

# The Springfield Redeemer



**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”  
2 Corinthians 5:17**

**The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society November 1, 2020, Vol. 9, Ed.11**

## Testimony of Pastor Roberto Quinones

Pastor Roberto says, “If we let this country go the way it’s going we are going to be persecuted for speaking out, but I am grateful for the freedom we still have



to speak. This is my testimony:

“I grew up in a Christian home, in Westchester, New York, although I was born in Puerto Rico. I was separated from my mom at birth, ‘rescued’ by my father, who brought me to his sister. Some time after this, my Father came to Christ. When my aunt died, I was sent to New York to live with him, who had become a real born-again Christian.

“At 16, I was rebellious, smoking and partying, and ended up in prison. In 2010 in South Carolina, I was out of prison, but homeless with no support. I felt no one cared. My mom passed in 2013, but I never knew her. In 2010 I met with my family and learned about the other side of the family’s story. My father and aunts were at war with my mom’s family, and I was really abducted at 3 months old. However, my father now being 85 years old, I have not confronted him. I am still in the process of trying to find ‘who I am’.

“In 2010, in Massachusetts, I was put on ten years’ probation, from South Carolina to New York. My father in New York wanted to help me. Then an amazing thing happened. After reporting to my Probation Officer - a two-hour bus ride – expecting to go to New York, my transfer got denied. So here I was, in Myrtle Beach in July, with no place to go. I waited all day but to no avail. I desperately needed a place to stay. I had 11 days or I would be in violation of my parole, and go back to jail for 10 more years.

“It was closing time, and one Parole Officer spent 30 more minutes trying to find another guy a place to go, and he was accepted. They inquired, can you take one more? YES! And they were willing come and get me! No, the Parole Officer would even bring me. It turned out to be a church with an outreach, men’s and women’s homes!

“After a month there, I gave my life to the Lord! God used them to help me. I wanted to commit my life to their ministry. I still had 10 years of probation. I had to go every two weeks, but two weeks later when I reported, I was waiting for the Officer, and he came with a manila folder. More papers to sign, I thought, but no, it was a Probation Release form! Usually, release happens after probation is over. And, the Parole Officers don’t usually like Safegate Ministries, but still he waived the 9 years!

“I knew God’s hand was directly on my life. I experienced it. I met my wife Kim at Safegate, 5 months later, at Thanksgiving. July 2012 we got married. I still had an open case in Holyoke, from when I was 16 years old, but when I tried to make things right, the record of it could not be found!

“Then, 2015, we were on our own, still in South Carolina, but God was the basis of our relationship, even before we married. To this day, our relationship is a “partnership”. My experiences have taught me patience. I learned two things from personal counseling that changed my life: first, when it comes to relationships, I have to behave how I want the other person to behave. I have flaws, too, but I must be a model for how I want others to behave. Then trust God and follow through. The second thing is to do a self-evaluation, where am I in life? To advise others, I must be an example.”

So now in Massachusetts, Pastors Roberto and Kim are having a great ministry here at Holy Grounds Coffee House! They are a great assent to the ministry, and we are blessed to have them.

## New Director for Springfield Rescue Mission by Roberta D'Amico

From the Editor: The Springfield Rescue Mission and Holy Grounds Coffee House have worked closely for years, offering hope and opportunity for a new life to people of Springfield through our Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. Many people in Springfield know of both ministries, so we are including this news from the Mission.

The Springfield Rescue Mission held an Open House on Thursday, October 1, 2020, to celebrate Ron Willoughby's retirement as Director of the Mission since 1987. The event was held at the Mission, 10 Mill Street, from 3 to 6 p.m. In his 33 years here, he has led the Mission through many challenges, and under his leadership, it prospered and expanded. Most of those years were at 19 Bliss Street, but in 2015 God directed them to move to 10 Mill Street."



About 30 people attended the event, who were carefully screened for COVID at the entrance. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Proclamation that Mayor Sarno presented that read: "Be it known that The City of Springfield, Massachusetts, hereby extends its Congratulations to Ron Willoughby in Celebration of his Retirement! And further, on behalf of the residents of our great city, we extend best wishes and good health on this joyous occasion." Furthermore, the Mayor proclaimed October 1 as *Ron Willoughby Day!*

Ron spoke of how after 33 years here, it was time to retire. He and Cathy will move to a house that they had built in New York State and will be able to devote more time to their health issues.

The cafeteria where the event was held featured many beautiful pictures of them and the Mission, including a table display about the Mission with a timeline of its history. There was also ample delicious refreshments to enjoy.

Ron was interviewed by Channel 22, and was asked how COVID - 19 has affected the ministry this summer. He explained that they had to restrict the population at the Mission to 50% of its occupancy. "But the homeless are still out there," he said, "so we have to be creative to meet needs. We served breakfast to 40 people this morning, to eat outside. After 120 years we are still serving those most in need in Springfield."



The new Executive Director is Kevin Ramsdell. He comes with his wife Sabra and son William, 25 years old. He and his family have been in this area 4 years, and attend First Baptist Church. Many in the area have been praying for Ron's replacement, and Kevin seemed to be the right choice. He has known Ron for 20 years, and they were involved in Recovery Ministry on Howard Street. For the last 4 months, Kevin has been assisting Ron, getting acquainted with every area and aspect of the ministry.

Please pray for a smooth transition and a blessed future for them here.

---

### Ongoing Events

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

10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim, 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)

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY:** "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m. (To be announced)