

Temple News

October 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love...” — Colossians 2:2

The Editorial

Bringing Hope to New Friends Up North

A year ago, I had never even heard of Mistissini, a small town in northern Quebec, tucked away at the bottom tip of the largest freshwater lake in the province. Today, I feel like I left a tiny part of my heart there when I returned from my first-ever mission trip with 11 other Baptist women at the end of August.

Though we interacted with the First Nations community there for only a week and reached out to just about 50 women and teenage girls, I believe that God used our team—most of us with almost no missions experience—to share some hope and encouragement and create a greater hunger for God’s Word.

I’d like to share a couple of highlights of our trip. (If you’re interested in more details and photos, please check out the blog I updated almost daily at www.cwiq.wordpress.com.)

One was participating in the church service our first Sunday there. On the surface, nothing was familiar: We travelled by water taxi, the sanctuary was a roofed open structure in the middle of a rustic camp, the reading and singing was mostly in Cree and there was no definite

order of service. However, the *spirit* of the worship service was very familiar and comforting to my soul. When sev-



eral elderly women and men got up to lead us in singing hymns, I was overjoyed by their sincere and heartfelt worship. (The lady in the photo above (I’m the taller one) was one of the song leaders. We didn’t speak the same language but I wanted to bring her home with me!)

Another exciting moment was when a 20-year-old girl announced, at the end of one of our “Groups of Hope” sessions, that she had just given her life to the Lord. I get shivery just thinking about it. Her friend’s mother had invited her to the sessions and, on her third day attending, she responded to the Holy Spirit’s call. Praise the Lord!

I’d like to thank all of you who prayed for my trip. As you remember, please pray for the local Baptist pastor, Gordon Petawabano, and his wife Mary Jane. They serve in a tough mission field and need God’s strength and direction.

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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On the cover: Shushan, Arev and Ervand Rumyan and Aharon Sardaryan celebrating being baptized in Armenia in late August. See page 9 for more on the mission trip to Armenia.

From Our Mailbox

Montreal, QUEBEC

It's that time again for Sunday School to begin. I hope the children—small ones, tweens and teenagers—will return full of energy, zeal and the desire to start a new year of learning about God's will for them.

My hope and prayer for them is that they will continue to study God's Word so that they will become ambassadors for Him in the future: pastors, missionaries, evangelists, etc. Especially in today's society, it is very scary when you watch the news and what is taking place with people of every age. Only the good Lord can help us.

Let us continue to pray for them and for one another. Enclosed is my usual donation to help. Let us continue to pray for the teachers to be able to teach them God's will effectually.

June Ross

Here's What YOU Said...

Recently, in a weekly e-mail update, Ann-Margret Hovsepian shared her concern about an upcoming feature in a prominent Christian magazine. The theme is "50 Women to Watch: those shaping the church and culture." When asked for your thoughts on this subject, some of you sent in very insightful comments! Some examples:

"[The theme] really doesn't sit right with me either. We should all be watching the Lord. It's sort of insidious how a title like that gets inside our heads and takes our attention from the cross. It really puts these women on a pedestal

and, as Christians, that is exactly where we should loathe being. It also screams of the tone of media such as *People* magazine, which just endlessly flatters celebrities...Also, shaping the church? Why must the church be shaped by us? We are here to take whatever shape God wants us to take."

"I believe that in many cases, churches have changed their image, format or whatever was or is necessary to re-fill the pews...and for whose benefit? This way of thinking and approach is totally myopic. No church can save a lost soul; only a sincere and direct relationship with the Lord can."

"People are trying to make Christianity into a culture rather than their belief system...Christianity is not a trend, and shouldn't be treated as such."

"I'm glad you shared that because it challenges me to look at myself to see if I'm focused on the right thing. You're so right on: Exactly what are we following? Are we set on the right path of God and His ways...or have we strayed off the narrow path onto the wide one? I need these reminders. So many distractions out there!"

"If in our obedience to our Lord and Saviour we are able to be salt and light to someone, that is wonderful. Like you, I don't believe my position as God's dearly loved child is to shape the church and culture; however, if we are obedient and living the life God has planned for us, I am sure the Holy Spirit will use it to reach others."

Check our Web site regularly for updates,
as well as for helpful resources and archives of sermons and messages.

www.templebaptistmontreal.com

The News

Back to School, Back to Routine

Now that we're officially into fall, all our travellers have come home, including a few from mission trips (besides the Hovsepian's trips to Armenia and northern Quebec, **Nathalie Etienne** spent the summer doing missions in Haiti).

