

# The Springfield Redeemer

“Whatever you do, do it all for  
the glory of God.”  
1 Corinthians 10:31

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

October 1, 2021, Vol. 10, Ed.10

## How To Spend Halloween by Roberta D’Amico



October is a good month to write about Halloween. It’s hard to avoid this American holiday, as the decorations, candy, and costumes are in your face in every store. I’m convinced that Halloween is so popular is because it is a money-maker for businesses!

Halloween, in spite of it’s dark origins, has the advantage of coinciding with harvest time. Even with the difficulties of this past two years, here in America is the land of plenty! Bushels of produce, fields of pumpkins, food and other goods here are plentiful, yet our neighbors to the south in Haiti, including our Christian brothers and sisters, are suffering greatly, just trying to stay alive!

Due to the recent earthquake in August, which killed so many, families are without drinking water, food, shelter, basic necessities of life. Yet here in America people are spending oodles of money on costumes, decorations, lawn displays, and candy! Now, I’m not condemning Halloween (that’s God’s purview), but since it is upon us, how can we redeem it and make it work for us as Christians and for the Kingdom of God.

Let’s start with costumes. They cost a lot of money, but they don’t have to! A little creativity goes a long way. The kids will have just as much fun with homemade costumes. Innumerable garments can be found at thrift stores from which costumes can be made at home. And consider this, every costume sends a message! What does your costume say about you? Does it glorify the Lord or the devil? Does it represent an animal, something of God’s creation, a cartoon character (hopefully a good guy!), or does it glorify God’s enemies the devil, witchcraft, or other evil beings?

Trick or Treating is a beloved tradition among children, but no longer safe. Why not a “Harvest Party” instead, with good eats, fun games, and even a gospel message (or at least Halloween gospel tracts in the take home gift bags?) Speaking of gift bags, all the money you could be spending on bags and bags of candy might be used to send a donation to Haiti or New Orleans (which at this writing is still underwater and without power!) Donating to Franklin Graham’s Samaritan’s Purse is a good thing, so you can be confident that it will benefit the people in desperate need and not some agency.

Enjoy Halloween if you want to, but do it in a way that honors the Lord, just as everything we do as Christians should honor the Lord. Find it in your heart to spend less on frivolous stuff that we so enjoy here on earth, but share with people in need, whether it is a mission or ministry that promotes the gospel, or food and water and shelter given to those who are suffering. Our reward will be great in heaven!

### A Halloween Story

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin!"

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you.

Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." ~Author Unknown~



Pastor and Jackie Cooley returned from their sabbatical a little early, arriving back home September 1. On their trip south, they drove through 5 states, visiting family, resting and refreshing themselves in their family relationships, and spending time with the Lord. Taking a break is essential for those in ministry. It is easy for pastors, especially, to get bogged down from the constant demands on them; hence taking a break gives them a chance to refocus on God's bigger picture, purpose, and plans for the ministry.

Going forward, we are looking forward to the Commerce High School students coming back. Pastor Cooley printed new guidelines for the student ministry in order to comply with the best practices concerning COVID.

We are so happy to have Pastor back in the morning Bible Study (7:30 a.m.) which continued in his absence under the supervision of Pastor Brian Greene. Right now we are in the last book of the Bible, Revelation. So in October we will be beginning again with Genesis!

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### **Prayer and Praises from RGMS Evangelist Pastor Renzo Ventrice!**

Betsy is home, slowly recovering, no more infection, no cancer, heart trouble, etc. She just needs to regain her strength. They thank you for your prayers for Betsy's complete healing and recovery.

Pastor Renzo has visited Grace Christian Fellowship in Keene N.H. where he was able to share the ministry of Holy Grounds Coffee House! When he gets offerings for preaching, he shares it with Holy Grounds.

Pray that doors will open so that Pastor Renzo will be able to visit 43 churches this year!

Pray for churches to come together in unity and strength trusting only Jesus and His Word!

"The great pillars of all government and of social life [are] virtue, morality, and religion" —Patrick Henry, circa 1787.

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### **Ongoing Events**

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

10 a.m. - Motivated by Faith with Pastor Bobby and Kim Quinones.

3:00 p.m. Coffee House Church with Pastor Cooley resumes.

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

**THURSDAY: FIAT** Thursday 7 p.m. September 30!

**FRIDAY:** Women's Bible Study with Shelly Saunders, Fridays at 1:00 PM.

**SATURDAY:** We hope to have Open Mic return in October!