

TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2013

**Our new
tracts!**



We have a new tract in Eastern Armenian (Letter from the Postman, top right) and our previous two tracts have been redesigned for more visual appeal.

Thoughts from the Editor

The Great Escape

Do you ever have days when you just want to run off to a quiet, remote place and have some peace and solitude for a while? If you're an introvert like me, that's probably how you feel most of the time anyway but then there are those times that just... Well, you know what it's like. Someone blindsides you with a false accusation, someone breaks a promise, something you were looking forward to falls through, a conflict arises that makes you not only heartsick but also physically out of sorts.

The reality for most of us is that we can't just run off to a cozy cabin in the woods. We can't hide. We can't avoid our problems. So what can we do?

2 Samuel 22:2-4 says: *"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my saviour—from violent people you save me. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies."*

Psalms 9:9 says: *"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble."*

And Psalm 34:8 says: *"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*



There are many more promises in God's Word that remind and reassure us that we have somewhere to go during life's storms. We may not be able to immediately see how God is going to get us through our difficulties but we *can* trust Him to be with us, to strengthen us and to give us peace that surpasses human logic: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7)

I don't know your current situation. But having gone through trials myself, I can promise you that God is faithful and He is nearby, ready to answer your call (James 4:8).

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

For more devotionals by Ann-Margret, visit www.annhovsepian.wordpress.com.

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

Letters

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

God bless you. I just checked the mail after a long time and received two of your Temple News updates. Thank you so much. I noticed on the prayer calendar for June that our family was being prayed for on June 16th. This was the day that we had our Back to School program for 1,000 children, which went very well. I will send more details about it in our upcoming newsletter but I just thought that it was good to see that some of the credit for the success of the activity goes to all of your prayers for us.

We are also praying for you and your upcoming trip to Armenia. Thank you for your help, support, and friendship through these many years.

Jonah Bishop and Family

Montreal, QUEBEC

[Greeting card #1] Dear TBC Family, Thank you for the birthday card and the best wishes it conveyed. We often say, "Out of sight, out of mind," but for me it is not quite true, for I am still in your minds and you won't be able to erase me easily (smile). Keep up the good work and be not weary in well-doing for in due season you will reap if you faint not (Galatians 6:9).

Thank all of you for remembering me and for the card. Let us continue to pray for another.

[Greeting card #2] Dear Pastor, Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Another year has come so quickly since you went to Armenia. I hope and pray that the problem in that part of the world will be over. As we know, real peace will come when the Lord returns. The Bible says there will be wars and rumours of

wars, but the end is not yet come (Mark 13:7-10; Luke 21:9-12).

I am praying for you and Ann-Margret to be safe while you are there and to return home safe. Enclosed is a donation to use as the Lord leads you, as you do what He commits you to do. God bless, guide and keep you as you continue to do His will. Take care and return home safely.

June Ross

Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Thank you for sending me a copy of your magazine, Temple News. God bless you and bless your ministry for His kingdom. I am blessed to know that you are also visiting Armenia in August. I am keen to meet with you in Yerevan [while we are there at the same time].

I will keep you in my prayers and hope we can meet by His will.

Hratsh (Harry) Kiujian

Armenian Christian Mission, Australia

Yerevan, ARMENIA

[early July] May God's blessings be on all of you there. Our spiritual work is continuing. All the brethren send their greetings and they are eagerly waiting for [Pastor Joseph's] visit here and we are praying for your trip. At least 14 souls are waiting to be baptized, but the number may change.

Already 20,000 tracts have been given out and some churches have asked for another 40,000 copies. We have at least two Bible studies in homes and we have seen great blessings. [Pastor Joseph's] book, God's Workshop, (in Eastern Armenian)

...continued on page 6

Welcome, New Members

On Sunday, August 4, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Jonathan** and **Kate Li** into the official membership of our church. Jonathan and Kate have been attending Temple for a little over a year and are very active participants in both our Bible studies and other areas of church life.

We appreciate the various ways they support the ministry of Temple Baptist Church and look forward to continued fellowship with them. Please pray for this young couple as they will soon be welcoming a new member to *their* family!

Baby Dedication

On Sunday, July 7, we witnessed the dedication of baby **Amaya Pamela López Gordon**, the granddaughter of **Ted** and **Joan Gordon** who have recently started attending our church. It was a joy to celebrate this occasion with the Gordon and López families.

