

Temple News

June 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” — Romans 10:14

The Editorial

The Desires of Your Heart

At our last Women's Fellowship meeting, we talked about evaluating our dreams (not the kind we see when we sleep, but the wishes we cherish in our hearts) in light of what God teaches us through His Word and through His Holy Spirit, and how to handle it when our wishes don't come true.

First, we recognized that anything we depend on for happiness or a sense of fulfillment has become our idol. We may wish we were thinner, smarter, married, a parent, making more money, living in a bigger house, more popular, less busy, etc. We convince ourselves that the lack of this specific thing in our lives is the reason for our discontent. This is a lie.

In 1 Kings, when the worshipers of Baal were challenged to call on their god to burn up their altar, they were left empty-handed and humiliated. There is not a single false god that can fill the emptiness in our hearts. Only God can meet that need.

Secondly, we looked at a few examples in the Bible of people who experienced disappointment: David never got to build the temple that he longed to offer to God; Moses never made it into the Promised Land; and Jesus' disciples

watched their friend and leader get arrested, crucified and buried.

And yet each of these people also witnessed and experienced God's grace: David had a special son who built the temple, and David was a forefather of the Messiah; Moses entered a greater paradise than the Promised Land when he died; and the disciples witnessed Jesus' resurrection and understood the promise of salvation and eternal life.

Things are not always as they first appear. God sees the other side of the picture, He sees the end of the road and He knows whether the path we're wanting to go down will end in destruction or joy. We absolutely must trust that He knows better than we do.

God may fulfill the dream you have in your heart... or he may not. Maybe that desire is meant to draw you into a deeper relationship with Him so that He can fill that empty spot in your life. When we believe this, we can thank God not only for the things we do have but also for the things we don't have.

Even without the promise that God has something "better" than our dreams planned for us, we still must surrender our dreams to Him. Why? In Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, and Luke 9:23 Jesus gave a clear command: *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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Cover: Shubroto Shikdar handing out tracts near Mount Royal during our May 27 outreach.

From Our Mailbox

Yerevan, ARMENIA

Would you please add one more *Temple News* to the number you have been sending me? I will give it to another pastor here.

I have distributed 8,065 tracts and I will give out another 850 that I have. There are other churches I will present these tracts to; I have already given them to 17 churches here, as well as 500 copies to be taken to churches in the United States. I will send tracts to other countries, too.

I have given about 50 copies of Pastor Joseph's books (*God's Workshop* in Armenian) to pastors and individuals. Some have given money, others received them for free. There are churches that want them, even in the United States. I have already sent five and I am about to send another five to the United States.

Mariam Grigorian

Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

Again, I cannot thank you (Pastor Joseph) and all at Temple Baptist Church enough for supporting Ngairé (my sister) during her lengthy sickness. She really treasured your prayerful support during her last three years of life.

Thank you, too, for supporting me through the dramatic changes in my

life. You can be assured that prayer is effective and reaches globally. I certainly praise our Lord, just as you all do.

Please pass on my very sincere Christian love to all at T.B.C., especially those at Bible Study and Men's Fellowship. Special love and blessings to the Hovsepien family. You are truly very special people and some of our Lord's "favourites." Your steadfastness and faithfulness is very inspirational to me personally.

Heaps of warmest Christian love to you all from your bro in New Zealand.

Graeme Robertson

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

Dear Pastor Hovsepien and all, God bless you. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your help. I wanted you to know how much your continued support means to us, in helping us to continue our mission here and taking care of some of the needs we have that otherwise might not be met.

We just finished our dental mission in which 27 dentists volunteered for the day. We treated more than 200 children from poor families, many of whom had a lot of problems with their teeth. While they waited for their turns, we also gave them a class on dental hygiene and nutrition, and then had a

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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

Baby Dedication

On Sunday, May 13, **Rogério** and **Patricia Peres** dedicated their five-month old son **Raphael** to the Lord. Please pray for this family (which includes big sister **Rachel**) and the spiritual development of their children. As a church, we also made a commitment to support and encourage them.

New Member

We welcomed **Catherine Papadopoulos** into our official membership roll on Sunday, May 6, and look forward to getting to know her better in the coming days. We have already been blessed by her friendship and fellowship.

Good-bye, Sort of...

We have known for some time that **Peter** and **Wendy Woodhouse** (and their one-year-old daughter Hannah) were planning to move to Australia, where Peter is from, but we weren't sure when. The Woodhouses have made a transitional temporary move to Ottawa and we're sad to see them go, but they will be visiting Montreal every few weeks and continuing to worship with us whenever they are in town.

