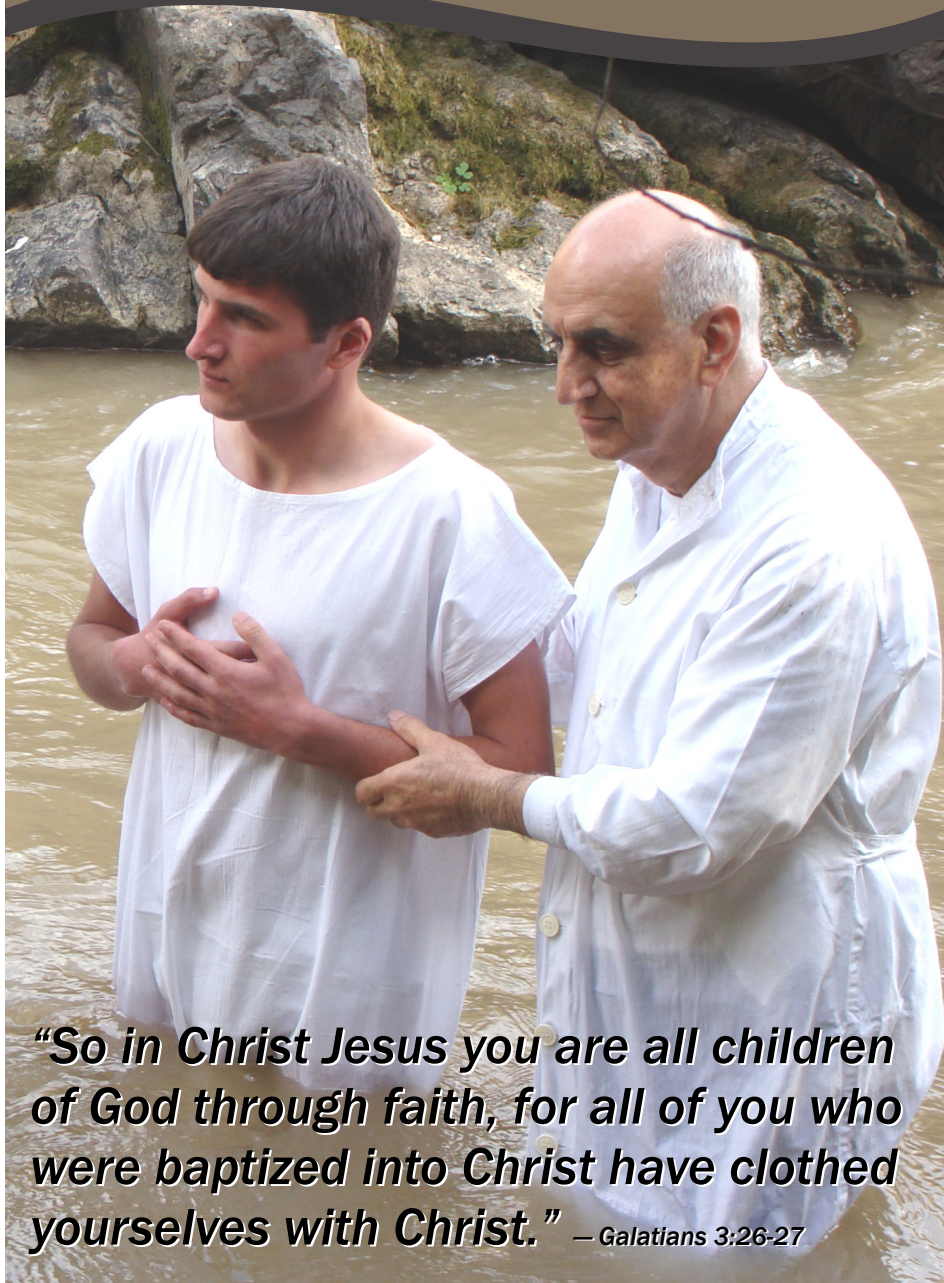


Temple News

Aug. / Sept. 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” — Galatians 3:26-27

The Editorial

Speaking Up Against Sin

People who know me well know that I'm uncompromising about my faith and my belief in biblical standards. They may have also noticed, however, that I am not outspoken on some issues that Christians and non-Christians disagree on, unlike many people I know who seem to believe that unless they speak against certain sins, the world is going to fall to pieces.

