

Temple News

November 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

— Galatians 6:9

The Editorial

Sow what?

When Tamar Dekirmenjian sent me a short article for this issue of *Temple News* (see page 8), I could not have anticipated that about a week later a devotional in *Our Daily Bread* would touch my heart with the very same Scripture and theme that she wrote about. In fact, when I later started working on my editorial for this column, I had forgotten about Tamar's article until I started formatting it on its page. Must be a "God thing," as we sometimes say.

It was on Saturday, October 20, that the *Daily Bread* reading was from Galatians 6:1-10 — *exactly* what I needed, not only that morning but at this general time in my life. In recovery circles there's a saying that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. I was feeling like I was in a bit of a rut in certain areas of my life and, that morning, God's Word reminded me that you reap what you sow.

Whether it's our physical health, our spiritual growth, our relationships, our jobs or any other goals we have, unless we are willing to invest in those areas by wisely and diligently doing the menial tasks of planting the right seeds (i.e. taking the proper steps), we won't get the desired results.

Galatians 6:8-9 says: *"The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

If we want to lose weight, we need to eat healthy and get exercise; lounging around eating cookies doesn't work. If we want to protect a special relationship, we have to invest time into it and be intentional about loving that person; being distant and having a selfish attitude doesn't work. If we want to advance in our jobs, we have to work hard and be patient through the rough patches; goofing off and making a half-hearted effort doesn't work. If we want to save money for a home, we have to be disciplined in our money management; splurging on frivolous expenses doesn't work.

Similarly, if we want to grow in our relationship with Christ, experience His blessings and be effective in His kingdom, we have to spend time in His Word, in prayer, in fellowship and in serving Him. We can't just sit back and expect to wake up holy one day. Take it from someone who knows: It doesn't work!

Take some time today to read Galatians 6:1-10. It'll be worth it. Remember: You reap what you sow!

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

Temple News Vol. 28 No. 10

Published by Temple Baptist Church
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From Our Mailbox

Pasay City, the PHILIPPINES

God bless you. I have been reading the newsletters and sometimes looking over the updates about your mission to Armenia. It's so inspiring to see you really furthering the Kingdom of God on Earth. I pray that I will be able to be as faithful as you in staying true to Jesus and continuing for Him no matter what age I reach.

Thank you for your prayers for us as well. We've faced and continue to face challenges this year in our family and personal lives as well as in other ways, such as I shared with you before about our missions vehicle. We're praying for a good outcome and that the Lord has His perfect will.

Thank you for your faithful and constant communications.

Jonah Bishop

Editor's note: Please see page 10 for an update on the work being done in the Philippines.

Edmond, OKLAHOMA

I would like to order 500 of your *Got Peace?* tracts, please. Thank you so much! And I will be sending you a check donation in the mail.

The fact that your church is conducting this ministry really inspires me. Thank you.

Alexis Olson (17 years old)

Hamilton, ONTARIO

Could you please send me and my mother 250 *Got Peace?* and 250 *What Are You Searching for?* We are going to hand these tracts out in Hamilton and Woodstock, Ontario.

Thank you so much! May God richly bless you and your family in your ministry endeavours. Please pray for my son and husband that they would stop running from God, our only hope in this life.

Wendy Mathies

Monapo-Nampula, MOZAMBIQUE

We want to thank you for the gospel tracts you sent us after we asked for them last year. I've contacted you to ask for more tracts because they have helped us so much in the preaching and in our prayers.

Pastor Paulo Fossé

North Shore City, NEW ZEALAND

We have just seen your tract, *Got Peace?* Pleased to hear about your tract ministry. We thought you might be interested in ours. [Several tracts were included in the mailing.]

Every blessing in Christ,

Trevor and Susan Keam

Tracts4u.org

Yerevan, ARMENIA

On October 9 (Pastor Joseph's birthday), we started a women's fellowship in a village called Saramej in Spitak. The topic was "The place of women in the church, family and the community." I am not a very brave person and so I was a little nervous, but at the same time I was very happy to lead it.

The Holy Spirit strengthened me and gave me His Word to share with

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The News

Gone to Heaven

We have the habit of extending condolences or sympathies to people who have had a loved one die, but somehow that doesn't seem like quite the right sentiment when you know the deceased has gone to be with the Lord.

