

# TEMPLE NEWS

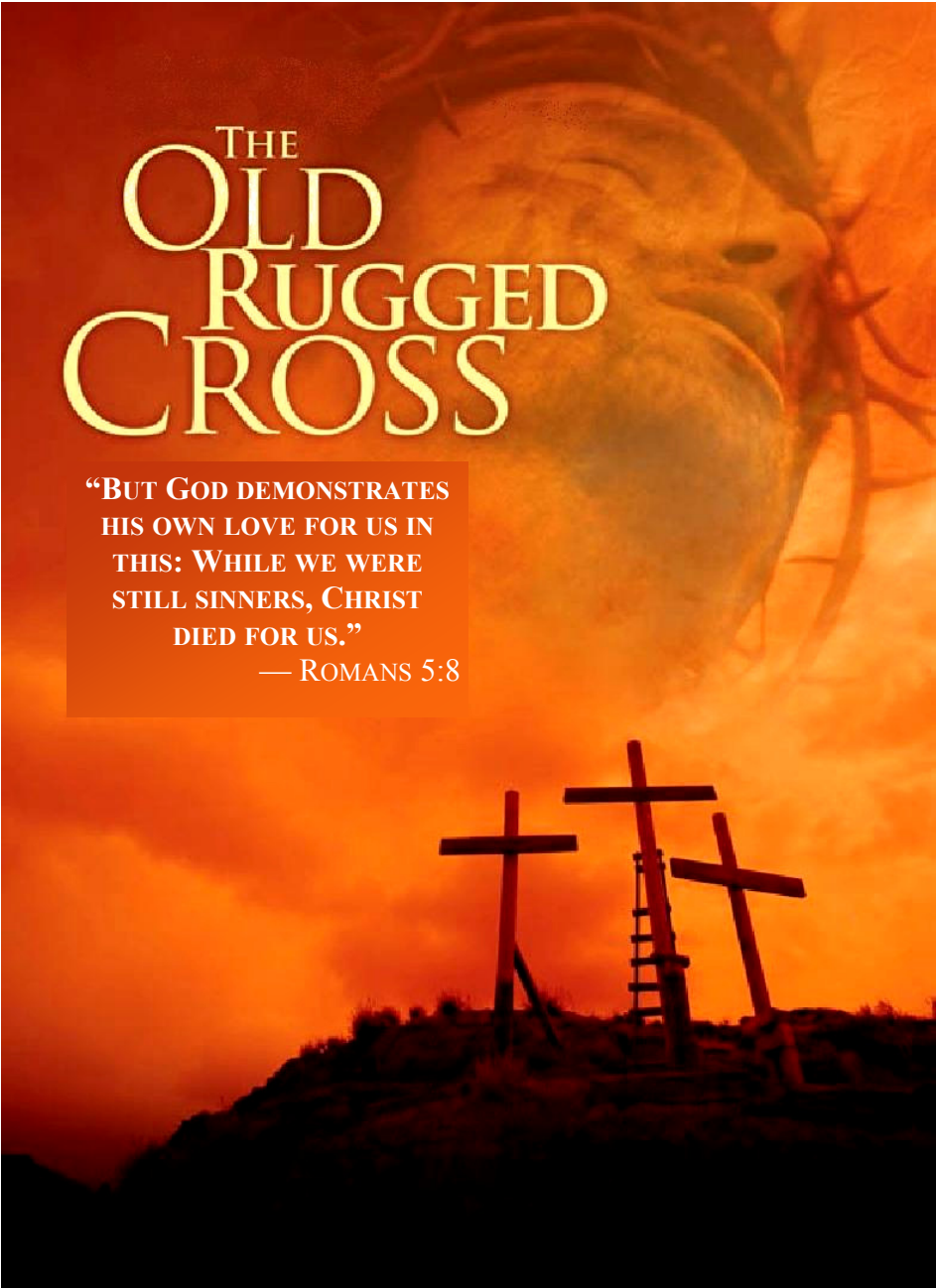
THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 2013

## THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

“BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES  
HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN  
THIS: WHILE WE WERE  
STILL SINNERS, CHRIST  
DIED FOR US.”

— ROMANS 5:8



# Thoughts from the Editor

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## Passing Blame

I recently watched a film that, I admit, was rather pointless as a whole but a two-sentence speech by one of the characters stuck with me and got me thinking about passing blame.