We're also back to routine with our church schedule: Sunday School and the adult Bible study class have resumed on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. We encourage all of you to participate, especially if you're not able to make it to our Tuesday night Bible study.

Our Men's and Women's Fellowship meetings are also back on their regular weekends—second Saturdays for the men and third Saturdays for the women.

The only changes this month are that the Married Couples' Fellowship meeting has been cancelled (for October only) because many of the wives will be at the Quebec Baptist Women Fall Retreat that weekend, and the Group Ministry is meeting on the third Monday (also for October only).

Please keep the *Temple News* handy throughout the month so that you can refer to the calendar in the centre and be reminded of when all our meetings and activities are. We also encourage you to pray daily for the names listed. If there's



a name you don't recognize, please ask us and we'll introduce you or, if they're out of town or unable to attend regularly, we'll let you know who they are. It's important for us to know each other as members of the family of God!

CBM Gift Catalogue

We have already received a few copies of the 2012-13 Canadian Baptist Ministries gift catalogue, an opportunity to share from our material blessings with families around the world who are in need. We have order several more for those of you who would like to use them.

We have been participating in this CBM outreach for a few years, which you can learn more about at www.cbmin.org. You can also place your orders directly on their website by clicking on "Donate" and then choosing the Gift Catalogue from the menu.

Library Update

We're very grateful to **Stella Papadopoulos** and **Meerna Dzaghgouni** for their hard work in organizing the church library and cataloguing all the books that had been donated in the last few years.

Now we want to make sure that they didn't do all that work for nothing! Our library is full of wonderful books of various types: biographies, Bible study books, Christian fiction, devotional



Joke Saliba - October 2
Andrew Dobrowolskyj - 7
Tiago Chiavegatti - 8
Pstr Joseph Hovsepian - 9
Alicia Osei - 10

Wilson Exantus - 13
Liliane Arbour - 16
Quentin Newhouse - 20
Vahe Dzaghgouni - 28

The News

books and non-fiction books on many different topics and issues.

In upcoming *Temple News* issues, we will present short summaries of books that Stella suggests. For example, with regard to the devotional books, she says:

You need never buy another devotional book! Our library has devotional books covering many topics near to your heart. I recently catalogued three books on prayer, a subject I am passionate about:

Praying God's Word by Beth Moore – Breaking free from spiritual strongholds. Who doesn't want that?

Pray With Your Eyes Open by Richard L. Pratt Jr. – Looking at God, ourselves and our prayers. The title alone promises a fresh perspective.

Power of Prayer In a Believer's Life by Charles H. Spurgeon – You will be inspired and challenged in your prayer life, especially if you experience struggles in prayer.

Watch for further recommendations in the coming months!

Latest News from the Mission Field

As we were getting ready to wrap up this issue of *Temple News*, we received an e-mail from **Lilit Mantashyan** in Yerevan, Armenia, with some interesting anecdotes about what has been happening there since Pastor **Joseph** and **Jessie Hovsepien** returned to Montreal.

Lilit, who is just 20 but has become a member of the Joseph Hovsepien Ministries team, writes:

A brother called us from Greece and wanted some copies of *God's Workshop* in Eastern Armenian. About a month ago we had sent him two copies of the book but the pastor of the Armenian Brotherhood Church in Greece and the leader of the youth asked us to send more books for them. So, the book will be shared in Greece, too!

Artur (my father) met a woman named Susan and shared God's Word with her. Spiritually she was ready enough to receive a Bible (purchased with Brother Hovsep's help) and *God's Workshop*. She was happy to have them and promised to read them.

Some days ago I told you about a man who received *God's Workshop*. He is reading it and being blessed. Every time he opens the book to read, he prays for the people who have printed it and made it possible for him to read it. He also reads the Bible and is growing spiritually.

Thank you, Brother Hovsep for your great work in Armenia. Thank the others who have their share in this work.

To learn more about the work in Armenia, please see Pastor Joseph's report starting on page 9. We are grateful to Lilit for her faithful and enthusiastic help whenever a need arises and for keeping us updated on a regular basis. Please pray those working in Armenia.

Men's Fellowship

Next breakfast and fellowship is on Saturday, October 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship

Next fellowship meeting is on Saturday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Your Perspective

Trusting... No Matter What

By Ruth Ouellet

You know that story in the book of Daniel? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three pretty amazing guys. Their God is also amazing!