While we do feel sorry for the separation that **Magy Libarian** and **Vahe Dzaghgouni** (and the rest of their family) are experiencing after the death of their father and grandfather, respectively, we also rejoice with them because they witnessed this beloved man surrender his life to Christ just about two weeks before he went "home" to heaven.

Please continue to pray for the family during this bittersweet time.

Headed for Heaven

The only thing almost as exciting as ushering a believer into heaven is witnessing the "birth" of one. In late October, one of our adherents brought a friend to church, a woman who was visiting from China. After attending just one Sunday service and a Tuesday night Bible study, **Gene** decided to receive Christ as her Saviour and Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** led her in prayer to do so.

You never know how inviting a friend to church may change their life — eternally! We share this story to encourage you to continue reaching out to your friends and loved ones with the gospel, sowing seeds that may reap a harvest!

Christmas Program

We want to let you know ahead of time that we're going to do something different this year. For a long time, we've traditionally organized a special evening Christmas program, and for several recent years we called it Carols by Candlelight, but we're not going to do that this time around.

Instead, we're going to combine the December Praise Lunch with an afternoon Christmas celebration. So mark your calendars right away! Plan to join us on Sunday, December 16, after the morning service, for a festive lunch, worship, special music, sharing, and much more. We'll give you more details in the coming weeks so stay tuned.

If you'd like to help organize this special event (either with regard to the meal or with the program), please speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**. We'd like to get a small team working on this.

Women's Fellowship Update

Ladies, please carefully note the following announcements.

November 17 - Baptist Women World Day of Prayer. Instead of the regular meeting at church on the third Saturday, our ladies will be gathering at Westmount Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. with women from our sister churches for the annual World Day of Prayer. A



Rita Assan - November 6
Luka Ptacek - 12
Delina Maghakian - 15
Raphael Peres - 19
Jonathan Li - 21

Elijah Cofino - 23
Cecilia Hum - 25

When is YOUR birthday?
Please let us know!

The News

potluck lunch will follow the service. Please speak with **Jessie Hovsepien** for more details.

December 15 - Christmas Brunch and Special Project Day. The women will meet at the church as usual at 10:00 a.m. for brunch, a devotional and fellowship and also to work on an outreach project. Please speak with **Rita Pehlivanian** for details and to find out how you can help with the meal.

CBM Gift Catalogue

We have many 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. Please ask one of our greeters for a copy. You can also learn more at www.cbmin.org and place your orders directly on their website; click on "Donate" and then choose the Gift Catalogue from the menu.

Librarian's Corner: Link & Visitor Magazine

By Stella Papadopoulou

As the Quebec rep for *The Link & Visitor*, a Baptist magazine for women, I would like to share some of the highlights of the current issue. The theme is Light, a compelling subject in itself but let's look again. The editor writes: "Have a look at the line-up of workshop topics to be offered at October's North

American Baptist Women's Assembly: prostitution, human trafficking, domestic violence in the church, refugees, poverty...These topics...reveal both the depth of the darkness in this world and the necessity for women to kick at it."

One of the articles in the magazine is entitled "What can one Woman do?" We can each begin by being informed. This magazine is full of one-page articles and lovely photography. Fair Trade is featured, explaining how our shopping habits can bring light to women in other continents. Another article entitled "This Little Light of Mine" encourages me by showing that doing even small things can make a difference using the illustration: "When it's very dark, even a single match makes a big difference." That is a word picture that stays with me.

There is a compelling piece of writing by our very own **Ann-Margret Hovsepien**, bringing light to another topic we don't like to speak about. It's the first of a series.

This magazine is perfectly suited for those who don't have time to read. I read mine on the commute to work, or in the evening. We have a couple of magazines to give away, but you can have six magazines of your own delivered to your mailbox for \$20 a year. Contact me if you would like to subscribe.

REMINDER: Before going to bed on Saturday, November 3, turn your clocks **BACK** one hour.



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

Your Perspective

Never Give Up

By Tamar Dekirmenjian

It was my first year gardening. With great enthusiasm, I planted various types of flowers in May, to later enjoy them in full bloom come summertime. I put some of the pots in the backyard and some in the front of the house. I could hardly wait for them to blossom and grow as I watered them daily... or so I tried!

