

TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2013



**“Love your neighbour
as yourself.”**

— Leviticus 19:18

Above: Missionary Jonah Bishop leading a group of flood victims in worship. Right: The aftermath of the early December typhoon in Compostela Valley Province, Philippines. (See more in this issue.)



Thoughts from the Editor

Selah

Did you know that the word “Selah” appears in the Bible 74 times? (Most of these instances are in the Psalms.) Although the exact origin of this word is unknown, it is widely thought to indicate an instruction (by the choir director, for example) to stop and listen, or to rest. It almost seems to say, “Stop and think about that for a while.”

There’s another term that often comes up in my line of work and it somehow echoes this sentiment of taking a breather. It’s called “white space” — the space on a page *not* used up by text or images. White space is a good thing in publishing because it prevents the reader from being overwhelmed by a cluttered mess of information.

In music scores, we have “rests” that suspend sound for short period of time before the song continues. Hockey players get two “rest periods” during a 60-minute game. Some types of bears hibernate during winter months. Even *God* rested for a full day after six days of creating the earth and its inhabitants.

There are so many other examples around us that illustrate the need to take a break now and then. And yet we humans are really not very good at truly *resting*, are we? I’m not suggesting we’re all workaholics—though some people

certainly are—but even in our “down time” we often don’t pause in a such a way that we experience *Selah*.

We may watch TV, play computer games, go out with friends, read, talk on the phone, go to the gym or wile the hours away on social media. While none of these things are necessarily inherently wrong, they are not true forms of rest. They keep our minds and hearts occupied and busy and they can, in some cases, be a means of escaping or avoiding the rest we know we need.

Why do we avoid rest? Perhaps we are afraid of what we may discover about ourselves in a time of quiet reflection. Perhaps we fear that God will speak to us in the silence and we’re not prepared for what He wants to say. Perhaps we’ve simply forgotten what to do with silence and inactivity because we’re so used to noise and busyness.

King David knew the true source of rest. He wrote: “*My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him . . . Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.*” (Psalm 62:1 and 5) It’s interesting that the word *Selah* appears just before verse 5.

This week, no matter how busy you think you are, take some time to just sit quietly for a while, doing nothing, and ask the Lord to give you *His* rest.

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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Letters

Editor's note: Because some of our friends and contacts are quite far from us, it takes a while for their mail to reach us. This is why you'll find a few Christmas messages below. Don't worry: We don't have our seasons mixed up! We just received them after the January Temple News was already published.

Fjordingby, NORWAY

Dear brother Pastor Joseph and the Temple Baptist Church, may this Christmas be filled with happiness in all that you do and may this joy continue the whole year through. I wish you all a happy new year.

Washington Amos Bose
Love Bangladesh Ministries

Saitama, JAPAN

Dear Pastor and Family in Him, how have you been? Thank you for your prayers and messages. I miss you, but am really encouraged now.

Time flies. Now is the season of Christmas and there are lots of decorations and lights everywhere in Tokyo. Although Christians in Japan are few (just around 1.0% of the population), everyone enjoys the events of the season. It's sad, but I really appreciate that God gives us chances to bring our parents, families and friends to church. I may not be strong yet I love Psalm 37:4. God bless you!

Mihiro Sewa

Spitak, ARMENIA

I wish you all a blessed New year. May God's love and peace fill your hearts and lives. We are grateful that you are not forgetting us here. Your support has helped us so much. We are so happy and blessed

every time you [Pastor Hovsepian] come to us. We are also blessed having brothers and sisters there. Please give our greetings and love to the believers there.

I am praying that we may see you again this year. We love you.

Sveta and Sergo Mazmanyanyan

Yerevan, ARMENIA

Yesterday we received your Temple News (December). I read it and we were very pleased to see our news updates in it.

Thanks for remembering our family in the prayer calendar. Some days ago I wanted to ask you to include our family. When I opened it, I saw Mantashyan family. It is very nice and kind of you.

Lilit Mantashyan

Hartsville, TENNESSEE

Thank you for your cards, tracts, letters and, most of all, your love, concern and prayers. May we continue to lift each other up as we look for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to return for us all. Because we know He's coming for all who have put their trust, love and faith in Him, praise God.

These are truly hard times, my friends, and so many say they want the truth but yet so few accept it. As we reach out to a world filled with so many evil people, may we live for our Lord and Saviour and stay in His Word daily.

Thank you for all you do to spread the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please stay in touch. We love you.

Pastor Dennis R. Waynick
Highway Ministries

More letters on page 11

Hello . . . Good-bye

Peter and Wendy Woodhouse welcomed their second child, **Jessica Lynn**, into the world on December 23. Though the Woodhouses have been living in Ottawa for several months, many of us got to meet Jessica when she was dedicated at Temple on Sunday, January 20.

