

AMIAA NEWS

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AMAA Sponsored Children's Summer Camp in Bulgaria (See story on page 11)

Visit to our Homeland

Andrew Torigian



AMAA NEWS

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the Armenian Missionary Association of America,
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.
Tel. (201) 265-2607; Fax (201) 265-6015
E-Mail: amaa@amaa.org
Website: www.amaa.org

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E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

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COVER PICTURE

Summer Camp - Bulgaria

"You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it." (Psalm 65:9)

In June, AMAA Board members, families, and supporters got together for a tour of Armenia to observe our AMAA projects in the motherland.

For those who came, it was an extremely rewarding trip. Not only did they see what has been accomplished by the AMAA in spreading the Gospel in Armenia, and in supporting humanitarian programs, but also they came to the realization that the work done has been monumental over the span of 17 years in expressing the love of Christ through words and deeds.

Immediately after the 1988 earthquake, the AMAA did its utmost to ease the pain of our Armenia brothers and sisters. By providing food, medication, and clothing, it extended as much help as possible to provide for the needs of the people.

The group, in its tour, visited the AMAA Camp "Sheen" Shoghig which, along with the AMAA Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Karabagh, and the 69 day camps, provide more than 10,000 children with enjoyment, fresh air and Christian education.

The AMAA has always put education in the forefront of its ministries and supports the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia and the Khoren and Shoushanig Avedisian Primary School. Perhaps one of the most moving events of our visit was the graduation of the fourth grade of the AMAA Khoren and Shoushanig Avedisian Armenian Evangelical School. The students are extremely bright and motivated, gave recitations of what they had learned and performed a series of Armenian dances that were truly authentic. It brought smiles and warm emotions to all of us as we watched them proudly graduate. With tears of joy in his eyes, Edward Avedisian, the benefactor of the school, praised the students and the principal and the staff for the marvelous work they had accomplished.

We were also privileged to attend and participate in the commencement exercises of 150 seminary students who graduated from the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia.

Several of us had the good fortune to meet the child we are sponsoring under the AMAA orphan and needy child program. Needless to say, meeting a child you are supporting is very emotional, and all those who did meet one of these children took pictures and spent time together as a family. The AMAA currently supports 2,826 orphans and needy children and their families. It's also gratifying to know that these children receive free medical check-ups in one of the AMAA Clinics in Yerevan, Spitak or Vanadzor. They also receive free dental treatment.

Christian Education is an inseparable part of child rearing. The AMAA Christian Education Program reaches out to thousands of children throughout Armenia and Karabagh. They educate the children based on the teachings of the Bible to enable them to personally know Jesus Christ as their Savior. The children are encouraged to live a life worthy of Him and, as they grow, perhaps one day become leaders of our churches and country.

For those who wish to donate for any of the AMAA's projects, please send your tax-deductible contribution in the attached envelope. □

159th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church – July 1, 1846

Imperative For Evangelism

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...” Romans 1: 16

Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian

In the history of the Christian church many renowned theologians and theological movements have had Paul’s Letter to the Romans as their source of inspiration and guidance. This letter was written from the city of Corinth most likely in 57 or 59 A.D.. Paul’s itinerary had already covered the important towns and cities in the East. He had a great desire to travel to Spain and to make a stopover in Rome, the capital city of the Roman Empire, to visit the church there, which was not founded by him. Paul did not have the chance to fulfill his desire to travel on his own, but he was taken there as a prisoner. It is most likely that he wrote this letter in order that the church in Rome will have some knowledge of him and his profession of the New Faith. However, Paul’s Letter to the Romans turned into a systematic manifesto on the essentials of the Christian faith and practice. St. Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430), Martin Luther (1483 – 1546), John Calvin (1509 – 1564) and Karl Barth (1886 – 1968) are only a few of those great and epoch-making theologians and reformers whose lives and teachings were deeply impacted by the content of this letter.

A. The Gospel That The Apostle Paul Professed And Taught

The word euaggelion means ‘gospel’ or ‘good news’, which is, according to William Barclay, “so specifically and characteristically a Christian word that it has not had a long history outside the New Testament”. It reveals and proclaims the saving power of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to all those who believe in him. For the Apostle Paul “the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” This salvation is the liberation of man from the fetters of sin and death. God’s saving power is imparted to man as grace through the love of Jesus Christ, a love that he revealed by shedding his blood on the cross. In other words, the sinner receives the righteousness of God as grace by believing and trusting in His Son, Jesus Christ. In almost all his letters Paul emphasizes the power of this gospel and discred-

its the efficacy of the law and good works for man’s salvation.

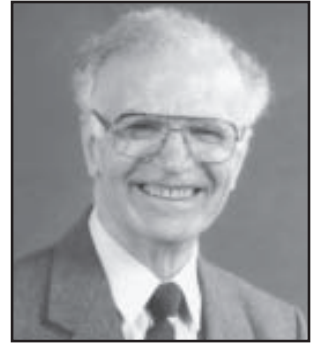
It is this gospel which the Apostle Paul proclaims emphatically, and it is this gospel that he refers to in his letter to the church in Rome, saying “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation...”. Furthermore, it is this gospel that Paul stands by in his letter to the church in Corinth where he says, “Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16). The Apostle was very confident of his belief that the preaching of this gospel was most imperative.

B. Evangelism is Imperative For the Armenian Evangelical Church

Our time does not allow us to even briefly narrate the story of the Armenian Evangelical Church. During the last 50 years, thanks to our Armenian Evangelical historians and publishers, many books have been published on this subject both in Armenian and in English. One phenomenon that has a direct bearing on our sermon is that the Armenian Evangelical Movement of the 19th century and evangelism have advanced concurrently and have had a parallel history. Actually, the Armenian Evangelical Church is a product of evangelism; furthermore, evangelism is the *raison-d’etre*, and the sole justification for the existence of the Armenian Evangelical Church. As regards her concept of the gospel, both the revealed Living and the written Words of God have become her sources of inspiration and conviction. Similar to the great reformers of the 16th century, the pioneers of the Armenian religious reform movement made great use of Paul’s letter to the Romans that affected the development of their theological thought and life-style.

The seeds of the Armenian Evangelical Movement were first sown in the 1830s, in an Armenian theological seminary located on the grounds of the Armenian Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey. The Principal of this seminary, Krikor Peshtimaljian, who was a renowned biblical scholar, conducted a

Bible-study class for the illumination of the minds of his students. Nobody in those days suspected that these out of class time studies would fire the minds of some students with a spirit of evangelism. Enlightened and empowered by the truth of the gospel, those students got organized under the name of Society For Piety, or Haygazounian Society, their sole purpose being evangelizing their people. We cannot go into the reasons, or the circumstances that forced the members of this society to be converted into a separate church on July 1, 1846. However, it is very important for us to know that both the members of the Society For Piety, and later, the Armenian Evangelical Church felt that the only justification for their existence as a separate church was their obedience to the last commission of our Lord to his disciples, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28: 19,20). The Bible Societies, Russian, British, and American, were instrumental and a great help in providing them with Bibles in Armeno-Turkish, Classical Armenian (*krapar*), and in vernacular (*ashkharhapar*) languages. In addition, the American missionaries provided them with religious tracts and books as tools for promoting their evangelistic enterprise. Evangelism was the watch-word of the day, and the pioneers of the Armenian Evangelical Movement picked up this challenge in all earnest and carried the gospel, the good news of salvation, to the end of the then Ottoman Empire, reaching out to their Armenian compatriots. Wherever the gospel was preached, new churches and Christian



schools were founded through its power, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