Please pray for the Woodhouse family as they make these adjustments and as they prepare for the eventual move to Australia.

Sunday School Summer Break

Please note that our Sunday morning Bible classes for adults and children will be suspended during the summer holidays. The last class will be on Sunday, June 17, and we will resume in early September. (Exact date to be announced.)

All our other meetings will continue as usual, however, so we encourage you to join our Tuesday night Bible studies (at 7:45 p.m.) if you don't already attend.

Married Couple's Fellowship

The monthly couples' fellowship is still going strong and the married folk have been enjoying



getting to know each other better and encouraging each other through challenging and inspiring discussions that pertain to married life.

The last couple of meetings have taken place in homes and the next one, on Saturday, June 23, will be held at Pastor **Joseph** and **Jessie Hovsepien**'s home at 6:30 p.m. Details will be sent by e-mail to all the couples. If you are not sure whether you are on the contact list, please speak with **Sonia Pehlivanian**.



Ann-Margret Hovsepien - June 2
Melissa Livingston - 6
Grace Doré - 8
Hannah Woodhouse - 14
James Varnell - 18
Giancarlo La Giorgia - 21

Anita Sarjeanston - 21
June Ross - 23
Gerthsie Charles - 27
Kristina Ptacek - 28
Alvin Estanislao - 29
Richard Didsbury - 30

The News

Missions Trips: Armenia and Quebec

We have at least two missions trips that our church members are participating in this year and your prayers, even in advance, are appreciated.

From August 16 to 28, **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** will be joining 11 other Baptist women from Ontario and Quebec in Mistissini, a Cree village in northern Quebec, to share the gospel with women and children there through a program called Groups of Hope.

A couple of months ago, the team learned that at the exact same time they will be in Mistissini, a major First Nations Christian event will be taking place in that area, bringing in about 1,000 people from across North America. While this complicates logistics, it also means that more people can be reached with God's love.

Also, Pastor **Joseph** and **Jessie Hovsepian** will be returning to Armenia, from August 22 to September 11 to visit the churches and missionary we support there. A baptismal service is already being planned, as well as many other opportunities for Pastor Joseph to bring words of encouragement and inspiration.

Please pray for all those who will be reached through these missions trips, for the protection of the travellers, and for all the needed resources to be available.

We'd love to hear about any missions trips or outreach events that some

of you are participating in this year. Please let us know so that we can share about it with our other readers!

More on Quebec

Christianity Today, one of the largest Christian news magazines, recently published a report on evangelicalism in Quebec, written by one of our own. If you haven't already seen this article, please ask **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** for a photocopy, or you can read it online by going to www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/may/quebec-prodigious-province.html.

Temple Baptist Church, with specific reference to our tract ministry, is mentioned a couple of times so we think you'll want to check it out!

Some early responses to the article indicate that churches and individuals across North America are starting to pray for our province. Please pray that more people—especially Christians who live here—will be moved to share the gospel with the many who don't know anything about salvation through Jesus and who have never been exposed to His Word.

We also encourage you to participate in our tract ministry, which we have been talking about quite a bit lately, including during our May 20 Praise Lunch. To learn more about opportunities to get involved with outreach and evangelism, please speak with **Vahe Dzaghgouni**, **Rita Assan** or **Shubroto Shikdar**.

Men's Fellowship

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

Women's Fellowship

Next fellowship meeting is on Saturday, June 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Your Perspective

Remembering Daddy

by Stella Papadopoulos

Recently, I discovered a collection of images someone had posted on the website Pinterest [a social photo sharing site] and titled Remembering Daddy. I decided to make my own but, after posting four photos, I had to stop because of being overcome by tears. It's been 21 years since my Daddy died on July 4.

My father never opened up about his own personal thoughts with me, perhaps because he had lived a large life of many episodes. Or perhaps because he thought I would not understand. One thing I do know was that he blessed me with unconditional love all his life. He taught me to ride a bike. He taught me how to train for track and field. He taught me how to be a business woman.

Growing up, Dad would devote each Sunday to his family. We would go to church, followed by a magnificent brunch. Then we would either end it by watching a movie or Walt Disney together. On those Sundays, we connected as a family and felt loved and special.

He was also an overachiever: As a youth, he was in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He ran for Greece with the torch, and competed in track and field events. As a young man, he mastered seven languages and was such a successful businessman that the Nazis put him in Czechoslovakia's Terezin Concentration Camp. After his escape, he was part of the underground liberating Jews but, by day, he was a member of the Diplomatic Corps. In 1953, after landing in Ottawa,

he returned to being a merchant. Thirty three years later, even after suffering several strokes, and going bankrupt, he still was ready to take on the Canadian license of Coach Handbags.