Why am I reticent to speak up publicly against issues such as gay marriage and abortion, the "pet" sins of many evangelicals in North America today? Do I condone these practices? No, but let me propose an analogy...

Imagine you see a car racing toward a cliff and you know that the passengers are going to fall to their deaths soon. How helpful would it be to tell them that they should fasten their seat belts, repair the headlights, fill up on gas or fix any other potentially life-threatening hazards? That car is going to crash no matter how many of its problems you fix.

What you need to do is warn the passengers of the danger they are facing and help them turn around and head toward safety. Then they can examine the car, their driving skills or other issues and start making necessary changes.

Similarly, pointing out bad behaviour or offensive lifestyles to non-Christians and trying to change them resolves nothing. My mission as a Christian is not to get people (individuals or society in general) to stop sinning and to clean up their lives (I could barely manage that for myself if not for God's help). That's not my job. That's God's job.

My mission is to introduce people to Jesus Christ and tell them about His love and the salvation He offers. It's to be salt and light. It's to bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. If the people I share God's love with choose to believe in Him and follow Him, it is then between them and Him to make any changes that may be necessary.

When you see someone who is lost or headed toward disaster, the first order of business is to love them enough to point them to safety.

This isn't about condoning sin or being flippant about it. It's about bringing people to Jesus (or bringing Jesus to people) instead of focussing on and becoming anxious about the evils in the world.

If we truly believe in an omnipotent, omniscient, holy and sovereign God, we can put our trust in Him...instead of in ourselves.

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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5815 Durocher Ave., Outremont, QC, H2V 3Y5
Phone: 514-279-9626 / 1-888-909-9626
Web: www.templebaptistmontreal.com
Mail: 5945 Park Ave., Montreal, QC, H2V 4H4
E-mail: templegoodnews@gmail.com

Publisher: Joseph Hovsepian
Editor: Ann-Margret Hovsepian
Printing: PositiveMarketing.ca

Contributors:
Jo-Ann Bouclair
Brian Norton
Quentin Newhouse
Mihiro Sewa

Cover: *Baptismal service in Armenia, 2011*

From Our Mailbox

Comments from Visitors

The following notes were left on comment cards by visitors to our church:

I enjoy listening to [Pastor Hovsepian] on the radio and I enjoyed hearing and seeing you in person. Your congregation is full of light.

Rochelle Robinson

Nice visit, my second time in Montreal. I am already baptized and have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Visit me at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Alyse Newhouse
(Quentin's daughter)

Montreal, QUEBEC

(Translated from French) Thank you for "What Are You Searching for?" and "Got Peace?" Please note that I would accept any additional literature that you send me in the future!

Claudette Gauthier

Kingston, ONTARIO

I'd like to thank Temple Baptist for praying for me [during my recent trip to Malawi]. Your prayers were answered if you were praying for my safety and the well-being of the students God brought

to the College. I believe God has been glorified in the lives of these students, in their studies, and in the work of their teachers.

This college was started four years ago by the Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi, of which there are more than 270 local assemblies. This organization was started after a native from Mozambique was led by God to evangelize Malawi with amazing results. That is another story.

I am the English teacher, the only non-Malawian teacher at the college. All the other courses are given in Chichewa, the other official language besides English. My course is a two-level programme that studies nearly every grammatical construction in the Gospel of John.

At the Beginners' level, we read the first chapter of John almost every day for four weeks. It begins with simple sentences: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." It ends with relative clauses. At the Advanced level, the students read the whole Gospel of John (English Standard Version) and continue with more complicated grammar and meaning. They discuss truths and doctrine from the Gospel in class, and write an essay every week.

An important component of the

Letters continued on page 6



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

www.templebaptistmontreal.com

The News

Supersize Me!

