

TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2013

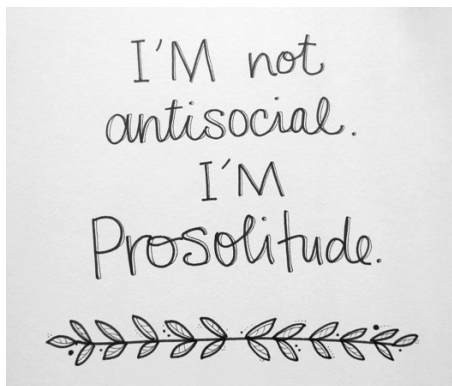


"LET THE CHILDREN COME
TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER
THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM
OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH
AS THESE." - MARK 10:14

JUNIOR CHURCH, FALL 2013

Thoughts from the Editor

Prosolitude?



When I came across this quote in early October, it made me smile so I had to add it to my art journal. And then I wanted to share it, partly because I know that many people can relate to it and partly to explain to others why I sometimes withdraw into my “quiet place.”

When I was a child, I think some people assumed I was either antisocial, shy or reserved because I generally wasn't interested in going to special events or large gatherings. I sometimes felt guilty about this (even if I attended the event) but I couldn't change who I was. Later in life I learned about *introverts* and *extroverts* and understood that I'm definitely an introvert!

It's not that I don't like being around

people. On the contrary, I'm actually quite fond of everyone I meet unless they give me reason not to be. But regularly spending time in solitude is my best way to grow and learn and, hopefully, become a better person to be around.

As I doodled the quote, it occurred to me that Jesus seemed to be “prosolitude,” too. Luke 5:16 says: “*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*” Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12 also talk about Jesus going off to a quiet place to pray.

Granted, I'm not necessarily praying every time I'm alone, but solitude is definitely conducive to prayer and meditation. Solitude can be used in a very positive way as long as the motive is not to be antisocial. In fact, I would suggest that times of solitude can be used to be a blessing to others, especially if you have creative talents such as writing, painting, sewing, baking, etc. or have the gift of prayer and intercession.

So, if you have friends who need a bit more privacy and alone time than you do, give them a break and some space. They'll appreciate it so much you may find they want to spend more time with you! And if you are “prosolitude” but feel misunderstood, don't worry about it. The Lord will meet you and bless you in your times of solitude with Him!

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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

Letters

Yerevan, ARMENIA

I'm sorry I haven't sent you my testimony yet. I have experienced some trials lately but our Saviour Jesus will protect me and my family. Please pray for us.

God has opened doors for me to witness to many people and share with them your tract ["What Are You Searching for?" in Eastern Armenian]. It is relevant for our nation, because we live in a time of much indifference regarding spirituality because materialism has taken over people's lives. Armenia was the first nation to accept Christianity but these days it will become the last if people reject Jesus and live this way. Evangelism is very important for us.

Please pray for my ministry.

Samuel Hakobyan

Editor's note: *Samuel was a brother that Pastor Joseph and Ann-Margret Hovsepian met during their mission trip to Armenia. He told Pastor Joseph that this encounter was an answer to prayer because, just the day before, he had been discouraged about his backslidden state and prayed for a sign from God. He said that Pastor Joseph's exhortation was exactly what he needed to help him rededicate his life to Christ. The change in his life was immediately apparent. Please do pray for Samuel as he continues to seek ways to serve the Lord and spread the gospel.*

Knowlton, QUEBEC

Ever since we were at Temple on Labour Day weekend, I have been thinking that this "leper" needed to return and say thank you. We loved the warm welcome we received and the enthusiastic singing of hymns. Jessie Hovsepian took us out to a

restaurant afterward where we enjoyed delicious food and getting acquainted. (We found that we share some common experiences.) We'll remember that special day for a long time.

What a full schedule Pastor Joseph and Ann-Margret had on their trip to Armenia! We have tickets to fly to Brussels to visit our son and his family on the 24th of October. Once again, "standin' in the need of prayer."

Pastor Walter and Marilyn Stairs

Beverly, MASSACHUSETTS

Thank you for your kind hospitality [on Sunday, October 13]. It was a pleasure to worship with you. It is always a treat to get to worship with fellow believers as we travel. In particular I am thankful for the prayers for our friends in the Ukraine. We will keep your church in our prayers. We had a great time in Montreal. We liked it so much we will likely return in the Spring.

Stephen and Patricia Hopkins

CHINA

Miss you all, especially Sunday worship and singing praises together in fellowship. I was moved to again state that I like to receive the TBC Weekly Update every week by e-mail. You guys are so blessed to be able to get together to study every Tuesday evening. Christian life is challenged here. Please pray for our brothers and sisters everywhere.

