

He Cares

Exodus 6:1-8

One day, while Moses was tending the flock as he usually did, He spotted a bush in flames. After approaching it, he heard God speak to him from within the burning bush!

The Lord said: *"I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them...So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."* (Exodus 3:7-8)

Moses had been enjoying a comfortable life, but God had other plans for him. Moses protested and even argued with God for asking him to go to Pharaoh. He gave God all kinds of excuses for not wanting to go where God was asking him to go. The Lord said to Moses: *"I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."* But Moses said, *"O Lord, please send someone else to do it."* (Exodus 4:12-13)

Have you ever said, "Ask someone else, Lord?"

Finally, God told Moses to take his brother Aaron with him, promising that He would help them speak and do what He wanted them to do.

In Exodus 5, we see Moses and Aaron appearing before Pharaoh and saying: *"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go'"* Pharaoh's response was, *"Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go."* (verses 1-2)

Pharaoh refused to let Israelites go

and, instead, orders the slave drivers to make the work more difficult, to the point that life became unbearable for the children of Israel.

Now Moses was in real trouble! Not only was Pharaoh angry with him, but even his own people turned against him.

Moses returned to God and said, *"O Lord why have you brought trouble upon this people?"* (verse 22) Moses was really ready to give up now.

But God renewed His pledge to deliver His people out of slavery.

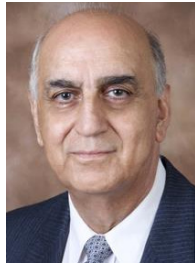
God Cares About Our Burdens

- a) *"I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."* Please notice the seven "I wills" in verses 6 to 8. "I will" is a promise for hurting times. God knows our troubles and pain.
- b) The call for freedom brought extra labour and burdens instead of freedom: making bricks without being provided straw, and being beaten by the slave drivers.
- c) Your burdens are important to God. Bring your burdens before His throne. He gives grace to help us in our time of need: *"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16)

God Cares About Our Bondage

- a) *"I will free you from being slaves."* (verse 6)
- b) What is the difference between bur-

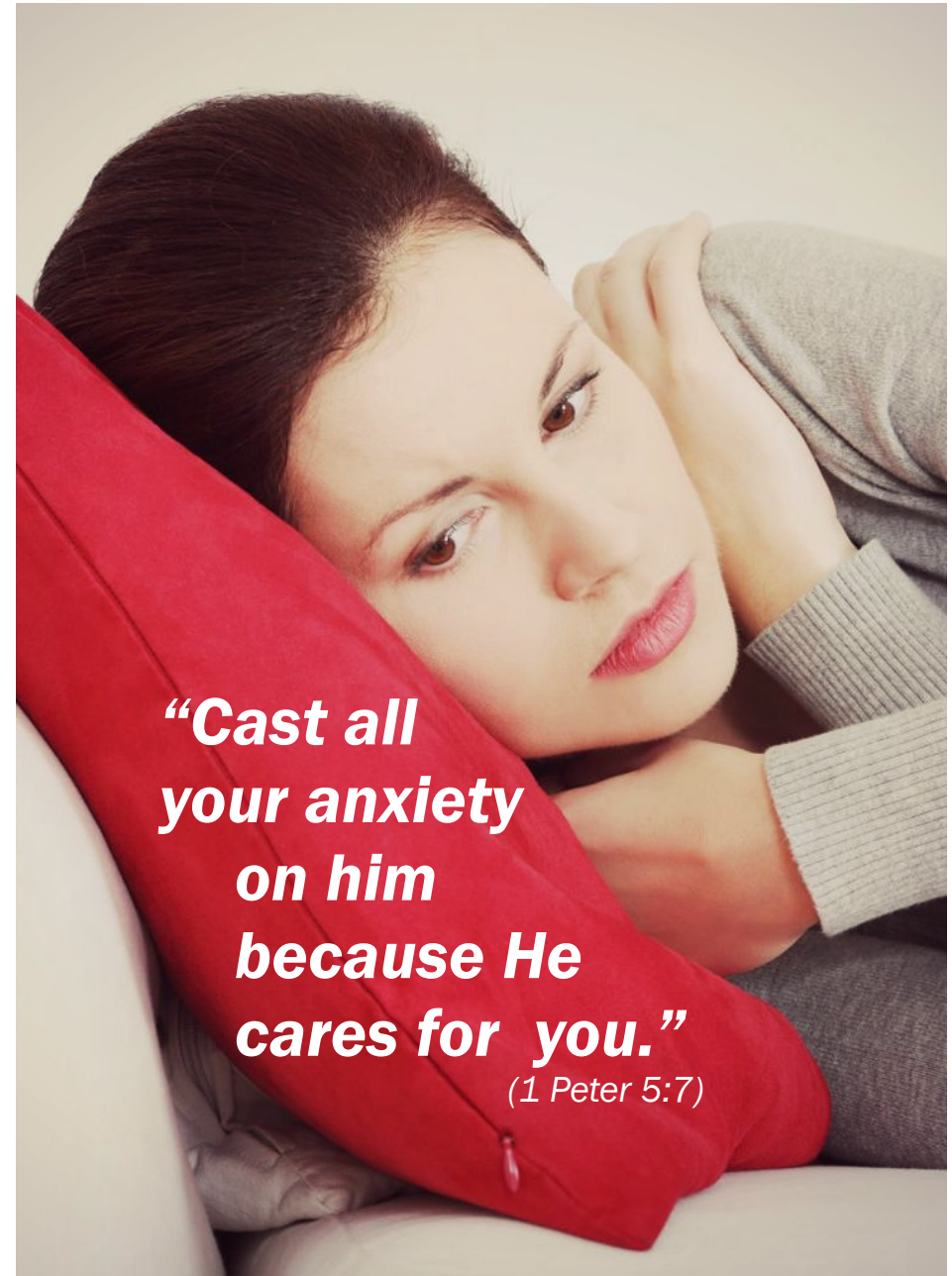
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TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2014



