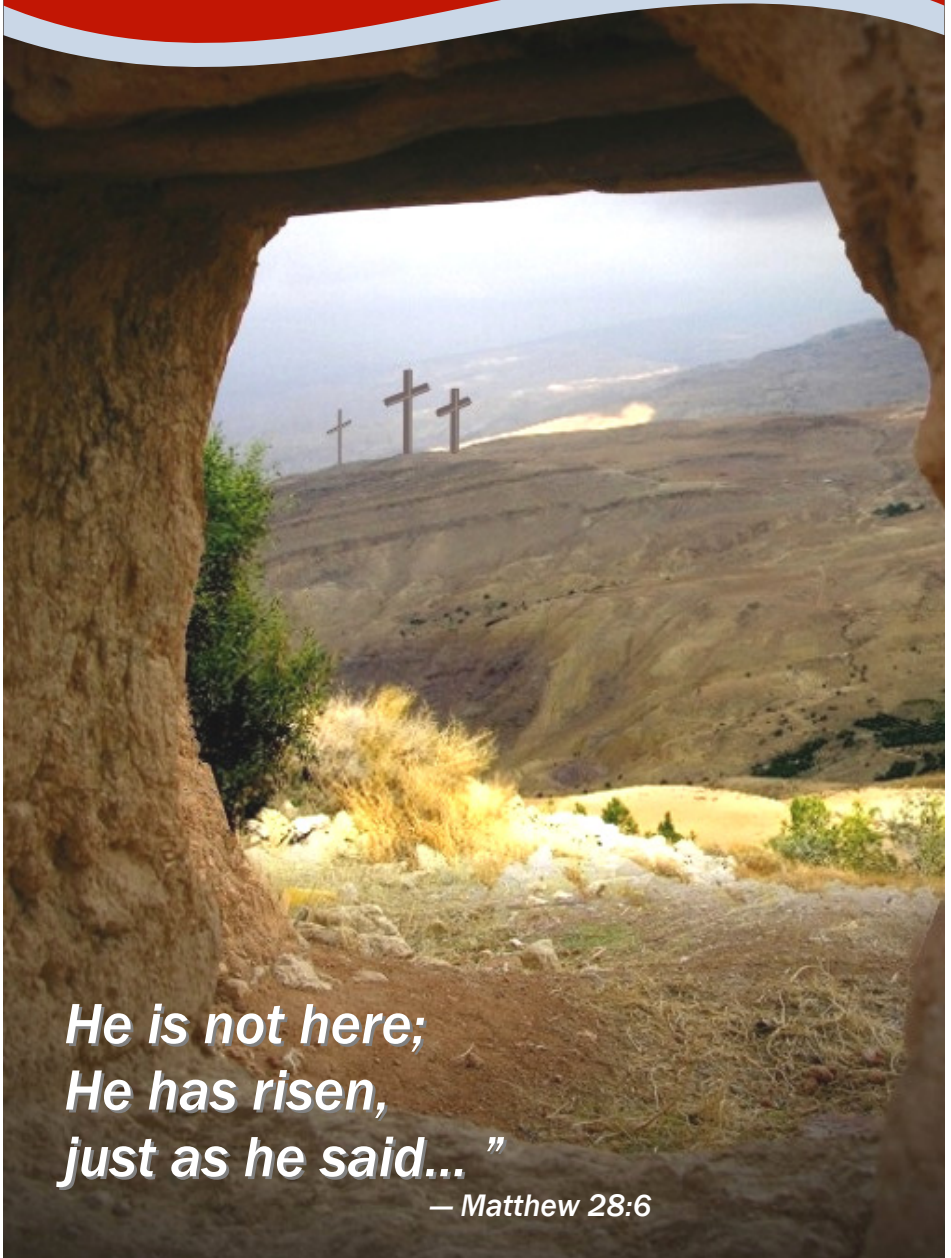


Temple News

April 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



*He is not here;
He has risen,
just as he said... ”*

— Matthew 28:6

The Editorial

The First Step Is the Hardest

I'm going to make a little confession. I have this strange (but probably not that rare) condition that I will take it upon myself to call *pickupthephonophobia*. I've been a freelance writer for over 16 years and have conducted hundreds of interviews for hundreds of magazine articles and I've tackled book projects of a few hundred pages each... and yet the most excruciatingly difficult part of my job is, time and time again, picking up the phone to make an appointment for an interview with one of my contacts.