C. Evangelism: An Imperative For Our Times

Despite the new ways and methods by which evangelism is carried on nowadays, we must resist more than ever the temptation of considering it as an outmoded or anachronistic practice. The gospel of salvation is still as much an imperative for us Armenian Evangelicals, as it was during the formative years of this movement, because we believe that the gospel is the power of God, and is able to renew our lives and empower us to become witnesses to Jesus Christ, and to his saving grace. This should be an imperative challenge for our churches, if we are serious about our Christian faith and our evangelicalism. It is also imperative for us to acknowledge the fact that the Holy Spirit is the source of our power and wisdom to promote evangelism, so that in all of our endeavors we should seek first the glory of God, and his Kingdom. We are all called to evangelize, however, we should first seek the will of God for us. We should also submit ourselves to the control, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit so that in all our endeavors God's name will be glorified and many souls will be drawn to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The following brief guidelines can be of some help:

a. Study the Holy Bible regularly and in a prayerful spirit. Remember that God speaks to us through His Word, while we speak to God through our prayers. Make a habit of using good and authoritative commentaries.

b. While evangelizing someone, take heed that the voice of God is heard louder than yours. Follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

c. We will not be "ashamed of the gospel" if we have had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, have experienced his salvation, and have been practicing his presence in prayer and meditation.

d. Remember that evangelism is not given to you as a right, or a monopoly. The Holy Spirit uses other people to preach, or to evangelize. The spirit of Christian love and respect will make you "accept them, as you are accepted in Christ..." It is recommended that you carry on your evangelism under the supervision of your church.

e. Make every effort to be polite and considerate towards the people you evangelize,

so that those who are weak in the faith will have no reason to stumble and to reject you and the gospel you bring to them.

f. Give glory and honor only to God, when the groups of people you evangelize grow in number, and the "number of saved increases".

g. Always keep in mind the following testimony of the Apostle Paul: "Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me If I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9: 16)

* * *

Today, more than at any time, the world is badly in need of the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. The worst and most destructive current of secularization is carrying the so-called Christian nations of the West -Europe, United States, and Canada - away. Politicians, sociologists, educational institutions, and judicial authorities are making every effort to dismantle everything that has some religious connotation, including religious symbols, in order to build a "completely free" society. Many historians and theologians have already labeled this era as "post-Christian". There is no more a Christendom, Christian nation, and Christian culture. We, Armenians, including Evangelicals, are not free from the impact of secularization. What can we do? We will either follow the order of the day, or fight back with the sword of the gospel. On the one hand this new phenomenon will be very revealing, that is, it will separate

the true believers from those who were just nominal Christians. Christianity will no longer be used by the national establishments and governments according to their whims, for political, social, and financial gain. All this is good. As true believers, we must rejoice over this secularization phenomenon. On the other hand, it puts us under great stress and obligation to get more serious in our faith, and our task of evangelizing. We can, and should pray to God that He may fill our hearts and minds with the spirit of the Pentecost, that we may again be filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, and go out to preach the gospel all over the world, beginning with our homes, churches, the Armenian nation, and the Armenian Homeland. Today, we are witnessing many shameful things around us, however, we are expected, and required that we never consider the gospel of Jesus Christ something to be ashamed of, in order not to fall under condemnation. Let us pray that the Armenian Evangelical Church be prepared to celebrate her 160th anniversary by taking bold and fruitful steps in evangelism for the glory of God and for the well-being of Christ's churches and the believers at large. AMEN. □

For further reading: You may use the article on Evangelism in Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian's book, *Indispensable Heritage*, (Anpokharinely Jarankootyune - Անխրոխանաբարեկրի Ժառանգութիւնը) p. 109. This book has been recently published by the AMAA.

Inspirational Corner

LET ME GIVE

I do not know how long I'll live
But while I live, Lord, let me give
Some comfort to someone in need
By smile or nod, kind word or deed.

And let me do what ever I can
To ease things for my fellow man.
I want naught but to do my part
To "lift" a tired or weary heart.

To change folks' frowns to smiles again.
Then I will not have lived in vain
And I'll not care how long I'll live
If I can give ... and give ... and give.

-BJ.Morbitzer

Odyssey to Armenia

Joyce Stein

The moment our family of nine landed in Yerevan, we marked not only a homecoming, but a new adventure. We were joined by AMAA's President Dr. Steven Aharonian and wife Julie, AMAA Executive Director, Andy Torigian and members of other families involved within the mission of AMAA.

AMAA's capable Armenia Director Rev. Rene Leonian planned a packed nine day tour of the organization's churches, schools, camps, vacation bible schools, Nork Orphanage and Christian Centers.

Our mission to see first hand AMAA's unprecedented efforts in greater Armenia. Each day filled with exciting and often poignant visits: the impressive Avedisian School boasts having received Armenia's highest award for academic excellence and this day was celebrating a joyous graduation. Other schools were impressive on merits of their own: in Vanadzor, Spitak, Talin and Gumri's Dikran Andreassian School. Our group was regaled in each school with music, dancing and emotional recitations recounting Armenia's rich Christian heritage.

We were encouraged to see so many of the AMAA sponsored children cared for in the academic, spiritual and physical realm. Orphan and Child Care Committee members, Susie and Arsine Phillips, Grace Kurkjian and Joyce Stein were deeply impressed and eager to share their experience with the national Orphan and Child Care Committee members. It is noteworthy, this group raises close to \$200,000 each year for the underserved in Armenia.

Other visitations included churches and AMAA sites in Vanadzor, Yerevan, Stepanavan, Ashtarak, Spitak (where the pastor after 7 years moved his family of four from a container to a home!) Especially touching was the experience at the Sheen Shoghik Camp in Hankavan. Each week hundreds of children enjoy fresh air, good food, many activities, bible study, evening assemblies and loving counselors. Some of us met with very responsive sponsored children who surrounded us with hugs, hand holding and countless questions! An experience never to be forgotten!



For those first Armenia first timers, the sites of Karni, Keghart Monastery, Dilijan's Haghardzin Monastery, Ashtarak and old church sites, Lake Sevan Etchmiadzin and Khor Virap were captivating. All were happy to have an outing at Yerevan's legendary vernisage (open air market). And none of us will ever forget the touching theological academy graduation for over 150 seminary

students who plan to go into the field. Yerevan's rich heritage was evidenced in its outstanding museums and the world famous Maderataran Library and Archives.

The 35 AMAA mission partners counted it a privilege to have witnessed the Christian outreach and impressive impact of AMAA's true mission in the homeland. May God continue to bless the work. □



President Robert Kocharian received the visit of the delegation of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), on June 20th, headed by the Executive Director of the Association, Andy Torigian.

President Kocharian, with much gratitude, mentioned that his meetings with the Armenian Evangelicals is frequent and he highly appreciated the educational and philanthropic projects of the Armenian Evangelical Church, and the AMAA.

Pictured above - Left to Right: Rev. Rene Leonian, AMAA Representative in Armenia; Albert Momjian, Esq., AMAA Solicitor; Dr. Hrair Aharonian, AMAA President; President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian; Andy Torigian, Executive Director of AMAA; Joyce Stein, AMAA Board Member and Stephen Philibosian Foundation; George Phillips, Esq., AMAA past Vice President.

Syrian and Lebanese Sojourn

Joyce Stein

The Stein, Landes and Danelian family joined by the Aharonians, Andy Torigian and Harry Balukjian flew from Yerevan to Aleppo, Syria, where we received a royal welcome by Rev. Harout Selimian. The reverend, a friend of Aleppo's special security agent facilitated a smooth entry into that marvelous ancient city. We were hosted by the established evangelical churches and one evening, a festive reception was held in our honor. Indeed we were welcomed by Aleppo's most respected community members of society. One fascinating morning was spent with Aleppo's grand mufti (the supreme religious leader of that city). Rev. Selimian's hand was evident on every occasion, including the Aleppo/Damascus journey of a three car convoy to Lebanon.