I was a little saddened to hear that only 11 could get to share [a recent] Tuesday Bible study and, with love in my heart, I will not say what I first thought. Something else I hope could be helpful, though,

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New Member

It was with joy that we welcomed **Cedric (Ted) Gordon** into the membership of our church on Sunday, October 6. Ted, a former moderator of our Quebec Association of Baptist Churches, has been a friend for a long time and had been attending the Men's Fellowship meetings for the past few years. It's a blessing to now have him worship with us on Sunday mornings, too.

Baby Dedication

On Sunday, November 3, **Greg** and **Tamar Dekirmenjjan** dedicated their son **Andreas**—and themselves—to God. As always, our church family also stood in support, making a commitment to help the new parents in their desire to raise their son in the way of the Lord. Please pray for Andreas (and his parents!).

Praise Lunch, etc.

We went for three months without our monthly Praise Lunch so we're hoping everyone will be glad to know that we're having one in November (on the 17th)! Our basement floor renovations are finally finished, which means we'll be able to start reorganizing the furniture downstairs and resuming our other regular activities there (such as Tuesday night Bible studies, the Men's Breakfast, etc.)

Please be sure to join us on November 17, right after the morning service,

for a potluck lunch, worship and fellowship. If you can bring some food with you, that would be greatly appreciated.

New Study Series

We've started a new topic at our Sunday morning Bible class: The Seven Steps of Peter's Downfall. This will be followed by a set of studies on Peter's restoration. If you've ever experienced backsliding in your Christian faith—or if you'd like to know how to prevent that—please join us on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Baptist Women World Day of Prayer

On Saturday, November 16, instead of the regular meeting at church on the third Saturday, our ladies will be gathering at Westmount Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. with women from our sister churches for the annual World Day of Prayer. Several from our group are involved in the program and we encourage the rest of our women to attend this uplifting event.

A free lunch will be provided by the host church after the program. Please note that there will be an offering taken during the program to help support missions projects within the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department.

For more information, please speak to **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**.



Rita Assan - November 6

Luka Ptacek - 12

Delina Maghakian - 15

Raphael Peres - 19

Jonathan Li - 21

Elijah Cofino - 23

Cecilia Hum - 25

Have we missed yours?

Please let us know!

CBM Gift Catalogue

We have copies of the 2013-14 Canadian Baptist Ministries gift catalogue, an opportunity to share from our material blessings with families around the world who are in need. Please ask one of our greeters for a copy. You can also learn more at www.cbmin.org and place your orders directly on their website; click on “Donate” and then choose the Gift Catalogue from the menu.

Christmas Is Coming!

Although we haven’t finalized plans yet regarding our Christmas celebrations, we’d like to start looking for volunteers and knowing who would like to get involved. If you would be interested in participating in a choir, please speak with **Jessie Hovsepian**. If you’d like to participate by putting together a drama, reading, organizing an outreach project or something else we haven’t thought of yet, please speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**. We’ll consider all ideas, even if we can’t use them all.

Updates from Our Mission Fields

Editor’s note: Please also see our Letters section for additional notes we’ve received from the missionaries we support.

From the Philippines:

During the last few months we have been busy working toward finding sponsors for the Haven for Women and day care centre repair projects in Taguig. We’ve also organized several special outings for the onco-pedia ward at the Philippine General Hospital, participated

in feeding programs, donated sponsored goods and curriculums to day care centres in Paranaque and much more. Then there were widespread floods in Metro Manila, and some of the surrounding areas, which we were able to respond to, thanks in large measure to the generosity of our sponsors.

After contacting some of our friends and contacts, we received a quick and very generous response. A team of six of us spent two days visiting places in and around Manila that needed help. Thankfully, although we drove through several flooded areas and at times had to wait for hours to pass, we made it to each of our target areas without major problems.

Now we once again find ourselves in the last quarter of the year, looking at a need just as great as ever. We are looking forward to once again working together with you, our friends, to make each child we come in contact with this Christmas a little bit happier and share God’s love with as many as possible.

— report from Jonah Bishop

From Armenia:

I want to let you know how we are sharing the new booklets *Kyanqd imast ouni?* (Does Your Life Have Meaning?) One young woman is happy to have 30 copies to distribute. My father (Artur Mantashyan) sent 70 booklets to Brother Tigran Muradyan (in Horom). Another 100 booklets were given to Brother Arshak Kazarian, the pastor of the church in Zeytun. As well, 100 booklets were given to the Bethel Church. They are blessed to have these books!