Schedule Changes

We know that we've made quite a few changes to our regular schedule this summer so we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Here are a few reminders that you may want to mark on your calendars (you should also refer to

the two calendars included in this issue):

August

- Group Ministry one week early
- Women's Fellowship cancelled
- Praise Lunch cancelled
- Couples' Fellowship cancelled

September

- Sunday School begins on 8th
- Praise Lunch to be confirmed
- All other meetings the same

Thanks, Men!

Our congregation got a special treat again when most of the men present on Sunday, July 14, went up to the front of the church and sang "Who Is He in Yonder Stall?" together. It was moving and heartwarming to hear them join their voices and offer this gift of song to the rest of the church family.

Thank you, men! We look forward to your next song.

Women's Fall Retreat

This year's Quebec Baptist Women Fall Retreat will be held October 18 to 20. Please speak with **Ann-Margret** or **Jessie Hovsepian** for details. The early-bird registration deadline (to save \$10) is August 18. The final deadline is September 18. Ladies, send those forms in!



In August...

Billy Economou - August 9
Caleb Exantus - 9
Diana Kere - 9
Salvatore Balliro - 12

Violy Velez - 15
Joshua Livingston - 19
Rachel Peres - 25
Viktoria Wohler - 27
Ruth Hovsepian - 28
Krikor Minnetian - 28

Offering Envelopes: Please Help Us

Although you don't usually receive your boxed sets of offering envelopes until the end of the year, our envelope secretaries are already working on preparing them. It's a long and sometimes tedious job so we really appreciate that they've taken on this responsibility!

Here's how you can help:

- If you use an envelope just about every Sunday, please continue doing so—you don't need to make any changes.
- If you received a box of envelopes in the past and have only used some of them (e.g. you only drop one in the plate every few weeks or months), please do not throw out your old envelopes at the end of the year. Instead, simply cross out the dates already marked and write the date of the day you are giving your offering. Please indicate to **Sonia Pehlivanian** that you plan to do this so that she will not issue a new box of envelopes to you.
- If you have received a box of envelopes that you are not using at all, please return it to us so that we can repurpose them and give your number to another member who may

need envelopes.

- If you don't already have a set of envelopes and know that you would not use them weekly, please consider not requesting a box. All you need to do is use any type of blank envelope and write your name on it.
- If you don't already have a set of envelopes and know that you *will* give weekly, please go ahead and ask for a boxed set of envelopes. We would be happy to supply one.

If you have any questions about offering envelopes, please speak with Sonia or with **Helene Kazarossian**. Thank you for your cooperation!

Mission: Armenia

Please pray for Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** and his daughter **Ann-Margret** as they prepare for their mission trip to Armenia from August 13 to September 3. Thanks to the generosity of friends, they are taking along two suitcases full of donated clothing, reading glasses and other items.

Ann-Margret will send reports from Yerevan. Please check our website and Facebook page regularly for links to blog updates. In the meantime, you'll find a lot of news and interesting information about the work being done in Armenia on pages 11-12 of this issue.

In September...

Junior Clerveaux - September 2
Wheng Cofino - 2
Alex Kazarossian - 2
Jill MacInnes - 3
Yaroslav Lyeshchiner - 5

Angie Lantos - 7
Theresa Chen - 9
Greg Dekirmenjian - 9
Patricia Peres - 13
Jonah Bishop (Phil.) - 18
Meerna Dzaghouni - 19
Brihanna Peart - 21

*May God bless these
brothers and sisters on
their birthdays!*

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

Letters

...continued from page 3

has been a great blessing. In one month we gave 300 copies to different people and the churches are asking for more.

This evening, at about 10:30 p.m., my wife Nelli and I went for our usual walk. While crossing the bridge, we saw a young man looking down the river. About 15 or 20 minutes later, returning from our walk, we saw him still there looking down. I thought there was something wrong, so I approached him and asked him what was the matter and what was he planning to do. He said he was 18 years old and he was very disappointed and discouraged by life, so he was going to jump and kill himself. I immediately started talking to him about God, heaven and hell.

Half an hour later, we were able to convince him not to jump and then we drove him home. He promised to come to church the following day. Glory to God for this opportunity. Please pray for this young man.

