

TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2013



**“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”**

— Romans 10:14b

Students at William Shakespeare Academy (Dhaka, Bangladesh), a ministry we support.

Thoughts from the Editor

Contentment Doesn't Depend on Circumstances

"If Eve wasn't content in the garden, what makes me think I will be content if only my circumstances were different? Contentment doesn't come from perfect circumstances but from fixing our eyes on Jesus and what's eternal, not on what's temporary."

I recently came across this insight and it really jumped out at me. For years I have asserted that contentment is a choice and that it depends on our willingness to be grateful for what we have instead of lamenting over what we don't have...but I had never thought about how perfectly Eve's story teaches this lesson.

There she was, in paradise, with a perfect man in a perfect environment with no work to do, no pain, no material needs, no stress, no conflicts. Everything that any one of us has ever imagined would bring us happiness, Eve had it.

But when Eve faced the choice to be content with all that God had given her or to reach for something that promised to make her happier, she caved. She wanted more even though her cup was already full to overflowing. She chose to believe

the lie that what she had wasn't enough. Sadly, that discontent led to her demise.

It occurs to me that Eve's story isn't recorded in the Bible simply to give us historical information about the first human rebellion against God, but to teach us a lesson that, heeded, can help us avoid making the same foolish choices.

How many of us go through each day, week after week, year after year, waiting for and wondering about that elusive something that will finally make us happy? We say that God is all we need and yet there is still a sense that we're not quite complete, that there's something out there that will finally fulfill us—marriage, children, our dream job, our dream house, financial stability, healing, weight loss, an exotic vacation, etc.

It's a lie from the enemy. When the psalmist said, *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart"* (Psalm 37:4), he wasn't implying that Christians will see all their fantasies materialize. No, he was reminding us that only God can satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. And this is not an empty promise. God *does* fill our cups to overflowing when we stop depending on "things" to bring us contentment.

Try it. Ask God to give you a hunger for Him. You'll be amazed at how He satisfies that appetite!

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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Letters

Gyumri, ARMENIA

My family has been reading God's Workshop for about a month. The modest life and experiences of [Pastor Hovsepien's] family is quite observable from the book, and that is gently transferred to the readers. In all the messages, there are biblical references that help the readers to understand the devotions better and to use them in the lives of both sinners and believers.

This book has been useful in our lives. The Lord spoke to our souls. At the end of the book (where some notes can be written) we wrote out some sentences and statements that spoke to our hearts.

We want to share God's Workshop with other people (we supply Christian literature to more than 70 families), so that they can read it and be blessed. Also, we would like you to send us 70 to 80 copies of each your evangelical tracts.

In Armenia, there are many books and literature about repentance and about accepting our Lord Jesus Christ. I think that, nowadays, people need more books with messages about how to walk with Jesus, how to stay in the presence of God, how to confront temptation and how to be ready for Christ's second coming.

The majority of the people in small districts of Gyumri have been living in huts since the great earthquake in 1988. About six families from that area have invited me

to establish a church there. One of these families agreed to provide their hut for meetings. But there is a problem: I have neither the financial means nor any transport to reach there. Please pray about this!

Many people have forsaken their first love and many others are wandering in the lost world. May God bless you and your family abundantly! My family always prays for your devoted ministries.

Tigran Muradyan and family

Pinar del Rio, CUBA

Greetings from Cuba. I received your address through a tract entitled What Are You Searching for? and I decided to write.

I have been a Christian for 17 years. I serve the Lord teaching the Bible and preaching the gospel full time. I attend a church established by Brethren missionaries from Canada. If possible, please send me tracts for evangelizing.

Iuan Alexei Hernandez

Abidjan, CÔTE d'IVOIRE

Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus to you and all those who work in the service of God. I'm requesting tracts, books, Bibles and Sunday School material.

May God Almighty bless you.

Adja Ange Olivier



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

**www.templebaptistmontreal.com
www.facebook.com/TempleBaptistMontreal**

Summer Schedule

This year, we're only making one change to our regular schedule during the summer. All our activities and meetings will continue as usual except for the Sunday morning Bible class.

The last day of class will be Sunday, June 23. Then we'll start the fall session on Sunday, September 8.

Special thanks to **Alexis Livingston** who was always available to teach a children's class when needed. We'd love to see a more active Sunday School in the fall so we encourage all our families with young children to prayerfully consider participating. Bringing your children to church an hour earlier so that they can receive biblical teaching is a small investment that will reap great rewards.