The film is about a young man who shows up at an aristocratic family's home the morning the eldest daughter is to be married. Through flashback scenes, it is clear that he and this young woman had been an item the previous summer and now he is upset that she is marrying someone else. The young woman herself seems hesitant about her impending marriage and you get the sense she is wondering whether her old love will try to win her back before she makes her vows.

But he doesn't. He simply fumes while the family makes preparations. He remains in the house when the family goes off to the wedding and is still there when they return. Finally, he expresses his anguish to another young woman who confronts him by saying, "We all want other people to make our decisions for us, don't we? Then we never have to blame ourselves." The young man has no response to this because she is obviously correct. By not taking action and allowing his love to marry someone else, he convinces himself that it is *her* fault that they are not together. He can blame her

for any ensuing unhappiness.

We see this pattern all the time in our world—at work, at home and even in churches. We don't take initiative and then, when something goes wrong, we appease ourselves by thinking, "It's not my fault. I didn't do that."

In marriages, we sometimes see one partner who is unfaithful or abusive but doesn't try to end the relationship. When the other partner finally breaks under the strain and asks for a divorce, he or she also carries the burden of blame for making the final decision.

None of this is new, however. In Genesis 3, Eve gave into temptation and sinned. When she gave Adam some of the fruit, he took it and ate it. Then, when God confronted him, he objected: "The woman you put here with me [blaming God]—she gave me some fruit of the tree [blaming Eve], and I ate it."

Instead of assuming the role of spiritual leadership that God had given him in his relationship with Eve, Adam just went along. But God saw right through his cowardice.

Do you blame others for bad decisions you've made? Do you have difficulty seeing your responsibility when relationships go sour? It's normal for us to be like Adam and point to someone else. Let's pray for the humility and honesty to acknowledge our own wrongdoing.

*Ann-Margret Hovsepian*

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This newsletter is given out freely... but we appreciate your gifts to help with printing costs!

# Letters

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## Havana, CUBA

*Editor's note: This is a rough translation of a letter written to us in Spanish.*

*God continue to bless you for your great work of helping others. I am writing to request pamphlets and biblical material as we have a lack of these materials. We are Iglesia Pestinesco, an evangelical group preaching the Word of God in the streets and winning souls for Christ.*

*What can you send us? Thank you and we pray that God may continue to bless you and help you to continue helping others. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless you. Pray without ceasing. Pray for others. Amen.*

**Fernando Dominguez**

## Lusaka, ZAMBIA

*Greetings in the love of our Lord God. God is merciful and good as He continues to keep us all. He helps His people who trust in Him. His promise is not like man's. He guides us in His ways.*

*I am someone you don't know physically, but spiritually we are one for we have one common goal and that is to serve our dear Heavenly Father, the almighty Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I am 37 years old, born-again "young" Christian and an ex-prisoner who received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord*

*and Saviour. My vision is to deliver the gospel of our Lord Jesus to communities, hospitals and prisons and to preach the Word.*

*I hope you will stand with me and strengthen me and cooperate with me for the expansion of God's kingdom. I have a great hope in the Lord for your ministry here in Zambia. I want to send my thanks to you and request that the Heavenly Father bless you and your entire ministry for the work you are doing for His name. I have turned many souls to Christ through your tract. I need more of these tracts to give to people. Glory to the name of the Almighty God.*

*Please, I would like to have more tracts from you, different kinds, like the one I have in my hands: "Got Peace... or still looking for it?" I will be very grateful.*

**Paulo Nyangu**

## Prince Albert, SASKATCHEWAN

*Editor's note: This is in response to a note sent to Bobby by Pastor Hovsepian after we received his first letter (see the February issue).*

*Yes, I came to pray to trust Jesus Christ for His lordship and redemption, by way of His holiness. I also need more literature. Thank you for everything.*

**Bobby**



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

**[www.templebaptistmontreal.com](http://www.templebaptistmontreal.com)**

## Welcome, Baby Boy!

The latest arrival in the fairly constant stream of births in our church family was born on Sunday, February 10, barely an hour before we all met for worship. We congratulate **Greg** and **Tamar Dekirmenjian** on the birth of their first child, **Andreas**.

We praise God for a successful delivery and you will rejoice, too, when you read Greg's short testimony on page 8. Please pray for this young family at this time of transition and getting to know each other.

