

TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 2014

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly.” (Acts 4:31)



Women gathered for worship in the tiny church building in Horom, Armenia, during Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's visit in 2013. This photo and an article about Horom has been published in the March 2014 issue of In Touch magazine.

Thoughts from the Editor

Lead a Life to Be Followed

Mercy Me is one of my favourite Christian bands, more for their lyrics than their music (though I usually like that, too). They have a song called “Goodbye Ordinary” and the chorus goes like this: *“Live like there’s no tomorrow; love extravagantly; lead a life to be followed. Goodbye ordinary...”*

The first bunch of times I heard these lyrics, I remember focusing on the words “love extravagantly” and thinking that was such a neat expression! To me, it perfectly describes how God loves us, and it would be wonderful to be able to do the same—first toward Him and then others. I am fascinated by the idea of being so full of love that it just gushes out and makes me do unexpected, generous, kind, merciful things for others with no thought of the cost to myself. I need to pray that God will show me how to love the way He does...and give me the courage to love extravagantly.

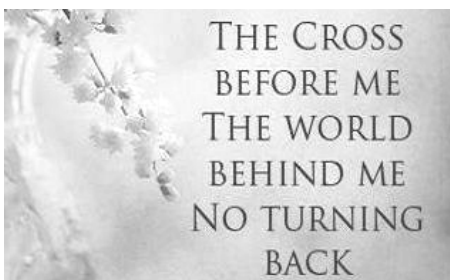
One day, after listening to the song yet again, something changed. A different set of words jumped out at me: “Lead a life to be followed.” Wow! That’s another tall order, isn’t it? I had to ask myself: If someone is following my lead

right now, what direction is he or she headed in? Am I leading him or her closer to or farther from Christ? How much are my words, actions, attitudes and choices affecting those around me? Would I really want someone following my example right now? If not, what am I willing to do about it?

The truth is, we never know who is looking to us as an example. It could be one of the children or a visitor at church, the receptionist at your office, your child’s teacher or your closest friend. They may be watching how you treat others, or where you go after work, or what you spend your money on, or how much attention you pay in church. (YIKES!)

Are *you* leading a life to be followed? My prayer is that God will give each one of us the desire to rise above our status quo (our current state) and lead exemplary, extraordinary, and extravagant Christian lives!

Ann-Margret Hovsepian



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5815 Durocher Ave., Outremont, QC, H2V 3Y5
Phone: 514-279-9626 / 1-888-909-9626
Web: www.templebaptistmontreal.com
Mail: 5945 Park Ave., Montreal, QC, H2V 4H4
E-mail: templegoodnews@gmail.com

Publisher: Joseph Hovsepian
Editor: Ann-Margret Hovsepian
Printing: PositiveMarketing.ca
Contributors: Tamar Dekirmenjian
Shirley Dumont
Lucille Hinds

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

Letters

Caledon, ONTARIO

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from a personal letter sent to Ann-Margret Hovsepian. She thought that Temple News readers would be blessed by these words from the 16-year-old great-niece of Jack and Jo-Ann Bouclair who recently visited Temple.

I enjoyed going to your church, although it was different than what I was used to. It was cool to sing hymns. At my church we sing more modern songs. Plus, we only do communion on Easter. I really like the way [Pastor Joseph] preaches. Usually, older pastors speak monotone (not saying this to be rude) but I liked how he kept the congregation's attention. I'm already planning my next trip here.

Rebekah

Yerevan, ARMENIA

When my dad went to Sayat Nova (a village in Armenia) to do ministry, he met the son of a man that [Pastor Joseph] witnessed to while he was here last year. My dad talked to this young man for hours and he became a Christian. [He is third from the left in the photo below. The man standing next to him, behind the boy, is Lilit's father.]



The family my father visited also had a guest from the Ukraine. That lady [on the far right in the photo below] was very hungry for God's Word. After a long discussion about God, she also accepted Him as her Lord and Saviour.

Before my dad could offer her a Bible, she herself asked if she could have one to take to the Ukraine with her. Of course, she could! She also got tracts to read. She was blessed by them and asked for 200 of each tract to distribute in the Ukraine.

With God all things are possible. God uses your ministries and you to preach His Word all over the world. Amen!

Lilit Mantashyan

Yerevan, ARMENIA

I was so glad to find the official Joseph Hovsepian Ministries page on Facebook. I always remember you! Once we talked with each other through Skype at Arayik Sardaryan's place. I told you at that time that I was and I am still ministering among the Yezidi-Kurdish community.

I want to tell you I have read God's Workshop and Does Your Life Have Meaning? I like both of the books. They are great!

Stay in the love and in the hands of our Lord. If you would like to write back to me and keep in touch with us, that would be great. You will be in our prayers. May God always provide you with work, food and clothes.

