

The Springfield Redeemer

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Gate Mission Society,
Holy Grounds Coffee House
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Pastor Cooley Celebrates 75th Birthday!



An enthusiastic crowd of over one hundred guests greeted Pastor C.S. Cooley and First Lady Jackie Lee Cooley as they made their grand entrance into the Banquet Hall at Ludlow Country Club on Saturday, January 13th, 2024. For the first hour, guests spent time greeting friends and making new acquaintances. We also had opportunity to see the video photo display of the Cooleys which was running continuously.

Then, after the opening prayer by the Master of Ceremonies Superintendent Zachary Reynolds, some words of welcome, and a little music, dinner was served. The food was excellent, served buffet style. Following dinner, several people shared some “fun facts” about Pastor Cooley, which included testimonies also. Several people shared remarks, especially Godfather Herbert Norman who is 102 years old!

Several people spoke about Pastor Cooley’s amazing life and how God brought him from the streets to the pulpit, touching so many lives along the way. An announcement was made from Mayor Sarno and Rep. Bud Williams, who couldn’t be here, to honor Pastor Cooley for his tireless efforts over many years to unite people, especially the Body of Christ, across racial lines. He has joined with Pastor Daniel Torres and Mission Pioneer Valley to bring about reconciliation between people! The crowd at the Birthday Party January 13th was quite a testimony to Pastor Cooley’s success, just to see the room filled with men and women of all ages, color, denominations, and churches sitting together, eating together, fellowshiping and celebrating Pastor Cooley’s birthday.

Finally, our elected officials, Mayor Sarno and Rep. Bud Williams honored Pastor Cooley by declaring that Saturday, January 13th, 2024, as Pastor C.S. Cooley Day!

Interruptions

by Iris L. Jenkins, PhD, United Temple Church of God In Christ

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Some of us may remember watching television (perhaps a favorite program) only to have the show interrupted by an announcer saying “We interrupt this broadcast...” Typically, this happened because the television network wanted to deliver some important, breaking news. We may have been disappointed with the interruption, wanting to continue watching the show we’d planned to enjoy. Yet, the television network believed that the interruption was necessary, that the information to be shared was more important than the entertainment we planned for ourselves.

There are times when God must interrupt our life programs in the same way. There is something far more important at hand than the plans we've made for ourselves. There have been times when I was so frustrated because of what I saw as an interruption to my plans. After all my thoughtfulness and care, things did not go the way I'd expected them to. Even my backup plans fell through. Imagine my disappointment after thinking I'd planned every detail and considered every possibility. "Why can't things just work out the way I planned?", I thought.

The answer? God was interrupting my plan! Just like those television networks, God decided that something had to be done. He decided that the path I'd charted for myself simply wasn't good enough. He wanted more for me. God, whose understanding is beyond what we can imagine. God, whose approach is based on his infinite wisdom and knowledge. God desires only the very best for His children. Yes, God our creator looks down and sees how our plans, though well-intentioned, are leading us away from the greatness HE HAS planned. So He interrupts.

While it's easy to get frustrated when things don't go our way, we must keep in mind that any interruption orchestrated by God is a blessing. The removal of things from our plan... a blessing. The addition of things TO our plans... a blessing! While we believe we know what's best for us, God DOES know what's best for us. While we think we have things figured out, God knows our past, present, and future in detail. There's nothing hidden from Him, nothing taking Him by surprise, nothing He isn't prepared for. He knows all and is above all.

The next time we find ourselves in the field of interrupted plans, I hope that we'll take a different perspective. Let us think about the fact that we serve a God who cares enough to point out the more important things. Let us consider that we serve a God who cares enough to point us toward our blessings when we have prepared our path that steps away from them. Let us consider that we serve a God who loves us so much, that He won't hesitate to interrupt.

Pastor Renzo Report – January 2024.

As the Evangelist and Revivalist from Redemption Gate Mission Society and Holy Grounds Coffee House since August 2020, Pastor Renzo Ventrice submits a report every month, of his efforts to contact pastors and share the need for New England churches to come together in fervent prayer for revival and evangelism. After forging relationships with about 268 pastors, including 4 new pastors this month, his hope is to preach revival and teach Christian History.

On New Years Eve, Pastor Renzo and Betsy visited Goshen Congregational Church and presented the mission of Redemption Gate and also Dr. Michael Youssef and Rise Up New England's coming Celebration in June 2024. Then, January 2, he was on the one hour broadcast "Live Mike" in Brattleboro VT, sharing his testimony and mission, for RGMS and Rise Up New England!

Also in January, he visited Pastor Chuck Wimer's Jubilee family Outreach in West Springfield and Lifepoint Church in Chicopee. He and Pastor Kevin will be discussing hosting a training class for R.U.N.E. in May. With the rest of the New England Executive Committee, he is working to enlist 50 pastors for training classes for the Evangelistic Celebration with Dr. Michael Youssef.

Regular Events:

Morning Bible Study is open to all to learn more about the Bible - Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

We are having great studies in the book of Psalms! Come and learn with us!

Sunday Services at 5 p.m. with Pastor Bobby Quinones.

Coming June 22, 2024 – Big Celebration at the Mass Mutual Center, with Dr. Michael Youssef and Leading the Way Ministries. Many churches will be involved, so be praying about bringing people, especially unsaved!