We're saying "good-bye" because the family is now moving *much* farther away. Peter left Canada for his native Australia on January 30 and the "girls" will follow in about a month. Please pray for the Woodhouses as they make the transition to their new home. We will miss them and thank them for always being so supportive of our ministry.

New Member

On Sunday, February 3, we were delighted to welcome into our membership **Shirley Dumont**, a sister who has quickly become a beloved friend to all who have gotten to know her since she started attending our church last spring. We appreciate Shirley's commitment to our ministry and her loving, gentle spirit.

Annual Business Meeting

All our official members are reminded that our once-a-year business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17, following a potluck lunch. We

will basically be adhering to our regular Praise Lunch format but having the meeting instead of the worship and fellowship time.

Since we only meet once during the year, your attendance is vital—not only because we need your input but also because it's important for you to be aware of what's happening in the various areas of our ministry.

The annual report book will be given out on February 10, a week earlier, for you to have time to read through it before the meeting. If you have any questions about this meeting or membership, please speak with our clerk, **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**.

What Is Membership?

If you have been coming to Temple for a while but are not an official member, we encourage you to prayerfully consider taking this step. You may wonder what the requirements, expectations and even benefits are of membership. It's quite simple:

- The *requirements* for membership are that the candidate is (a) a born-again Christian and (b) baptized. A short testimony shared with one of our elders or deacons is the only process needed.
- The *expectations* are that members actively participate in the church's services and meetings, support the ministry financially and stay up-to-

*Happy
Birthday!*

Emil Lantos - February 2
Stella Papadopoulos - 2
Roza Khalighi - 14
Jack Bouclair - 17

Rita Pehlivanian - 20
If we've missed *your*
birthday, please let us
know when it is!

News

date on what the ministry and the pastor are doing.

- The *benefits are* (a) the privilege of voting during business meetings, (b) the opportunity to be nominated to serve on various committees or in a particular function and (c) helping the church maintain good standing as a charitable organization.

Offering & Receipts

Income tax receipts will be ready for distribution on the first or second Sunday of February. Please speak to **Sonia Pehlivanian** if you haven't received yours by mid-February.

As you'll note in the included letter, we're asking all our donors to clearly write the amount of their offering on the envelopes instead of leaving that space blank. This will help prevent accounting or recording errors. Also, please note that as of this year, we will only be issuing receipts for donations of \$25.00 or more. Thank you for understanding.

“Loving the Unlovable”

On Saturday, February 16, at 10:00 a.m. **Rita Pehlivanian** will be speaking at the Women's Fellowship meeting and, just two days after Valentine's Day, she is going to present a challenge: How do you treat the people in your life who aren't very easy to love?

Women of all ages are encouraged to

attend this time of discussion and fellowship and to bring a friend, too! (Or maybe someone who's not easy to reach out to.)

Refreshments follow the meeting so all contributions of munchies are gratefully accepted.

Missions Updates

We have several exciting updates to share about what's happening on the various mission fields we work with or support.

The Philippines

This month's *Temple News* cover gives you a small glimpse of the work being done by **Jonah Bishop**, his family and their co-labourers in the Philippines, where they recently faced yet another natural disaster: a typhoon in the Compostela Valley Province region.

During a six-day visit to the area, nearly 3,000 cans of tuna and meat were distributed and five evacuation centres were helped. The Bishops not only helped in practical ways but they also prayed with the victims, sang songs and gave out gospel literature.

Earlier, at Christmas, 1,000 children were reached in Lower Bicutan Taguig, receiving packed meals and drinks, school supplies for three months, clothing, shoes, rice, noodles, canned goods, soap and toothbrushes. They also heard

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Men's Fellowship

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

Women's Fellowship

Christmas brunch on Saturday,
February 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Red Light Waiting

By Tamar Dekirmenjian

Whether you're in a rush or not, it's never fun to have to wait at a red light as you approach your destination. I have to admit that, at times, I get frustrated playing that waiting game, knowing that I could otherwise be on my way to where I need to be.

Patience is definitely a great virtue to have, whether with traffic lights, people, or trying circumstances. After all, the apostle Paul listed it as part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

There are many examples in the Bible that remind us to wait on the Lord and be patient. We come across verses such as *"Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him"* (Psalm 37:7) and others such as Lamentations 3:26 and Micah 7:7. However, has it ever crossed your mind that God, too, is waiting?