[In a later message...] I have a request. I would like to invite you to share the Good News with Kurdish families if you come to Armenia this year. Would you like to reach out people in that community?

Yeghishe Shahnazaryan

Baby Dedication

It is always a joy and blessing for us to see parents bring their children forward to dedicate them to the Lord. On Sunday, March 2, **Jonathan** and **Kate Li On Wing** presented their baby **Nathaniel**, with many family members and friends as witnesses.

Please pray for this young family, especially as they are in the midst of a move to Seattle, Washington.

Don't Forget to Adjust Your Clocks!

Daylight Savings Time will begin again on Sunday, March 9. "Spring forward" means you will need to move your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. If you don't, you will either be late for Sunday School or miss church altogether.



Russian Tract Now Available

The Russian translation of our "What Are You Searching for?" tract is now available, both online and in print. We only have a couple of hundred copies on hand at the moment but if you need a

few to share with Russian-speaking friends, we would be happy to provide these to you.

You can also refer people to our church website, where they can read (and even print out) the tract. The tract can be found by going to www.templebaptistmontreal.com and then clicking on Media and then Tracts. From that pull-down menu, any of our tracts, in all the languages we've translated into, can be accessed. This is a great way to share the gospel with friends in far-away countries who read those languages.

We are very grateful to **Yaroslav Lyeshchiner** for editing and proofreading the Russian tract before we went ahead with printing.

Sermon Translations

Another new resource we have started to develop is translations of Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's Sunday morning sermons into Eastern Armenian. We have not yet uploaded these to our website but Pastor Joseph has been sharing excerpts from the messages on Facebook and the response has been very positive.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for us to bring the gospel to as many people in as many language groups as possible.

Special thanks to **Lilit Mantashyan** for her excellent translation work.



Sheldon Illidge - March 2
Mar Lafrance - 3
Francis Cofino - 6
Shubroto Shikdar - 10
Alicia Hinds - 15

Melda Wallace - 24
Jacques Dénomée - 26
Farlend Clerveaux - 27
Nouhad Saliba - 31

What's New in 2014?

Our annual business meeting is always a great opportunity for our church family to celebrate together the wonderful things that God has done through our ministry over the past year and also to reflect on what we—as individuals and as a body of believers—could have done better. This year's meeting was no different and, though few people enjoy business meetings, it was encouraging to see indications of growth, enthusiasm and commitment.

There are some changes to our committees so here are some things to keep in mind as you consider how God may be calling you to use your own gifts:

- **Wheng Cofino** and **Theresa Piercy** are responsible for our children's ministries. If you'd like to volunteer in the nursery or if you have any questions about what the kids are doing in Junior Church, please talk to these ladies.
- **Stella (Papadopoulos) Dénommée** will be working with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** and **Viktoria Wohler** on the library. They will be looking for helpers sometimes to organize the books so let them know if that's something that interests you. More than that, however, they would like to encourage all our members to make use of our excellent choices of books in many different categories.

The library is the room between the kitchen and the Durocher entrance.

- The key people to talk to about the monthly Men's Fellowship are **Jacques Dénommée**, **Ted Gordon** and **Quentin Newhouse**.
- The Women's Fellowship organizers are **Jessie Hovsepian**, **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** and **Fernanda Lafrance**.

We have several other committees that work together to take care of various ministry or administrative responsibilities; for example, the finance committee, the Group Ministry, the building maintenance committee, the hospitality committee, the evangelism committee, the welcoming committee and the multi-media department.

Please pray for each person who made a commitment to serve in one of these areas this year. We are very grateful to all those who are willing to give of their time, talents and resources to help further the kingdom of God and the work of the gospel.

Envelope Reminder

If you use envelopes for your Sunday offerings, please clearly write the total amount of your gift on the envelope to help prevent accounting errors. If you have envelopes you are not using, please return them to **Sonia Pehlivanian**. You can also speak to her if you need a set.

Men's Fellowship

Breakfast and fellowship on
Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship

Next meeting on Saturday,
March 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Your Perspective

Vegetable Ministry

By Tamar Dekirmenjian

I was preparing to make a traditional Armenian eggplant dish for dinner one day. Having taken out all of the required ingredients, I proceeded to wash the vegetables and was ready to start the chopping process.

I held the eggplant in my hand and noticed it was labelled with a sticker. Nothing out of the ordinary—I see those stickers on all fruits and vegetables. Most times I ignore what’s there and proceed to peel off the sticker; however, this time something pushed me to read it (I know now it was the Lord!) and I decided to pay closer attention.