Ridiculous, right? Well, it gets worse. I have another condition that I'll call *putonmyrunningshoesaphobia*. I love walking. When I'm really into my game, I have great stamina and can really get a good, long workout just walking around a big park a few times. I pop my earbuds in and listen to some upbeat praise music and I'm practically flying. That's if I can manage to put my running shoes on and actually walk out the front door.

It drives me crazy that I will so often hold myself back from accomplishing great things simply because I can't get over the first teeny tiny hurdle on the track. But this article isn't about my procrastination or avoidance issues. I want to

talk about a more serious challenge that I'm sure I'm not alone in facing.

Earlier today I was chatting with a sister in Christ about how I sometimes get into a rut when it comes to my quiet times with God, how I get distracted by multiple deadlines coming at me faster than an express train. Sometimes I let the stress of juggling everything happening in my life hold me back from committing sufficient time to personal Bible study and prayer, even though I know very well that quiet time with God is precisely what will help me manage all my tasks.

This friend shared something she had heard a pastor once say and it really struck me: He explained that the most difficult hurdle to overcome when it comes to prayer is actually sitting down and closing one's eyes. That immediately reminded me of my problems with picking up the phone and putting on my running shoes. It's that first step — that crucial, unavoidable first step that must be taken before the second, third, fiftieth and last steps can be taken.

I think we can all be encouraged by the reminder that we don't need to wait until we feel super-spiritual (which may never happen!) to connect with God. We simply need to take that first step: Sit down somewhere, close your eyes... and then start. He can take over from there!

God bless you!

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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From Our Mailbox

Montreal, QUEBEC

Each month, as soon as I receive the *Temple News*, I read it from cover to cover. In the March 2012 issue, when I read the article by Stella Papadopoulos about “not counting the cost,” it reminded me of the time when one of our brothers was willing to get up at 3:00 a.m. to take us to the airport to catch our flight.

In my book, it is one of the biggest sacrifice to give up the morning sleep; that is why I appreciate it so much when people do not count the cost.

You know who you are, and so does God. Thank you so much!

Angie Lantos

Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

Editor's note: For the past few years we had been praying regularly for Ngairie McCracken, the elder sister of our brother Graeme Robertson (who recently moved back to his native New Zealand). She had been suffering from a prolonged battle with multiple cancers but has finally gone home to be with her Lord. Here is an excerpt of the update we received from Graeme:

Ngairie passed away on the evening of the March 21 after a titanic struggle with her health due to the cancer that she has been suffering from over the past years.

With Ngairie's struggle with her life now over, we (as family) can only reflect on what a wonderful person she was and the countless number of lives she has changed. Ngairie never preached about her faith but she absolutely practiced it every day of her life.



I am so happy to have had the past three months with Ngairie as we got to know each other to much greater depths, and had lots of outings from the hospice where she was a resident for the past 18 months.

Many times she asked me to thank the wonderful folk at Temple Baptist for uplifting her and the family in prayer as it was of great strength and courage for her just knowing you all cared so much for your “Kiwi” sister here in New Zealand. She in return prayed very frequently for all the folks at Temple Baptist Church. We prayed together often.

From me personally, it was a wonderful experience to have the support of the Temple Baptist Church behind me, and I thank you all individually for your very loving support over the past years.

Please pass my love and best wishes to the Tuesday night Bible study and the Men's Fellowship in particular.

Graeme Robertson



Please visit our website regularly for updates, messages, and resources you can share with your friends!

www.templebaptistmontreal.com

The News

New Members

It's always encouraging when people who regularly worship at Temple take the step of demonstrating a real commitment to our ministry by asking to become official members of the church.

On Sunday, April 1, we joyfully welcomed **Guy Beauchamp**, **Mikhail Khriptchenko** and **Jill MacInnes**, all of whom have been coming to Temple regularly for more than a few years, into our membership. We thank them for their faithful support.

If you, too, would like to become a member, or if you want to know more about membership, please speak with our clerk, **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**.

Good Friday Service

We hope that you will all join us for worship and communion on Friday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend who may have questions about who Jesus is and the significance of His death on the cross.