Double Issue in August

Like we did last year, we will be combining the August and September issues of *Temple News* because Pastor **Joseph Hovsepien** (and his daughter **Ann-Margret**) will be going to Armenia in mid-August. We will then resume our regular publishing schedule with the October issue.

This means that we will need some extra material for the August/September edition...and we need your help for that. If you've ever considered sharing your testimony or about something God has taught you through a sermon, Bible study

or life experience, this is the perfect time to do it! We encourage you to prayerfully think about what you can send in. And don't worry about your writing skills. We have an editor who can help you with whatever you contribute.

We're also interested in receiving your photos or artwork, particularly if they illustrate the article you submit. The deadline for the August/September edition is July 14, so you still have lots of time, but we would appreciate receiving your material as soon as possible.

Women: "Why Witness?"

On Saturday, June 15, **Marie Dobrowskyj** will be the guest speaker at our Women's Fellowship gathering. She'll be talking about the importance of sharing our faith and how to prepare ourselves for witnessing. Ladies, don't miss this special meeting!

Thanks, Billie!

If you haven't noticed our beautiful garden around the church building, be sure to take a look soon. We really appreciate the quiet but faithful way **Billie Paris** grooms the plants, flowers and lawn outside our church, creating a lovely first impression to passers-by and visitors.

*Happy
Birthday!*

Ann-Margret Hovsepien - June 2

Melissa Livingston - 6

Grace Doré - 8

Shirley Dumont - 14

Giancarlo La Giorgia - 21

Anita Sarjeantsen - 21

June Ross - 23

Gerthsie Charles - 27

Kristina Ptacek - 28

Richard Didsbury - 30

Mission Field Updates

Bangladesh

by Shankar Shikdar

We are thankful to the Lord Jesus Christ for His overwhelming love and patience for our ministries here in Bangladesh. Our thanks go to all the members of Temple Baptist Church for their kindness.

Kindly pray continuously for our preschools in Jessore, Khulna and Chittagong. As the children of the preschool in Jessore are from a Muslim community, we need special prayers for them. Please also pray for the formal children's education program in Dhaka, the William Shakespeare Academy. Children from Muslim communities are now becoming familiar with the gospel message at this program.

We have been praying about the urgent need to expand the accommodations for our children's ministry in Dhaka. The cost may be \$650.00 a month. We ask for your faithful prayers about this.

Presently above 60 percent of the total populations are youth. It is a huge opportunity for ministry in Bangladesh. Our Bible Correspondence School (BCS) is a very suitable ministry for those young people. Thinking about the future, BCS might be the largest ministry of the country.

You may have heard that a huge number of garment workers recently died in the collapse of a nine-storey building in Savar, near Dhaka. More than six thousand people were working there. More than two thousand were rescued but were seriously injured. About 1,100 bodies have been found to date but more

than two thousand are still missing under the rubble. Many volunteers and non-government organizations are working with the government rescue team. Please pray for the families who have lost their loved ones and the families who are still looking for their relatives. Please pray that we can do something for at least some of them.

The Philippines

by Jonah Bishop

In April, we were able to hold a dental mission for 300 children from poor families who are enrolled in day care education centers in Barangay Lower and New Lower Bicutan, Taguig. We also gave out free clothing and imported jam and honey at this event.

We participated along with four dentists in a medical mission held in Pinamalan, Mindoro. Our team treated more than 100 patients and also gave out 400 kilograms of food items, 500 shirts and many magazines.



Three of the Bishop daughters cleaning and sterilizing dental instruments.

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Mission Field Updates

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At the end of April, our mission organized a special outing for the children and parents of the onco-pedia ward of the PGH at Manila Airport Hotel. Thanks to the generous help of our friends, they were given a special lunch, arts and craft activities, and gifts of backpacks and school supplies.

Our work with the Haven for Abused women has also continued with Maria doing courses on motivation and empowerment for women, child care, etc. We donated a full set of educational materials for young children to the Haven to enhance their early learning course for young resident children.

We hope you can partner with us in our upcoming Back to School program in which we hope to help more than 1,000 children with free educational supplies.

Armenia

by Lilit Mantashyan

A few weeks ago, my father met an engaged couple in the supermarket. He talked with them for a little while and then he invited them to our place. Some days later, they came!