— report from Lilit Mantashyan

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Letters

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as too many back in Canada so comfortably say, "I did not go to Bible study, barely go to church, only think about reading the Bible and nothing happens to me but I am still a Christian." I am beginning to believe it is impossible to be a Christian and have nothing happen to you. So my question is: "What has happened in your life recently to make you think you are a Christian?"

Love you all and remain "blessed and highly favoured."

Richard and Ping Didsbury

Yerevan, ARMENIA

May God's peace be with you. I hope you are all well. All the believers here send their greetings, especially those newly baptized. Everyone we see asks about [Pastor Joseph] and many people want to have a copy of his book. All who read it are impressed by it.

Brother Joseph, we continue to pray for you. Please give our greetings to your church members. Be blessed in the name of the Lord Jesus! We love you very much.

Arayik and Nelli Sardaryan

Sayat Nova, ARMENIA

My daughter Knarig and I would like to share our greetings with you. It was a great pleasure for both of us to meet [Pastor Joseph and Ann-Margret Hovsepian] and to know you.

The 23rd of August will always remain in our memory. It was one of the most unforgettable and blessed days in our lives. My daughter and I were baptized on that day. May God bless you and your family.

After the great baptismal service, we

received certificates and New Testaments. This was really kind of you. We spent our time in Spitak communicating with each other, sharing various testimonies and enjoying great "khorovats" [Armenian BBQ].

We are waiting for your next mission trip impatiently! It is a blessing for us to know and to communicate with people who are spiritually mature as you are. God bless you. Your sisters in Christ,

Gohar and Knarig Gevorkyan

Elk Grove, CALIFORNIA

Thanksgiving is for always! We continue to praise our wonderful Lord, thanking Him for your devotion in serving Him as well as others in His name. May God continue to bless you all for your faithfulness and also for the Temple News. To Him be all glory and honour!

Pastor Vigen and Maro Galustian

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

God bless you. I hope this e-mail finds you at a good time in your life. We're praying for you and your families. Please do write a note when you have time; we'd love to hear from you.

I just wanted to let you know that a colleague and I will be traveling to Cebu and Bohol tomorrow to help those affected by the earthquake there.

Please do pray for us. Because of the urgency, we don't have time to raise funds for this, so we are trusting God to supply the needed relief goods and other needs. Thank you so much for praying for us.

Jonah Bishop

Editor's note: Anyone who would like to write to the Bishops can send an email to helping_all@yahoo.com.

Mission Field Updates

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Today we distributed Pastor Joseph's new booklet to many different churches, as well as copies of the tracts. Tonight we will be going to a home Bible study that we regularly have.

In Spitak, a kindergarten director has offered us a room to hold Bible studies. Please join us in prayer about this. Some of the men are returning to Spitak from Russia. Several of them have expressed their wish that Pastor Joseph was here to baptize them.

All the believers send their greetings and blessings. They are "complaining" that Pastor Joseph was not able to visit them all and would like him to do so. We continue praying for you all.

— report from Arayik Sardaryan

Four more people have told us they read and enjoyed *God's Workshop*; they are between the ages of 23 and 62. About 130 pieces of outreach material (tracts, etc.) were recently distribute and 11 people testified that they were blessed.

— report from Tigran Muradyan

Inspirations

Precious Cargo

Clovis Chappell, a minister from a century back, used to tell the story of two paddleboats. They left Memphis about the same time, traveling down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. As they traveled side by side, sailors from one vessel made a few remarks about the snail's pace of the other. Words were exchanged. Challenges were made. And the race began. Competition became vicious as the two boats roared through the Deep South.

One boat began falling behind. Not enough fuel. There had been plenty of coal for the trip, but not enough for a race. As the boat dropped back, an enterprising young sailor took some of the ship's cargo and tossed it into the ovens. When the sailors saw that the supplies burned as well as the coal, they fuelled their boat with the material they had been

assigned to transport. They ended up winning the race, but burned their cargo.

God has entrusted cargo to us, too: children, spouses, friends. Our job is to do our part in seeing that this cargo reaches its destination. Yet when the program takes priority over people, people often suffer. How much cargo do we sacrifice in order to achieve the number one slot? How many people never reach the destination because of the aggressiveness of a competitive captain?

— Max Lucado, *In the Eye of the Storm*

Socrates once wrote: "Could I climb to the highest places in Athens, I would lift up my voice and proclaim: Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, and take so little care of the children to whom you must someday relinquish it all?"

My Reflection

By Tamar Dekirmenjian



I notice my reflection in many different places throughout the day, whether it is in the mirror as I brush my teeth or in my car's windows as I approach it.

There's another place I now see my reflection: in my baby son's eyes. This reflection, however, cannot be noticed with haphazard glances; rather, it comes only with careful and deep gazing. As I ever-so-gratefully stare, I bond with him even more.

