

Temple News

May 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



Celebrating the publication of "God's Workshop" in Armenia (see page 12 for details)

The Editorial

It's How You Look at It

On a recent trip home from a meeting in Toronto, I was sitting in the back of a taxi cab as we made our way from the airport to my home, trying to mentally and physically wind down. I'd had a full day with much to process and the next day was Sunday, which would mean even more to absorb.

It was around 6 p.m. and raining so it was rather dull outside but, with my head tipped back, I happened to notice the trees on the Town-of-Mount-Royal side of l'Acadie Boulevard. The newly budding branches were wet and dark against the pale gray sky and oddly beautiful. The tiny light green buds almost shone and I couldn't stop staring at the sky as we drove along.

A quick glance downward revealed a scene much better suited to the mood of a dull rainy day: drab, cement sidewalks littered with garbage tossed out of passing cars; cold, lifeless vehicles either parked in front of apartment buildings or rumbling down the road; cluttered balconies, untended front yards and chained-up bicycles.

But up above... Now that was a whole other thing! When I looked up and focussed on God's artistry instead of

man's mess down below, my spirits lifted and I couldn't help smiling and relaxing.

And I couldn't help thinking about how this is just how it is in our spiritual lives. The joy we experience, the blessings we see and the hope that we feel have less to do with the "weather" in our lives and much more to do with what we're looking at.

We're not always going to have sunny, happy days with everything going right. Sometimes we're going to have tough days that make us want to drag our feet or, worse still, never get out of bed. It's completely normal to feel discouraged and helpless and even angry when life is hard... if we're only looking around at our circumstances instead of looking upward to God.

Difficult circumstances don't cancel out the blessings in our lives any more than a cloudy sky eliminates flowers and trees. The beauty of God's creation is still there even when it's being rained on and overshadowed. You just have to look at it more intentionally.

Hebrews 12:2 says, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

When it rains in your life, look up. Look at Jesus. It will change everything.

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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From Our Mailbox

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

God bless you. I wanted to write to ask for your help in praying for the situation with our vehicle. We have had a utility vehicle for the last two and a half years and, this month, when I went to re-register the vehicle, we discovered that there were problems with the registration. To make a long story short, we found out eventually just last week that our van, which we bought second-hand, is actually a stolen vehicle and the papers we hold on it are actually faked. I guess the people who sold it to us had stolen it and then changed the license plate by stealing one from another car.

We've had a friend help us to research who is really the legal owner of this vehicle and found that, because it was stolen when it was almost new, the correct owner is the bank, which had given a mortgage to the buyers.

It seems at this point that they will come and get the vehicle early next week. This is a big loss for us, as well as our ministry, as we've come to rely on this vehicle for pickups and almost every aspect of our work. One friend suggested that we ask the bank if we can buy it back from them for as little as possible. Originally this vehicle cost us around \$9,500 as, here in the Philippines, even second-hand vehicles are expensive, so this possibility would be a

blessing. Even though it will cost us more, at least it wouldn't be a total loss. Please pray for this.

Also please pray for God's will as, if the above possibility doesn't work, then we need some miracles of supply to be able to find another vehicle and the funds for it. Thank you very much.

Jonah Bishop



Three of Jonah's children and a volunteer (far right) behind their van.

Clovis, CALIFORNIA

Greetings. Hallelujah to the name of Jesus, which is above all names. The living Redeemer is at the right hand of God. We glory in the cross of His love, having unspeakable joy, forgiveness, deliverance and redemption. By His wounds we are healed, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

May God continually bless the

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

www.templebaptistmontreal.com

The News

Welcome, Babies!

We're excited to welcome into our church family little **Samuel Chiavegatti**, the first child of **Tiago** and **Eliane**, who was born on Saturday, April 7. We rejoice with this young family and pray that the Lord will continue to bless them.

We also congratulate our friends **Christian** and **Margarita Coronado**, who now live in St. John's, Newfoundland. Their first child, **Christian Adrian**, was born on March 4 (see page 9).