[July 30] Five days ago, Nelli and I were in Spitak. Actually, we had planned to have meetings in the village of Saramej but the Lord guided me to Spitak instead. There we visited a few families and eight people accepted the Lord as Saviour—seven women and a young man. That's

when I understood why the Lord did not let me go to Saramej. Eight souls were to be saved in Spitak!

Great is our Lord and great and unfathomable are His ways. Hallelujah. For me, the greatest miracle is the transformation—being born again—of a person. Glory be to God. Amen. We are going to Spitak again today. Let's see what the Lord has prepared for us this time.

Brother Joseph, when you come, I will take you to preach to the Assyrian people. I believe that you and your daughter Ann-Margret will be blessed. Please continue to pray for us and please greet the fellowship of believers at Temple Baptist Church. We are praying for you, too.

Arayik Sardaryan

Richmond Hill, NEW YORK

Please receive my see faith gift of \$20 for your ministry. I must thank you for the last box of tract you sent me over a year ago. I had freely and faithfully shared the tracts on the streets of New York. Many are saved, touched and healed by the power of the gospel!

I am kindly asking you for another box of tracts for me to give out. I thank you for your kind help. God bless you, your family and your work "really good."

Durga Permessur



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**

Mission: Armenia

Christianity in Armenia

Despite being one of the oldest nations in the world (though its history goes back to about 3500 B.C., it became a nation around 700 B.C.), many people still remain ignorant about where it is, who its people are and what its religious heritage is.

WelcomeArmenia.com gives the following introduction to Armenia. We

are sharing it because Temple Baptist Church has been actively support mission and evangelism work in Armenia for the past several years.

Armenia was the first country in the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 A.D. Christianity was introduced into Armenia much earlier, during the first century by two of Christ's disciples, Bartholomew and Thaddeus. They came to Armenia from Asorestan and Capadocia.

During the first two centuries, Christians in Armenia were forced to practice their religion secretly amongst a majority of Zoroastrians. . .until Christianity gained support from the state.

The Armenian Apostolic Church is the national church of Armenians. . .a religious unity with the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians at its head.

To learn more, please visit www.welcomearmenia.com/armenia/first_christian_nation. We ask you to pray for the people of Armenia and for the believers who are working faithfully to spread the gospel and to lead lost souls to Jesus Christ.



Praise Reports

By Lilit Mantashyan

The Bibles purchased by Joseph Hovsepiyan Ministries are used and shared among people who love Christ and want to have a relationship with Him.

One day, my father, Artur, was driving me and three of my friends to another friend's birthday party. On the way to the restaurant, we spoke a lot about God. Right then, we gave them all Bibles. They were surprised to receive free Bibles and their parents were also grateful. We pray (and know) that they will read their Bibles and be blessed. That was a seed which will grow later, I am sure!

Artur Had a Little Lamb...

A few months ago, my dad brought a lamb to our place. Yes, a young sheep! Of course, my mother's reaction was not positive but we decided to take care of it as it was small and needed our help. We could not have imagined how God would use this lamb to allow us to evangelize a nice family.

One day, my father was walking down the street with the lamb when he met a young family. They were very curious at seeing a man walking with a lamb. The couple and their young daughter approached my dad and asked him about the lamb. After some days, we invited the couple to our place. They came to see

...continued on page 12

Mission: Armenia

...continued from page 11

the lamb and we used that opportunity to tell them about God. They were very interested and were eager to receive a Bible. We also gave them a copy of *God's Workshop*.

Some days later, we again invited the couple to our home. They promised to come and to continue our conversation. The lamb is no longer with us but we are sure God brought it for that exact purpose. Yes, God uses different ways and things and methods—why not animals?—to talk to His people.

Effective Tract Ministry

Some days ago I shared *Letter from the Postman* [a new tract we've written and printed in Armenia] with some students. They were very grateful for the tracts. There was a woman among them (not a student) who said that she even cried while reading the tract. They said that they have read these kind of letters before but this one is written in a unique way so it touches many people's lives.

Responses to *God's Workshop*

We received the following testimonies through Tigran Muradyan, the pastor of a small church in the village of Gyumri, Armenia. They are in response to the Eastern Armenian translation of Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's book, *God's Workshop*, which is being distributed freely in Armenia.

When we requested permission to share these testimonies, Brother Muradyan wrote: "Yes, we pray that these testimonies become a blessing to others."