Nostalgia was keen as we paid a brief visit to Anjar and its young pastor Rev. Messerlian. We were given a glimpse of the parsonage built by Stephen Philibosian whose image adorns that home in beautiful Bas Relief. His name is also etched on the wall of the science laboratory in partnership with the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Beirut is a bustling metropolis, and Haigazian University (HU) the center of attraction for those celebrating the university's remarkable 50 years. Among the outstanding events: baccalaureate services lead by Princeton Seminary's President Ian Torrance. A lovely alumni dinner in the Mugar Garden was unforgettable for alumni, HU trustees, women's auxiliary and many friends. A band composed of HU alumni and students regaled the guests with musical talents. An evening at the legendary Phoenicia Hotel celebrated HU's 50 years chronicling its history, beginning with 30 students, a budget of \$30,000 a year and an incredibly resourceful President Dr. John Markarian. Many remarks and messages abound that evening, in gratitude for the vision of the founders, AMAA, Mehagian and Philibosian. Following Emeritus President John Khanjian's moving invocation, President Emeritus Mihran Agbabian of the American University of Armenia, delivered



Haigazian University 50th Anniversary Commencement.

an insightful keynote message harking back to the importance education has played in Armenian life since time immemorial. Recognition was awarded to those who served Haigazian University. In efforts of significance, among recipients of the beautifully crafted plaques, was the Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

Thousands attended the impressive 50th anniversary commencement which took place in the Pavilion Royal at Biel Exhibition Center at the beautiful Beirut Port. The keynote speaker, foreign minister of Armenia, Vartan Osganyan spoke of the vital issues facing Armenians today and alluded to his role of diplomacy. Others who inspired were founding President John Markarian and valedictorians Cynthia Hanna and Kevork Kevorkian. The Beirut String Orchestra and the ARMISS Choir provided inspiring musical interludes. Armenian television broadcast the entire commencement and was viewed globally. An evening supper was held in honor of Minister Osganyan as all celebrated HU's unforgettable jubilee.

While in Lebanon we were cordially invited and welcomed by Catholicos Aram I of Cilicia at the Holy See in Antelias. Later, a dramatic ride into the mountains of Lebanon afforded an unprecedented visit to the

summer residence of the Archbishop of the Armenian Catholic Church. We experienced special warmth as the Archbishop and his staff graciously hosted our group of 20.

Of keen interest to the Philibosian Foundation Family were the various schools the founder established 45 years ago in partnership with the AMAA and Children Incorporated. Some family members were not aware of Philibosian's vital involvement in these schools we visited: Armenian Evangelical Central High School is in Ashrafieh, where 400 students enjoy an excellent education in 7 departments of English, languages, science and math. Principal Sona Sisslian is assisted by Maral Manoukian and Arpi Hamparian who teaches computer skills to the young 5 year old scholars. Sixty-six youngsters are recipients of Children Incorporated (CI) and Philibosian Foundation (SPF) grants. We were impressed by a well stocked and refurbished library. The new multipurpose room has been underwritten by the Conte Foundation. The adjacent church is ably shepherded by Pastor Soghomon Kilaghbian and his resourceful, active wife Yester.

In Bourdj Hammoud we visited three schools: Armenian Evangelical Shamlian-Tatigian Secondary School with an enrollment of 280 students 90 of whom are spon-

LEBANON

sored by CI/SPF scholarships. Principal Hrair Cholakian is ably assisted by Takouhi Sarkissian (CI Facilitator) and long-time librarian Seta Elmagian. We noted the excessive heat in that library and were informed the extremes in temperature are evident due to lack of heat and air conditioning. It is hoped this problem will be alleviated. Daily Vacation Bible School is held here during the summer months. There are chapel services daily.

The Armenian Evangelical Christian Social Center School in Trad is lead by Vera Sevajian (wife of the First Armenian Evangelical Church's pastor, Hovhannes). In spite of Principal Sevajian having lost her father recently, she greeted us graciously and thanked us for supporting 35 students of the 100 enrolled. Classes range from kindergarten to 6th grade. We learned there are 18 teachers and 21 staff – all of whom have meager salaries (this holds true for all the schools). We were told one teacher of 26 years receives a salary of \$500.00 per month!

Trad's Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center is managed admirably by Miss Rita Lao. Rita described her mission to assist all Armenians who run the gamut of spiritual, physical and emotional needs. We bless Rita for her exemplary role in providing desperately needed help.

In the Nor Amanos section of Bourdj Hammoud called Dora, we paid a visit to Principal Mrs. Seta Karagoezian of the Armenian Evangelical P. & E. Torossian Middle School. With an enrollment of 235, 92 are CI/SPF sponsored. Classes range from kindergarten to ninth grade. Once more, we learned of the financial crisis facing all the schools.

Nor Hadjin is the site of Mr. Philibosian's beloved school. As a hadjintsy, he had a special affection for this institution established by his friends of the Guertmenian family. His picture and that of his family is featured in the lobby and assembly room. Mr. Sahag Dedeyan has been principal for over 30 years of the 170 students, 63 are CI/SPF recipients.

Visiting these few schools gave our family insight into the critical efforts supported and encouraged by the Philibosian Foundation. We are grateful to be able to assist in any way possible. And may the Lord bless these marvelous leaders and teachers who staff the schools. □



His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of Cilicia welcomes AMAA guests at the Holy See in Antelias.



Visit to the summer residence of His Beatitutde Bedros XIX Tarmouni, Patriarch of the Armenian Catholic Church.



Visiting Aleppo's Grand Mufti Dr. Ahmad Hassoun (the supreme religious leader of that city).

Diva Kallen Esperian Thrills Audience at Haigazian University 50th Anniversary Celebration in Los Angeles

The Reagan room of the exclusive Jonathan Club, in Los Angeles on June 13, 2005, was abuzz with excitement as guests mingled. Kallen Esperian was, after 13 years, once again sharing her talents with the Los Angeles Opera as Alice Ford in *Falstaff*, and being featured at the Haigazian University Womens' Auxiliary luncheon; this time to celebrate Haigazian's 50th anniversary.

Esperian held the audience spellbound with her life-experiences and she *"Thanks God and her parents for the life she has led...amazing and hard to believe."* Her father Arthur Esperian died when she was just one-year old. Accepting his fragile health, he made her non-Armenian mother promise that she would keep her surname, *"So she will always know who she is."* Esperian lives in Tennessee with her husband and twelve year old son, who loves electric guitar!

With encouragement from her high school choir director, she received a full scholarship for voice at the Julliard School of Music in New York. She won the Pavarotti soprano competition at age 24. She has partnered with all *"Three Tenors"*. Esperian is a member of the *"Three Sopranos"* with Kathleen Casello and Cynthia Lawrence. She is a highly respected Metropolitan Diva appearing worldwide with major opera companies. Esperian would love to sing in Armenia when her schedule permits.

Auxiliary Charter Member and past president, Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian gave an overview of the Auxiliary's forty-five years of fund-raising. She presented Ms Esperian with a handmade necklace from Armenia and an ivory-inlaid pencil holder as a memento from Haigazian University.

Past-President Grace Kurkjian and Mistress of Ceremonies spoke about the founding of the University and gave a brief history of its first 50 years.