Help Us Clean Up!

We will get together for our annual spring cleaning blitz on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m. and

we really need all hands on deck!

The more people who come to help, the more work we can get done in a shorter time. There are big jobs (such as cleaning the sanctuary windows) and little jobs (such as dusting bookshelves) but they're all important jobs.

Share a New Testament

We have quite a few large-size New Testaments that we would like to make available to our local members if you have friends with whom you'd like to

share God's Word. There are hardcover English ones and softcover bilingual ones. Please speak to an usher or the pastor if you need one or two.

Baptism & Membership

We have newcomers joining our Bible studies and Sunday services almost every week, and some of them have indicated an interest in baptism and/or membership. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to anyone you don't know and help them feel as welcome as you now do. Also, if you've never been baptized or you're not a member, please prayerfully consider it.

Married Couples' Fellowship

Though it started on a trial basis, our Married Couples' Fellowship is continuing to meet—and grow—so we encourage any couples who have not participated yet to plan to attend the next meeting, which will be on Saturday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m.

To be added to the e-mail contact list, please speak to **Sonia Pehlivanian**.

Outreach to Turkey

Recently, our missionary in Armenia, Arayik Sardaryan, visited Turkey with several other volunteers and handed out 500 Turkish Bibles (İncil). We received several photos of this exciting



Celebrating a

Jasmin Shikdar - May 2

Sarah Saliba - 4

Jonathan Varnell - 11

Jeremiah Osei - 14

Peter Woodhouse - 30

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

The News

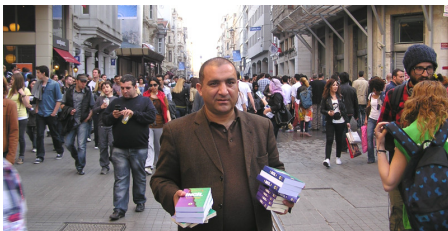
outreach, which we share here and also on page 10. Please pray for the souls who received God's Word that day.



Brother Arayik (right) and a volunteer with a van-load of Turkish Bibles.



The faithful volunteers. Brother Arayik is on the far right.



Brother Arayik surrounded by countless passers-by he will offer a Bible to.

Outreach to Montreal

By Ann-Margret Hovsepian

We recently switched our tract distribution day to the fourth Sunday of each month. As our group of 11 headed toward McGill metro on April 22, I questioned whether we had picked the right day—first construction slowed us down, and then we realized that many downtown streets were completely blocked because of student protests and the Earth Day rally. The car I was in got separated from the other three cars and all of us sat in traffic for about an hour, trying to figure out what we were going to do.

Finally, the team in our car ended up at Berri metro while the rest made it to McGill. It was immediately apparent that God's hand had been at work! Within half an hour the three of us gave out all our tracts. We collected discarded tracts from the bottom of the stairs and re-distributed them. Then we did that again, but eventually we were left with nothing.

Thousands went by us in that short time—in just that one corridor of many at Berri. I wonder if people thought we were handing out Earth Day material because they happily reached out for our tracts, which is very unusual! Yes, some were discarded, but most weren't.

Please pray for all those people who kept a tract. Pray that they will read them and be touched by the message. Please pray for the work that was done at McGill metro, too.

Men's Fellowship

Next breakfast and fellowship is on Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship

Next fellowship meeting is on Saturday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Your Perspective

The Power of a Praying Mom

By Stella Papadopoulos

Mother's Day is a time when we reflect on our mothers. This reflection can also extend to women in our lives who are not our biological mothers but step up to that plate regardless. Then of course we have our grandmothers and, for those fortunate enough, great grandmothers.

At 54, I occasionally slow down long enough to look back over my life and recognize the endowment I received from all the mothers in my life. I see it in my younger self going without sleep and food in the hospital corridors with an asthmatic child, or waiting for x-rays of my 10-month-old's broken arm. And it's there again as I watch through three hours of diving competition in sweltering 40 degrees heat to see my children's 15-second jumps off the diving board and later shower them with admiration.