Those three young men made a choice and a commitment to trust God's love, strength and power before they knew the outcome, no matter what that outcome would be. They had drawn a line with their faith and they purposed to not cross over it into unbelief through fear or by taking things into their own hands. They chose to simply trust God—no matter what.

The way circumstances unfolded for them could not have been worse, in spite of their faith and loyalty to God! Their faith *seemed* to be fruitless and powerless, as their fate intensified in horror before a crowd of witnesses. The King, fuelled by his anger, increased their intended torture, bound them with ropes and had them delivered to the door of the furnace heated up to the max! They faced the moment of their death as the king had them thrown into the inferno. It was the end... or so the king thought.

How differently the story would have ended if the king had simply said, "Well, okay. You're good guys...don't worry about it. Off you go, and just be a little more discrete next time." Instead, when the most powerful man had completed his worst, God took over and, at that moment, everything changed!

Responding to their faith, God *chose* to let the king have his way to the *fullest extent*, testing the faith of three young

men to the *fullest extent*, in order to display His glory and grace to the *fullest extent*. He did this by entering the furnace Himself and sharing their furnace experience with them, bringing them out without a hint of fire on them, destroying the ones who threw them in, completely changing the heart of the king, and bringing glory to His own name.

Through each trial, we too, have a choice to make in faith about how far we'll trust God. Listen to the hearts of these three young men: "*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'*" (Daniel 3:16-18)

This same God asks *us* to trust Him today—now, no matter what we're facing, before we know what the outcome will be! We must not face it with expectations of what He will do, which can lead to disappointment in Him if His choice is not what we had prayed for. May He strengthen our faith to trust and obey Him, "even if He does not," knowing that in the end the story will still be amazing and He will be glorified.

Editor's Note: Ruth Ouellet is a member of VanKleek Hill Baptist Church and lives in Glen Robertson, Ontario. Her family has faced many trials recently, including her own battle with cancer, but she says that "God has been, through these trials, continuing to deepen our trust in Him, in His faithfulness and in His love, teaching us about trusting Him unconditionally without knowing what the future holds."

Missions Update

To Armenia with Love #3

By Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

In 2008, I accompanied my wife Jessie to Armenia for her school reunion of Armenians from Egypt. My desire was to visit villages and cities to see how the people lived and to learn more about the Eastern Armenian culture.

I visited many areas, particularly the town of Spitak and the surrounding region, and I saw the devastation the 1988 earthquake had brought. At least 25,000 people had died and, over 20 years later, people were still living in tin houses like refugees. I saw their needs (spiritual and material) and heard their cry. They lacked Bibles, study materials and teachers.

In 2011, I returned with my daughter Ruth (Hrut) to visit those we had witnessed to. With Brother Arayik Sardaryan, I baptized 25 people who had either accepted the Lord recently or had been waiting to be baptized. More than 200,000 tracts (*What Are You Searching for?*) were printed in Eastern Armenian and more than 400 Bibles we bought were given to individuals and churches.

My book *God's Workshop* was translated into Eastern Armenian and 5,000 copies were printed by a team of brothers and sisters who worked very hard to make sure that the spirit and the message of the book was appropriately translated. It was presented to the churches and people who wanted them.

In 2012, I received another call to visit Armenia to meet new believers, have another baptismal service and meet with leaders of different denominations and churches.

I decided to answer the call and, on Friday, August 24, my wife and I arrived in Yerevan. The following day we travelled to Spitak (about an hour and half hours from Yerevan) for a baptismal service. (Visit www.armeniawithlove.blogspot.ca to see many photos.)

The baptismal service, held in the same spot as last year, was a real blessing to all of us. The families and friends of those who were baptized felt the presence of the Holy Spirit even though we faced strong opposition from the enemy before, during and after the service. The strong current and the cold and muddy water also could not affect our determination to follow Christ's example.

The next day, I preached at the Armenian Brethren Church in Yerevan. In the days that followed, we visited many who needed spiritual and monetary help. I met with many church leaders of several denominations, preached to different congregations and had question-and-answer sessions.

We gave more than 50,000 tracts and more than 2,000 copies of *God's Workshop* (Asdzo Aresdanotse) to individuals and churches, free of charge, as well as many Bibles and New Testaments.

We returned home on September 11 but the work has not stopped. We have been receiving phone calls, e-mails and Skype calls for counselling or for sharing testimonies of changes in the lives of many who read the tract or the book, or of people we met there.