QABC Annual Meeting

The Annual Assembly of the Quebec Association of Baptist Churches will be held on Saturday, April 14 at Montreal City West Baptist Church (1600 de l'Eglise in St. Laurent). The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and fellowship and will end with lunch at 12:30 p.m.

We encourage our church members

to participate as there will be reports from various Baptist ministries here in Quebec as well as testimonies of good things happening in our sister churches. This includes a presentation from Pastor Joseph and Ruth Hovsepian about their mission trip to Armenia last fall.

Important: Date Changes

Please note that there are a few changes to our regular monthly schedule in April:

Men's Fellowship

Because of the QABC annual meeting being held on the second Saturday of April, the Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, April 21 instead. Please be sure to make a note of this on your calendars.

Women's Fellowship

This month's regular Women's Fellowship meeting (which would normally be on the third Saturday) is being replaced by an association-wide event at Val Royal Baptist Church on Saturday, April 28. The theme is Pay It Forward. Please speak with Ann-Margret Hovsepian for complete details.

Tract Distribution

Because Easter falls on the second Sunday of April, we are rescheduling this month's tract distribution outing to Sunday, April 22.



Sonia Pehlivanian - April 7

Jessie Hovsepian - 13

Matt Wohler - 13

Tamar Dekirmenjian - 17

Nouhad Saliba - 21

Wendy Woodhouse - 21

May God bless these brothers and sisters on their birthdays! (If we missed yours, let us know!)

The News

Update from Armenia

Although there are nearly 9,000 kilometres between Montreal and Armenia, we have been working closely with our brothers and sisters there to support the outreach and evangelism work being done in Yerevan, Spitak and other surrounding villages.

Recently, 100,000 copies of the Eastern Armenian version of *What Are You Searching For?* were printed and are quickly being distributed.

As well, the Armenian translation of Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's book, *God's Workshop*, is in the process of being printed and, within the next couple of weeks, free distribution of the 5,000 copies will begin. If you would like to support this outreach through sponsorship, please speak to Pastor Joseph or add a special to your offering envelope and designate it as "Books for Armenia."

Married Couples' Fellowship Update

Our new ministry for married couples — whether newlyweds or seasoned veterans — is continuing and those who have been participating are really enjoying the fellowship and encouragement.

In March, **Greg and Tamar Dekirmenjian** led a discussion about forgiveness and this month, on Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m., **Vahe and Meerna Dzaghouny** will be talking about the



importance of good communication.

We encourage all our married couples to come to these events. If you feel that your marriage is strong and you don't need any support, why not come and share from your experiences and be an encouragement to others?

Tracts on the East End

In the last few weeks, thousands of our tracts have been distributed in the East End of Montreal by a couple — not from our own church — who come and pick up pamphlets on a weekly basis.

The response has been noteworthy as we are receiving more and more phone calls from people in that area who are finding tracts in their mailboxes and other locations. What we are not able to do in reaching out to the far corners of our city, others are doing.

Please continue to pray for our tract ministry and consider how you, too, can get involved.

Call for Articles, Photos

We'd like to encourage you to share your testimony in an upcoming issue of the *Temple News*, whether it's about how you came to know Christ or something God has done in your life recently.

We are also on the lookout for great photos for our newsletter cover. If you have a knack for photography — or some great cover design ideas — please let us know! We want images that help convey our ministry and goals at Temple or that effectively illustrate Scripture.

Please note that the submission deadline for the May issue is April 20. For more information, speak with Ann-Margret Hovsepian or give us a call.

Your Perspective

Seeds

By Stella Papadopoulos

“Unless a seed falls to the ground and dies, it will not bear fruit.” — John 12:24

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” — 2 Corinthians 4:16

Going

In 1985, our family business went bankrupt. Although Dad was expanding the business, the recession picked no favourites. Even worse, my dad nearly died, suffering several strokes. So, at 27, I stepped into his shoes — to bury the business that I had grown up in, the business that had sustained us all since 1955.

The sludge of creditors, liquidators and appraisers that clung to my shoes was one thing. People who over the years had knit themselves into our family, slid into the back seats of the trustee’s office. Did they think I couldn’t see them as they bought up our factory equipment for 10 cents on the dollar? They came to see us be disrobed in the corporate courtroom and maybe even pick up a stone. I stared in disbelief — numb.

