

The Springfield Redeemer



**“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you!”
Ephesians 4:32**

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Perilous Times are Here!

As if the Corona Virus and the lockdown and shortages weren't enough to create an atmosphere of fear, now we have riots, burnings, and shootings to contend with. For those of us who believe in and trust in Jesus Christ, it is a time to stretch our faith, but for many it has only created more fear.

Reconciliation between peoples and combating “racism” is not just one of our ideals here at Holy Grounds Coffee House, but something we actively work at. In the Bible, there is only one “race,” the human race, where every precious person was created special in God's image. It matters not the color of the skin, and anyway, there really aren't literally black or white people, we are all shades of brown; people have every variety of physical characteristics, because God loves variety!

Unfortunately, there are still some who believe that some people groups are superior to others. This is evil, and comes from our enemy, the devil. He loves to influence people for bad, so he can use them to accomplish his wicked plans here in this world, plans to harm people, especially God's people. One of the devil's favorite schemes is to get people to hate one another. Hate always leads to violence, and he uses the evil things people do to, like slavery, to foment hate and violence.

The slavery issue is historically not at all a strictly black versus white issue. In the first place, slavery in our nation was begun by black tribal leaders in African nations like Ghana, capturing other black people and selling them to merchant ship captains who then sold them to English plantation owners. I know this to be fact; I was there in Accra, the capital of Ghana, in 2005, on a mission trip.

Then, after we became the United States of America, in 1776, some people in the South wanted to keep slaves because they depended on the labor, but the majority of white European Americans fought for abolition. Even before the French, Irish, Italian, and Spanish came to our shores, the majority of European

By Roberta D'Amico

Americans were for equal rights! Although, sadly, after emancipation, it was another hundred years before it became a reality throughout the whole country.

In addition, there is a misconception that in the 1800's, black people were counted as only $\frac{3}{5}$ of a person! If history is studied carefully, you will find a different story. What really happened was that when the Constitution was being written, and the number of delegates to the House of Representatives was being established, if all the slaves in the South had been counted, it would have given the South far more power in Congress and in the Electoral College, which would have defeated the Northern abolitionists! A compromise was reached: to count only 3 out of every 5 slaves, thereby limiting the power in Congress and the Electoral College, of the southern “slave” states.

And so, Americans who believe in equality have been fighting for it since the beginning of our Nation, which brings us to today! Now, in the 20th Century, the devil hasn't given up his efforts to set us against each other. There are still folks among us who believe that some folks are better than others. The devil will fire them up and stir up controversy and violence, and gather a mob. Human nature being what it is, it is not hard for agitators to get people to join a *cause*. The problem is, *causes* are not always what they purport to be! In the case of Black Lives Matter, *all lives* matter. They all matter! We support them all!

However, the *organization*, BLM, is not about equality. It is a Communist, socialist movement using the excuse of racism to tear down our country and turn it into a socialist country. Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors said, in a newly surfaced video from 2015 that she and her fellow organizers are “trained Marxists”. And, the wisdom gleaned from history shows that no country has ever prospered from socialism, take Venezuela, for example. The only ones who prosper are the rich, powerful elite dictators. So let's not go there, America!

America has brought to its citizens a greater measure of freedom and higher standard of living than anywhere else in the world. But, let's not stop there; there is more work to do. Instead of looting and burning and shootings, let's pray and work for peaceful,

lawful justice. Harming innocent people will not improve life.

As Christians, we can change the world, one person at a time, one heart at a time, by prayer and forgiveness, and God can heal our land.

Pastor Renzo Becomes New Minister of Evangelism

Pastor Renzo is coming back on board to work with Holy Grounds Coffee house as Minister of Evangelism under Pastor C.S. Cooley. For 4 years now, he has been producing videos of Christian History on TV being broadcast to Springfield and surrounding towns, as a Television Minister. Now, however, he and Betsy are planning on branching out to include traveling to other churches, in addition to representing Holy Grounds Coffee House on two weekly TV Programs.

Starting in August, God willing, they will be going to churches to speak, offering pulpit supply, and establishing connections with area churches. In this capacity, he will be sending reports to include in the monthly newsletter, the Redeemer. One of his ministries is also doing drama, as in presenting the Black Robe Regiment. In the future, his goal is to hold seminars on Christian History, reaching out to other states such as VT, NH, MA, CT, and RI. It will cover the book of Acts up to the present time.

He is a member of the International Barnabus Ministries Inc., which, under the leadership of Director Dr. Richard Germaine, endeavors to bring together pastors from different denominations and be a resource for them. Their website is www.barnabusministriesinc.org. Also, his sermons are on the Redemption Gate Mission Society website (our internet outreach) under the tab "Webcast", where you can listen to them anytime!

Coffee House offers Fish Dinners for funds!

As we continue to operate into the summer, there are bills due, and to meet them, we are again offering Fish Dinners for \$10 as a Fundraiser.

This coming August 14, Friday, Pastor Cooley's Favorite Fish Dinners will again be available! They will include Swai fish, fries, salad, and dessert.

These delicious dinners, cooked by Pastor Cooley, will be available for **Take Out** only, from noon to 3 p.m., at Holy Grounds Coffee House, 455 State Street, Springfield! From noon to 3 p.m. Please come and enjoy!

Specifically, the funds raised with the Fish Dinners will pay the up coming winter heating bill! God bless you as you join with us to keep the ministry of Holy Grounds thriving!

Please order in advance if possible: tickets are available, please call: Pastor Cooley at (413) 626-6807 or Roberta at (413) 330-4658.



Yum!

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8 a.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene;

10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim. (At the Coffee House now, with fellowship after!)

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

WED – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Still on Zoom, as far as I know, but may be at the Coffee house soon!)

THURSDAY: Shelly's Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. - **FIAT** 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m. (Sometimes it varies.)

1ST SATURDAY: "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m. (To be announced)