The money that came in the mail to pay for my airfare home was Mom going without and selling handbags out of the trunk on cold November days.

I remember, as a little girl, kneeling next to my great grandmother in her bedroom as she opened up her Greek Bible. Her Bible had yellowed pages with letters that I could not read. She quietly read aloud some Greek words and then I heard my name spoken in prayer.

Living for purposes that were unseen and that were greater than the moment came naturally for the mothers in my life. The fruit was unconditional love and a legacy of prayer that followed me

through my wilderness experiences as a young woman. Even during those difficult years of my own rebellion, my mother never stopped praying and loving me. Those prayers did get answered for both of us when we were baptized together on July 26, 1997. It is no wonder that prayer has become an anchor in my own journey of motherhood.

A mother's prayers will follow her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren no matter where they go. That is the wonderful promise of prayer. It is speaking to the Father, and He can meet us anywhere.

The most important thing we can do is pray for our children, biological or not. Pray in front of them so they can hear you say their names and lift them up to the Lord. It is the simplest way to teach them the importance of prayer.

As for my mom, she is amazing. She greets each day like the pro that she is — prompt, prayed-up, and looking marvelous. She is irreplaceable, as are all mothers, whether they are told or not.



Original artwork by Stella Papadopoulos

Your Perspective

Great Value

By Jo-Ann Bouclair

Today, I have been thinking about the phrase “great value.” Great Value is a brand name that means you can get the product at less than the valued cost—or at least that is what the seller would like you to believe.

I believe that in God’s economy, it is the exact opposite. For those of us, and I include myself, who often feel less than useable to God—or those of us who feel we are more gifted than others—we have comfort in the fact that, as God’s dearly loved children, we are of *great value* to God.

We don’t have to worry about whether God loves us because of what we know, what we do, or what we are capable of. He loves us because we are—each one of us—of great value to Him. Unlike the Great Value products found in stores, we are valuable because we cost MORE! The price God paid for us was

overvalue. He gave His Son Jesus to pay our sin price, proof of the great value we are to God.

So don’t be discouraged when you don’t feel God’s love at certain moments. Don’t be discouraged when you don’t feel you are capable of serving God. To God you are of great value and He has plans for you to carry out, not on your own but through *His* power using you.

Be ready: He has plans for you!

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 June issue, please send us your material by May 20. Contact information is on page 2.

More Letters

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Hovsepien family, the Temple Baptist Church congregation, the *Temple News*, *God’s Workshop* and the Armenian ministry. Accept my gift of \$100 to your ministry, wherever it is needed.

Thank you for the monthly *Temple News*, *God’s Workshop* and the 100th anniversary commemorative book. I have been blessed reading these.

Nevart (Rose) Daghlian

St. John’s, NEWFOUNDLAND

We hope everything with you is well. By the grace of God we have been blessed with our firstborn. His name is Christian Adrian and he was born on March 4, 2012 in St. John’s.

We love you in the love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and we have very fond memories of you. Hopefully we will see you soon.

Christian and Margarita Coronado

Missions & Evangelism

The Omission of the Great Commission

By Pastor Joseph Hovsepan

To the question “Why is it that today’s church and Christians have so little impact?” the short answer is: the omission of the great commission that Christ gave us! (Matthew 28:19-20)

You may have your own opinion and observations, but let me mention four reasons today’s church has so little impact in the world:

1. There are too many spectators who don’t want to be involved.
2. People are more interested in methods and activities than in the message.
3. People are too concerned about public image and political correctness.
4. They are little, if at all, concerned for lost people.

What made the New Testament church effective was its passion for and efforts in outreach and evangelism. They were all witnessing and sharing the Good

News as commanded in Acts 1:8 — “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*”

Evangelism (*evangelismos* in Greek, which means spreading the good news) is generally forgotten now. Not many are interested in witnessing and sharing the Good News (*evangelion*). The Bible in Greek is also called *Evangelion*.