Having recently read the story of Gideon (Judges 6), I found one passage in particular that really touched me. Because the Israelites had done evil in the sight of the Lord, He had delivered them into the hands of the Midianites for seven years. Thinking that the Lord had forsaken him and his people, Gideon was discouraged by his circumstances. But God had greater plans for this seemingly weak human who, although instructed to save his people, thought he was incapable to do so (Judges 6:15).

Still fearful after being commanded by God, Gideon pleaded, *"Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You."* (6:18)

It is what happened after this plea that strikes me to the core and speaks

volumes. The Creator of this universe, the almighty and all-powerful Lord, humbled Himself and responded by saying, *"I will wait until you come back."*

He promised to wait for Gideon. Furthermore, He promises to wait for you! We can all work better at prioritizing our schedules to continually put Him first, and yet we let the distractions or red lights of this world deter us from worshipping our Father in a manner He is worthy of. In the meantime, our Comforter, Refuge and Strength is ever present, waiting.

"Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him." (Isaiah 30:18)

A Woman's Submission

By Stella Papadopoulou

Times of inescapable despair are opportunities to trust God. I confess that this is not my default response. It is also countercultural.

However, doing anything other than trust God can put us in even greater misery and deprive us of God's blessings. But how can you wait on the Lord, clinging to His promise that He waits with us and will provide for us? The best way I can do this is when I see it modelled by another woman. This woman is not my contemporary; her story and other women's stories are preserved on the pages of the Old testament.

Reading in Genesis, I came across Leah's chronicle in chapters 29 and 30. Imagine your father tells you that, unless he can deceive a man, your hopes for

Inspirations

marriage are nil because you're not beautiful like your sister. Leah was told to pose as the bride and, the next morning, the groom was outraged to find her instead of her sister Rachel!

What an overwhelming rejection. Then Jacob married her sister, his favourite . . . "*and he loved Rachel more than Leah.*" (29:30)

Leah was unloved and only God could see that. We see her hopefulness grow with every child birth, as she hoped her husband would love her. She declared after each son's birth: "*It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now . . . Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.*" (20:32, 34)

This is heartbreaking. Leah's submission occurred in the face of rejection from the most important people in her life. Initially, her focus was on her misery over being the unwanted wife. But, after the fourth son, she decided to praise God and submit to His purpose, regardless of her husband's love. She declared: "*This time I will praise the Lord.*"

Leah's submission was rewarded: Through her son Levi came the priesthood and through her son Judah came the house of David, including Joseph, the husband of Mary, and the Messiah. God saw Leah's inner beauty and how she was uniquely equipped to carry out His plan.

Leah couldn't change her husband, but she could let herself be changed by God's hand in her life. She did not let others' harsh and unkind responses distract her from her focus on God's purpose in her life.

Today, counsellors tell us the same: The only person you can change is yourself. I admit that changing myself is not

accomplished in my own strength. Staying focused on God may be noble and right and easy to read on a page. But I know even my best efforts falter. Once again, it is God's hand upon me that enables me to stay focused on him.

In all, Leah gave Jacob six sons and a daughter. And, in the end, it was Leah—not Rachel—who was buried next to Jacob (Genesis 49).

In *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, Hannah Whitall Smith writes: "In the divine order, God's working depends on our co-operation . . . Just as the potter, however skilful, cannot make a beautiful vessel out of a lump of clay that is never put into his hands, so neither can God make out of me a vessel unto His honour unless I put myself into His hands."



Not Enough

By Quentin Newhouse, Jr.

Not enough Bible study, not enough praise,
Not enough witnessing in not enough days,
Not enough praying for not enough time,
Not enough faith through not enough prime.

Not enough warring when Satan is the fear,
Not enough prep when impending emotional
train wrecks are near,
Not enough tasking for kingdom building chores,
Not enough faith in healing spiritual sores.

Not enough listening, but a hell of a lot of talk,
Not enough unction and urgency in our walk,
Not enough morality to fill a demitasse,
Not enough commitment for the Pearly Gate pass.

Not enough willingness to go the extra mile,
Not enough love to utter a constant smile,
Not enough gratefulness to light a darkened room,
Not enough awareness, but Jesus is coming soon.

Missions Updates

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the Christmas message and some of the children received Christ as their Saviour.

The Bishops' latest newsletter is packed with additional news about the large-scale outreach they have done in the past year. For example, they regularly conduct Bible studies at a women's correctional centre, visit residents of a seniors' home, distribute food to hundreds of local orphans and provide curriculum to day care centres.

Armenia

It's been a blessing to be involved in the process of a mission trip that's being organized by **Keith Kline**, a member of a Baptist church in Langley, B.C., who is taking a large group of teens to Armenia in March. They are planning a massive outreach and we've been able to connect them with the brethren in Yerevan who are helping them with accommodations and other details of their mission trip.

