

Temple News

December 2012

Temple Baptist Church / Good News Ministries



Holy Bible

***“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.” – John 3:16***

The Editorial

My 2012 Smorgasbord

For my last editorial of this year, I want to share a few snippets of things that inspired me over the past 12 months.

April - Prayer

In speaking with a friend about how it's sometimes hard to make time to pray, she shared something she'd heard a pastor once say and it really struck me: He explained that the most difficult hurdle to overcome when it comes to prayer is actually sitting down and closing one's eyes. As with any task we find difficult to start, it's that first step that makes the difference—that crucial, unavoidable first step that must be taken before the second, third, fiftieth and last steps can be taken.

June - Beauty and Priorities

"There must come a point in every girl's life when she cares less about how beautiful she is and more about the beauty she creates."

I wrote that two days after turning 40 this summer, as I reflected on things like getting pudgier with age and all the angst one goes through in her (or his) youth to look a certain way (for no real purpose) and how it's nice to gradually shed that self-imposed pressure. While pondering

these things, I gazed around my studio and enjoyed the pretty plants and flowers I've slowly nurtured, thought about the beautiful things people have done for me—or that I've done for others—and realized that it's so much more meaningful to put energy into creating beautiful experiences and memories for others than to simply look beautiful for them.

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." (1 Peter 3:3-4)

November - God, the Creator

When a friend posted a photo on Facebook of a close-up of two pristine snowflakes, it reminded me how much I love snowflakes. They are the most beautiful, delicate, short-lived masterpieces in nature...tiny but complex structures that leave absolutely no doubt in my mind that we've got an incredible designer as our God, one who can not only create a mind-blowingly infinite, perfectly engineered universe but also fashion microscopic snowflakes, atoms and DNA.

What inspired YOU in 2012? Please share with us!

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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From Our Mailbox

Editor's Note: In the last month, we've received so many phone calls, letters and e-mails—from all around the world!—with regard to our tracts and other material (either responses to them or requests for copies) that we are barely able to keep track. Here are some excerpts of the messages sent to us. Please continue to pray for this vital outreach!

Habana Vieja, CUBA

May the abundant grace of God be with you and may God fill your lives with lots of blessings.

I am writing you this letter to ask you for help with regard to Biblical material because our church is lacking brochures and New Testament to distribute to people in need. We used to go to visit people at hospitals and in prisons to talk about Jesus' life, but we don't have any material to give away to those people.

If you can help us by sending some material, it would be easier for us to explain to those people what the Christian doctrine of salvation is. We are praying for you as the Bible says, so that you can receive these materials to send to us. Glory to God, Hallelujah!

Alicia Cabo

Recife, BRAZIL

I've had the chance to read your tract "What are you searching for?" in Portuguese. I'd like to receive some of these tracts in Portuguese so I can use them in an evangelization ministry among incarcerated people.

I'm the leader of a five-person group that, every Sunday and Thursday, we go to the city penitentiary to share the gospel with the prisoners. We

strongly believe that we need to bring the Good News of the gospel to everyone, including those prisoners. We ask you for tracts to distribute at the jailhouse. I hope you can also pray for us. We will surely be praying for all of you.

Severino C. da Silva Júnior

Yerevan, ARMENIA

Greetings. How are you? As I promised (over the phone), I am writing to tell you what happened to me the other day while returning home from work.

People have become so bad these days. While in the taxi-bus coming home, my wallet was stolen with my month's pay from work and many other important things, as well as the small gold cross you had given me while you were here. I was devastated. Everything was gone and I came home with only 50 tram (about 12 cents) in my pocket.

A few days later, I shared this with a friend in Canada (Pastor Hovsepian). I was pleasantly surprised when, a few days later, I received an amount of money from him to help me. I was so happy and grateful for his help. I thank him from the bottom of my heart.

Emma Manukyan

Hartsville, TENNESSEE

Praise God, my friends. We can never thank you enough for the tracts you've sent us. We pray blessings on you all and thank you for helping us to be able to reach out to the lost.

We love you and thank God for you!
(1 Timothy 6:12)

Brother Dennis R. Waynick

...more letters on page 10

The News

Busy month!

This is going to be one of the busiest Decembers we've ever had and we're excited about everything that's going on. We hope that you'll participate in most of these activities and outreach opportunities.



Kindness donations

We're collecting your donations of small gifts (chocolate bars, gift cards, etc.) to wrap and give out to random strangers during our tract distribution outing later in the month. Please drop off your gifts by December 9 (or at Bible study or choir practice later the same week). Speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** for further details.