**"Cast all
your anxiety
on him
because He
cares for you."**

(1 Peter 5:7)

A Hunger Nothing (Else) Satisfies

The very same day I was planning to write about spiritual hunger for my *Temple News* editorial, the devotional in *Our Daily Bread* was on the same theme. Don't you love those subtle confirmations God sends your way sometimes?

In December 2012, I experienced a bit of a spiritual crisis that had me flat on my face, so to speak, feeling probably much like Moses did in front of the burning bush (see The Pastor's Page at the back of this issue for more about Moses). Like Moses (and like Joshua, Gideon, Peter and others in the Bible), I had a choice to make. Was I going to *really* surrender my will to God or was I going to continue living my Christian life to suit myself (and try to impress others)?

I didn't make any new year's resolutions for 2013 but, beginning on that night that I admitted to God that my way of doing things wasn't working and I wanted to be more faithful in following Him, my daily prayer became: "Lord, make me hunger for you. Make me want to want You more than anything else."

My year wasn't perfect—I made mistakes and faced challenges, just like any other normal person. However, there

was definitely a change in my life. Especially on those days that I remembered to make that prayer my first through, my first priority, I had peace and courage that would otherwise be impossible.

C.S. Lewis said: "God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself because it is not there." This is the lesson God taught me in 2013. Nothing—not even reading my Bible, serving in the church, handing out tracts or helping the poor—can give me joy the way connecting with God can. As David said in Psalm 37:4, only "taking delight in the Lord" can satisfy our heart's deepest longings.

As I look ahead to 2014, I think I'm going to keep the same goal I made last year. Sure, I have a checklist of things I'd like to accomplish in my ministry, my career, my relationships and in my personal life, but none of those things will matter or bring me joy unless "Hunger for God" is at the top of my list.

Psalm 107:9 tells us that God "satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." That's a promise we can count on!

In the new year, don't depend on your job, your marriage, your education or your personal achievements to fulfill you. That's a hunger God—and nothing else—can satisfy.

Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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dens and bondage? Burdens are concerns, cares and problems. Bondage is to be controlled by a person or substance!

c) What controls you? Alcohol, drugs, pleasure, money? A temper that brings you grief? Fears that limit your usefulness?

God Cares About Our Freedom

a) "I will redeem you." The Greek word is *λυτρωσις*, which means redemption, liberation or setting free.

b) We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18-20).

c) Jesus came to set us free. We are—or can be—set free by...