In the fast food industry, asking for an extra large serving of an item is jokingly referred to as *supersizing*. Well, that's kind of what we've done with this issue of the *Temple News*.

Because our volunteers who put together this newsletter each month will be on mission trips at the end of August (**Ann-Margret Hovsepien** is going to Mistissini, Quebec from August 16 to 27 and Pastor **Joseph** and **Jessie Hovsepien** are going to Armenia from August 22 to September 11), they will not be able to work on a September issue. Therefore, we decided to give you a slightly bigger August issue, adding the September prayer calendar and offering some extra reading material. (You can read more about the mission trip to Armenia on page 14 of this issue.)

Thanks for giving our volunteers a break next month. Please remember to keep this newsletter handy even after you've read it through, however, so that you can refer to the prayer list and activities on the calendars.

If you'd like to contribute a testimony or article—or to send us greetings—for the October issue, please note that we'll need your material by September 16. Please speak with Ann-Margret for more information.

A Few Scheduling Changes

Because of Pastor's absence for three weeks, we've made some minor changes to our regular schedule. Please take careful note of these and mark the changes on your own calendars (or keep the one in this issue handy).

Couples' Fellowship

The August Married Couple's Fellowship has been cancelled, so the next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 22, at the home of **Jacques** and **Stella Dénommée**. Please speak to them for more information, or ask **Sonia Pehlivanian** to add you to the e-mail distribution list.

Men's & Women's Fellowship

In September, we are switching these two groups' meetings, i.e. the *women* will meet on the second Saturday (September 8) and the *men* will meet on the third (September 15).

Please note that the August schedule is unchanged and we will return to the usual schedule in October.

Sunday School / Bible Classes

We will begin our Sunday School classes (along with the Bible study for adults) a little later this fall than we nor-



In August...

Alejandra Marquez - 5
Diana Kere - 9
Caleb Exantus - 9
Salvatore Balliro - 12
Violy Velez - 15

Kofi Boahene - 19
Joshua Livingston - 19
Leah Saliba - 21
Rachel Peres - 25
Viktoria Wohler - 27
Ruth Hovsepien - 28

The News

mally do. Please note that classes will resume on Sunday, September 16.

Group Ministry

We have tentatively postponed the September meeting to Monday, September 17 (instead of 10) but this will be confirmed at the August meeting.

Baby Dedication

In July we were delighted to have another baby dedication and this time it was for **Isabel Sofia Marquez**, on Sunday, July 8, brought forward by her parents **Efraim** and **Alejandra**.

Please pray for this young family and prayerfully consider how you can support and encourage Isabel as she grows (as well as all the other little ones our church family has been blessed with in the last year or two!)

Articles in *The Evangelist*

We aren't sure if all of you read the Evangelical Tract Distributors' newsletter that we insert into your Sunday morning bulleting once a month, but we encourage you to do so.

You'll not only find exciting updates from missionaries around the world, but you'll be blessed by the inspiring articles published in each issue. Occasionally, one of Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian's**

messages are included, such as in the August issue (on page 5).

We have quite a few back issues of *The Evangelist*, which we welcome you to help yourself to. If you're not sure where to find them, simply ask one of our greeters and they'll help you.

Women's Fall Retreat

This year's Quebec Baptist Women Fall Retreat will be held October 26 to 28. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend! If you'd like more information or a registration form, please speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** or send an e-mail to quebecwomen@gmail.com.

New, Focussed Website

While we continue to maintain and update our church website (www.templebaptistmontreal.com) on a weekly basis, there is now a separate website you can refer to for updates specifically concerning the Christian literature ministry and missions work being done by Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** apart from the outreach being done through Temple.

Please take a few minutes to visit www.josephhovsepianministries.com to learn more and to find out how you can support the work being done locally and around the world.

In September...