## Baby Dedication

Within half an hour of hearing about Andreas' birth, we celebrated another special occasion in a young couple's life. **David** and **Diadem Wood**, who currently live in Fort McMurray, Alberta, came to Montreal to have their daughter **Diella** dedicated to the Lord. It is always a joyous moment when we see parents make a commitment to raise their child according to God's Word and direction.

## Changes Coming

Following our annual business meeting on February 17, we have a few new faces serving in various areas of the church's ministry and administration. We are grateful to those who have stepped forward to make new commitments and also appreciate those who are continuing

with commitments they made many years ago. Two key changes to note:

1. **Stella Papadopoulos, Quentin Newhouse** and **Wheng Cofino** will be working on revamping our nursery. With several new babies among us, it is crucial that our nursery (a) be made physically equipped and safe for babies and (b) function according to guidelines already in place in terms of the appropriate use of the room by parents and caregivers. If you are a parent, please watch for updates on the nursery in the near future or speak to one of the committee members if you have questions.

2. **Sonia Pehlivanian** is our new envelope secretary, which means she will be keeping records of offerings and issuing receipts at the end of the year (among other duties). This job was previously handled by **Cecilia Hum** for many years and we are deeply grateful for her faithful, diligent and excellent work for such a long time.

## Married Couples' Fellowship

Our couples' fellowship continues to meet on the fourth Saturday of each month and those who attend have indicated that they find it very encouraging. If you and your spouse have not attended yet, please mark March 23 on your calendars. Watch for details about location and theme in the coming weeks.

Happy  
Birthday!

Sheldon Illidge - March 2  
Francis Cofino - 6  
Shubroto Shikdar - 10  
Alicia Hinds - 15  
Melda Wallace - 24

Jacques Dénommée - 26  
Farlend Clerveaux - 27

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



Please join us on Friday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m. as we worship and take time to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on

the cross to pay the price of our sins. We will also have communion.

This is a great time to invite a friend to church. You may know someone who is curious about Jesus or doesn't know what Good Friday is all about. Encourage him or her to join you!

## The Best Valentines!

Men's Fellowship continues to surprise and bless our congregation, especially the women, with their gestures of kindness and love—and their great singing! On Sunday, February 10, just a few days before Valentine's Day, the men made a special presentation during the worship service.

When the Pastor indicated it was time, they all convened at the back for a moment and then walked back down the aisles handing roses to every woman and girl who was present. Needless to say, there were many smiles and exclamations of delight.

When they were done, the men gathered at the front of the church, once again (as with the previous occasions) joined

by visiting men and not only those who had practiced together, and sang "Amazing Grace."

The men also told us that they had, at their breakfast just the day before, collected \$300. Part of this money was used to buy the roses and the rest was designated to help individuals or families in need. We are all very grateful to have a group of united, committed men who are passionate about following Christ and supporting His Church.

## Web Traffic

Fourteen months have passed since we redesigned our website and we're thrilled to see traffic on our pages continue to increase. In her annual report, our webmaster **Ruth Hovsepian** shared these statistics:

Traffic has been heavy on our site. In 2012, there were 11,290 page loads, 4,716 unique visits, 3,546 first-time visits and 1,170 returning visits.

Hits to our site came from nearly 75 different countries including, in order of rank, Canada (75%), the United States (12%), Armenia (2%), Brazil (1%) and also the U.K., the Philippines, India, New Zealand, Germany, Hong Kong, Greece, Singapore, Guatemala, Cuba, Bangladesh, Colombia, Spain and Mexico.

Please continue to share our website, which has many helpful resources with your friends and family. Also, please send us feedback now and then. It helps!

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## Men's Fellowship

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

## Women's Fellowship

Next meeting on  
Saturday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m.

## God Is in Control

By Greg Dekirmenjian

As most of you know, Tamar and I had a baby boy on February 10th. I must say, it was quite a rollercoaster ride, being at the hospital with Tamar in labour for exactly 27 hours.

At about the 19th hour or so, Tamar still had a long way to go and the doctors were debating about whether or not to proceed with a caesarean. At that point, the doctors decided to continue with the natural birth and increase the efforts to induce labour.

Later, looking toward my left, I saw Tamar's mother was in tears as she watched her daughter suffer so much. She was hoping for a caesarean to see this suffering end quickly. It was hard for me to see my mother-in-law and especially my wife suffering in different ways. It was at that moment that I put my head down and prayed, "All good things work together for good for those who believe in You." Our baby was born a few hours later!