Women's Brunch and wrapping session

On Saturday, December 15, the women will meet at 10:00 a.m. for brunch and a Christmas-themed time of fellowship and then wrap the donated gifts and prepare a couple of special care packages. We hope to also set up the fellowship hall for the next day's lunch.

Christmas celebration and lunch

Instead of an evening service, we're going to have a potluck lunch and longer praise time—with a special Christmas-themed program—on Sunday, December

16, following the morning service. Please invite your friends! Also, let us know what you can contribute toward the meal.

Christmas outreach

On Sunday, December 23, we hope to get many more volunteers joining the tract distribution team. Besides the regular tracts we give out, we will be approaching random strangers to give them a surprise gift, a tract and a warm greeting and invitation from our church.

We will need many extra hands and feet that day so please let us know if you can participate.

Christmas Day service

We will meet for worship on Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. and encourage you to join us before beginning your own holiday festivities. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or your family members to church!

Please note that Bible study that night will be cancelled.

Married Couple's Fellowship

There will be no couples' meeting in December. The regular schedule will resume in January.

New Year's Eve service

As we have done for many years, we will meet on New Year's Eve (Monday, December 31) at 11:00 p.m. to end the current year with a warm time of sharing and worship and to greet the new year with a prayer of dedication.

*Happy
Birthday!*

Priscille Clerveaux - 3

Brian Norton - 3

Anna Vlassova - 3

Katteline Osei - 12

Gabrielle Dénonmée - 13

Alexis Livingston - 13

Mireille Maurice - 14

Rogério Peres - 14

Bedros Guekguezian - 17

Nathalie Etienne - 20

Billie Paris - 21

Kosille Swamy - 22

Lucille Hinds - 25

Wencis Cofino - 25

Sirirat Nanakorn - 30

The News

Membership - Do It Now!

If you have been coming to Temple for some time now and are not yet an official member, we encourage you to consider taking this step before the end of the year. You can speak to the pastor or to one of the deacons for more information.

New Bible Study Series

We've started two new studies and encourage you to attend at least one of them (but both is better!) if you don't already participate.

On Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. we are talking about the Fruit of the Spirit. Just because you can name them off from memory, it doesn't mean you can't learn something new about what it means to really produce Christian fruit.

And on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. we are studying the book of Jonah. We've all been a Jonah at some point in our lives, haven't we? So come and learn from his example of what *not* to do in your relationship with God, and also how to reap the blessings of obeying Him.

Updates from Armenia

We continue to receive frequent updates from the mission field in Armenia—through e-mails, Skype conversations and phone calls. Please pray regularly for the missionary we support in Yerevan, **Arayik Sardaryan**, and his

family, and also for the family of **Artur Mantashyan** who is helping us to further the work we started there.

Lilit, Artur's daughter and our official translator (English to Armenian), often writes to us about the home Bible studies her family hosts and how her father distributes the literature and Bibles entrusted to him.

On November 9, she enthusiastically shared with us about one of the young ladies who was baptized by Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** during his visit to Armenia this fall: "Today we had a Bible Study! God is working! Shushan came today again! She said that she is reading her Bible. She had some questions and we tried to help her as much as possible. I am praying for her sister. I know one day she will come as well!"

On November 19, she wrote again and shared: "Today my dad went to visit the children whose father had committed suicide. You can see more in the attached photo and video. I was touched by the testimony given by their grandmother. She said that she really needed money for her to take her granddaughter to the hospital. She asked God to send only \$50. The next day, my dad took the money and told them that Brother Joseph and others from Canada sent the money as a help. They were very happy to know that the money is \$150, more than they asked God to send for the child!"

Thank you, all, for your continued support and help.

Men's Fellowship

Breakfast and fellowship on
Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship

Christmas brunch on Saturday,
December 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Your Perspective

Fellowship with the Father

By Jo-Ann Bouclair

November 4 was communion Sunday and we remembered Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross of Calvary.

We listened as Pastor Joseph reminded us of what we were celebrating. We listened as he read from the Bible. We listened as we once again remembered the price Jesus paid on Calvary for us—our sin price—so we could be forgiven and accepted by adoption into the family of God, into a future of an eternal home in Heaven, where God reigns on His throne and we worship Jesus, the perfect Lamb who was slain.