Right then and there, God, the divine Gardener planted a seed. He had dug up the soil in our family garden and the grubs that had loved that dark soil could no longer hide. Neither could the tears my father and mother shed during those dark days of trustee hearings and courtroom drama.

Their tears were watering that seed.

Going

We lost our family house, but we still had a home. How I loved waking up in the morning with the smell of coffee wafting throughout our apartment. I cherished coffee with Mom in the morning while Dad slept in. He slept in a lot after the strokes.

It was September. Our tiny kitchen had a window overlooking the street and I marvelled how, when it was rainy and gray outside, the golds, oranges and reds of the fall leaves gleamed even more. A joy awakened within me.

Everything slowed down so much after the bankruptcy that we began to find ourselves as a family again. Even though Dad had suffered five strokes, he still laughed at his own short-term memory problem. We talked about the challenges our ancestors overcame coming to Canada and how we would recover from this.

It didn’t matter that Dad wouldn’t leave us with a family house — it didn’t matter. All that mattered was that we



Original artwork by Stella Papadopoulos

Your Perspective

were together.

During all this time, we had turned our backs on God. Prosperity had dulled our consciences and God was nowhere to be found in our Greek church.

Then, on July 4, 1991, my Dad died of heart complications.

Gone

Once again, we were bankrupt. However, this loss was final. And our situation went from bad to worse.

It took about six months before I could cry. It happened the day I surrendered all. I could strive no more. I was spent. It was then that I began to realize that God had been providing for us since the bankruptcy. We always had enough money for rent, food, even an economical used car.

One sunny day, my cousin George came to visit Mom and me to tell us that he had joined a different church — Greek, but not Orthodox — and had found new life in Christ. (Imagine this conversation in Greek, with the rich language of *Kyrios*, *Ecclesia* and *Theos*.) In July 1997, my Mom and I were baptized.

Now I see the seed of renewal that He planted in me on that dark day. Renewed day by day, the verse says. It took a long and transforming faith until I could understand what God had done in my life. Oswald Chambers is right: “God gives us life as we overcome.”

He Will Carry Us Through

By Emil Lantos

I was thrilled with Pastor Joseph’s

recent sermon on Psalm 119:9-16, which says, “*How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your words.*”

When I was 16 years old, this is the verse that my youth pastor quoted to me before he baptized me. It became reality in my life, as I think back to it. I am 80 years old now and it still sounds very precious to me, this promise to those who keep His commandments.

When I was 14, the Russian army came to our town in Hungary. Our house was at the end of a small village, a little bit up on the hill, about 20 or 30 steps above street level. There were tanks in the streets and bullets flying over our house.

Three of us, my mother, my sister and me, were hugging each other and praying. We had not finished praying when a bright green light signalled to stop attacking. A minute later, soldiers came and told us to open the door, but we kept silent. We did not know what to do, so we did not open the door.

Just then, we heard yelling: “Come quick! The Germans are retreating!” So we were saved that night. Then a man from village asked us to come across the street. There was a wine cellar in the back and he told us to go there with all the women and children. All the men guarded the entrance.

We heard shooting and a Russian soldier shot a man in the toe. The soldiers disappeared from there quickly because they were not allowed to shoot civilians. The wound on the man’s toe was not too bad and we were saved on that day.

We were later asked to let the Russian soldiers sleep at our house

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Your Perspective

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overnight. It was a big house — all our relatives fit in. Fifty kilometres from the big city, it was safer.

The next day, a commander came to the house and said: “This will be my command centre.” Everyone was forbidden from entering there except his aid. He also told me: “Do not go out or they can take you for forced labour.”

He asked what our religion was and we told him we were Baptist. “I am Baptist also,” he said. He was injured so he was not on the frontlines.

During the war, we believed God sent him to protect us for three months. The Germans wanted to take him with a bomb but it landed three houses away. A second bomb landed seven houses away.

Then we saw how God’s promise was true, that He will be with us in troubles. He will carry us through.

Has God taught you something lately?

Why not tell others about it so that they can be blessed and inspired, too? Please send in your thoughts, praise reports and testimonies. For our May issue, please send us your material by April 20. Contact information is on page 2.

