


TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

JULY 2013



*“The grass withers,
the flower fades, but
the word of our God
will stand forever.”*

– Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

Thoughts from the Editor

“Compromise” Is Not in the Bible

Hardly a day goes by without some sort of controversy coming up, whether it's among Christians or between Christians and the world.

Recently, an acquaintance asked for my opinion about an article in which a professing Christian wanted to empathize with people caught in a particular sin but was ultimately justifying such behaviour.

A few days before that, a respected Christian leader posted a link to a satirical article about the ordination of women, sparking a debate that essentially demonized anyone who believes it is unbiblical.

And a few days before that, when a speech by a Christian swimsuit designer, along with another article about modest dress, began to circulate on the Internet, some Christians began debating about modesty and whether we should be making such a big deal about it.

Our own Bible studies sometimes have awkward moments when different interpretations of Scripture come up and we try to work through them.

Sometimes I just want to bury my head under my pillow and not deal with all of this endless—and often mindless—bickering. While writing this, I caught a news report about a pastor who was just

charged with sexually assaulting a few girls in his church. My first reaction (after sorrow) was: “No wonder people in the world think Christians are lunatics and want nothing to do with us!”

What's the problem? Why is the body of Christ so weak, sick, lost and confused? Why does it seem like the harder the Church tries to get its message across, the more it fails?

My sense is that things break down when we begin to compromise. We fear hurting anyone's feelings. We want people to think we're “cool” Christians. We keep one foot in the world while carrying out our Christian duties. We “okay” sins we like while condemning others. We create our own brand of Christianity as if choosing sandwich fillings from a menu.

Did you know that the word “compromise” appears nowhere in the Bible? Loving, being kind, forgiving and showing compassion must not be confused with watering down God's Word or bargaining with His commandments.

The Bible says: “...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

We can't compromise God's Word to suit us. Instead, we must be changed to line up with God's Word.

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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

Letters

London, ONTARIO

The greatest thing about the body of Christ is that, even in differences, we all confess Jesus Christ is Lord and we work together to bring Him glory.

Blessings, Brother. Have a great trip!

Keith Bowie

Editor's note: This message from Keith, a visitor to our church on one Sunday in June, came with a box containing 20 pairs of reading glasses to be given to people in Armenia, as well as a donation of \$50 "for Bibles or whatever you need!"

Lafayette, TENNESSEE

To all of you at Temple Baptist Church: It's so wonderful to have true friends in Christ Jesus like you all.

We must all remember that we are soldiers of Jesus Christ and we have an example to set (2 Timothy 2:3-4). We must all fight the good fight of faith. (1 Timothy 6:12). Praise God you have a pastor who, as myself, stands on Acts 20:24. We shall finish our course with joy. We, as children of God, must stand on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-26.

Thank you for your newsletter every month. We love you all and pray that we all stand strong in Jesus as we look for His return. God bless you, Pastor Joseph Hovsepian and family.

Denis R. Waynick, Highway Ministries

Montreal, QUEBEC

Hello Church, My prayers are with you all. Blessed be the ties that bind us together in Christian love. Glory to God.

Abi Cromanty



Comments left on our Facebook page:

[June 23] God bless you and use you for His glory. I am encouraged to see the great work God is doing in Armenia. I will keep you in my prayers.

Hratch Kiujian (Australia)

[April 29] I will be giving you lovely folks a gift before August to help with your upcoming trip to Armenia and their need for Bibles. It warms my heart to see this great need being met. Bless Temple Baptist and Pastor Joseph Hovsepian.

[May 2] I received the May issue of Temple News this morning. What a great way to start off a morning that wasn't going so well. I love everything about it. God bless you wonderful folks.

[May 28] May God's blessings be on your newly designed tracts!

Bob Harder (Alberta)



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

Bye-Bye...for Now

We're sad to see **Jill MacInnes**, who has been an active member of our church family for several years, go away for about a year. Jill will be finishing her studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, this fall and so we have to say, "See you later!"

We're grateful for Jill's help this past year as one of our greeters, as well as her readiness to help out in the kitchen and other areas of the church.

Please pray for Jill as she moves and makes the transition back to student life for a while. We look forward to receiving her updates while she's away!