We always think that we know what's best for us in order to suffer less, but God has His ways and He knows better than we do: "*The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.*" (Psalm 145:17)

As Christians, we are always fully aware and know that God is in control and yet, in certain circumstances, we tend to forget and thus, as humans, start crumbling emotionally and physically. We can trust that whatever He does and creates, it's for the best.

*"But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? 'Shall what is formed say*

*to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"*

*"Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?" (Romans 9:20-21)*

## P.O.W.E.R.

By Rita Assan

A couple of years ago, during a Sunday Praise Lunch, the Holy Spirit convicted me through a short sermon from Pastor Joseph. Since then I have surrendered my life to God and asked Him to help me apply this message in my Christian walk. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I have seen a great transformation in my life. This transformation has helped me to acknowledge and appreciate God's divine grace that He gives me every day.

The pastor explained that every Christian has POWER. "Power to do what?" was the question. This is not about healing power and other powers that most Christians seek from different sources. This is the divine power God gives freely the moment you accept Christ as your personal Savior.

If you stay connected and apply this to your everyday Christian living, you will notice a great transformation and growth in your faith. The divine power from the Holy Spirit can be explained with each letter of the word POWER...

### **P - Stands for PRAYER**

Prayer is vital for every Christian. A prayerful Christian becomes fruitful and lives a victorious Christian life. "*The*

# Inspirations

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*Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.*" (Psalm 145:18) Prayers open our eyes and mind, giving us understanding. Colossians 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tell us to be devoted to continual prayer.

Prayer is a two-way communication between God and His children to build up our relationship with Him.

## **O - Stands for OBEDIENCE**

As we obediently follow Jesus, He will mould us into His own clay and help us to make right choices in our walk with Him. He answers the prayers of those who obey and please Him (1 John 3:22).

## **W - Stands for WORSHIP**

Praise is worship. Worship must begin in the heart and come from the heart. When we praise God, joy springs up in our soul. God wants His children to worship Him, approaching Him with praise. We should *"enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."* (Psalm 100:4)

Praises lifts our eyes from the battle to the victory. Praise changes things and praise can transform us. Praise builds up our faith in God. Praise kindles a new faith through praises. *"I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips."* (Psalm 34:1) Praise the Lord... Amen!

## **E - Stands for EVANGELISM**

Jesus, before leaving this world, asked the disciples to go out and spread the gospel and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). Our testimony and our walk with Christ is a letter to world.

We must witness and tell others about the wonderful transformation in

our lives. *"May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous."* (Psalm 119:172)

## **R - Stands for READING the Word of God**

The Bible is our spiritual food. *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:105) Our best defence against the devil is to be rooted and built up in God's word (Colossians 2:6-7) His word holds us firmly to the truth in the core of our everyday struggles. It is a weapon to use against our enemy, the devil, in times of weakness (Ephesians 6:16).

God's Word opens our eyes and cures us from spiritual blindness. Studying, memorizing and meditating on God's Word can ensure our discernment between good and evil. God's Word rebukes, corrects, and encourages us (2 Timothy 4:1-8).

Consider trying this free divine grace from God and you will be amazed by His faithfulness!

*(reprinted from the April 2009 Temple News)*

*Has God taught you something lately?*

*Why not tell others about it so that they can be blessed and inspired, too? Please send in your thoughts, praise reports and testimonies. For our April issue, please send us your material by March 24. Contact information is on page 2.*

# Mission Field Update

## News from Armenia

*Editor's note: The following updates on the outreach being done in Armenia, as well as the photos, were sent to us by Lilit Man-tashyan, our young friend and liaison in Yerevan.*

**February 12** — We are always praying for your family and for your ministries. That is why I know you are all fine. We are sure that you pray for our family as well. Because of this, we go on serving God and spreading His Word.

Recently, we met four students who came from Masis (a village in Armenia) to study and to live in Yerevan for a while. They rented an apartment close to us and today they came to visit us. My dad talked to these students. They are very humble and eager to know God. We just met them once or twice, so they are still not ready to repent. That is why we ask you to pray for these boys. We gave them New Testaments, which we purchased by your help. They were pleased to receive the books. We will meet them again and will inform you about the news. Please pray for them!

My brother, Narek, has also started to talk about God. He evangelized his friend and promised to give him a New Testament.

