

# TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2014



**“Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”** (Eph. 6:11)

Clockwise from top left: Caleb, Desiree, Mathieu, Mar, Luka and Gio. Centre: Part of the Junior Church class. Please also see page 2.

# Thoughts from the Editor

## Win Against Sin!

The photos on this month's cover and below were taken on March 23 when our Junior Church students demonstrated for us what they've been learning about the armour of God (based on Ephesians 6:11-18) in their weekly classes. The message that's been emphasized to the children is: "With Jesus we can win against sin!"

What a great phrase for all of us to remember. It makes me think of one of the pieces of spiritual armour in particular: the breastplate of righteousness.

In 1 Samuel, we read about King Saul's long-standing jealousy toward David and how it drove him to wanting David dead. He was stubborn and disobedient to God while David honoured God. So when David had a chance to kill Saul (chapter 24), wouldn't it have been fair for him to do it? His friends thought so!

But David didn't do what would have made his own life safer. Because he loved God, David wanted to do

what was *right* and not what was *easy*. When Saul realized how close he had been to dying and how David had put God's will before his own, he was touched and his respect for David grew. He thanked David for sparing his life and then blessed Him.

David's righteousness protected him, and that takes us back to the spiritual armour of God that we need to put on every day. When we make righteousness—doing the right thing in God's eyes—our priority, we become more able to resist the devil's temptations to sin.

*Ann-Margret Hovsepian*

*Special thanks to Theresa Piercy for preparing and teaching the lessons and for Wheng Cofino for her creative direction.*



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

# Letters

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## **Cayenne, FRENCH GUIANA**

*Greetings to you in the Saviour's name. While on vacation on the island of St-Croix, I was given a tract to read. When I read "What Are You Searching for?" I was so touched by these words that I was forced to write to you for more.*

*Pray for me, please. I need the Lord's guidance a lot. Help me out with a Bible, please. May the Creator bless and keep you. Thanks for replying.*

**Sylvestre Scotland**

## **Edmonton, ALBERTA**

*Tozer once said: "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply."*

*Whoa. Now I know each one of us has been dealt things in life that, in some cases, I'm sure have left us scarred and, in some cases, even questioning God's love for us. Chuck Swindoll once wrote:*

*"The hammer is a useful and handy instrument. It is an essential and helpful tool, if nails are ever to be driven into place. Each blow forces them to bite deeper as the hammer's head pounds and pounds. But if the nail had feelings and intelligence, it would give us another side of the story.*

*"To the nail, the hammer is a brutal, relentless enemy who loves to beat it into submission. . .The nail tends to forget that both it and the hammer are held by the same workman. The workman decides whose 'head' will be pounded out of sight . . . and which hammer will be used to do the job. This decision is the sovereign right of the carpenter. . .*

*"Are you at the brink of despair? As difficult as it may be for you to believe*

*this today, the Master knows what He's doing. Your Savior knows your breaking point. The bruising and crushing and melting process is designed to reshape you, not ruin you. Your value is increasing the longer He lingers over you."*

*May God touch you in a special way today, for your kindness in reaching out to us with your gift. One day soon we will stand before our Lord and hear His words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," and only then will we see the results of your faithfulness in reaching out to the lost around the world. God bless you for your continued prayers and support.*

**John Harder, Managing Director  
Evangelical Tract Distributors**

## **Miranda de Ebro, Spain**

*It is a joy for me to be able to contact you regarding to the literature you sent me. I go to five prisons per week. The literature you send me is used to evangelize in the neighbourhoods of this city called Miranda and also in several parks where you can find drug addicted and alcoholic youth. I'm here to share with people the gospel, preparing their hearts so they can receive the truth.*

*I send you a hug full of love in Christ, blessings to your ministry and around the world. Thank you very much.*

**Aquilino Gabarri Jimenez**

## **Sao Paulo, BRAZIL**

*[via our Facebook page] May God bless you for the salvation of many precious souls. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30)*

**Mário Flávio Ferreira**

## Feed Your Soul at Bible Study!

We've got two very interesting series on our current



Bible study menu and both will give you a healthy helping of spiritual food!