Junior Clerveaux - 2
Wheng Cofino - 2
Alex Kazarossian - 2
Jill MacInnes - 3
Eric Saliba - 3

Alex Dénommée - 5
Angie Lantos - 7
Greg Dekirmenjian - 9
Patricia Peres - 13
Lilian Ndogmo - 14
Jonah Bishop (Phil.) - 18
Meerna Dzaghouni - 19

Briahan Peart - 21
Euguen Dobrowolskyj - 23
Emmanuel Osei - 23

*May God bless these
brothers and sisters on
their birthdays!*

From Our Mailbox

...continued from page 3

English course has proven to be a real challenge: mastering the rules of baseball! Every year, I take a bat and ball in my suitcase and struggle to organize my class into a viable scrub team on the principle that “you gotta have some fun in this life.” This year, a little kid from the neighbourhood stole the show by hitting a long fly to left field resulting in a home run on his first time up to bat ever. A natural!

Some prayer concerns for this college... The first request is for the new President of Malawi, Joyce Banda, who is a Christian, and who faces challenges getting the country on its feet economically.

Secondly, the lack of rain is pretty much guaranteeing a severe “hungry season” for many parts of Malawi. Our students come mostly from rural districts and depend on growing their own food. Most of them will run out of maize and rice long before the next rains, and the price of these grains had already doubled when I was there. If money is short, they cannot buy textbooks, although for the English course, I take all the books and supplies they need.

Transportation is also difficult for them to afford. It's a hard choice between leaving their families without generous food supplies and giving up studying. It's heart-warming to witness their trust in God for all their needs.

Every morning and evening I listened to the sound of wonderful harmony: the students starting their day with a half hour of devotions and praise, and other groups in the church across the yard attending evening meetings.

I wish we could sing with the same

energizing effect in our churches. I'm grateful to God for this gift of fellowship with the saints in Malawi each year.

Thanks for your interest in God's work in Malawi. I feel a kindred spirit in a missions-minded church like Temple Baptist. I'll be awaiting news of [Ann-Margret's] trip to northern Quebec, and Pastor Joseph and Jessie's trip to Armenia.

Mary MacInnes (Jill's mother)

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

God bless you. I hope everything is going well for you and your family. You and your church are in our prayers.

A few weeks ago I went down to a town in Mindoro called Pinamalayan. I went with my daughters Fiona and Shannice. It's a three-hour ferry ride and then another one-and-a-half hours by vehicle, so it took a while to get there. We were able to visit several of the sites where these missionaries work. We showed the children the character-building and educational curriculums we were donating, they sang songs and quoted Scripture for us, and then we taught them some songs. With the teachers, we went over each item we were donating.

This town is in the middle of nowhere and, when we first arrived in the evening, it was amazing how silent everything was. But come early morning, there is no lack of sound as on all the surrounding farms, the roosters start crowing and the farmers get an early start in their work. The people there are very sweet, sincere and thankful for any and all help. It was a blessing to be able to donate so many books and we

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Your Perspective

Somebody's Mother

By Jo-Ann Bouclair

I recently saw a video of a man in Russia who jumped out of his SUV to help an old woman across the road. He stopped his car and got out while other cars had to go around him. Once the woman was safely across, he jumped back into his car.

As I watched that video, it reminded me of my Dad's favourite poem, one he had learned in school: *Somebody's Mother* by Mabel Down Northam Brine. She died in 1913 so the words are almost from another era. The poem begins:

*The woman was old and ragged and gray
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.
The street was wet with a recent snow
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.
She stood at the crossing and waited long,
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng
Of human beings who passed her by
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eyes.*

The poem goes on to describe how some boys came out of school "like a flock of sheep" and didn't stop to help... but one boy finally did.

*He paused beside her and whispered low,
'I'll help you cross, if you wish to go.'*

Later in the poem this boy explains to his friends:

*"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
For all she's aged and poor and slow,
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand,
If ever she's poor and old and gray,
When her own dear boy is far away."
And "somebody's mother" bowed low her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said*

*Was "God be kind to the noble boy,
Who is somebody's son, and pride and joy!"*

I was truly touched by the kindness of that man in Russia and realized once again how much I miss my Dad and what a great role model he was.

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* (Colossians 3:12)

Out of the Mouth of Babes

By Quentin Newhouse

Although my younger sister and I were born in Washington, D.C, my grandparents, parents and older sister were born in Texas. Having a large family and a smaller budget, the best way for us to visit our Texas family was by car.