Summer Schedule

Please note the following changes to our regular schedule:

- *Our Sunday morning Bible class is cancelled for the summer and will resume on Sunday, September 8.*
- *Praise Lunch is cancelled in August. We have no plans at this point to cancel the July lunch but may have to if our floor renovations are done in July. We will let you know ahead of time.*
- *The Married Couples' Fellowship meeting is cancelled in August only.*

All of our other activities will continue as usual. We hope to see more of you at Tuesday night Bible study!

Next Temple News

As we mentioned last month, the next issue of *Temple News* will combine the months of August and September because Pastor **Joseph** and **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** will both be travelling to Armenia for three weeks.

We want to encourage you all to consider sharing a short testimony or some comments in the next issue, which will have a two extra pages (plus an extra calendar for the second month). Ideally, we'd like to receive your material by July 14 so that the editor can organize the pages as early as possible. Please speak with Ann-Margret for more details or to let her know that you plan to send something in.

Women's Fall Retreat

This year's Quebec Baptist Women fall retreat will be held from Friday, October 18 to Sunday, October 20 at Ermitage St-Croix in Pierrefonds, and the speaker will be June Fyvie from Orillia, Ontario. This year's theme is Keep It Alive, based on Romans 12:11-12.

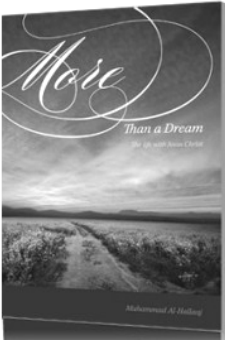
Registration forms are available from **Jessie** or **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**. The regular price is \$150 but you can save \$10 by registering before August 18 (\$140 early bird price). The final deadline to register is September 18.

*Happy
Birthday!*

Helene Kazarossian - July 6
Jo-Ann Bouclair - 8
Eliane Chiavegatti - 9
Lana Ptacek - 10

Giovanni Cofino - 13
Guy Beauchamp - 20
Isabelle Illidge - 21
David Wood - 21

Suggested Reading



We recently received a couple dozen boxes of used books and, among them, were three copies of a slender book called *More than a Dream*. It is the testimony of Muhammad Ali-Hallaaj, once a

Shi-ite Muslim.

If you would like to borrow a copy of this book, please speak with the pastor. If you are one of our out-of-town readers, you can find information about the book and order it for free (there is only an \$8 shipping charge) by going to www.salaaministries.com and searching for “More than a Dream.”

Bangladesh Update

By Shankar Shikdar

Praise the Lord for His wonderful and very special plan for people and for His everlasting love for us! We express our gratitude and love to Temple Baptist Church for their kindness.

It is our continuous prayer for the children of our preschool. It is true that we cannot help all the destitute children in the country but we believe we can do something for some of them.

Praise the Lord for our children. We need to buy some toys and games for our students. We will be happy if anybody wants to send us some old toys or your gift box for the children. A lady recently gave us \$50.00 for toys. We bought a toy horse for the children.

Please pray for our volunteer pastor and minister who are working with us for several years. It is important to think about their financial needs. We ask your kind prayers as God may help us through His children to have the finances to provide them a minimum honorarium.

Armenia Update

Special thanks to all who donated clothing, reading glasses and money to help the people in Armenia. Pastor Joseph and Ann-Margret Hovsepian will be presenting these gifts to those in need when they go to Armenia in August.

We do not need anymore clothing but there is a need for two suitcases to transport the clothing to Armenia and then left there. If you have used (but in good condition) luggage that you can donate, please speak with Ann-Margret.

As well, there is a constant need for New Testaments, tracts and other Christian material to be used by those sharing the gospel in Yerevan and the surrounding villages. If you can make a donation, please add it to your offering envelope and indicate the amount you are designating for Armenia.

Men's Fellowship

Breakfast and fellowship on
Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship

Next meeting on Saturday,
July 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Missions & Evangelism Focus

The Omission of the Great Commission

By Pastor Joseph Hovsepien

Someone once asked: Why is it that today's church has so little impact? You may have your own opinions and observations on this but let me mention a few reasons I believe today's church is often ineffective in its mission:

1. There are too many spectators who don't want to be involved.
2. People are more interested in methods and activities than in the message.
3. People are too concerned about public image and political correctness.
4. Christians have little, if any, concern for the lost.

What made the New Testament church effective was its passion for and efforts in evangelism. The believers all witnessed and shared the Good News as

commanded in Acts 1:8, which says: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Evangelism is something seldom done these days. It is forgotten or neglected. Not many are interested in sharing the gospel. Instead, we have settled for other causes. But the world needs to hear the Good News about Jesus Christ, the most important message people will ever hear!