With such deep concentration, the following thoughts came to mind. Is Christ's reflection so clear in my eyes? Am I spending enough time with our Father in heaven for that to happen? Am I being obedient, so as to be doing good in the eyes of the Lord? (Deuteronomy 12:28). I know that His eyes are always on me, but am I lifting mine to His?

The busyness of life can definitely hinder me from spending quality time

with Him, shifting my focus on earthly things rather than eternal.

My prayer is that each time I see my reflection in my son's eyes, I will take the opportunity to spend as much time with the One who created those eyes. *"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayers."* - 1 Peter 3:12

The Bible's Role in Our Lives

The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks *through* his telescope, he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks only *at* his telescope, then he does not see anything but that.

The Bible is a thing to be looked *through*, to see that which is beyond; but most people only look *at* it; and so they see only the dead letter.

— Phillips Brooks

We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behaviour.

— John Stott

Share with us...

Has God taught you something through a personal Bible study, a sermon, a hymn, an unexpected situation, or a special relationship? Why not tell others about it so that they can be blessed, challenged and inspired, too? Or how about sharing your personal testimony of salvation, if you haven't done so yet?

*We encourage you to send in your thoughts and testimonies...whether you write a paragraph or a whole page! For next issue, please submit your material to Ann-Margret Hovsepian by **November 22**. Our contact information is on page 2.*

The Pastor's Page

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lose their souls, what is the point of everything else?

Parents should be good role models, bringing their children to God when they are very young, even while in the cradle. They should teach them the Word of God and lead them to Jesus.

The Bible tells parents: *"Do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4) Also in Proverbs 22:6, we read: *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

A Christian home is a place where Christ is on the throne. The Bible is the

Lord's way of cleansing a home. Ephesians 5:26 says, *"...to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word."*

Attending church services should be a family affair—a commitment and not merely an option. God's instructions to Moses apply to us, too, today. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts."* (Deuteronomy 6:5-6)

Your home should be a house of prayer. Remember: The family that prays together, stays together and becomes a blessing to others.

Pastor Joseph Hovsepien

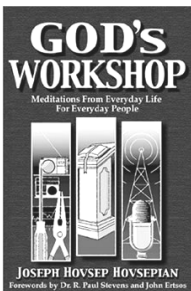
Check our Web site regularly for updates, as well as for helpful resources and archives of sermons and messages.

www.templebaptistmontreal.com

GOD'S WORKSHOP

God's Workshop, by *Pastor Joseph Hovsepien*, is available for a suggested donation of \$10. This collection of "meditations from

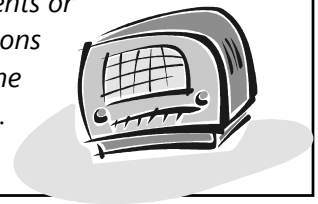
everyday life for everyday people," taken from *Pastor Joseph's sermons and radio messages*, would make a great gift!



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 Hovsepien*?

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





Christ Makes All the Difference

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

The proverb “It takes a whole village to raise a child” originated in Africa and is often used to make the point that raising a child is not as simple as some people seem to think it is.

It does take more than one individual to raise a child well, but I believe that **home** is the most important unit in a child’s life. The home is ordained by God. A nation is made up of homes. And the spiritual life of a church is determined by its homes.

Troubled homes make for a troubled nation. In fact, troubled homes are a greater threat to a nation than external threats. However, homes with...

- dedication instead of divorce,
- faith instead of fighting
- harmony instead of hatred,
- the Bible instead of materialism,
- God instead of worldly idols and masters

...are what a Christian home should be



like. A Christian home is a place where Christ reigns.

You cannot have a Christian home without Christ as Lord. You may have a religious home. You may have a well-run, functional home. But unless Christ is the unseen head of your home, your home will not reflect Christ and the Holy Spirit’s presence.

A Christian home is a place where love reigns: A wife lovingly submissive to her husband; a husband loves his wife unconditionally. Yet there are Christians whose homes are just the opposite of that. There is constant arguing and competing. The couple merely puts up with each other rather than loving and helping one another. This is why the Bible says we must not be unequally yoked. In Amos 3:3, we read: *“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”*

And what about children? Who teaches them, who helps them, who guides them? The mantra these days is: “It takes a village to raise a child.” This may sound good and it holds some truth. But it takes a mother and a father to raise a child who will reflect Christ.

Sadly, many single parents today find themselves trying to fill the role of both parents. Also, parents who can afford it will give all the good things their children want and need to have—a good school in a good neighbourhood, beneficial activities, nice clothes, toys, etc.—but none of these things come close to a good and spiritual foundation for their souls. If they gain the whole world but

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