When I was five, we packed up my grandmother's 1951 black Cadillac and, along with my step-grandfather, mother and two sisters, prepared to drive over 28 hours to Texas. My dad had to work and would not accompany us on this trip but he prayed with us and acknowledged we would be totally under God's care and traveling mercies.

I sat in the back and, being too small to see over into the front seat, I enjoyed looking out the window at the beautiful landscape. I dozed off several times but awoke to find that the sun was setting and my grandmother, who had been driving all day, was getting a bit "dozy" herself. I woke up again some time later and saw that it was dark outside. I then noticed that what I was seeing was not

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Your Perspective

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the road but, in fact, the sides of a ditch. I looked around inside the car and, to my shock, my mother and sisters were not asleep, but unconscious! I tried to wake them, but to no avail. We had crashed into a ditch and my grandmother was unconscious, the steering wheel impaled in her chest. The right windshield was smashed and had pieces of my step-grandfather's skull. I was the only conscious person in the car!

Having been baptized at age five with my sister, I had an awareness of God and prayer so I began to pray, confident that God could even hear the earnest prayer of a five-year-old.

What happened next still resonates with me over fifty years later. A calm and somewhat familiar voice came into my head and said: "Get out of the car, get up on the road and save your family." I was not scared of the voice because it was so calm and reassuring.

I obeyed and got out of the car. I realized that we were so deep in the ditch that we could not be seen from the road and the setting sun made it even more unlikely that anyone would see my mostly unconscious family.

I crawled up on the road and tried to flag down traffic. When a car stopped, I told them exactly what the small voice had said to me. A "good Samaritan" found a telephone booth and called for an ambulance. The paramedics seemed to marvel at how calm and composed I was. I now give God all the credit for calming and maturing me enough to obey Him.

By the grace of God, everyone recovered and the only physical reminder of the accident was a four-inch scar on my step-grandfather's forehead, which he bore the rest of his life. I was unharmed.

When I told my family what had happened, they were not surprised but thanked God. I have reflected on that miracle as well as other more recent ones, and how God is good all the time.

That particular incident reminded me of Psalm 8:2, which says: "*Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.*" (KJV) To this day, I will be eternally grateful for God speaking to me as a child, urging me to get up on the road, and save my family.

The call still persists to each of us today. We must seize the opportunity in our awareness and abilities, listen to God's still small voice, get up on a higher plane of the road of life, and save our families and the human condition (whether local or global), Selah.

Born to Be Loved

By *Mihiro Sewa*

Editor's note: Mihi, as she was known to us at Temple during her six months in Montreal, gave us this testimony just before she left Montreal to travel and then return to her home in Japan. Please remember her in your prayers.

There is a song that is famous in Korean and Japanese churches called "You Were Born to Be Loved." When I heard it for the first time, I was not a Christian. Indeed, I was a pagan, but I longed to be a person who has true love because I recognized myself as a cold-hearted person. I knew how difficult it is to love others.

In contrast, I thought to myself, I was always happy in my childhood. Though I was bullied after moving from

Your Perspective

Tokyo to Saitama, my life was fine. I was good at painting and a good student in elementary school, and I had the best friends. After compulsory education, I went to the exclusive high school despite the bankruptcy of the bank my father had worked for. I studied hard to prepare for the entrance exams of universities. As a result, I became a student of Tokyo Metropolitan University.

Honestly, I wanted to study history, not law and politics as my father had ordered me to study, but I knew the major would be to my advantage when job hunting. In severe situations, most of us forget our childhood dreams. So do our parents. Most of them hope we get lucrative jobs, and this was my case.

Anyway, I really enjoyed my university term and was especially interested in Japanese law history. During school days, I belonged to the classical guitar club and lived in the dormitory. These activities and circumstances gave me a large circle of friends. It was perfect.

The turning point was after my graduation. Breaking up with my boyfriend, I realized he had not loved me at all. I knew my complexes well, even if no one pointed them out. It was difficult to think positively because, in my job as office worker in a pharmaceutical company, every day was a repeat of routine. I was really tired of hating myself.