Standing in the middle of my kitchen, in complete disbelief, I was holding a “Christian” eggplant! It made me so happy to read John 14:6 written on the label, right next to a Jesus fish symbol. How interesting, I thought, that this particular farm, located in Florida, decided to evangelize through its produce.

Many times we get so caught up in our everyday lives and routines that we feel as though we have no time and, even more sadly, no opportunities to evangelize. We feel as though we do not possess the gifts or even an outgoing personality to put His Word out there. Our excuses are endless.

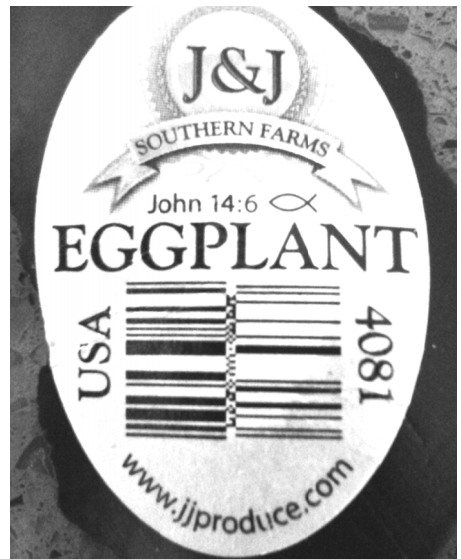
Evidently, He didn’t call those farmers to be evangelists, per se, but He did put the desire in their hearts to evangelize in their current work position.

No doubt, our omnipotent Father in heaven has given you a gift. Paul stated

in 1 Corinthians 7:7 that “each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and the other in that.” Our individual fingerprints are proof that we were not all created the same. However, as Christians, we do have a common mission: to spread the Good News.

Whether we are a doctor or stay-at-home mom, God has given each of us unique gifts and abilities to use our present circumstances to influence the future of unbelievers. “*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them*” (Romans 12:6).

Needless to say, I now pay closer attention to all of the stickers on the fruits and vegetables that I peel. But I should also be paying close attention to those opportunities that arise to slip in a kind word, act in a Christ-like manner and be His ambassador. Let’s not miss any opportunities; rather let’s “*go and make disciples of all nations*” (Matthew 28:19).



Your Perspective

Why I Enjoy Going to Bible Study

By Lucille Hinds

I enjoy going to Bible study because I find it gives me insight on really knowing Jesus, the Person. I also enjoy the fellowship with other believers, listening to questions and Pastor Joseph's answers.

It gives me such a warm feeling getting together on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings with other Christians. This is why I try not to miss any of the meetings. I can use these two times to learn and grow so that the rest of the week I can put into practice what I have learned from these Bible studies.

On Being Saturated with God's Word

The noted Bible scholar James M. Gray told a story that underscores the importance of reading the Scriptures for personal growth. He said that when he was a young Bible teacher, he became deeply impressed by the peace and spiritual poise of a friend with whom he often talked. Since Gray wanted that same stability, he asked his companion the

secret of his confident bearing and positive outlook.

"It all started through reading Ephesians," said the man. Gray was surprised by this simple response. He had read Ephesians many times but had never experienced the same strength he saw in his friend. Noticing Fray's puzzled look, the man explained: "On one occasion, when I was on a short vacation, I took a pocket edition of Ephesians with me. Lying down one afternoon, I read all six chapters. My interest was so aroused that I read the entire epistle again. In fact, I did not finally lay it down until I had gone through it some 15 times."

He then said, "When I arose to go into the house, I was in possession of Ephesians; or better yet, it was in possession of me. I had the feeling that I had been lifted up to sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus—a feeling that was new to me."

This testimony encouraged Gray to master the Scriptures for himself. He began to saturate his mind and heart with God's Word so that he could freely and effectively communicate it to others.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



Dig into God's Word with us!

*Please join us for Bible study on
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and
Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m.*

Personal Testimony

God Never Gave Up On Me

By Shirley Dumont

When I was young, my parents brought me to church and I even attended Sunday School. From the beginning, I always believed there was a God. I still have the Bible my parents gave me during my seventh year in public school. I also received a Bible when I was baptized. Pastor William Chodat (my pastor at that time) wrote this verse in it: *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”* (Proverbs 3:6).

I tried to be the person I thought I should be but, never succeeding, I eventually left the church. That was a terrible mistake on my part. Why? Because I no longer had the influence of spiritual thoughts but, instead, I was focussing on worldly activities. I now realize how I grieved God most of my life. I also know I failed because I was trying to do this on my own and not relying on God. I even find myself doing the same thing today; the difference is that, since I have started attending Temple Baptist Church, Pastor Joseph has taught me to connect with God by praying for His help and strength.