The couple (pictured below, centre) needed God and His Word. After listening for a few hours, they repented and accepted God. We were happy and encouraged. They were also encouraged because they received Bibles purchased by the Hovsepien family. They are new believers and they need your prayers. Please pray for them!

by Ann-Margret Hovsepien

We're in the process of printing a lot of new material to distribute in Armenia: about 300,000 copies of three tracts (our two standard ones with the redesigned covers plus a newly written one geared toward believers) as well as a booklet of short messages and devotionals that is currently being edited and compiled. Please pray for these projects and that God would use the material to reach many souls.

My father (Pastor Hovsepien) and I are preparing for our trip to Armenia (August 13 to September 3). Please speak to one of us to find out how you can support the mission work being done in Armenia or how you can sponsor an orphan or a family in need.

We are grateful for all your generous donations of clothing, which we now have enough of.

GOOD NEWS!

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



Inspirations



by Tamar Dekirmenjian

I remember my university days when we were required to read pages and pages from our textbooks or articles. At that point, I had truly mastered skim reading, where I would glance over words, focusing on the important or key ones. After having read the text, I would understand the overall meaning of it.

Unfortunately, at times I feel like I do the same while reading my Bible, losing sight of the words that may not seem “key” within the passage, but are just as significant.

Recently, while I was reading His Word, God spoke to me. He shifted my focus and highlighted an important word that is used countless times in the Bible—the word *always*. Here are two verses as examples:

1. *“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken”* (Psalm 16:8). The words *eyes*, *Lord*, and *not be shaken* may initially pop out. We may think to ourselves, “Yes, as a Christian, I do have my eyes on Him.” However, the question is, do I *always* have my eyes on Him? It is what the Lord wants from us—devotion to Him at all times. No wonder we occasionally feel shaken, broken and alone. We have neglected the word *always* and failed to practice it.

Another example is Proverbs 28:14, which says, *“Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.”* *Tremble* and *God* may seem to be key words, but if not for *always*, we end up neglecting and being fearless toward our Creator.

When I think about the fact that *“all Scripture is God-breathed”* (2 Timothy 3:16), I must acknowledge that not a single word was written without our all-knowledgeable Father’s purpose for it to be there, instructing and guiding us. My prayer is that I don’t skim through the Bible, but take each Word and find meaning in it.

Lastly, here’s an all-powerful verse that Jesus Himself spoke and promised to all who believe in Him: *“I am with you always, to the very end of age.”* (Matthew 28:20)

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 June issue,
please send us your material by June 23. Contact information is on page 2.*

Inspirations

Where Were You?

I turned down a date to the movies, choosing instead to go to a Bible study and prayer meeting. When I arrived, I looked around for several people who were important to me.

I looked for my Sunday School teacher, but he wasn't there. I looked for the familiar faces of a couple of deacons I knew, but they were not there. I looked for some of the members who seemed to be spiritually mature and who had greeted me warmly at Sunday morning services, but they were not there.

Perhaps these Christian friends do not think that these extra services are very important. I guess next week I'll go to the movies.

Could this young person be talking about your church? Could you be one of those missing people he looked for?

—author unknown

Maybe You Can Do It Better!

A young boy complained to his father that most of the church hymns were boring to him—too far behind the times, with tiresome tunes and meaningless words. His father put an end to the boy's complaints by saying, "If you think you can write better hymns, then why don't you?" So the boy went to his room and wrote his first hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

The year was 1690 and the teenager was Isaac Watts. "Joy to the World" is another among the almost 350 hymns Watts wrote.

If there are things about the church that you feel aren't as good as they could

be, then be challenged by the example of Isaac Watts to do something constructive to help the church. Perhaps you, too, will have an impact on the world for centuries to come.

Shrink My Income?

A man knelt with his pastor and committed himself to God to give a certain percent of his income as long as he lived. From his first week's pay he gave \$1 to the Lord. Soon his weekly offering had increased to \$10.

As time went on, he continued to prosper. Before long he was giving \$100 a week, then \$200, and in time, \$500 a week. At that point, he called the pastor and said, "Please come and see me. It's urgent!"

When the minister arrived, his host said, "Do you remember that promise I made to God years ago? How can I get released? When I made the promise, all I had to give was a dollar, but now it's \$500. I can't afford to give away money like that."

The pastor looked at his friend and said, "I'm afraid you cannot get a release from the promise, but there is something we can do. We can kneel down and ask God to shrink your income so that you can afford to give a dollar again."

*"Contentment makes
poor men rich;
discontent makes
rich men poor."*

—Benjamin Franklin

The Pastor's Page

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understand Moses. The Jews would want to know on what authority he was asking them to move to an unknown place. So God very patiently revealed His name: Jehovah—"I AM WHO I AM" (verse 14). And then He went to great lengths to reassure Moses of His help and guidance and gave him His promise that the move would be successful.