He wasn't a perfect Dad but he loved us unconditionally and never exasperated us. I have missed him so much, especially during family celebrations. I have such loving memories but my father died before he could walk me and my sister down the aisle as brides, and before he could cherish his grandchildren.

My sister discovered that there still is a George Papadopoulos in the phone book with our old telephone number. At times I have wished I could call him and tell him the great things that fill my heart with joy. At times I wished I could run to him for advice or run to him to rescue me. I lost my "go to" person... the one to go to in happy times and sad times.

Reflecting on my father when I was a child, I see the biblical model in him. Later, in times of prosperity, the world system became our god. God our Father loved us too much to let that continue. When all we had was gone, I saw my



Stella Papadopoulos and her father

Your Perspective

Dad submit to his God once again. I only recognize that today, and I call it the Blessing of the Bankruptcy.

There are many "I wish I could..." statements in my heart to share with my Daddy. Except it's a silent one way dialogue. But God my Father in heaven has an intimate dialogue with me. Perhaps my earthly father had to leave in order for me to find the Father.

I used to go visit familiar places that I went to with Daddy. Some, like Ben's restaurant downtown, have been removed and I ask, "Was that you God?" Others, like the Hermes Building on Peel Street, remain. Going to those places brought me such profound and intense grief that I

stopped going there eventually.

Instead, today, I meet the Father each day. "He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way." "I come to the garden alone...and the voice I hear falling on my ear...tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known." "Sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea all I need in Thee I find!"

My Father in heaven is so real to me. Now, He is my "go to" person. Every day, every hour, every moment. While I miss Daddy, the Father has never left me and loves me with divine love. One day, "when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!"

Book Review

Editor's Note: Occasionally, we will review books that are available in our church library. This book is one of the newest additions to our collection.

Courageous Living

Author: Michael Catt

Most of us saw the special screening of the film *Courageous* here at Temple Baptist. Sadly, the memory of the movie fades and before long we slip back into our default patterns. This book is an excellent follow up, whether or not you saw the film. While both the movie and the book target men, ladies can also benefit from the principles.

Courageous Living is a tender encouragement that helps us reflect with purpose as biblical characters come alongside. Ten short chapters make it very manageable.

Here is an excerpt from Chapter 3, *Courage to Lead on all Levels*, based on Joshua 1:9: *Joshua wasn't going to waltz into the promised land. The enemy wasn't going to throw out the welcome mat...No, there would be battles. All God's commands are God's enablement. Joshua's courage wasn't worked up; it came from God...We are not alone in our battles, and we don't have to face the enemy in our own strength...Joshua's ability to conquer resulted from having been conquered by God.*

Be the first to borrow this gem. Come to the library!

Review by Stella Papadopoulos

To learn more about our library and the many other books and resources we have available, please speak with our librarian, Stella Papadopoulos, or with Meerna Dzaghgouni who has been helping her.

From Our Mailbox

...continued from page 3

slide show and class on Jesus' love for them, and prayed with all those—both parents and children—who attended. Thanks to some other friends, we were also able to provide a meal for all the children and give out free toothbrushes and paste to each child.

Regarding our prayer request for our vehicle, we are still using it and, after meeting with the bank, they said they would look into trying to resolve some legal problems with their being able to transfer ownership to us, and if this is possible then they would probably expect us to pay them around \$2,000 - 5,000. I showed them our mission work and asked if they could consider simply donating the vehicle, so that is something we are still praying for. Right now we are using this vehicle even though it doesn't have proper registration and pray daily for safety and against any problems. Your continued prayers for that are very appreciated.

Our next large-scale mission will be for 1,000 children next month in a very poor area of a city called Taguig, which is part of metro Manila. We will be giv-

ing school supplies to all of these children as well as ministering to them and giving Christian teaching materials to the schools. Please pray for the preparations and fundraising for this event. Thank you so much.

Jonah Bishop and Family
helping_all@yahoo.com

Edmonton, ALBERTA

Your wonderful gift this month was deeply welcomed and appreciated, and we rejoice in the Lord for what He is doing. Things are up and down here at the shop, but as we continue to talk and reach out to people around the globe, we see that things are happening. Even though the news of the day tells us of strife and conflict around the world, we continue to hear of people coming to know the Lord through a simple piece of paper. Spurgeon once said that more had been won to Christ with gospel tracts than through any other tool, so may God bless each one of you as we labour on until He soon returns.

