up! Thank you all! We had a good time of fellowship working together, but still keeping our distance from one another, breaking out the gloves and keeping the hand sanitizer flowing!



Most of the people who had bought tickets showed up, some were delivered (we had offered delivery), But the best blessings came from many people who bought tickets to give away to those who could not pay the \$10. We had just finished preparations at noon and were just about to open when this man came to the door and asked for food. He said "I haven't eaten since yesterday!" We gave him the first ticket donated by one of our wonderful supporters and a substantial dinner of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and soda. He went on his way so thankful!

By 3 o'clock we had given out about 10 donated dinners, delivered several, and handed out most of the ones that had been ordered. So in spite of the virus, and the closing of restaurants and most other places, we were able to bless some people and at the same time raise some needed funds, although not all fully counted yet, but nearly \$500, to keep the Holy Grounds Coffee House going, all by God's grace and provision.

### Ongoing Events

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** 8 a.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene; 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim.

**MONDAY -- FRIDAY:** Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.  
***Come and be blessed studying the Bible with us!***

**WED –** Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.(or later!)

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY:** April 4, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY NIGHTS:** Open Mic and Fellowship! April 25, 2020, For details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242. 7 pm.

***With the help of God's people, we will continue to serve the folks and high school students of Springfield!***

### COMING NEXT MONTH!

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 –Next fundraiser will be:  
Yellow rice and beans, barbecued chicken,  
potato salad.

Only \$10 donation to support the Holy Grounds Coffee House.