"This book is of a great spiritual nature, it is easily understood and complete. Truly, it is for daily life and teaching. It helped my faith to deepen. Thank you very much. God bless you. — Hripsime Mouradyan (age 73)

"This book taught me humility and patience through faith, with our Lord's help." — Hranoush Sahagyan (age 51)

"By reading this book, I received wisdom and peace, and my heart was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit while I was reading it. I could feel the presence of the Lord. Glory to Him for ever and ever." — Qyoulnara Megrđichyan (age 56)

"This book was very convincing. I understood what real peace in life is and how to have victory over temptations and trials. I understood how to live my daily life, how to surrender to Lord Jesus and how to enjoy Him. I thank God for giving us this book and for the author of this book, His servant. May God bless you." — Mariam Baboyan (age 58)

New Book in Production

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian has compiled a new set of his messages (edited by his daughter Ann-Margret and translated by Lilit Mantashyan) into a book that will be distributed in Armenia to further spread the gospel.

It is currently in the final stages of production. Watch the next *Temple News* for an update about this exciting new project. In the meantime, please pray that God will use it to touch many hearts.

Does Punctuality Matter?

By a concerned member of God's family

The subject of arriving on time for church was brought up during a recent Bible study. As Christians, we want to please the Lord but one of the things that seems to perhaps slide from our radar is arriving on time to meet Him on the Lord's Day. There are times when circumstances come our way and we are unable to. If, however, we find that arriving late is becoming a routine, we should look at what we can do to avoid being late.

Surely we take actions to ensure we're not late for other appointments in our lives: doctor's appointments, work meetings and weddings, to name a few examples.

We must remember that it is the Lord, the "King of kings and Lord of lords" we are meeting, so we must give Him the utmost high position and importance. "*Which God will bring about in his own time — God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*" (1 Timothy 6:15)

Sunday service is not a social gathering but, rather, a time of worship, remembrance and praising God for the sacrifice He made. Not only should we respect His time, but also that of our pastor who is bringing messages to us, and the



greeters who do their best to make us feel welcome. When we arrive late, it distracts others and takes away the time a greeter would like to have to listen to the messages and to pray.

If this is speaking to you, please know that it is the Holy Spirit who is convicting us. We should not be looking to our left or to our right, but should reflect upon our own walk and look up at the Lord.

God's Word: Soul Food

By Elise Guekquezian

God's Word is food for our souls and I don't think we can live without it. The Bible says that "*man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4)

We also read in Hebrews 4:12 that "*the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*"

I believe that if we are not continually fed with God's Word, we will starve spiritually. God always has new things for us to learn. "*We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.*" (Hebrews 2:1)

I thank God for His Word and pray that the Lord would take us deeper into it. His Word is the most important thing in our lives.

Editor's Note: Watch the October issue of Temple News for more thoughts from Elise, on the subject of praise and worship.



Who Is Jesus to You?

Almost everyone, when asked, has a comment, theory, opinion or belief about the person of Jesus. Even when Jesus was on earth with His disciples, people asked and commented about Him.

We read in Matthew 16:13-16, *“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”* (Matthew 16:13-16).

Two thousand years later, some people know quite a bit about Jesus. Others think they know a lot about Jesus but, in reality, they know very little, if anything, about Him. Sadly, many people don't have a clue about who Jesus really is. The evidence of this is all around us. Even among those who claim to be religious leaders and their organizations, there is a lot of confusion about the person of Jesus.

A brother commenting about Jesus in our culture wrote: “Jesus Christ has become hidden from sight in our culture. Even in front of churches you don't see the gospel being proclaimed. Jesus is not being put in front of people on a daily basis. In some churches, Jesus has taken a back seat to events, socials, feel-good sermons and great music.”

Why? Why are so many people unsure of who Jesus really is?

You might agree with me that the best person to answer the question, “Who is Jesus Christ?” is Jesus

Christ Himself. To the Jews who wanted to know who He was, Jesus used human terms and examples to reveal Himself. But His categorical and amazing statements about Himself infuriated the rulers and they tried to mob Him. (John 8:59).