Then I met someone who belonged to the Unification Church. I knew it was a religious cult, but it didn't matter to me. I just wanted to find the truth. Starting their program, I trusted in God because I believed my prayers were heard by Him. We can find evidence of God everywhere if we desire it, so His existence was natural to me.

Until that point, I hadn't known how

important a relationship with God was and I absolutely wasn't interested in things that could not be confirmed, such as religion. But the members of that church loved me as if I was their genuine family member and I changed my sense of value completely. I was happy at first, but the training was strict and too difficult for me. I was not strong enough physically so I gave up living with them but I still went there to learn the truth. But it wasn't the truth.

I suddenly stopped going there. I didn't know why but I couldn't. I was filled with heaviness. I was tired of my life. Though I believed in God, I hated myself. I prayed but I couldn't see His answer for a few months. Losing everything, I tried to find my last hope. I had loved music but I had given up everything after starting the training at the Unification Church.

And then I went to a Christian church and found Gospel music. *"You were born to be loved. Your life is filled with love. God's eternal love is shown through our relationships. Your presence gives me such a great joy. You were born to be loved. You're still receiving the love now."* These lyrics described what I was looking for, and I think it's not only my case but also everyone, whether they notice it or not.

My life was changed drastically by the Lord. I appreciate everything and I am filled with His joy. *"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as noonday."* (Psalm 37:4-6)

The News

Armenia: Field Updates

Editor's note: The following is a compilation of updates Pastor Joseph Hovsepian has been receiving Arayik Sardaryan, the missionary we support in Armenia, through Skype conversations and e-mails, as well as some details about Pastor Joseph and Jessie's upcoming mission trip to Armenia (August 22 to September 11).

While grocery shopping one day, **Nelli Sardaryan** (Arayik's wife) spoke about God with two employees of the market and gave each one of them a copy of the Armenian translation of Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's book *God's Workshop* (Asdzo Arestanotse).

When she returned the following day, she saw them reading the book and asked them whether their boss allowed them. Their response was: "We need another one. This book is so different!"



We received an e-mail from Armenia with this short message: "I am a 28-year-old journalist. An elderly woman I had never met before gave me a book [*God's Workshop* in Armenian] on my way to work one day. I started reading it right away and could not put it down. My life has changed. Pray for me!"

Pastor Joseph has been in touch with her by phone and e-mail.



A man in Armenia who was going to Russia to work made his plans and bought his tickets, but then he heard that Pastor Joseph was going to Armenia and

that he was going to baptize many people. He cancelled his trip and he, too, will be baptized by Pastor Joseph.



Many who were visited and contacted by Pastor Joseph last year have since surrendered their lives to Christ and, as a result, their friends and relatives have now accepted the Lord as their own Saviour and are waiting to be baptized.



Pastor Joseph has been asked to preach at different churches during the three Sundays that he and Jessie are in Armenia. He will preach at the Brethren Assembly, at a Baptist church and at the Central Evangelical Church. As well, he will meet with some of their leaders.



A year ago, Pastor Joseph and his daughter Ruth donated more than 400 Bibles to the church in Armenia and to individuals. Recently he was told that more Bibles are needed to give to the new believers.

Bibles, tracts and Pastor Joseph's book will be given out during this mission trip. If you would like to help with the cost of printing, purchasing and distributing this material, you can either speak directly with Pastor Joseph or make a designated donation (no later than August 19) with your regular weekly offering (write "Armenia" next to the designated amount).

Thank you for your help, donations and faithful prayers! The continuation of the work in Armenia is due in large part to the generous support of brothers and sisters here.

From Our Mailbox

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feel sure that they will be put to the best of use.