As the summer months came, I noticed that the flowers planted in the front of the house were not growing; rather, they were drying up. They were being watered, the sun was shining on them — what more could I do?

Many a times it crossed my mind to take them out. But I left them, still hoping they would bloom, although the autumn season was fast approaching. Before long, it caught my eye that there were tiny buds forming in the pots. How odd, I recall thinking, that as soon as the weather starting cooling off, the days getting progressively shorter and no one watering these flowers, that they started to bloom. Within a week, all the flowers were out, causing delight to the eyes.

(And are still alive, as I write this in mid-October!)

The Lord then put it on my heart of how we are not to give up being his ambassadors and planting those seeds He has entrusted us with. We have so many family members and friends who don't know Jesus. At times, we want to give up, but in reality all we have to do is look at the example our Saviour set. In Luke 4:43, He stated: *"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."*

We get so caught up in thinking that no matter how much we share our faith, others will never understand or turn from their ways. We do, however, have such an amazing and caring Father who takes note of all that we do and, according to His will and timing, gives growth to the planted seeds (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Let's not forget that God *"desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:4) He will be there, along with His Spirit, to guide us in what to say. In that case, *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* (Galatians 6:9)

Share with us...

Has God taught you something through a personal Bible study, a sermon, a hymn, an unexpected situation, or a special relationship? Why not tell others about it so that they can be blessed, challenged and inspired, too? Or how about sharing your personal testimony of salvation, if you haven't done so yet?

We encourage you to send in your thoughts and testimonies... whether you write a paragraph or a whole page! For next issue, please submit your material to Ann-Margret Hovsepian by **November 25**. Our contact information is on page 2.

Personal Testimony

Serving in God's Field

By Lilit Mantashyan, 20

I am a student at Yerevan State University in Armenia. I also teach English to students and adults and do translation and interpreting. I especially enjoy doing this type of work in Christian contexts.

I heard about God for the first time in 2005. I remember that day quite well. My father and a Christian brother named Arshak told me about God's love and salvation.

At first I just listened to them and went to church only to avoid offending my parents. Gradually, I began to read the Bible. Once, when I was reading the Bible, I realized how sinful I am and I gave my life to Jesus Christ. This

happened in October 2005. After that, I was changed fully and it was obvious.

When I realized that God loved the world so much, that He gave His one and only Son for our salvation, for my salvation, I decided to share the Good News. I always ask God to use me for service in His field and to give me many opportunities to share His Word all over the world.



***Editor's note:** Lilit and her family were baptized in 2009. She has joined the team of Joseph Hovsepian Ministries (www.josephhovsepianministries.com) as the English-to-Armenian (and sometimes the reverse) translator. She also sends regular reports of the continuing outreach being done in Armenia.*

Inspirations

As You Sow...

We must sow the Word of God into our own lives. Many Christians are like farmers standing around waiting for someone else to sow their field. They think it's the preacher's job.



It is said of an English traveler that he so loved the wildflowers that grew at the sides of the lanes and in the fields of England, that when he went abroad he would fill his pockets with the seeds and scatter them.

Almost every day there are opportunities for sowing the seed of God in some

heart; it may be some simple word, some kindly act. Just a line in a letter we write, or a text we quote, and the seed is sown and some life is blessed.

... So Shall You Reap

What would you think of a farmer who said, "I'm not going to plant any corn seeds this year. When God gives me some corn, then I'll plant some seeds."

So every day he's out in the field checking it for corn. "Hey God, where's my corn?" That farmer is never going to get any corn.

Sowing comes first, then you reap. That is the most basic of principles.

Missions Updates

News from Armenia

By Lilit Mantashyan

Recently, when my father, Artur, went to buy some Bibles (purchased with Pastor Joseph Hovsepan's help), a man who had become a believer just a few months earlier was with him. When this man heard that a pastor from Canada had trusted my father and given him the money to buy the Bibles, he was astonished. He could not believe that there could be a person so concerned about Armenian Christians that gave his own money to foster the growth of Christians.

He was also astonished that my father really bought those books and shared them with people. He could not believe it because he had been giving tithes to a local church for a long time, even when he was not a real Christian yet. He trusted that priest a lot but, to his great surprise, one day that same priest suggested they go and spend their free time with some women. After that he stopped giving tithes to that church. When this man saw how real Christians deal with each other and how they trust each other, he realized what Christianity is in reality and devoted himself to Jesus Christ.