Womens' Auxiliary President, Joyce Philibosian Stein focused on the accomplishments of the Auxiliary, including the more than one million dollars



Diva Kallen Esperian, sitting in the middle with the members of Los Angeles area Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary.

raised for scholarships for Armenian students over its 45-year life. Stein then introduced notable guests Ann Kerr, Lucy Ishkanian, and Alice Navasargian, author of *"Armenian Women of the Stage"* (which also features Diva Esperian); Alumni Vatsche Barsumian, Gary Bedian and Ani Najarian, Former Secretary of Haigazian University and Founder of the Alumni Association; Board of Trustee members Rita Meneshian, Dr. Ani Darakjian, and Mrs. Hrair Mouradian (wife of the Trustees' chairman).

Flautist, Salpy Kerkonian, past *USC Friends of Armenian Music* Scholarship winner, thrilled the audience with her inspired performance dedicated to Ms. Esperian. The *"Friends"* were well represented at the luncheon.

Ann Kerr, wife of former President of the American University of Beirut, Dr. Malcom Kerr, scholar, author, and coordinator of the Fullbright Visiting Scholars' Enrichment Program at UCLA,

shared her thoughts about the outstanding educational presence of Haigazian in Beirut and expressed her appreciation for the admirable efforts of the Women's Auxiliary over the years.

Lucy Ishkanian, here from New York to judge the Rachmaninoff Piano Competition at the new Walt Disney Hall, spoke about Pushman, the great Armenian 20th century artist. She is the curator of the Pushman Estate, and is the author of two books on the life of Pushman. She knew his two late sons, Armand and Arsen. Ishkanian is making available a reproduction (14 degrees of separation and signed) of Pushman's painting *"Dream Pastures"* for the December 7th, 2005 final Half-Century Celebration event of the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary featuring Edward Djerejian, former Ambassador to Israel and Syria. The distinguished Honorary Committee includes; Vartan Grigorian, Carolyn Mugar, Ann Kerr, and Herant Khatchadourian. □

AMAA Participates in Alexandria, VA - Gumri Sister City Festival

It has been a beautiful tradition for the City of Alexandria, VA to sponsor a day long Armenian Festival each year, to support their sister city, Gumri in Armenia.

This year the Festival was held on Saturday, June 4, 2005 with a record number of visitors. The AMAA once again participated with a display of Armenian books and material promoting its relief work in Armenia. AMAA Field Director, Dikran Youmshakian participated in the festival and had an opportunity to address the audience.

The Alexandria – Gumri Sister Organizing Committee sponsors five children in Armenia through the AMAA.

On the following Sunday, the Field Director participated in the worship service of the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Washington DC, which was held at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary of the St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church. Mr. Youmshakian, in preaching the word, also thanked the St. Mary Church Council for opening their doors to the fellowship. The worship service was followed by a dinner and an audio-visual presentation on AMAA activities around the world. □



AMAC Annual Retreat in Kingston, Canada



On Friday July 1, 2005, the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada (AMAC) had their annual retreat in Kingston, Canada. Congregations of all four Armenian Evangelical Churches of Canada participated in the day long activities. The morning worship service speaker was Rev. Joe Matossian, the Minister to the Union (AEUNA). After lunch, during the missions hour, the AMAA Field Director Dikran Youmshakian had a special presentation about the work of the AMAA, which was followed by a question-answer period. To his appeal for support and mainly concerning the needs in the Middle East, several people responded, sponsoring needy students.

During the break after lunch, the AMAC Board had their meeting, during which the activities of the Association were reviewed. □

Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Canada had their annual Fathers Day Picnic on Sunday, June 19, 2005 at Petecoat Creek in Ontario. AMAA Field Director, Dikran Youmshakian was the guest preacher at the open air worship service. Mr. Souren Hassserjian was honored as the father of the year. After worship service, the congregation had a wonderful time of fellowship, at the same time enjoying the great food prepared by the many talented cooks of the church. □



Armenian Children's Milk Fund

“We are here to applaud our achievements in Armenia”, Elaine Kasparian announced in her welcoming words, “but UNESCO reports reveal that an alarming 37% of the child population in Armenia is still malnourished.”

Elaine Kasparian was the driving force behind organizing the Armenian Children's Milk Fund (ACMF), an all-volunteer organization formed by a diverse group of caring individuals in the aftermath of the tragic earthquake in Armenia in 1988.

A meeting of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund was held at the Kasparian residence in Lexington, MA on August 1, 2005. New members, as well as all previous committee members were invited. In her report on recent fundraising activities, Mrs. JeanMarie Papelian, the current Chairperson of ACMF informed those gathered that thanks to the unique trust people place in the Milk Fund, and thanks to the generous outpouring of love, 600 infants (ages 0 to 12 months) are placed on the annual feeding program. She added that these infants all have particular digestive problems and most are lactose intolerant. “To be placed on the program children should have a doctor's prescription”, she added.

AMAA Field Director, Dikran Youmshakian, reported on the successful distribution process which is closely supervised. He also thanked ACMF volunteers for making this lifesaving program possible. ACMF spends \$75,000 annually to purchase formula. In recent years, and after eye witnessing the excellent distribution process, AmeriCares Foundation donated large quantities of formula at no charge. Just recently a 40-foot container of Isomil was shipped to

Armenian Children's Milk Fund Honored by Armenian-American Veterans of Milford

On April 12, the Armenian-American Veterans of Milford held an event honoring and awarding Armenian and non-Armenian organizations that have contributed to the Armenian community at the town's Senior Center.

Jeanmarie Papelian and Seta and Michael Kalajian were among the honorees for their outstanding, 15-year contribution to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund. Seta Kalajian, when accepting the award, spoke about the Milk Fund, the children it has saved and the ongoing need. The group began the project by collecting and sending milk overseas to Armenia, and to date have successfully saved the lives of 3,000 children. The milk, which travels from Paramus, NJ to Yerevan, supplies a child from infancy to 12 months. “It is the most wonderful thing I have ever done,” said Jeanmarie Papelian.

At the conclusion of the event, attendees went to the Armenian monument at the Vernon Grove Cemetery in Milford to pay their respect to the martyrs of the Genocide. □



Seta and Michael Kalajian (left) receiving the award on behalf of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund.

Armenia. This significant donation will help ACMF increase the number of children on the program to 1,000 and will also extend the feeding period to 18 months.

During the last 16 years ACMF has regularly provided Isomil formula through the AMAA, which supervises the distribution through clinics and centers in Yerevan, Gumri, Vanatzor, Goris and Stepanagert. Thanks to the efforts of the ACMF, the in-

fant mortality rate in Armenia has tremendously declined. But, as reported, many children still need assistance.

The volunteers of ACMF organize fundraisers, large and small, including mass mailings, concerts, banquets and “have a heart” dinners at homes. There are many ways that individuals can help. A direct donation earmarked for ACMF; remembering departed loved ones through a memorial gift to ACMF; the celebration of special occasions, such as the birth of a child, birthday, wedding, wedding anniversary, etc. with donations in lieu of gifts designated for the ACMF; and finally organizing fundraisers at homes with friends.

The blessing of giving to ACMF and saving the life of a child will leave an everlasting impression in our lifetime.

A minimal gift of \$20.00 per month will save the life of one more child. Please use the form to send in your tax deductible donation. □



I would like to support and enable ACMF to make a difference in the lives of Armenia's most vulnerable citizens. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____.

Name -----

Address -----

(please make your tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA and mail to 31 W. Century Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652)

Tenth Annual Children's Summer Camp in Bulgaria

The Annual Children's Summer Camp of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Bulgaria took place from August 1 - 12 at *Manastira* Summer Retreat Center in Liaskovetz, Bulgaria. 67 children and youth, ages 6 - 18 participated.