- Jesus through the Scriptures: "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31)
- Set free by the Saviour: "So if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)
- Set free by the Spirit: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17)

God Cares About Our Fellowship

"I will take you as my own people." (verse 7) God would have fellowship with them and be their God. God has promised to have fellowship with those who gather together in His name!

He would provide for all their needs then, and He still does today. He said: "I will be your God."

God Cares About Our Future

a) "I will bring you to the land...I will

give it to you as possession...I am the Lord." (verse 8)

b) God keeps His promises. The promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were kept. Our inheritance is guaranteed, too! "And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you." (1 Peter 1:4)

Let God lift your burdens! Come to Christ in faith because:

- He cares when you are in trouble.
- He cares about your bondage.
- He cares about your freedom.
- He cares about your relationship with Him.
- He cares about your future in eternity,

He is a loving and caring God!

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

GOOD NEWS!

Did you know you can tune in to WCHP 760AM every weekday at noon to hear a short inspirational message by Pastor Joseph Hovsepian?

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



Inspirations

Make 2014 Malice-free

One New Year's Eve, at London's Garrick Club, the British dramatist Frederick Lonsdale was asked by Seymour Hicks to reconcile with a fellow member. The two had quarrelled in the past and never restored their friendship.

"You must," Hicks said to Lonsdale. "It is very unkind to be unfriendly at such a time. Go over now and wish him a happy New Year."

Lonsdale crossed the room and spoke to his enemy. "I wish you a happy New Year," he said, "but only one."

Are you harbouring bitterness in your heart? Are you unwilling to forgive someone who has wronged or offended you? The Bible teaches: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice." (Ephesians 4:31)

It's not enough to casually say, "I'm sorry" or "Happy New Year." Jesus commands us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44) and Paul reminds us that "love must be sincere" (Romans 12:9).

Choose One Only: Better or Worse?

Several years ago, Jeanette Case, writing in *Reader's Digest*, shared the following humorous story:

Last year, when I called my parents to wish them a Happy New Year, my dad answered the phone. "Well, Dad, what's your New Year's resolution?" I asked him. "To make your mother as happy as I can all year," he answered proudly.

Then my mom got on and I asked, "What's your resolution, Mom?" She responded: "To see that your dad keeps his

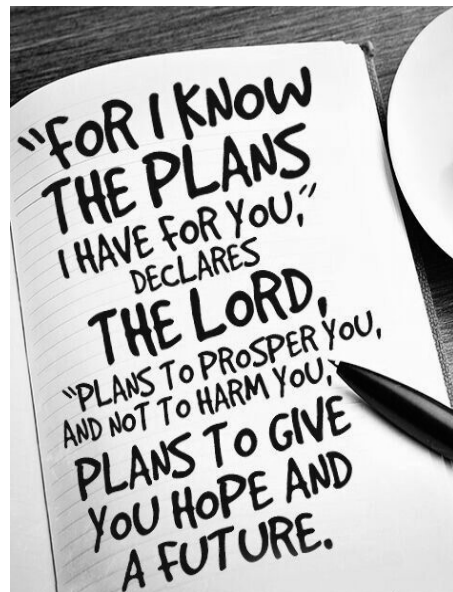
New Year's resolution!"

We are all aware that it is that time of year again: the time to make our resolutions for the coming year. And well we should. For, as Robert Chambers pointed out over a century ago:

The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last must be either very good or very bad indeed. And only to propose to be better is something, for there is no such thing as a stationary point in human endeavours; he who is not worse today than he was yesterday is better, and he who is not better is worse."

Hebrews 6:1 gives us this counsel: "Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God."

Are you resolved and ready to be better this year, with God's help?



Letters

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

God bless you. I realized today that I had never written to thank those who helped with the donations for our mission in Tacloban. We really appreciate all of your help.

I may go down back in January. There is so much that needs to be done. Thank you for all of your prayers as well. We know that it helps in so many ways we couldn't even possibly imagine.

Jonah Bishop

Gyurmi, ARMENIA

Note: This comment was sent in response to a Facebook post by Pastor Joseph Hovsepian about the biblical purpose of the Church:

My Brother, sermons today are so far from people's needs that people just leave the church silently and never come back. People need God's fatherly love and touch but their spiritual hunger is met only by rhetorical sermons.

Once I attended a church and sat on the last bench at the back among some elderly women. When the Pastor began to preach, saying, "We should sacrifice ourselves fully and completely," one of those elderly women turned and whispered to a

lady sitting next to her: "He is telling us again the same thing...Again the same."