Our church has been supporting the missionary family (the Sardaryans) monthly to help them continue their ministry in Armenia and Turkey. Our family's own outreach, Joseph Hovsepian

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Missions Update

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Ministries, is helping those who are faithfully helping spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by providing free tracts, Bibles and books for distribution. More tracts and books will be printed there when the stock is depleted. The question now is asked: "When will you and others come here again?"

Please pray for those who were touched by the Holy Spirit and the faithful workers there. We are very grateful to those who were more than willing to give their time and use their homes and cars to help us: Arayik and Nellie and their family, as well as Artur Mantashyan, his wife Anna and their family. Their daughter Lilit has been helping us with English-to-Armenian translation and is the newest member of our the Joseph Hovsepian Ministries team. We are also grateful to Pastor Hovhannes Halladjian, his church leaders and many others who helped and are still helping us.



Jessie (right) with Emma, an Armenian television journalist who received a copy of God's Workshop from a stranger and has since been following Christ.



Artur Mantashyan (left) and Campus Crusade's Vardan Bibulyan (centre) with a worker at a major Christian bookstore in Yerevan now carrying God's Workshop (see on the right, on top of the display case).



Pastors and leaders meeting in Nshanavan Baptist Church. The banner overhead says "Welcome" in Armenian.



Pastor Joseph and Jessie with a few Christian women at the baptismal service in Spitak.

From the Pastor

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world. James puts it this way: “*You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*” (James 4:4)

Friendship with the world leads to love for the world. John says: “*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*” (1 John 2:15)

Then comes conformity to the world. Paul says: “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*” (Romans 12:1-2)

God promises to bless those who will separate themselves unto Him. Isaiah wrote: “*Depart, depart, go out from*

there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD!” (Isaiah 52:11)

Two Motives for Separation

The two motives for separation are love for God and the fear of God. Both must operate in our lives.

Two Responsibilities

We must first cleanse ourselves and then separate ourselves from the sinful ways of the world. This is negative.

We must walk in holiness, enjoying the presence of God in our daily walk. This is positive.

Yes, separation is the negative, but perfecting holiness is the positive. How sad it is to see churches and Christians who claim to be separated from sin continue to compromise with the sinful ways of the world and not grow in personal holiness.

Separation should take us out of sin but not into isolation from other Christians or from those in the world who need our witness and must be introduced to Christ and His salvation.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepien



Pastor Joseph praying after the baptismal service in Armenia.

GOOD NEWS!

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

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



From the Pastor



Separation

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

In the days of Paul, the Church in Corinth had problems. These problems were spiritual ones: The members had allowed the world to come in their daily lives. They were not living like Christians. There was compromise with sin and they were not growing spiritually.

Apostle Paul gave two important reasons for the need to be separate:

1. A Matter of Principle (vss. 14-16)

It is a basic principle of life that opposites cannot fellowship together. In 2 Corinthians 6:14, we read: *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.”*

These Corinthians were yoking themselves with unbelievers in marriage, social life, business life and in other ways, and they were losing their testimonies for Christ. They were tolerating sin in their homes and in the church.

Let’s pay attention to Paul’s words: *“You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”* (1 Corinthians 4:18)

“Some of you have become arrogant.” (1 Corinthians 5:1)

“You are suing fellow believers.” (1 Corinthians 6:6-7)

“You are grumbling (murmuring), getting drunk” and so on...

If the Christian lives like the world does, how can he or she witness to the world? And if he or she is not reflecting Christ in his or her life, what makes this Christian any different from a non-Christian?

What Paul wrote to the Corinthians,

then, applies to all Christians everywhere. The attitude of too many Christians today is that the Church must court with and please the world and be politically correct in order to win the world. But nothing could be further from the truth!

The Bible says that there must be separation from sin: *“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”* (2 Corinthians 6:17)

This does not mean isolation or going out of the world, but, rather, keeping ourselves from the pollution of the world. It is fine for the boat to be on the water, but the water must not get into the boat. If it does, you are in trouble!

Separation must be from sin, but not isolation from other Christians or from the people in the world who need our witness and to hear the Good News. On the contrary, we must show what Christ has done in our lives, not only with words and doctrinal arguments, but with our lives and our love for others.

“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

2. A Matter of Promise (vss. 17-18)

God promises to bless those who keep themselves pure. Worldliness is subtle: It creeps up gradually on a Christian. First, there is the attraction of the world and its corrupt system and way of life. Then comes friendship with the

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