The Chief Director of the Camp was brother Sarkis Hovhanessian assisted by youth leaders from Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna. The honorary guests of the camp were Rev. Sarkis Paravazian, the Chairman of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Bulgaria and his wife Verjin.

The children were divided into three age groups. The daily camp program included worship service, Bible Study, arts & crafts, singing, social events, sports and outdoor physical activities.

There was also a special activity on the occasion of the 1600th anniversary of the Ar-

menian Alphabet. The children learned about Mesrob Mashdotz, the creator of the Armenian Alphabet and learned special songs and poems dedicated to this event.

On Sunday afternoon, the older children participated in the worship service of a local Bulgarian church, where Brother Sarkis Hovhanessian gave a message and the camp children presented some of the songs that they had learned in the camp.

During the last day of the camp, the children presented a special program of songs, recitations and skits, and had an exhibition of their art work. Each child received a cross necklace as a symbol of God's love and a small lamp as a symbol of Christ's light. Special symbolic achievement awards were also presented to those who were most active and best behaved during the camp.

The camp was a blessing to all participat-



ing children, many of whom are of immigrant families from Armenia. As in the past, this year's children's camp in Bulgaria was made possible by AMAA's financial and moral support. □

Sixth Year of Camp Arevelk ends in resounding success

Camp Arevelk hosted its 6th annual week-long summer camp ministry under the leadership of Camp Director Sylvia Jizmejian and Camp Registrar David Shahbazian during the week of August 7-13, 2005. Attendance grew to record number of 58 campers and 19 advisory staff (in 2000, it was 17 campers and 6 staff.) In addition to the normal 10-15 year old group, there were sessions for those 16-17 years old.

There were many new things this year at Camp Arevelk. In addition to the increased age range, Camp Arevelk moved to a better facility in Greenville, New York. This year, the Arevelk program was held at the Ararat Youth and Conference Center owned by the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

During the week, the campers participated in numerous outdoor activities (hiking, swimming, tennis, basketball, volleyball, field games and various other team games) against the backdrop of the beautiful Catskill Mountains. They ate in a modern cafeteria styled dining hall and enjoyed the cleanliness and ease of an on site pool with two lifeguards. The games and activities were an integral part of the Camp but the heart of the camp is not found in the games. It was in the Bible studies and sessions.



The speaker for both groups was Rev. Ara Jizmejian. The topic for both groups was "Sin and Temptation" (or the S & T Index.) Our main verse for the week was 1 Corinthians 10:13 which states "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." Rev. Jizmejian was also the Bible teacher for the older group which met 2-3 times daily doing focused studies on Colossians and Philemon, as well as discussing topics that concern our young people. The Bible teacher for the younger

group was Andrew Joyce, the Youth Director of the Armenian Martyrs Church of Havertown, PA.

On Saturday, the family kebab picnic was another huge success serving approximately 200 campers, staff, and family members. Many thanks to the staff of the Diocese & Ararat Center for helping us transition to such a nice facility, feeding us well, and making our stay comfortable. Also, many thanks to the all those who came and helped at the picnic.

We are most gracious for the financial support from the AMAA, and AEUNA, who both increased their funding this year to accommodate the move to the Ararat Center. □

159-րդ Տարեդարձ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի - 1 Յուլիսի, 1846

ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆԵԼՈՒ ՀՐԱՄԱՅԱԿԱՆԸ

«Վասնզի ես ամօք չեմ սեպեր աւետարանը, որովհետև Աստուծոյ զօրութիւնն է ան՝ բոլոր հաւատացեալներու ն փրկութեան համար...» Հռովմ. 1. 16

Վեր. Պարգեւ Ն. Տարագնեան

Եկեղեցական պատմութեան մեծ դէմքերն ու շարժումները իրենց աստուածաբանական եւ հոգեւոր ներշնչումը եւ առաջնորդութիւնը առաւելաբար ստացած են Պօղոս Առաքեալի Հռովմի Եկեղեցիին գրած այս նամակէն գոր ան գրած է Կորնթուէն, Ք.Ե. 57 կամ 59 թ.ին: Կ'արժէ հոս յիշել միայն Սուրբ Օգոստինոս Հայրապետը (354-430), Մարթին Լուտերը (1483-1546), Ժան Կալվինը (1509-1564), ու 20րդ դարու տիտաններէն Քարլ Պարթեզը (1886-1968), որոնք իրենց կեանքին յեղաշրջումին, ու յեղաշրջական աստուածաբանութեան մեկնակէտ ունեցած են Առաքեալին այս նամակը:

Ա. Աւետարանը գոր Պօղոս Առաքեալ Դաւանեցաւ եւ Ուսուցանեց

«Աւետարան»ը կը յայտնաբերէ, ու կը յայտարարէ Քրիստոսի կեանքին, մահուան, ու յարութեան փրկարար զօրութիւնը անոնց համար, որոնք կը հաւատան անոր: Այս է վկայութիւնը եւ արժեւորումը իր դաւանած աւետարանին: Քրիստոսի բերած փրկութիւնը մարդուն ազատագրութիւնն է մեղքի ու մահուան կապանքներէն: Ուրիշ խօսքով, մեղաւորը կը ստանայ Աստուծոյ արդարութիւնը իբրեւ շնորհք՝ երբ ան հաւատայ եւ վստահի անոր Որդւոյն՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի: Առաքեալը կը շեշտէ այս աւետարանին փրկարար զօրութիւնը՝ հակադդելու համար օրէնքներով, եւ կամ բարի գործերով մեղաւորին փրկուելու եւ արդարանալու հրէական վարդապետութեան: Ահա թէ ինչն՝ Առաքեալը շեշտակիօրէն կ'ակնարկէ այս աւետարանին՝ Հռովմի նորահաստատ եկեղեցիին ուղղած իր նամակին մէջ՝ երբ կ'ըսէ՝ «Վասնզի ես ամօք չեմ սեպեր աւետարանը, քանզի Աստուծոյ զօրութիւնն է ան բոլոր հաւատացեալներու փրկութեան համար (Հռովմ. 1. 16): Իսկ Կորնթոսի եկեղեցիին գրած իր առաջին նամակին մէջ կ'ըսէ՝ «Վասնզի եթէ ես աւետարանը կը քարոզեմ՝ ինծի պարծանք չեմ համարեր, հասցաւ իմ պարտականութիւնս: Մանաւանդ, վա՛յ է ինծի եթէ աւետարանը չքարոզեմ» (Ա. Կորնթ. 9. 16):

Բ. Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին Աւետարանելու Հրամայականին Դիմաց

Մեր նիւթին հետ առնչակից եղող պարագան այն է, որ Հայ Աւետարանականութիւնը եւ աւետարանչութիւնը եղած են համընթաց ու զուգահեռ: Չենք սխալիք եթէ ըսենք, որ աւետարանչութիւնը ծնունդ տուած է Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին, ու անով միայն կ'արդարացուի այս Եկեղեցիին գոյութիւնը: Իսկ աւետարանի իր ըմբռնումին ու համոզումին ակն ու

աղբիւրը եղած է Աստուծոյ Խօսքը, որ մարմին առաւ ու յայտնուեցաւ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսով եւ Աստուածաշունչ մատնանով: Հայ աւետարանական ռահվիրաներուն համար մեծ ներշնչում եւ ուղեցոյց եղաւ Պօղոս Առաքեալի Հռովմայեցիներու գրած այս նամակը, ու ասիկա՝ թէ՛ աստուածաբանութեան, թէ՛ ալ հոգեւոր կենցաղվարութեան համար:

Հայ Աւետարանական Շարժումին սերմերը ցանուեցան 1830-ական թուականներուն, Կ. Պոլիսի (Իսթանպուլ) Հայոց Պատրիարքարանի շրջակայէն ներս հաստատուած ուսումնարանի մը մէջ: Այս հաստատութեան տնօրէնը՝ Գրիգոր Փէշտիմալեան, որ Աստուածաշունչի հեղինակաւոր ուսումնական մըն էր՝ կազմեց Սուրբ Գիրքի սերտողութեան խմբակ մը իր աշակերտներուն միտքն ու հոգին լուսաւորելու համար: Այն օրերուն ո՛չ ոք կրնար նախատեսել որ այս դասի պահերէ դուրս կատարուող սերտողութիւնները պիտի հրահրէին աշակերտները աւետարանչութեան հոգիով: Աւետարանի նշմարտութեամբ լուսաւորուած եւ զօրացած այս աշակերտներէն ոմանք յետագային կազմակերպուեցան իբրեւ Բարեպաշտական կամ Հայկազունեան Ընկերութիւն, որուն միա՛կ նպատակն էր աւետարանի փրկութեան պատգամը տարածել հայ ժողովուրդին մէջ: Մեր նիւթէն դուրս կը մնայ թուել այն պատճառներ, որոնք մղեցին Բարեպաշտականները կազմուելու իբրեւ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի՝ 1 Յուլիս, 1846-ին: Սակայն, մեզի համար կարեւորը այն է թէ Բարեպաշտականներ, ու յետագային՝ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին՝ զգացին, թէ իրենց իբրեւ անջատ եկեղեցի ըլլալը կրնար արդարացուիլ միա՛յն աւետարանի քարոզութիւնով, այսինքն՝ աւետարանչութիւնով: Աստուածաշունչի Ընկերութիւններ՝ Ռուսական, Բրիտանական, եւ Ամերիկեան, մեծապէս օգտակար եղան՝ հայթայթելով անոնց Սուրբ Գիրքեր՝ նախ հայատառ թուրքերէնով, ու ապա հայերէն գրաբար ու աշխարհաբար լեզուներով: Միւս կողմէն՝ ամերիկեան միսիոնարներ հայթայթեցին անոնց հոգեւոր բովանդակութեամբ թերթիկներ եւ գիրքեր որոնք մեծապէս սատարեցին աւետարանչութեան ծաւալումին: Աւետարանչութիւնը էր օրուան կարգախօսը, ու Հայ Աւետարանական Շարժումի ռահվիրաները խոր լրջութեամբ ընդունեցին այս մարտահրաւերը, ու տարածեցին փրկութեան աւետարանը մինչեւ Օսմանեան Կայսրութեան հեռաւոր սահմանները՝ հասնելու իրենց ազգակիցներուն: Հոն ուր աւետարանը քարոզուեցաւ, կազմուեցան նոր եկեղեցիներ եւ քրիստոնէայ դպրոցներ՝

աւետարանի գորութեամբ եւ Սուրբ Հոգիին առաջնորդութեամբ:

Գ. Աւետարանչութիւն՝ Օրուան Հրամայականը

Մեր այս օրերուն, աւետարանչութիւնը կրնայ թուլացած ըլլալ, եւ կամ՝ կերպերը փոխուած: Այսուհանդերձ, պետք է չէ փորձուիլ մտածելու՝ թէ աւետարանչութիւնը ժամանակավրէպ ու անտեղի ձեռնարկութիւն մըն է: Փրկութեան աւետարանը տակաւին հրամայական պահանջ է մեզի՝ հայ աւետարանականներու համար, ինչպէս որ էր այս Շարժումին կազմաւորման տարիներուն: Որովհետեւ, մենք կը հաւատանք՝ թէ աւետարանը Աստուծոյ գորութիւնն է որ կը մղէ մեզ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի, ու անոր փրկարար շնորհքին վկաները ըլլալու մեր ժողովուրդին մէջ: Ասիկա հրամայական մարտահրաւէր մը ըլլալու է մեր եկեղեցիներուն համար եթէ մենք լուրջ ենք մեր քրիստոնէական հաւատքին ու մեր աւետարանականութեան մասին: Հրամայական է նաեւ մեզի համար ճանաչելու եւ ընդունիլ՝ թէ Սուրբ Հոգին է մեր գորութեան եւ իմաստութեան ալն ու աղբիւրը որով կրնանք ընդլայնել մեր աւետարանչութիւնը, ու մեր այս ջանքին մէջ նախապատիւ տեղ տալ Աստուծոյ եւ անոր Թագաւորութեան: Կասկած չկայ որ մենք բոլորս ալ կանչուած ենք աւետարանելու, սակայն, նախ մենք ենթարկուելու ենք Սուրբ Հոգիին իմաստուն հակակշիռին, որպէսզի մեր բոլոր աշխատանքներուն մէջ Աստուծոյ անունը փառաւորուի, ու շատեր առաջնորդուին Յիսուս Քրիստոսը ընդունելու իբրեւ իրենց Տէրն ու Փրկիչը: Ահա այս մտահոգութեամբ, նաեւ խոնարհօրէն կը կատարենք հետեւեալ յանձնարարութիւնները:—

ա. Կանոնաւոր եւ աղօթքի հոգիով սերտենք Աստուածաշունչը, գիտակցելով որ Աստուած կը խօսի մեզի իր Խօսքին միջոցաւ, մինչ մենք կը խօսինք Աստուծոյ՝ մեր աղօթքներով: Կարեւոր է գործածել ընտիր ու հեղինակաւոր մեկնաբանական գիրքեր:

բ. Աւետարանելու ժամանակ թոյլ տանք որ Աստուծոյ Խօսքը աւելի բարձր լուսի քան մեր ձայնը: Հետեւինք Սուրբ Հոգիին առաջնորդութեան:

գ. Աւետարանը ամօք պիտի չհամարենք եթէ խոնարհութեամբ հետեւինք Յիսուսի քայլերուն, եւ առաքելական խորհուրդներուն: Անփոխարինելի են անձնական փրկութեան փորձառութիւնը եւ հոգեւոր դաստիարակութիւնը:

դ. Աւետարանչութիւնը չնկատենք մեր անձնական իրաւունքը կամ մենաշնորհը: Սուրբ Հոգին կը հանի մեզ եւս գործածել ուրիշներու կարգին՝ աւետարանչութիւն ընելու: Թող Քրիստոսի սիրոյ եւ յարգանքի հոգին մղէ մեզ ընդունելու ուրիշները, այնպէս՝ ինչպէս մենք ընդունուած ենք Քրիստոսի կողմէ: Մեծապէս յանձնարարելի է որ մենք աւետարանչութիւն կատարենք մեր եկեղեցիին հսկողութեան կամ հովանաւորութեան ներքեւ:

Զգուշանալով յատկապէս մեր տիրապետութեան ենթարկելէ այն անձերն ու խմբակները գործնէ կ'աւետարանենք:

ե. Ուշադիր ըլլանք որ մեր աւետարանչութիւնը գայթակղութեան առիթ չտայ: Ըլլանք քաղաքավար եւ փափկանկատ, ու յարգենք մեր աւետարանած անձերուն գաղափարները, ժամանակը, եւ տրամադրութիւնները:

զ. Փառքն ու պատիւը միայն Աստուծոյ տանք երբ մեր աւետարանչութիւնով «փրկուածներու թիւը կ'աւելնայ օրէ-օր»:

է. Միշտ յիշենք Պօղոս Առաքելի հետեւեալ վկայութիւնը. «Վասնզի եթէ ես աւետարանը քարոզեմ, ինձի պարծանք չեմ համարեր, հասցա՛ պարտականութիւն: Մանաւանդ՝ վա՛յ է ինձի եթէ աւետարանը չքարոզեմ» (Ա. Կորնթ. 9. 16):

Վերջաբան

Այսօր, որեւէ ատեն աւելի, աշխարհ տարապայման պետք ունի Քրիստոսի փրկութեան աւետարանին: Ապակրօնութեան (secularization) ուժեղ հոսանք մը կայ այսօր աշխարհի ամէն կողմերը: Քաղաքական մարդիկ, ընկերարաններ, կրթական հաստատութիւններ եւ դատական իշխանութիւններ ամէն ջանք կ'ընեն հրապարակելու վերցնելու ամէն ինչ որ կրօնական բնոյթ ունի, նոյնիսկ կրօնական խորհրդանշանները, որպէսզի «ամբողջովին ազատ» ընկերութիւն հաստատեն: Մենք՝ հայերս, աւետարանականներն ալ մէջը ըլլալով՝ գերծ չենք ապակրօնութեան այս հոսանքին ազդեցութենէն: Ի՞նչ կրնանք ընել: Մենք կ'ամ պիտի հետեւինք ապակրօնութեան մեզի ներկայացուցած օրակարգին, եւ կ'ամ՝ պիտի մարտնչինք աւետարանին սուրովը: Արդարեւ, իբրեւ հաւատացեալ քրիստոնէականք՝ ապակրօնութեան այս հոսանքը նկատելու ենք մարտահրաւէր մը՝ նոր թափ տալու մեր աւետարանչական առաքելութեան: Թերեւս հրնուելու ենք ի տես ապակրօնութեան այս երեւոյթին, որպէսզի աւելի գնահատենք աւետարանի փրկութեան պատգամը, ու աւելի ուժգին թափով լծուինք աւետարանչութեան: Այսօր, աշխարհի վրայ իրա՛ւ ամօթալի շատ բաներ տեղի կ'ունենան, սակայն, մեզմէ՝ հաւատացեալներէս՝ կ'ակնկալուի, եւ կը պահանջուի որ Քրիստոսի աւետարանը «ամօթալի չհամարենք», որպէսզի դատապարտութեան տակ չմնանք: Աղօթենք որ Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին իր ծննդեան 160-ամեակը դիմաւորէ աւետարանչական նոր տեսիլներով եւ գործունէութիւններով՝ Աստուծոյ փառքին, Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Եկեղեցիին, ու հայ ժողովուրդին հոգեւոր բարօրութեան համար: Ամէն: □

Ծանօթ. Այս նիւթին շուրջ յաւելեալ պաշար կարելի է գտնել Վեր. Պարգեւ Ն. Տարագնեանի «Անփոխարինելի ժառանգութիւնը» հատորին մէջ որ վերջերս հրատարակուեցաւ: Տես՝ «Աւետարանչութիւն եւ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի», էջ՝ 109-125:

Barkev Ishkhanian

Barkev Ishkhanian was born on December 23, 1939 in Aleppo, Syria. He was the only son of Abraham & Araxie Ishkhanian. He received his primary education at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School. However, he couldn't finish high school as his father died at an early age and he had to start working to support his mother and sisters.



By trade he was an auto mechanic. He worked in Aleppo and then in Kuwait. On September 1, 1965 he emigrated to Australia. Soon after his mother and sisters joined him. On July 29, 1972 he married Magie Mardirosian and the family was blessed with three children - Araxie, Abraham and Raffi. He was a loving and exemplary father. He was a hard worker and because of that he was able to provide a well off and comfortable life to his family.

He loved his church and his Armenian nation. He was always ready to do his best for his nation, his mother-land and his church. He worked for and gave generously to his church. He was always hospitable, friendly, and smiling. He loved happy atmospheres and he loved to create such atmospheres to make others happy as well. He had several interests and his own opinion and belief about different matters.

For many years Barkev was a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church Council of Sydney and a member of the district committee of the Armenian Missionary Association. He wholeheartedly worked for the Association and encouraged all its projects.

This healthy, youthful and lively man became the victim of a brutal car accident on Friday-Saturday May 21, 2005, on Wakehurst Parkway, while driving home after a visit to a friend's home.

He leaves behind his lovely wife, Maggie, his mother, Araxie, his three children and his sisters, Flore, Hasmig and Seta and his many many friends within the church and the Armenian community.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, May 26, 2005 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney Australia. Over 400 family members and friends came to pay their tribute to this exceptional man.

The Sydney Armenian Community lost a great man. May God bless his memory to his family and to all. □

Araxie Flora Bedrosian

Araxie Flora Bedrosian was born on August 24, 1921 in Albany, NY, the daughter of Aram and Flora Bedrosian. She was a graduate of Russell Sage College in Troy, NY, having earned a Baccalaureate degree in business and foreign languages. Her various employments included working for departments of the State of New York, for insurance companies, and as secretary to churches, including the First Presbyterian Church of Albany and St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno, CA. She was an active member of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, volunteering for various assignments, and being a member of Dorcas Guild. She died from complications of chemotherapy on Sept. 19, 2002 and is buried in Ararat Cemetery in Fresno, alongside her parents. Among her survivors are her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. & Mrs. Levon Bedrosian; two nephews, and three grandsons, all of Delmar, NY; a few remaining cousins, and several friends. □



Elise Yakoubian

Born on May 30, 1913, in Kharpoot, Turkey, Elise was the daughter of John and Arousiag Souroghlian.



They had created a beautiful home and a loving family. But alas!...this enviable situation did not last long. With the onset of 1915, the Turkish government's terrifying and frightful orders spread throughout the country and commanded the deportation and massacre of the Armenian race. The first order was to the heads of households - professionals and intellectuals - who were marched to the outskirts of the town, only to be slaughtered. Elise's father was in this group.

Soon after, Elise with her mother and baby brother had to abandon their niche with tearful eyes and join the group for the dreadful displacement march. Her baby brother got sick from lack of nourishment, and perished.

After unbearable tortures, and walking for weeks, they arrived Aleppo, and got admitted to the orphanage of the Rev. Aharon Shirajian.

Elise's mother, Arousiag, a widow and well educated, was deemed a suitable life partner to the reverend. She accepted his proposal, and they got married, and from this second union, God granted them a son and a daughter.

Elise attended the American High School for Girls in Aleppo, and upon graduation taught at the Emmanuel Elementary School. Meanwhile, she became very active in the life of Emmanuel Church as a choir member, Sunday School teacher, and a leader in the Christian Endeavor youth group.

In 1937, Elise immigrated to the States to join her two aunts residing in Rhode Island. She joined the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church and became an active member. Soon after she married Leon Yakoubian, a druggist from Connecticut.

Elise was very active in the community and volunteered in hospitals. After living in Stratford for 40 years, they moved to Lakeland, FL, where she became an ambassador to non-Armenians by introducing them to Armenian history and culture.

Elise was a woman of great faith. On March 15, 2005, she entered her rest peacefully in her own home in Lakeland. A memorial service was held in Lakeside Baptist Church, and the funeral service took place in Stratford (CT) Baptist Church.