Another request! My dad asked me to inform you that the New Testaments we bought with your help are almost finished. He wanted to know if it is possible to have more. Thank you for your help both materially and spiritually! My family sends their warmest greetings.

**February 18** — Thank you for sending us money for the Bibles. I don't know how to thank you. I just know that God will take care of you. However I am praying for you. My family also is

thankful to you! God bless you!

**February 24** — Today [a friend] came with her uncle's son. It turned out that her cousin had gone to work to Moscow some time ago. When he came back, he found his wife with another man. Naturally, they are divorcing now. They have a daughter, as well, so the man is in a difficult situation now. We talked about God and gave him a Bible. He was satisfied and promised to come again to talk some more (they were in a hurry).

In the last photo you can find me and another woman. She is my hairdresser. Today she came again and I gave her a Bible and *God's Workshop*.



**Lilit's father, Artur (far left), with students who received New Testaments.**



**Lilit (right) with her hairdresser, who received a copy of God's Workshop.**

# The Pastor's Page

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- Start having daily devotions with family members.
4. **Do something for your church.** For example:
- Write a letter of appreciation to a teacher, musician, worker or leader.
  - Volunteer to a need the church has.
  - Offer to use your car to bring people to church.
  - Visit people who are in physical or spiritual difficulties and advise the church leadership about any needs.
  - Increase your giving if you can.
  - Refuse to participate in gossip or criticism of members and leaders.
  - Use your talents to help and edify the church and our Lord.
  - Join or start a prayer group.
5. **Do something to fulfill your responsibility of evangelism.** For example:
- Invite friends and neighbours to church.
  - Visit a lonely person who needs Christ.
  - Start giving out tracts, daily if possible.
  - Pray for the special needs of missionaries and workers in the church.

Paul wrote: *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”* (Colossians 3:23)

Let's stop being part-time Christians.

It is a great honour to be a full-time Christian. A part-time employee does not have any job security or benefits but a full-time employee enjoys all kinds of benefits.

A true believer in Christ is a full-time member of the mighty army of God. “Like a mighty army moves the Church of God” starts the second verse of the familiar hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers.” But, sad to say, often this is not true of churches today.

Let it start being true of you and me. Let us live and act as members of the mighty family of God. It is the greatest honour to be a child of God, our Creator and Lord.

Remember: *“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”* (Philippians 4:13)

*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.*



# The Pastor's Page

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## Do Something

Philippians 4:4-9; Colossians 3:23-24

At the end of one of his concerts in 1970, Jimmy Hendrix smashed his guitar. Expecting this kind of action, the audience screamed and applauded until they realized that something was wrong.

Suddenly the applause stopped. Hendrix had fallen on his knees and remained in that position, motionless. He finally broke the silence by asking, "If any of you know real peace, I want to meet you backstage."

Apparently, nobody responded to his startling invitation. Several days later he died from a drug overdose.

Hendrix had everything most people want, except real peace. Even though people talk about peace and joy these days, the world is sinking deeper and deeper into despair and loneliness.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the believers: "*My brothers rejoice in the Lord.*" (Philippians 3:1) And then he repeated in the next chapter (verse 4): "*Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, Rejoice.*"

Paul was experiencing real peace under all kinds of circumstances, including suffering. In Philippians 4:7, we read: "*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

Paul was a man of action. He did not run away or hide from challenges and duty but, on the contrary, he worked hard to advance the Gospel no matter what.

He did not fear the future. He did not hold back by thinking, "Too many people need Christ and I am only one." His actions reflected his faith and commitment.

What about my actions? What about your actions? The following suggestions will help and enrich your Christian life:

1. **Do something for Jesus that stretches you.** There may be some pain when stretching but the long-term benefits will be worth it.
2. **Do something to enrich and strengthen your Christian life.** For example:
  - Get serious about studying the Bible.
  - Start thinking about and memorizing Bible verses.
  - Make a list of your blessings and thank God for them.
  - Put away all bitterness and anger. Forgive everyone.
3. **Do something for your family.** For example:
  - If you owe an apology to a family member make sure you apologize.
  - Express appreciation for what loved ones do for you.
  - Hug your children and tell them you love them.
  - Hug your parents or call or write to them and thank them for their love and prayers or for something they have done to help you.
  - Help family members develop their talents.
  - Stop complaining and start giving compliments.

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