Every time I hear these kind of testimonies, I go on praying for the people who have their share in it.

... and the Philippines

By Jonah Bishop

Over the last couple of months we have focused on our regular projects of helping the Girls at the Haven for Women, the day care centres in Merville, the Orphanages in Marikina, and the PGH onco-pedia ward. Then in August with the wide spread flooding (Habagat

in Tagalog) we turned our efforts to helping those most affected by these events. Now that we are in the last quarter of the year we are again focusing on how we can best help as many as possible during the Christmas season here.

During the upcoming Christmas and end of the year season we will be hosting programs for at least 1,000 children in indigent areas of Metro Manila. The idea behind this is to help these children with much needed school, health and hygiene supplies, we also hope to be able to give some food supplies to each child, and a special meal during the event. We will also be holding events for the elderly, as well as some orphan children.

We would like to thank each of you who have given faithfully to our work throughout the year, either monthly or for special projects or both. We know that without you, we wouldn't have been able to help as many as we did. So your help and participation is greatly appreciated. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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them. The sisters were very excited and happy and their eyes and smiles reflected what God's presence had done in their hearts. For all these blessings we thank God, and Pastor Joseph and Hasmig who suggested and encouraged us to start these women's meetings and then to continue. Our small group thanks you, Brother Joseph, and wishes you happy and healthy years.

Nelli Sardaryan

Editor's note: We have received a couple of other letters in Spanish and Portuguese that we will share once we get them translated. Stay tuned!

From the Pastor

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being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

To understand the dimensions of God’s love, let’s look at the following verses:

Width – The World (John 3:16)

For God so loved, the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Length – Forever (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

From the Mission Field



Yerevan, Armenia – Artur and Anna Mantashyan (left) and Vardan Blbulbyan (far right) of Campus Crusade with three young believers who have started meeting together for Bible studies and discipleship.

Depth – Even death on the cross

(Philippians 2:8)

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

Height – Heaven (1 John 3:1-2)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made know. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

To know about God and to believe in Jesus is knowledge, but to experience His love and His fullness is life, joy, peace, and the assurance of eternal life in His presence.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

GOOD NEWS!

Did you know you can 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.



From the Pastor

Knowledge or Life

Ephesians 3:12-21

More than two billion people claim to be or are called Christians, yet most of them are not practicing Christians and don't know very much about their faith or the Bible.

A few days ago, my wife was talking with a lady whose religion wasn't Christianity but her husband claimed to be a Christian. They were talking about the name of their son, David. When my wife asked her whether she knew who David in the Bible was, the lady said that her husband had once said that "David was a boy who killed a monster."

Some people know many stories from the Bible but very little about God. Others know what the Bible teaches and what the biblical doctrines are, they may believe in God and the gospel of Jesus Christ and the prophecies, they may have read or heard all kinds of theories about the Christian faith, and they may be good teachers or preachers, but they do not know how to live out their faith. They have knowledge, but no joy or life as a Christian.

Yes, it is very important to know who God is, what His Word says and what the Biblical doctrines are, but all that will be only theory — knowledge but not life. We have to move from information to real life and sensation.

Paul told the believers in Ephesus

that "we now have access to God through Jesus Christ in boldness and confidence."

Some believers have misunderstood "confidence" and "boldness" and have become demanding and arrogant in their attitudes. But let's take a look at Paul's words in Ephesians 3:14 — "I bow my knees before the Father and I pray that you may not lose heart." Paul reminded the Ephesians about God's glorious riches and power in us through the Holy Spirit in us.

The power here is not some kind of supernatural power to perform spectacular miracles, but the spiritual strength and vigour needed to be mature, stable, and intelligent Christians.

The Holy Spirit is the One who gives this power. Of course, He can give us strength only as we feed on the Word of God, as we breath the pure air of prayer, and as we serve Him daily.

The inner man must be renewed day by day, even though the outward man is perishing. In 2 Corinthians 4:15 we read: "*All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*"

The more we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, the more we will reflect Him in our daily lives.

Have you ever considered the dimensions of God's love for the human race, for you? Apostle Paul's prayer is in verses 17 to 19: "*And I pray that you,*



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