We have settled for other causes. While the world needs to hear the Good News, the most important message, Christians are busy doing things that are less important. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 we read: “*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*”

Are we, the true believers in Jesus, responding to this need for evangelism?

Outreach to Turkey

(From page 4)



Missions & Evangelism

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and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Dear brethren, your monetary gifts will be used only in Armenia, for the spreading of His Word and for His glory. And, with your help, many will find Jesus, the spring of Living Water.

May God bless you all and may His peace fill your hearts.

Since the celebration, I have received many calls and e-mails expressing joy about the printing of the books, and all the comments have been very positive and encouraging.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

More on this update...

To view a video of the celebration event, combined with photos and the message from Pastor Joseph, please visit <http://vimeo.com/40821759>.

As this was Pastor Joseph’s personal project and not one funded by our

church, your donations toward the high printing costs are appreciated. You can give them to him directly or designate an amount as “Books—Armenia” on your envelope.

We are grateful to the team in Yerevan who worked tirelessly to translate and produce God’s Workshop in Armenian, and who organized the dedication service and celebration on April 22. We were happy to receive a few photos to share with you.

On the front cover, pictured left to right, are: Vardan Blbulyan, director of Campus Crusade in Armenia; Pastor Hovhannes Halladjian of the Armenian Brotherhood Church of Yerevan; Artur Mantashyan, who managed the translation and production of the book; his daughter Lilit Mantashyan, who helped with the translation work and in many other ways; and Hayk Tadevosyan, a church member who received a copy of the book.

GOOD NEWS!

Tune in to WCHP 760AM every weekday at noon to hear a short inspirational message by Pastor Joseph Hovsepian.

We’d love to hear your comments or suggestions about the program.



EVANGELISM

You don't have to be a pastor or missionary to share God's Word and His love with people who desperately need His touch.

We encourage you to join our tract distribution team on the fourth Sunday of each month as they give out tracts and New Testaments to hundreds in our city.

*The next outing is on May 27. Please speak with **Peter Woodhouse, Shubroto Shikdar or Rita Assan** for more details.*

From the Pastor

Mission Update: Armenia

I send greetings to our brothers and sisters—our dear friends—in Armenia. It took a visit to that country and seven months for the book *God's Workshop* to be re-born in Eastern Armenian. On April 22, the new translation of the book, *As-dzo Arestanotse*, was presented to about 170 leaders and others at a special dedication service at the Armenian Brotherhood Church of Yerevan.

Five thousand copies were dedicated to God and to His service. I had the privilege of sending a short video message that was presented to those who attended the celebration. The following is the English translation of my message to them:

My dearly beloved brothers and sisters, *“we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.”* (Col. 1:3-4)

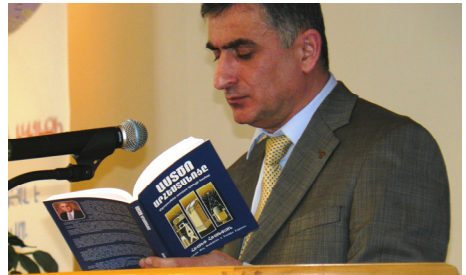
When, for the first time, my wife and I came to Armenia, we didn't for one moment imagine that God had His own plans for us. You, dear brothers and sisters, indicated your desire to have my book, *God's Workshop*, translated into Eastern Armenian because

you wanted to use it as a tool to reach many, to help them in their spiritual journeys. I felt that it was God's voice speaking to me through you.

And here we are now. Today, 5,000 books are ready to be used for the glory of God. I express my heartfelt appreciation to all those who helped make this happen. May God bless you richly.

Dear members of the family of God, my wish is that this book may help you in your spiritual growth. Also, by giving this book to others, you will help them find Jesus and His salvation, and in that way you would have obeyed our Lord Jesus who said, *“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,*

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Above: Vardan Blbulyan, director of Campus Crusade in Armenia, sharing a passage.