John Harder, Managing Director
Evangelical Tract Distributors

GOOD NEWS!

Tune in to WCHP 760AM every weekday at noon to hear a short inspirational message by Pastor Joseph Hovsepian. Invite your friends to listen, too! We'd love to hear your comments or suggestions about the program.



Tell us what you think!

We appreciate the work of our writers and the way they inspire us. Please tell us how an article or testimony has touched your heart! We'll include your note on our letters page.



From the Pastor

...continued from page 12

The Bible is very clear that when we come to know Christ and are born again we must “put off our old self.” This means all that a person was before his conversion. The old lifestyle must be replaced by a new and pure way of life, a complete change in our thinking, a change from impurity to holiness—holiness of thought and life, not the way we see things but the way God sees us and our lives.

In verses 23 and 24 we read: “*To be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*” After naming some of the obvious sins, Paul says: “*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.*”

Apostle Paul continues in chapter 5, instructing believers to “*be imitators of God*” (vs. 1) and to be holy, clean: “*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*” (vss. 3-5)

Some say that morals are a matter of the culture in which we live, and since premarital, extramarital, and gay sex are accepted in our culture, religious leaders may accept and even promote this idea of freedom to please the flesh without shame or fear.

In the Bible, believers are strongly warned to have no part in ungodly behaviour. To do so is to dishonour God and

the name of Christ, to destroy other lives, to ruin one’s own testimony, and to bring retribution and death. In Proverbs 6:27, we read: “*Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?*”

Apostle Paul reminds the believers what they were before they believed in Jesus: “*For you were once darkness, but now you are light of the Lord. Live as children of light.*” (v. 8)

Here we have the contrast between light and darkness. Those who belong to Jesus have received His light and now they must reflect and introduce this light where there is darkness. Thomas Carlyle wrote: “The Christian must be consumed with the infinite Beauty of Holiness and the infinite Damnability of sin.”

Yes, there are many who claim to be Christians, who may even be leaders who have one foot in the *Word* and the other in the *world* and may be doing things that are sinful or wrong according to the *Word* of God.

But you are a child of light! Those who live in God’s light produce the fruit of moral, ethical and holy character. Those who live in darkness do not!

Please remember what God said through Jeremiah: “*I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.*” (Jeremiah 17:10)

What should we do then? Verses 10 and 11 give the answer: “*Find out what pleases God*” and “*have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*”

What God wants is life transformation rather than moral improvement.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian



Transformation, Not Improvement

Ephesians 4:17, 22-24; 5:8-11

Anyone who wants to become an athlete must consider the requirements very carefully to be successful. There are at least three important things that are necessary: commitment, discipline and a change of way of life.

These requirements also apply for a soldier, a politician, in marriage and for a Christian!

Commitment — The person who is half committed to a sport or a vocation cannot be successful. He is wasting his time even though he may be having some fun. When there is no commitment in a marriage, that union will not succeed and it will become dysfunctional and fail.

It takes a total commitment to God and His Son Jesus for a person to become a Christian, not a conditional or part-time commitment.

Discipline — A disciplined life is a successful life. An undisciplined person will not succeed in life and usually will blame others for his or her plight. An undisciplined Christian will not be able to rest in God but will wander in the wilderness of religion and doctrines.

Way of life — The person who is unwilling to change his or her way of life, to let go of or exchange some things so that other new and better things can replace them, is like a car stuck in ice or sand, spinning its wheels for nothing.

The Christian who has one foot in the Word of God and the other foot in the world is like that car, going nowhere. The

letter *l* makes all the difference, at least in English: “Word” vs. “world”.

Jesus described such a person this way: *“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”* (Revelation 3:15-16)

To the believers in Ephesus, Apostle Paul wrote: *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.”*

With this verse, Apostle Paul began his appeal for a new morality, a new way of life. “In the Lord” means “by the authority of the Lord and divine inspiration.” He urges Christian believers to put off every trace of their past life, as if they were dirty clothes, and put on new and clean ones.

“You must no longer live as the Gentiles do.” They were no longer Gentiles (unbelievers); they were Christians now. There should have been a corresponding change in their lives.

Paul saw the Christ-less world of the nations sinking deeper and deeper in sin and degradation and named seven terrible characteristics they had: aimless, blind, ungodly, shameless, immoral, indecent, and greedy. Their sin created an enormous appetite for more of the same. How different this way of life was from the life of Christ whom they had come to know and love!

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