Please pray for this courageous group—for their safety, for a fruitful outreach and for life-changing experiences for these young people. We hope to

be able to share a report from them in a couple of months.

We also recently received the photo below from **Lilit Mantashyan**, who explains that this was a group of people who were eager to receive a copy of Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's book *God's Workshop* (in Eastern Armenian).

Bangladesh

We received a report and a few photos from **Shankar Shikdar** (Shubroto's brother) with details of the work of Blessings for Humanity—particularly in the areas of early childhood education and reaching out to orphans—as well as their current needs and prayer requests.

Shankar and Shubroto's 80-year-old mother is very ill and this has affected their ability to address certain immediate needs of the ministry. As well, their office rent is being increased significantly this year, which puts an extra financial burden on the ministry. Still, Shankar writes: *"We are very thankful to our dear pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Montreal, Canada along with all the members and well-wishers. We are receiving blessings from God through you."*



Lilit Mantashyan's parents (far left and far right) with a group of people in Armenia who received a copy of *God's Workshop* in January.

The Pastor's Page

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world collapsed around him. He continued blessing God even when his health suffered.

Job did not understand but he spoke by faith. He lost everything he had but he said: *"Blessed be the name of the Lord."* God had been faithful in the past; why should Job doubt the goodness of God now? His castles may have tumbled but God was still standing! Job knew that God's love is unchanging.

Have things gone badly for you? Do you feel as if some of your castles have tumbled? God loves you in spite of your circumstances.

The Cross proves God's unchanging love. If, for any reason, you doubt God's love, look at the Cross. Christ died there for us because of His love. God loves you as you are and wants to help you. Bring your broken dreams and sins to Him today.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

More Letters

Editor's Note: We continue to hear from William, the inmate in Colorado, and also recently received a letter sent from a correctional centre out west. Please pray for these men as they grow in their faith.

Canon City, COLORADO

Thank you for your letter and for the book God's Workshop. I only got to touch and glance at the book as they would not allow me to have it. I was able to donate it, though, so at least it was not destroyed.

Please tell the congregation I am grateful for their prayers and I was in tears when I read [Pastor Joseph's] letter in which you let me know they were praying for me. Thank you and God bless you.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to give my information to anyone. My life is not my own; as His Word

says, we were bought at a price.

Please let me know if you would be able to send your book to some brothers and sisters in Christ who I know would be blessed to receive it. One has a small jail ministry for young women in a small town in Tennessee. My heart is always wanting to help others for Christ Jesus. Thank you and God bless you!

William

Prince Albert, SASKATCHEWAN

Greetings to you one and all. How do you do? As for me, here it is well.

I want you to bestow upon me a catalogue of the titles of your materials and please try to send me some for my growth and development in the Lord.

Bobby

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

www.templebaptistmontreal.com



When Your World Crashes

Job 1:13-22

Who would not want to be as happy, prosperous and successful as Job? Most people would have to spend a lifetime to even come close to what Job had.

Job was a good and prosperous man and he had a great family: seven sons and three daughters. He was healthy and wealthy. Who wouldn't want his life?

But, one day Job's world crashed around him! Enemies stole all his oxen and killed those caring for them. His sheep and shepherds were killed by lightning. The Chaldeans stole his camels and killed their keepers. His sons and daughters died in a storm. He was left with nothing! All his castles tumbled.

But one thing remained standing: Job's faith. It was unshaken: "*Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head and worshiped God.*" (verse 20) Even though everything around him had disappeared, his faith was still solid. Job said: "*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.*" (verse 21)

How could Job respond this way? It was neither logical nor natural! Let's look at some of the reasons.

1. Job saw the Lord as the source of life

He said, "*The Lord gave,*" understanding that all life comes from God. Job knew and appreciated the time he had spent with his children was a gift from God to him and to the children. All the good times, all the fun times, all the family together times . . .

"Every good and perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17) God is the great giver and His greatest gift was His Son.

2. Job saw the Lord as sovereign over the length of life

He said: "*The Lord has taken away.*" There are two surprising things about life: its shortness when death seems near and its length when the future seems sure.

"Our breath is in God's hands." (Daniel 5:23) Job understood that life is short at its longest. It is important to be right with God in all circumstances. Although Job did not understand what was happening or why, his faith made him strong.

3. Job saw the Lord as the same no matter what

He said: "*May the name of the Lord be praised.*" It is easy to bless the name of the Lord when things are going well. It is easy to thank God when the family stays together. But Job was able to bless God when his castles tumbled and his

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GOOD NEWS!



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