I have often been discouraged by the fact that while believers talk a lot about the price Jesus paid on the cross—and although I realize his death and resurrection was for me—the Cross and most of what it entails has, to me, always been way beyond my comprehension. At 66 years of age, I was still feeling like a I just didn't get it all! I had been really asking the Lord, first of all, what I was missing in the big picture and, second of all, for help in really understanding the magnitude of the cross and Jesus' sacrifice for us there.

That Sunday, as Pastor Joseph was leading us into the celebration of communion, reading the Word and talking about it, and as the deacons prayed for

the bread and the wine, all of a sudden it struck me!

This is one piece of a large puzzle that I continue to hope to figure out. When Jesus died for our sins, for the sins of each human being ever created and ever to be created, apart from the pain of thorns on His brow, the sword in His side, the nails in His hands; apart from the humiliation of being dragged before the important people of the day—Jewish theologians, Roman leaders, etc.; apart from the obvious suffering that we can imagine but *never* really comprehend... this is the part that was so clear to me that Sunday: Jesus, when he bore our sin on the cross, was separated from fellowship with God His Father.

This came through so strong: Jesus' separation from fellowship with His Dad, God the Father! Here He was, obeying His Father and paying our sin price and yet, because God the Father cannot abide sin, Jesus voluntarily gave up, for that moment in time, fellowship with His Father. WOW! At a time when He probably felt the need of His Dad the most.

And just in case that doesn't seem such a big deal, if we read the words of Jesus in the Gospels where He tells us what He has heard from His Father—words for us to listen to, learn from and obey—we see that His fellowship with the Father is complete, a fact that makes His sacrifice of not having that fellowship even more severe.

I share this answer to my prayer so that you, too, will be encouraged.

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

Your Perspective

A Kindness Returned

By Bob Harder, Evangelical Tract Distributors

A surprising act of kindness was bestowed upon me this morning as I was making my way through the Tim Horton's drive-through. There are two separate lanes to tell the person in the store what you want and, when I was done, I drove on ahead.

A gentleman in a truck had finished ordering his morning coffee at about the same time and began to drive up. As the two lanes converged, I motioned him to go on ahead. No big deal, I thought.

Well, when I drove up to the window to pay for my bagel and coffee, the lady told me it had been paid for by the man in front of me!

Now I realise he didn't give me his kidney but God's love can be shown every day to anyone if we allow it. Whether this man is saved or not, he displayed God's generosity in a world where people are far too quick to look out for #1.

I pray that this man will have the most blessed day possible today and I will also take the opportunity to bless a stranger in my daily travels.

Editor's note: To find out how you can participate in a "random acts of kindness" project our church is organizing this Christmas, please see page 4.

Etcetera...

A New Year's Prayer

Submitted by Angie Lantos

*To be of greater service, Lord,
A closer student of Thy Word;
To help to bear a brother's load
And cheer him on the heavenly road;
To tell the los of Jesus' love,
And how to reach the home above;
To trust in God whatever befall,
Be ready at the Master's call
For any task that He may give;
And thus through all the year live
For Him who gave Himself for me
And taught me that my life should be
A life unselfish, not self-willed,
But with the Holy Spirit filled.*

— Author unknown

Last-Minute Note

We received the following e-mail from Armenia as we were wrapping up this issue.

It is a great privilege for us to minister with you for the King of kings in this very important time of human history. Now, as ever before, people are lost and are wandering in the darkness without a shepherd. Now, more than ever, we need Christians to unite their efforts so that we can take the message of life to many people and lead them to the Spring of Life.

We would like to know how we can support you with our prayers. Please tell us about your achievements and challenges.

Vardan Blbulyan

Campus Crusade for Christ, Armenia

More Letters

...continued from page 3

London, ENGLAND

I have read your tract "Got Peace?" and I have prayed your prayer at the back of the tract. I need more information, hence I am writing to you to send me more material.

[Second letter...] I thank the Lord Jesus Christ that you sent me your tract and your book, *God's Workshop*. The book helped me a lot.

Ahmed Quadri

Kanata, ONTARIO

Further to my telephone conversation with you, I wish to request gospel tracts for distribution by members of my church, Church of Pentecost, in Ottawa. May the Lord richly bless you, your family and your ministry.

John Dapaah

Sterling, COLORADO

I recently received *The Evangelist* (November 2012) and was very much blessed by [Pastor Hovsepian's] article "Power over Satan." Since I am unable to call you myself from solitary confinement, I can only write you a letter and hope you will write me back as I can use your counsel and prayers.