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, we read: *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."*

Are we, the true believers in Jesus Christ, responding to this need for evangelism? It is a question you and I cannot ignore. We must commit to—not omit—the Great Commission.

GO therefore
and make
disciples
of all the
nations



You don't have to be a pastor or missionary to share God's Word and His love with people who desperately need His touch.

We encourage you to join our tract distribution team on the fourth Sunday of each month as they give out tracts and New Testaments to hundreds in our city.

*The next outing will be on Sunday, July 28. Please speak with **Shubroto Shikdar** or **Rita Assan** for more details.*

My “Hoarders” Heart

By JamieLynn Bagley

My heart sometimes reminds me of that TV show, *Hoarders*. You know, the one you watch when you're supposed to be cleaning the house and by the end of the show you look around and realize how much worse your house could be.

Sometimes I feel like my heart is one of those houses in desperate need of purging, but I don't see it or, if I do, I just can't seem to let go. My “house,” if you will, looks completely fine from the outside. In fact, you couldn't even tell there was a thing out of place. Sure, I take the time to trim the hedges outside—people can see those! And my front entrance is pretty tidy, too, in case someone drops by and happens to look around.

Then there's the truth: As you take steps toward the back of the house, things get messy. The dishes are piling up and I've got things—garbage—in every room, sitting around, taking up space. A stack of selfishness so high that it brushes the ceiling. Discontentment clings to my feet like dust as I walk around and around. I see traces of impatience everywhere and a whole room filled with nothing but complacency... and I shudder. I shudder because my eyes are opened and lies are retracting.

The lies tell me that it would be too hard to let go of the things that make up my house—I'm comfortable here. I've

spent my whole life collecting these items, this stuff, and I'm perfectly fine to live with them surrounding me. Really, I'm fine.

Then my Father comes by. He has a different idea of what living looks like. He has a different idea of what I could do with the precious space that He gave me in the first place.

He starts taking things out to the dumpster, and I'm right: It hurts. It really hurts. I stand idly by, whining and begging Him to go, but He doesn't listen to the whining of His close-minded, clutter-filled daughter. Piece by piece, He removes the garbage.

Suddenly, I look into an emptying room and I see hope and I feel free, like maybe I could help with the purge. I pass Him stacks of junk and together we clear it out, while He encourages me that it's for a greater purpose than I can see. He's so proud of me, because I'm beginning to see through His eyes...and it's beautiful.

It takes a lot of time, tears, reminders not to carry back in the things that have been removed and never-ending maintenance. Even though I fail, and I forget why we're doing what we're doing, He gently and lovingly reminds me. I'd never seen the true beauty of the house He gave me, or the way that He lovingly designed each aspect uniquely for me.

Together, my Father and I put on a fresh coat of paint and I invite people to come inside and join me. I tell them

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Inspirations

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about the garbage that used to line every inch of my house, but they're not disgusted. They're refreshed, and they have hope that maybe their house might one day look similar to mine. My Father sits with us and smiles, and He tells them that He'd be ecstatic to help them get started.

My Father has given me freedom in a way I never knew possible. He has held my hand and my heart through the pain of letting go. He has given me joy, beyond comprehension. I am so grateful.

Editor's Note: *JamieLynn, 19, is a nursing student at Western University in London, Ontario. Her home church (where her father is the pastor) is First Baptist in Kingsville. You can read more from her blog, where this article was originally posted, at oneword-jamielynn.blogspot.com.*

God's Watering Can

By Jo-Ann Bouclair

Most people who know me well are aware that I love and am truly comforted by James 1:2-7. These are my "go-to" verses, a quilt of comfort for me in all my troubles, a reminder of who I am in Jesus and of God's desire to make me "complete in Him."

The last couple of weeks have been a bit hectic for our family. The things of life have a way of catching up with each of us and this has definitely been the case for us. This morning, once again, I was reflecting on James 1:2-7 and the analogy



of a watering can came to mind.

James encourages us strongly to "consider it pure joy" when all manners of trials and troubles come our way, as they teach us perseverance and bring us to maturity and completeness in God. These verses are like God's watering can for His dearly loved, His blossoms, as He grows us from weak, fragile little sprouts that are almost weed-like and have the tendency to dry up and die. Even in those circumstances, there He is, our wonderful, loving, all-knowing, all-caring Heavenly Father, watering us with the things in life that may seem to be troubles and trials at the time, and yet eventually help us to grow and teach us perseverance, bringing us to maturity, one little drop of water at a time until one day we have completeness in God.