Her husband predeceased her in 1992. Elise is survived by her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Yakoubian Cox, and son-in-law Daniel Cox, of Hoboken, NJ; two sons, David Yakoubian of Stratford, and Daniel Yakoubian, Esq., of San Diego, CA; two grandchildren, Damon and Nora Yakoubian; a brother, Ara Shiragian of Warwick, RI; a sister, Aranoosh V. Yeretsian of Cranston, RI; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

May Elise's memory be a blessing and inspiration to all who knew her, and now to all who know about her. □

Emma Minassian Aivazian

Emma Melik Minassian Aivazian, 93, of Memphis, TN died on Wednesday, June 01, 2005. She was born in Tehran, Iran on August 28, 1912. After successfully completing the American Girl's School in Tehran, she moved to Beirut, Lebanon to attend the American University of Beirut School of Nursing. Always a strong-willed and independent woman, she carved out a new life for herself in Beirut, far from family and home.

While completing her degree in nursing, Emma met Garabed Hagop Aivazian, a psychiatrist and also a graduate of the American

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University of Beirut. In 1939, she and Garabed married. Emma and Garabed had two daughters, Suzanne Aivazian Cohan and Lillian Aivazian Eades. Dr. Aivazian passed away in November of 2004.

During her years in Beirut, she volunteered for local organizations. Her most cherished experiences as a volunteer were at the Bird's Nest orphanage which had originally been created by a Danish missionary to save orphans of the Armenian Genocide.

In 1954, Mrs. Aivazian accompanied her husband to Memphis, Tennessee where he accepted a position at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Dr. and Mrs. Aivazian spent the rest of their years living in Memphis.

With an adventuresome spirit, she traveled throughout her life. She was also an avid reader and a brilliant backgammon player.

Mrs. Aivazian was a member of the Second Presbyterian Church. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Mrs. Aivazian leaves her sister, Mirouhi Melik Minassian Aftandilian; two daughters, Suzanne Cohan and Lillian Eades; four grandchildren, Sara Kristine Cohan, Abigail Kathryn Sanders, Matthew Eades, and Emily Eades Johnson; and one great-granddaughter, Eliza Grace Sanders. private funeral was held on Saturday, June 4, 2005. The family requests that memorial donations be sent to the AMAA-Dr. and Mrs. Aivazian Endowment Fund, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652. □

Berge Avadonian

Berge Avadonian was a World War II hero who threw out the opening ball for the Red Sox fifth-game victory over the Yankees in last year's American League Championship Series. He was 86.



Mr. Avadonian, who was born on Flag Day 1918, the year of the Red Sox World Series victory, died in his Watertown home on June 6, 2005, the 61st anniversary of the day he parachuted into France during the D-day invasion of France.

A native of Lynn, who grew up on a farm in Bellingham, Mr. Avadonian joined the Army shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He participated in seven major campaigns, including the invasion of Italy, the Battle of the Bulge, and the D-day invasion of France.

Mr. Avadonian is survived by his wife, Rose Marie (Bazarian); a son, Paul B. of Waltham; a daughter, Sandra A. Starck of Watertown; a sister, Mary Kachichian of Stoneham; and two grandchildren. □

Angele Shnorhokian Sadakian

Angele Shnorhokian Sadakian was born in Aintab, Giligia on March 8, 1921 to Rev. Hagop & Hripsime Shnorhokian. She was the middle daughter and had two sisters, Allis and Nvere.



When she was six months old, her family moved to Kessab, Syria, where her father was invited to work as pastor and teacher in the Armenian Evangelical Church. After two years, they moved to Beirut and then to Zahleh, Lebanon.

From 1932 to 1935, Angele's family went back to live in Kessab where her father served one of the local churches. Angele attended the British High School in Eeskenderoon, the High School for girls in Aleppo, and later went on to the Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut. After graduation, she joined her family in 1940 in Zahleh, and taught at the Armenian Evangelical School. On Nov. 26, 1941, she married Rev. Assadour Sadakian, the pastor and principal of the Armenian Evangelical Church and School of Nor Marash. They were married for sixty one wonderful years. They were blessed with five children, Avedis, Rosalie, Grace, Jacqueline, and Hagop, and ten lovely grandchildren.

Angele and her husband served in Kessab church from 1947-1955, and the Armenian Evangelical Martyrs Church of Aleppo from 1955-1973. During their ministry, Assadour would call his wife *Angelehs*, meaning "my Angele," in order to display his love for her. Pretty soon, everyone started calling her *Angelehs*. Indeed, Angele was not only known as the pastor's wife, but also as a leading role model and peacemaker in the community. Although Angele treasured her role as a devoted wife and mother, she was also a firm believer in community service and the importance of helping others.

All together, Angele and Assadour served in churches in Antioch, Kessab, Aleppo, and Nor Marash. In 1975 they came to the U.S.A. to fulfill their children's dreams and bring the joy of the Lord to a new place. Angele con-

tinued her service and ministry here, reading stories to Sunday School children. She knitted blankets for church fund-raisers and never stopped evangelizing her neighbors through her daily visits. Her work both within and outside the church won her the title of "Mother of the Year" at Calvary Armenian Cong'l Church on May 14, 2000.

Angele passed away on July 19, 2005 at the Peninsula Hospital with all five children at her side. Always loved by everyone, she will forever be remembered.

Donations in lieu of flowers were sent to the AMAA. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News

- Aynejian, John*
Park Ridge, NJ
 - Berberian, John*
Fresno, CA
 - * *Bogosian, Armine*
Woodland Hills, CA
 - * *Cherkezian, Archie*
Scottsdale, AZ
 - * *Davitian, Charles*
Kew Gardens, NY
 - * *Harrison, Edward*
 - * *Kizirian, Virginia*
Fresno, CA
 - Kouyoumjian, John*
Jamaica Plain, MA
 - Kurkjian, Grace*
Sherman Oaks, CA
 - Maljanian, Edward*
Los Angeles, CA
 - * *Manougian-Shenorhokian, Lousaper*
Australia
 - * *Marganian, Sirvart*
Mission Hills, CA
 - * *Minassian, Elizabeth*
Saddle Brook, NJ
 - * *Panoian, Rosa*
 - * *Saxenian, Margarit*
 - * *Terkhanian, Peter*
Philadelphia, PA
 - * *Tilkian, Victoria*
Thousand Oaks, CA
 - * *Topjian, Nellie*
Canton, MA
 - Torunian, Levon*
 - * *Zadurian, Albertine*
Roumania
- * Memorials designated for AMAA

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 86th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Eighty Sixth Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters, and Affiliated boards of the Association for fiscal 2004-2005;
- II. Review the financial reports for fiscal 2004-2005;
- III. Announce the results of the elected eight Board members to replace those whose terms have expired;
- IV. Elect four members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor;
- VI. Consider and act upon any other business that may legitimately come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 86th ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, October 12 at First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA

7:00 p.m.AEUNA Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 13 at First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA

9:30 a.m.AEUNA Board of Directors Meeting

2:00 p.m.AEUNA Board of Directors Meeting (if needed)

7:30 p.m.Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) Meeting

Friday, October 14 at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, Fresno, CA

9:00 a.m.Aewc Meeting

2:00 p.m.SEMINAR - 1600th Anniversary of the Armenian Alphabet - Rev. Dr. Manuel Jinbachian

7:00 p.m.AMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 15 at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, Fresno, CA

9:00 a.m.86th ANNUAL MEETING

2:00 p.m.AMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 15 at First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA

6:30 p.m.BANQUET

Sunday, October 16

11:00 a.m.86th Annual Meeting Worship Service at **Pilgrim Armenian Cong'l Church** - Installation of AMAA Officers

11:00 a.m.Worship Service at **First Armenian Presbyterian Church**

As members of the AMAA world-wide family, we look forward to this annual gathering to renew our ties of fellowship as Armenian Evangelical churches and communities, and to strengthen our common mission around the world. With joy we eagerly anticipate your presence and participation.

Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

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