Inspirations

“The claims of Jesus Christ, namely his resurrection, has led me as often as I have tried to examine the evidence, to believe it as a fact beyond dispute.”

— Lord Caldecote, former
Lord Chief of Justice of England

“Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection.”

— John Stott

“The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in.”

— Peter Marshall

“All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning.”

— Oswald Chambers

From the Pastor

...continued from page 12

- They saw the disciples who stood afar off, in tears.
- They saw the small group of faithful followers near the cross.

But could they really see who this simple-looking man on the cross was? If only they could see the forces of heaven and earth standing still, ready for His command to act!

Jesus could have called ten thousand angels to help Him. The earth stood still, wondering whether it was the hour of its destruction or deliverance. And yet, although it was an hour of crisis, many were unmoved.

They watched carelessly in the hour of God's greatest example of love. They had gambled for His garments by casting lots. Even today, people go to Jesus only for what they can get out of Him.

They heard Jesus' last words from the cross:

Father, forgive them... (Luke 23:34)

Today you will be with me in Paradise... (Luke 23:43)

Dear woman, here is your son... (John 19:30)

My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)

I am thirsty... (John 19:28)

It is finished... (John 19:30)

Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit... (Luke 23:46)

Just a week earlier, the people in

Jerusalem had been proclaiming that Jesus was their king, but now He was dead on a cross. They saw it all, but they did not respond. They only carelessly watched.

I don't think it is a coincidence that there were two thieves next to Jesus. They represent the human race: Those who reject Him are lost. Those who receive Him are saved.

Have you responded to God's love? Have you responded to His invitation? What does the death of Christ mean to you? How does His death affect your life?

Pastor Joseph Hovsepien

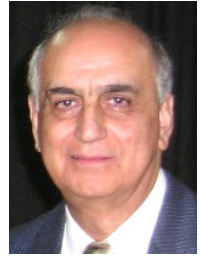
GOOD NEWS!

Tune in to WCHP 760AM every weekday at noon to hear a short inspirational message by Pastor Joseph Hovsepien. Why not invite your friends to listen, too? We would appreciate feedback about the program so please send us your comments.



Please join us for Bible study every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m.

From the Pastor



They Watched Him There

Matthew 27:27-56

For some people, Good Friday and Easter have simply become words that describe two “Christian” holidays that may bring family members together, or perhaps an extra holiday for workers and students and, of course, special activities in churches. Naturally, this is for those who do not know and understand the real meaning of Good Friday and Easter.

However, to the true believer, Good Friday is a reminder of the cruel death of Jesus Christ and Easter — or, more accurately, Resurrection Sunday — is a reminder of His resurrection.

Before we get to the cross, let us take a quick look at the preceding events:

- The Passover, the Lord’s table, the betrayal
- The mock trial
- Pilate handing Jesus over to be crucified
- Jesus’ crucifixion

In verse 36, we read, *“And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.”* Let’s observe these soldiers who were near the cross.

They watched complacently in the hour of the crucifixion. These soldiers had witnessed many crucifixions before. King Darius crucified 200 when conquering Babylon. Alexander crucified 2,000 when conquering Tyre.

It was common for Romans to crucify as a means of capital punishment. To the soldiers, it was simply another execution. This may be why the cross means so little to many people today.

They flogged Jesus. Roman floggings were so brutal that sometimes the victim died even before being crucified.

They struck Jesus again and again on the head with a cane.

They spit on Jesus and mocked him. The soldiers did not believe Jesus and rejected His deity. They did not accept His miracles. To them, Jesus was just another man.

But who was this man dying on the cross? He was the One of whom the prophets had spoken (Isaiah 50:6, 53). He was the One miraculously born (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:1-14). He was the One who could open blind eyes and even raise people from the dead. If they could only see who was dying there — I mean who He really was — they would never have been the same again.

They watched calmly in the hour of the world’s greatest crisis! Just stop and think for a moment: If Jesus was who He claimed to be (and we know He was and is), then this was the hour of the ages, and these people were not moved at all. Only when the darkness came and the earth shook, were they finally shaken. One soldier exclaimed: *“Surely He was the Son of God!”* (vs. 54)

These people were just observers as the scene unfolded before them. I am sure they discovered many things, but let me mention a few of them:

- They saw the priests who mocked and insulted Jesus.
- They saw two thieves crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.

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