Nowadays, many pastors live such luxurious lives compared to their poor flock that people do not believe the sermons anymore.

I did not want to write this comment, but I had to do it.

Mamikon Hambaryan

Montreal, QUEBEC

My brother's open-heart surgery was successful and the doctors said that they didn't have a hard time fixing the problem. God is good. Thanks for the prayers and please continue praying for him for his fast recovery. Thank you very much.

Violetta Velez

Maracaibo, VENEZUELA

Dear Temple Baptist Church, at this time of the year good memories come to my mind and heart. Thank you for all the time that my son (Efraim Marquez), daughter-in-law, granddaughter and I enjoyed with you all. God bless you. Continue to serve and preach the Good News.

Have a very Merry Christmas and may the Lord give you a blessed New Year!

Emperatriz Arreaza

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 **January 19**.*

Welcome, Baby Nathaniel!

Our church family just keeps on growing—what a blessing! We were thrilled to meet **Nathaniel Ethan Li On Wing** on December 15, just 10 days after he was born.

Congratulations to first-time parents **Jonathan** and **Kate**! Please keep this precious young family in your prayers.

One More Baptism

Last month we told you that **Mary Dias** was going to be baptized on December 8. After the *Temple News* was already printed, we received another request for baptism. We rejoice with **Stan Lefort** who joined Mary in taking this special step in his new journey with Christ. (See photo on page 8.)

New Member

As we said above, our church family keeps growing. Another addition we are celebrating is that of **Poonam Kumar** to our membership. We officially received Poonam as a member on December 29.

Annual Meeting

Please note that our annual business meeting of members will be held on Sunday, February 16. As we have done in

recent years, we will combine this meeting with our monthly Praise Lunch.

It's very important that all our official members (those who have requested that their names be on our members and made a commitment to support Temple through their attendance, service and giving) be present at the annual meeting.

If you are a committee chairperson or responsible for a specific area of the church's ministry, please submit your annual report to the clerk, **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**, by the end of January.

Do You Play a Musical Instrument?

Though our pianist and organist faithfully continue to share their gifts of music with us week after week, we know that after decades of service in this area they would probably welcome the participation of others.

Do you have a musical talent that you've been hiding or that we haven't discovered yet? We encourage you to prayerfully consider whether you can share that talent for God's glory during our times of worship.

Please speak with **Jessie Hovsepian** if you are interested or need more information. And if you're hesitant because you're out of practice, now might be a good time to dust off your instrument!

...more news on page 9



Magy Libarian - Jan. 1
Abeku Duncan - 6
Ann Clark - 8
Koffi Amesse - 10

Elise Guekguezian - 10
Valaria Tomlinson - 15
Philip Pehlivanian - 20
Rudi Ptacek - 24

...continued from page 4

Christmas Celebration: A Big Success!

On Saturday, December 14, some people wondered whether the next day's Christmas Lunch & Celebration would be cancelled. A big snowstorm was blowing in and it was clear that manoeuvring the roads would be a challenge.

However, we decided to stay optimistic and go ahead with the program. That proved to be a good decision! About 3/4 of the people we had originally expected to attend bravely dug out their cars or waited in the cold for buses. Though we missed those who weren't able to make it, we were thrilled to have all our children present and were also blessed to see how God provided more than enough food for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you all for coming, for bringing food and for participating in the program. Our children delighted us with the song and poem and the Men's Fellowship choir inspired us with their enthusiastic rendition of "Go Tell It On the Mountain" (see photos on page 8).

Clothing Bank: We Need Some Help

We're grateful for recent donations to our clothing bank but we now need some extra hands to sort through all the items and organize an inventory so that we are prepared to help those in need.

If you would like to help with this project, please speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**. Ideally, we would like to put together a team (at least three people) to

work on this before the end of January.

In the meantime, if you have any clothing to give away, please hold on to it until we know what we have (or go ahead and share it with another ministry).

Update from Bangladesh

By Shankar Shikdar, Blessings for Humanity (in Dhaka)

Our activities include church planting, pre-school, formal child education and a Bible correspondence school.

We are very thankful to God for His abundant blessings upon us. We are very thankful to Temple Baptist Church and its members for their love for His ministry in Bangladesh.