Approximately a year and a half ago, I found a tract in my mailbox. I must admit that, out of curiosity, I visited Temple for the first time. I was genuinely touched by the warm welcome I received. I have thought several times that I would like to meet the person who put the tract in my mailbox so I could thank him or her. On the other hand, I am sure you would agree that this person was inspired by God.

There is another person I want to express my appreciation to: Ann-Margret Hovsepan inquired whether I was interested in becoming a member of the church. I would never have made the request on my own, simply because I felt unworthy. Today I am so happy that I accepted.

I am thankful that God never gave up on me. I am so grateful that He opened the eyes of my heart and mind to understand that believing in Him is not enough. I must have a living relationship with Him on a daily basis. What a blessing to be a child of God, not because I deserve it—it is all due to His grace.

By living a wholesome life, I will honour Him, Jesus Christ, my Saviour who died on the cross for my sin. I must learn not to lean on my own understanding but to love, trust and obey Him. I recently read the following, which is so true: *“When we fail to express our love for God, the delight we have in God is actually incomplete.”*

Hebrews 13:15 says, *“Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”* I now consider writing and sharing my testimony a privilege, something I never thought I would do.

There is no permanent happiness in this world, only in God, the one who created us. Only in Him can we find peace and assurance.

Editor's Note: *At the January Women's Fellowship meeting, the women were challenged to practice writing and sharing their testimonies. Shirley was the first one to submit a written testimony and Lucille Hinds shared hers verbally at the February meeting. We encourage YOU to share your testimony, too!*

Thoughts About the Church

“I believe that a great number of people are going to die and go to hell because they’re counting on their religiosity in the church instead of their relationship with Jesus to get them to heaven. They give lip service to repentance and faith, but they’ve never been born again.”

— Adrian Rogers

“Do not desire to be the principal man in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best man in the church is the man who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as God is glorified.”

— Charles Spurgeon

“The true Church has never sounded out public expectations before launching her mission. Her leaders heard from God, they knew their Lord’s will and did it. Their people followed them—sometimes to triumph, oftener to insults and public persecution—and their sufficient reward was the satisfaction of being right in a wrong world!”

— A.W. Tozer

“A good church is a Bible-centered church. Nothing is as important as this—not a large congregation, a witty pastor, or tangible experiences of the Holy Spirit.”

— Alistair Begg

Seven Common Things Non-Christians Say about Christians

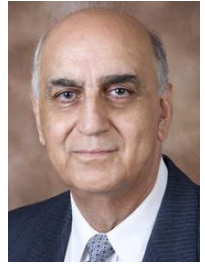
According to Thom Rainer, CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, non-Christians often express these types of comments about Christians:

1. Christians are against more things than they are for.
2. I would like to develop a friendship with a Christian.
3. I would like to learn about the Bible from a Christian.
4. I don’t see much difference in the way Christians live compared to others.
5. I wish I could learn to be a better husband, wife, dad, mom, etc., from a Christian.
6. Some Christians try to act like they have no problems.
7. I wish a Christian would take me to his or her church.

“Do you see the pattern? Non-Christians want to interact with Christians. They want to see Christians’ actions match their beliefs. They want Christians to be real.”



The Pastor's Page



Why Attend Church?

Acts 4:31

Have you ever heard people say, “I don’t have to go to church to be a Christian”? Of course, the statement is true. No one who knows his or her Bible would suggest that a person becomes a Christian by attending church or by participating in its activities. It would be foolish to believe that simply by going to church and becoming a member someone becomes a child of God.

Sadly, however, that is exactly what many believe although the Bible is very clear on this. A person becomes a Christian by entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the only Saviour. Jesus said: *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6).

Of course, such a relationship is much more likely to be entered into if one attends church where the Bible is taught than if he doesn’t. A person is also more likely to grow and mature in his or her Christian life if he or she attends church. One doesn’t have to attend school in order to be educated. Few achieve a significant education, however, apart from the teaching that is given by an educational institution. Church services are, or should be, designed to exalt Christ and to strengthen our faith.

The church also provides loving fellowship. It binds people together in a spiritual family where there is a genuine care for one

another. The church should be a place where parents and children together worship God and fellowship with other believers.

The most valuable gift parents can give to their children is a genuine faith in God. What greater help could a child be given than to know that the creator and sustainer of the universe knows him personally, loves him, understands all his anxieties and fears and is ready to help and comfort him in his deepest needs?

The church should be a place for individuals to worship God, learn, be equipped and develop lasting relationships and Christian maturity. Its activities should be designed to bring spiritual richness and blessings to the entire family.

Reprinted from God’s Workshop, Pastor Hovsepan’s devotional book. Please contact us for information on how you can obtain a copy.

“Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood is to a sick man.”

— D.L. Moody



The Temple Baptist Church family in 2009