I was like the demon-possessed man in the tombs before the Lord set me free after I had landed in jail and faced the death penalty. After becoming a Christian, I fired my attorneys because they asked me to lie to the court to save my life by pleading not guilty. I pled guilty, taking full responsibility for my actions and was sentenced to death with three death sentences,

which were later revoked by an out-of-the-blue U.S. Supreme Court case and I was re-sentenced to life without parole.

I do pray you will write to me as soon as possible as I have some concerns after reading your article. I know you are very busy and pray you will write to me soon! God bless you, and thank you!

Cody

Hamilton, ONTARIO

Thank you so much for sending more copies of "Got Peace?" My husband and I used to give out gospel tracts ten years ago when he was still alive. I haven't done much of it since then but I am starting up in earnest again.

The first "Got Peace?" tract I gave out was to a little Portuguese man who had just worked on my patio with his sons. When he was finished, he came in the house to talk about the job. I had a Portuguese 2¢ piece, which I gave him. Then I gave him one of the tracts. My plan is to distribute these between Christmas and New Year's.

This man stood looking at it and asked what it was. I said, "It's a little tract with good news." He opened it and said, "I like to read this!" I told him to let his sons read it, too. I hope to hire him in the future for other jobs and to be able to testify more to him of our Saviour's love.

I am going to do tract work every Sunday, the Lord willing.

God bless your ministry, Pastor Joseph. You are a gifted writer. Your tracts are so well written. Praise God!

Lois Goodwin

From the Pastor

...continued from page 12

you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” (vs. 35)

Another account is found in Matthew 1:22-25 — “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,’ which means ‘God with us.’ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

Matthew assured us that Jesus was born of a virgin. And John declared that He is the only begotten Son: “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... Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:16, 18)

The virgin birth is a miracle you accept by faith.

When Mary heard the angel say, “For nothing is impossible with God,” she responded: “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” (Luke 1:37-38) Mary had to accept this miracle by faith, even though she had difficulty understanding it.

The Bible is very clear about God’s ability:

Genesis 18:14 — “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

Mark 10:27 — “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are

possible with God.’”

Luke 18:27 — “Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with men is possible with God.’”

God formed the first man from the dust of the ground. Why then should the virgin birth of Jesus be so hard to accept? The miracle of the virgin birth is within God’s power! Even the Qur-An describes the virgin birth of Jesus.

The virgin birth is an unacceptable mystery until you accept Christ as your saviour.

The Bible says: “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

If you cannot accept the virgin birth, then you will not be able to accept the miracles of creation, of Christ walking on the Sea of Galilee, of Christ feeding five thousand with few loaves of bread and few fish, of Christ raising the dead and of Christ rising from the dead. The miracles of Christ are unacceptable until you accept *Him*. It is impossible to understand things of the Spirit until you have the Holy Spirit.

When you receive Christ as Saviour by faith, the miracle of new birth will take place in you and you will be a new person. And then the virgin birth will not be hard at all to accept.

To the unbeliever, the virgin birth is illogical and impossible to believe. But to the God of miracles, nothing is impossible. The miracle of the virgin birth and the miracle of the new birth may be hard to understand, but they are both true.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepien



The Birth of Jesus Defines History

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-38

Larry King, the CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. His response was: “Jesus Christ. I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me.”

Many people ask questions such as: How can Jesus, a human being be God? Wasn't He born a human being to a young woman called Mary? How can Christians claim that Jesus Christ is God and yet claim that there is only One God? And how can a virgin give birth to a child?

Of course, true believers and followers of Jesus Christ know that no human being can ever become a god, even though Mormons and other religions teach that it is possible. The Bible is very clear that there is only *one God*, the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

In Deuteronomy 6:4 we read: “*The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*” If there is only one God, why do Christian believers say that Jesus Christ is God, even though He was born of a woman?

Yes, Jesus was born of a woman... but He was not born of human sperm. Jesus was not just another human being who became God, but rather He *is* God born in human form.

The birth of Christ is the essential

and central subject of the Bible. The Old Testament prophesied it and the New Testament proclaims it!

How can the virgin birth of Christ be true? Must we accept it, if we call ourselves Christians?

The virgin birth of Christ is a must if you believe and accept the Bible as being the Word of God.

The Old Testament tells us of the virgin birth in Isaiah 7:14 — “*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*”

The promised one was to be the light of the world. Isaiah 9:2 says, “*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*”

And look at Isaiah 9:6 — “*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*”

The New Testament proclaims the divine birth of Jesus. The angel of God went to Mary and said: “*Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.*” (Luke 1:28)

And the angel continued: “*Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus*” (vss. 30-31) and... “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow*

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