Jesus described Himself in seven ways:

1. I AM the Bread of Life

(John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

This was a very bold claim. Jesus actually said that He was the Son of God! He had just finished saying that: *“The Bread of God is he who comes from heaven and gives life to the world.”* John 6:33

Jesus gives life, not only to the Jews (as Moses did in the desert) but to the whole world. Let's take a moment to study the manna in the Old Testament as a type of picture of Jesus Christ:

- It came from heaven at night; Christ came from Heaven when the world was in darkness.
- It was not defiled (soiled) by the earth; Christ was sinless, untouched by sin.
- It was small, round, and white, somehow reminding us of Christ's humility, eternity and purity.
- It was sweet to the taste; Christ is sweet to those who trust Him.
- It had to be taken and eaten; Christ

...continued on page 14

The Pastor's Page

...continued from page 12

- must be received personally.
- It came as a free gift; Christ is the free gift of God to the world.
- There was enough for all; Christ is sufficient for all.
- If you did not pick it up, you walked on it; if you do not receive Christ, you reject Him and walk on Him.
- It was wilderness food; Christ is our food in this journey to heaven.

2. I AM the Light of the World

(John 8:12, 9:5)

When Jesus said: *"I AM the light of the world,"* He actually claimed to be God, for God is light. *"God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."* (1 John 1:5)

Darkness speaks of death, ignorance, and sin. Light speaks of life, knowledge and holiness. The light exposes sin (John 3:20). All those who reject Christ will remain in darkness (Matthew 25:30).

3. I AM the Door of the Sheep

(John 10:7, 9)

Christ is the door—the *only* door. This is the door that leads people out of their sinful lives and old worldly religious systems and into a new life. Jesus is the door of Salvation!

4. I AM the Good Shepherd

(John 10: 11, 14)

Jesus said, in John 10:11, *"I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."* Christ, as the Good Shepherd, gave His life on the cross. As the Great Shepherd, Jesus cares for the sheep. And as the Chief Shepherd,

He will come again in Glory for His sheep, the believers.

5. I AM the Resurrection and Life

(John 11:25)

Jesus said: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."*

He is the only life giver. Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe in Him so that death will not triumph over them (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

6. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life

(John 14:6)

"Jesus once again answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

Jesus is not one way among many, but *the way*. . .the *only* way. Acts 4:12 says, *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

In the beginning, "Christianity" was sometimes called "The Way" (Acts 9:2, 19:9). The statement Jesus made means: "I AM the way to the Father. . . I AM the truth and the life."

7. I AM the True Vine

John 15:1, 5

Jesus is the true life-giving vine. Apart from Him, we are as good as dead. A branch abides in a vine by drawing all its life and nourishment from the vine. So we abide in Christ by spending time in prayer, reading and obeying His Word, fellowshiping with His people, and being continually conscious of our union with Him.

The only way believers can bear fruit

The Pastor's Page

of Christ-like character is by remaining in Christ. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."* (John 15:5-6)

These seven "I AM" statements speak of Christ's deity for God's Name is "I AM." As we read the Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us, we clearly see that Jesus Christ *is* the very Son of God who came to save the world—*kosmon* (in Greek)—not the universe or the earth, but the human race. . . us.

The birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are the greatest events in the human history. The ultimate question is: **Is Jesus your Lord and Saviour?**

In closing let me share what Napoleon Bonaparte said about Christ. This is generally accepted as a genuine quote from Napoleon:

I know men, and I tell you, Jesus is not a man. He commands us to believe, and gives no other reason than his awful word: I AM GOD.

Philosophers try to solve the mysteries of the universe by their empty dissertations: fools: They are like the infant that cries to have the moon for a plaything.

Christ never hesitates. He speaks with authority. His religion is a mystery; but it subsists by its own force.

He seeks, and absolutely requires, the love of men, the most difficult thing in the world to obtain.

Alexander, Caesar, Hannibal conquered the world, but had no friends. I myself am perhaps the only person of my day who loves Alexander, Caesar, Hannibal.

Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded empires, but upon what? Force. Jesus founded his empire on love and, at this hour, millions would die for him. I myself have inspired multitudes with such affection that they would die for me. But my presence was necessary. Now that am in St. Helena, where are my friends?

I am forgotten, soon to return to the earth, and become food for worms.

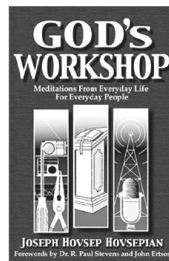
What an abyss between my misery and the eternal kingdom of Christ, who is proclaimed, loved, adored, and which is extending over all the earth.

Is this death? I tell you, the death of Christ is the death of a God. I tell you, JESUS CHRIST IS GOD.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

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.