In our other project, we were able to give free school supplies to all of the children enrolled in day care centres in West Bicutan, Taguig. There are 1,068 children so we made sure we had enough for each child to receive five notebooks, four pencils, sets of crayons, pencil cases, erasers, rulers, glue and sharpeners. Then, because dental hygiene is often lacking amongst the poor here, we were able to buy or find donations of toothpaste and brushes for each of the children. We also had thousands of pieces of clothing that had been generously donated by local garment manufacturers and, since no activity is complete in the Philippines without food, we had snacks and drinks for all the children. At the last minute, Krispy Kreme donuts also gave more than 500 donuts, which made a special treat for the afternoon group.

We love being able to help so many

kids with their school and educational needs, but this would only be a short-term drop in the bucket if it weren't for being able to give a full set of these Christian materials for each day care teacher to have their own copy for their class. These materials will be used over and over, not just with this year's students but for years to come.

Grace and Maria gave a one-hour seminar on site to more than 25 teachers and assistant teachers to ensure that all of the donated materials will be put to good use. I also visited several of the schools to which we gave sets of our own curriculums last December and was pleased to see that the teachers were including our materials in their lesson plans. Several of them thanked me once again for our efforts to improve the quality of the children's education.

Please write if you have a minute. It's great to be able to keep in touch.

Jonah Bishop and Family
(helping_all@yahoo.com)

Your Perspective

My First Tract

By Brian Norton

I was on the train with my daughter Stephanie en route to Disney World in Paris. On the train, I was reading my Bible and there was a tract inside that I was reading as well. A lady sitting across from me noticed what I was reading and seemed interested.

I had never distributed a tract in my life and, although I am the social type of

person, I was shy to offer her the tract until the very last moment when she stood up to get off at her stop. I gave it to her and said, "*C'est pour vous, Madame.*" She gave me a smile that will be implanted in my memory forever. I felt so incredibly proud that my eyes welled up. My daughter thought I was off the wall for a moment, but then realized the impact of what had happened.

We had a wonderful day and Mickey mouse played a very small role. Serving the Lord was the highlight of my trip.

From the Pastor



The Real Enemy

Revelation 3

Our real enemy today is not a world full of sin and unrighteousness. Our battles are not against the world and its corrupt system. Yes, there is a lot of corruption and sin around us—we live “*in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation*” (Philippians 2:15)—but the real battle today is within the church.

The sin that is effectively weakening and destroying the church and its testimony and influence is the sin of apathy or lukewarmness. “*So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*” (Revelation 3:16)

Lukewarmness is spiritual paralysis. It is forsaking one’s first love (Revelation 2:4). It is the gradual loss of zeal (Psalm 69:9). Jesus said: “*You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*” (Revelation 3:1)

Lukewarmness means less service, less prayer (or none at all), satisfaction with spiritual “bare necessities,” self-centredness and self-righteousness. It also means giving grudgingly or not at all, thus robbing God. “*Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we robe you?’ In tithes and offerings.*” (Malachi 3:8)

Lukewarmness also indicates lack of a spirit of evangelism but plenty of desire for entertainment and the popular sport of doctrinal and denominational competition. Lukewarmness is another evil and dangerous satanic plan of deception. That’s why it is so dangerous: the devil does not destroy all the doctrinal truths. That would be too obvious. While Satan

is deceiving people into believing that everything is fine, religious leaders are busy with religious activities and doctrinal wars.

The victim, not understanding his real condition, feels good and satisfied just the way he is, and he remains in that condition. He does not see the need to change. He feels very proud of his religion, but he does not realize that, in the eyes of God he is pitiful, poor, blind and naked (Revelation 3:17). He is religious, but his religion is an abomination to God.

Is there a cure for lukewarmness? Of course there is! The cure is given by Jesus Himself: “*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*” (Revelation 3:18)

How long will we remain idle and lukewarm? What is keeping us idle and apathetic, even though we see the church being threatened with spiritual paralysis and destruction? How can we remain idle while the world is going through such a frightening crisis? Soon it may be too late. Pray, dear believer, pray!

Precious Lord, have mercy on us. Revive your church; revive me today, Lord. Help your church turn away from sin and walk in holiness. Lord, purify your church!

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

Taken from God’s Workshop: Meditations from Everyday Life for Everyday People (Go to www.josephhovsepianministries.com for more information.)