Be encouraged. No matter what you are struggling with, God is there, holding you up and yet at the same time watering you with the exact amount of water you need for this particular time in our life. And with each loving drop, you are learning perseverance and growing in maturity and closeness to God.

*Has God taught **you** something special recently? Why not tell others about it so that they can be blessed, challenged and inspired, too? Please send in your thoughts and testimonies, whether you write a paragraph or a whole page! For next issue, please submit your material by July 21. Contact information is on page 2.*

The Pastor's Page

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Bible says that sin separates us from God. *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."* (Isaiah 59:2)

For every choice you make, for every action you take, there will be a reaction or a consequence, be sure of that. A bad decision may bring disappointment. It may create unbearable responsibilities and destroy relationships. Good decisions, on the other hand, will bring blessings and help us set obtainable goals that will enhance relationships and life in general, even in difficult situations.

However, we generally want to do things our own way, and so we ignore or avoid the advice of loved ones and we go ahead with decisions that may effect our entire future. And, more often than we care to admit, God is completely left out of our decision making.

When you are about to make a choice, think of the consequences of that decision and ask yourself, "How will this decision affect me and those around me. Am I doing it for my pleasure and convenience only? Will the ripple effect be good or bad? Am I asking for God's will to be done or only my will, regardless of the consequences?"

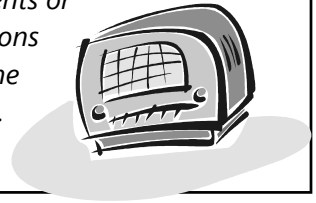
Before you take that final step and act on your decision, stop and pray and ask God to help you—and then listen for the answer. The answer may come right away or you may have to wait for it. You may or may not like the answer. If you don't like the answer, you may choose to ignore it, but please think of the consequences first.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepan

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 Hovsepan?

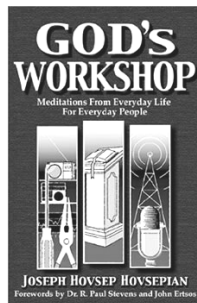
We'd love to hear your comments or suggestions about the program.

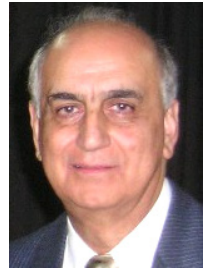


GOD'S WORKSHOP

God's Workshop, published in 2001, is available for a suggested donation of \$10 (regular price is \$16.95). This makes a great gift! It is a collection of "meditations

from everyday life for everyday people" drawn from Pastor Joseph's sermons and radio messages.





Your Actions Have Consequences

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Sir Isaac Newton's third law of motion states: "For every action there is a reaction." I will not try to explain what this means in physics and in terms of the motion of things, but I will use it as a metaphor to spirituality.

In Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions, this concept is referred to as *karma*, which basically means that you get what you give. In other words, "Whatever you intentionally do to others, a similar thing will happen to you in the future."

When it comes to the consequences of our actions, the Bible is very clear. Galatians 6:7 says, "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*" We also read in Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death.*"

Consequences are outcomes—either negative or positive—of our actions. There

are always consequences to our actions...or lack of action. Alfred Montepart said: "Nobody ever did or will escape the consequences of his choices."

Job said: "*As I have observed those who plough evil and those who sow trouble reap it.*" (Job 4:8) In Numbers 32:33 we read: "*You may be sure that your sin will find you out.*"

Whenever we sin, there are consequences. They may be spiritual or physical or both. A good example is Adam and Eve. God said to them: "*But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.*" (Genesis 2:17)

In the next chapter, we read about the consequences of their disobedience. The consequences were both physical and spiritual.

Your actions or decisions may affect others, and those effects may change the world around you. Sin will affect a person's life and his relationship with God. King David spoke about the consequences of his sins in Psalm 40:12: "*For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.*"

The effects of David's sins were many. They brought death to five people: Uriah, David's newborn son and, later on, Absalom, Amnon and Adonijah.

Sin affects the spiritual and physical well-being of the person who has sinned, but it also effects his or her relationship with God and with others. The

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