But Moses continued to argue with God. He asked...

2. "What if they do not believe me?"

God had just said that they would believe him (3:18), so this statement was nothing but unbelief! God had given him His promise and the tools to do the work but Moses continued to argue...

3. "I am slow of speech and tongue."

God had just said, "I AM," and all Moses could say was, "I am not." Moses was looking at himself and his weaknesses instead of at God and His power. What about you and I? How often do we use the same excuse?

God said: "*Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.*"

At this point, you would have thought that Moses finally got it, right? Wrong! He continued to protest but he was running out of excuses...

4. "Please Lord, send someone else to do it."

God did almost everything for Moses, short of doing the job Himself, but Moses still said "no." Now, what

would you do if you were in God's place. Would you get angry and send Moses away? Or would you walk away from him? God did get angry—"The Lord's anger burned against Moses"—but He did not walk away. Instead, He gave him Aaron, his brother, to be his helper. But Aaron turned out to be more of a hindrance than help. Aaron led the nation into idolatry and murmuring.

What about you and me? Are we not *all* called to serve God? Yes, God is calling you and me to serve Him with whatever gifts we have. All of us, without exception, have gifts. The call may come through a burning bush, a letter, an announcement, a pastor, etc.

The call may be to lead a nation or a small group of two or three, a large church congregation or a small Sunday School class, or even just one person in need of direction. You may have been called to teach, help in the nursery, dust the pews. Whatever you are called to do, the call is there, but what will your response be? "Here am I. Send me!" or "Not me, Lord. Send someone else?"

We must "serve him wholeheartedly." (Ephesians 6:7) You don't have to be perfect or have extraordinary gifts to serve God! You just have to be willing to serve Him. What is important to God is not our ability, but our availability!

You may think you don't have great gifts to be used in His service. You may think you may not be able to please God and others. You may have a thousand and one reasons you can't serve God and others. But God knows best. He knows you and He knows that He can use you!

All God wants from you is your willingness to serve. The rest is His job.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

The Pastor's Page



“Here I Am, Lord”

Exodus 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Moses' life story is a very interesting one. He went from being an abandoned child to an Egyptian Prince; from a murderer to a fugitive; from a shepherd to a negotiator, a miracle worker, the leader of a nation, a theologian, a supreme court judge, a messenger of God, a law-giver, and more. Let's take a look at Moses, the shepherd, and his special conversation with God.

When Moses went out with his sheep one morning, he could not have anticipated meeting with God; this was a day just like all the other thousands of days he had spent tending his flock. But this was to be a special day for him. He was going to meet God. This is a good reminder to us that we must always be ready: We never know what God has planned for us.

Through the burning bush, God appeared to Moses and revealed His glory (verse 1). Then He called Moses, who responded: “Here I am” (verse 4).

Do we hear God's voice? Are we tuned to Him? Moses was! He responded as if he had expected to hear God's voice. Are we sensitive to God's voice, even in the most unlikely places and situations?

God is a living and loving God, full of compassion, ready to help. In verses 7 and 8, we read: *“I have seen the misery... I have heard their cry...I am concerned... I have come to rescue them!”*

What a message of grace! What a wonderful God! He sees, He hears, He cares and He rescues. And, very often, He uses people to do it—people like you and me.

God called Moses for service, saying: *“So now, go, I am sending you!”* (verse 10). God had prepared Moses for 80 years for the job and now the time had come. But, sadly, Moses did not immediately reply, “Here I am, Lord. Send me!” Instead, he questioned God.

Wasn't he (Moses) a failure? Did he not have a family and business? Was he not too old? Was he not rejected by his people? Perhaps some of these and other arguments went through Moses' mind, but at least four objections were voiced that day as Moses argued with God's will for his life...

1. “Who am I?”

Moses used this to start his argument. We may admire Moses for his humility. After all: *“Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.”* (Acts 7:22).

Forty years of training and discipline as a shepherd in the desert had humbled him. But he had become also very comfortable in what he was doing, shepherding a flock of sheep. He was content with what he had. Are we not the same way?

God wanted Moses to become a great shepherd and lead his nation out of bondage and into the promise land, but Moses could not see it that way at all. He was happy with what he had. Even though God reassured Moses of His presence by saying, *“I will be with you”* (verse 12), Moses still doubted God's will and plans.

Humanly speaking, we can

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