Family fellowship and prayer are among the main strengths of our ministry. We visit families, share thoughts from the Bible, exchange views and pray to heal people. We have several families in our contacts. We would like to have more family connections. However, this involves high transportation cost; we are praying for a small vehicle. Please pray with us about this.

The mother of one of our preschool children says: "We are being blessed by attending the church regularly. Please pray for me and my husband and our children. We want our children to come to the church, too."

Our volunteers have been serving the ministry for several years. Please pray for them; they are often depressed by the responsibility of leading their families. They need financial support but we still can not give them any remuneration. Please pray for them.

2013 Photo Album

...continued from page 5



Some of our ladies at the Quebec Baptist Women fall retreat



Mary Dias and Stan Lefort, with Pastor Joseph (centre) on the day they were baptized (December 8)



Our Junior Church children singing "Oh, How I Love Jesus" during the December 15 Christmas program



The men singing "Go Tell It On the Mountain" during the December 15 Christmas program

2013 Photo Album

We thought it would be nice to begin the new year by remembering and celebrating some of the special moments and blessings of 2013. We hope you enjoy this rare treat of two colour pages of photos!



Our Men's Fellowship group in the spring



Pastor Joseph receiving a plaque at the 25th anniversary celebration of his ordination in March



Those baptized in Armenia during Pastor Joseph's mission trip in August



Children's story time during the Sunday morning worship service.

...continued on page 8

JANUARY 2014 PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

On each date, you'll find the names of individuals and families who attend Temple Baptist Church (or live elsewhere but are still members), as well as missionaries our church supports. Please pray daily for the names listed, and for our various activities.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Alex Kazarossian Family Shubroto Shikdar Family	2 Brian Norton Family Jonathan Li On Wing Family	3 Kosille Swamy Family Ruth Hovsepian Family	4 Rudi Ptacek Family Vahe Dzaghgouni Family
5 <i>Bible classes 9:45 a.m. Worship and Communion 11:00 a.m.</i> Guy Beauchamp J. Bishop Family (Philippines)	6 Zevart Bajakian Rose Hovsepian Family	7 <i>Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:15 p.m.</i> Jack Bouclair Family Giancarlo La Giorgia Fam. (Calif.)	8 Nouhad Saliba Family Mikhail Khriptchenko Family	9 Matt Wohler Family Richard Didsbury Family	10 Francis Cofino Family S. Shikdar Fam. (Bangladesh)	11 <i>Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m.</i> Cecilia Hum Family Bedros Guekguezian Family
12 <i>Bible classes 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.</i> Jacques Dénommée Family J. Bose Family (Bangladesh)	13 <i>Group Ministry 7:30 p.m.</i> Grace Doré Glaister Currie Family	14 <i>Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:15 p.m.</i> Ethan Duong A. Sardaryan Fam. (Armenia)	15 Lucille Hinds Family A. Mantashyan Fam. (Armenia)	16 Rita Assan Family Wilbert Lafrance Family	17 Violeta Velez Family Quentin Newhouse Family	18 <i>Women's Fellowship 10:00 a.m.</i> Ann Clarke Family David Wood Family (Alberta)
19 <i>Bible classes 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Praise Lunch 12:30 p.m.</i> Billie Paris Joseph Hovsepian Family	20 Shirley Dumont Eugen Dobrowskyj Family	21 <i>Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:15 p.m.</i> June Ross Melda Wallace Family	22 Rogerio Peres Family Cedric Gordon Family	23 Evelina Stulgaityte Yaroslav Lyeshchiner Family	24 Wilson Exantus Family Greg Dekirmenjian Family	25 <i>Married Couples' Fellowship 7:00 p.m.</i> Don Marshall Family Poonam Kumar Family
26 <i>Bible classes 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Tract Distribution 12:30 p.m.</i> Magy Libarian Stephane Arbour Family	27 Koffi Amesse Anna Vlassova H. Halladjian Fam. (Armenia)	28 <i>Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:15 p.m.</i> Diana Kere Kofi Boahene Emil Lantos Family	29 Mary Dias Jill MacInnes (Ontario) Philip Pehlivanian Family	30 Stan Lefort Mina Morrison Sheldon Illidge Family	31 Saprit Grana Salvatore Balliro Katteline Osei Family	