Please join us for one or—even better—both! We're studying Malachi on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and Ephesians on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. Come and be blessed by the insightful discussions.

## Men's Fellowship Date Change

In case you've missed the announcements on Sunday mornings, please note that the April Men's Breakfast and Fellowship will be held one week early, on Saturday, April 5, because of a scheduling conflict (explained in the next news item on this page).

The breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. as usual and return to its regular date (the second Saturday of each month) in May.

If any of our men would like to help with the meal set-up by arriving earlier, that would be a greatly appreciated by the pastor. Please speak to **Quentin Newhouse** for more details.

## QABC Annual Meeting

The Annual Assembly of the Quebec Association of Baptist Churches will be held on Saturday, April 12, at Westmount Baptist Church (411 Roslyn Avenue). It will start with coffee at 9:00 and is expected to end with lunch at 1:00.

Although a portion of the meeting will focus on the business of the Association, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. It is a good opportunity to hear about what is happening in our sister churches and to make new connections.

## Women's Events

The April Women's Fellowship meeting falls on Easter weekend so you can probably guess what the theme will be this month. Ladies, please join us on Saturday, April 19, at 10:00 a.m. for a meaningful time of fellowship and reflection on our Lord's death and resurrection, with a closer look at the women who were present at those events.

Please also plan to come to the annual Quebec Baptist Women Spring Event, for which three of our young women are preparing a special presentation. The theme is ZEAL! (Zest, Enthusiasm and Ardour for the Lord), based on Romans 12:11. The event will be held at Westmount Baptist Church on Saturday, May 17, and will replace our regular meeting that day. Further details will be given in the next few weeks.



Chloe Dzaghgouni - April 2  
Sonia Pehlivanian - 7  
Jessie Hovsepian - 13  
Matt Wohler - 13  
Tamar Dekirmenjian - 17

If you're new to Temple Baptist Church or have noticed that we've missed your birthday, please let us know when yours is. Any oversight has been unintentional!

## Clothing Update

Please note that we do not need any donations of clothing at this time. We are grateful for everyone's generosity but have more than we can use right now. We will let you know when supplies run low. Thank you!

## Show Some Love (to the Children)

You've probably noticed that there are many children featured in this issue of *Temple News*. We've got photos of about a dozen of our Junior Church students (and teen helpers) on the cover and on page 2, but these photos and even the editorial are only a glimpse of the great work being done in our children's ministry and the progress these students are making. Their enthusiasm and joy are infectious and we want to encourage them to continue to grow.

How would you like to be a blessing to these children (and their teachers)? Why not write a personal note with a few words of encouragement, either to the entire group or to the individual children? If you would like to do something like this, we can give you their names and ages. Just speak to either **Wheng Cofino** or **Theresa Piercy** or, if you'd rather keep your gesture a surprise, speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** and she'll give you the necessary information.

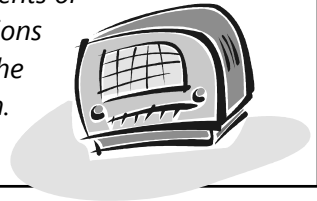
Also, on page 8, you'll find a special report about four children in Chicago who were praying for Canada, our church and our pastor last month. If you would like to send a "thank you" note to bless these children for their faithfulness, please speak with Ann-Margret or simply send us your message and she will make sure it is forwarded to them.

***"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*** (Matthew 19:14)

## 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.*



**April 18 at 10:00 a.m.**

*Please join us for worship and communion as we remember Christ's sacrifice for us.*

# Special Report

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## With Love, from Chicago

By Ann-Margret Hovsepián

Richard Eric Arnall, a friend of mine, hails from Springfield, Missouri, but has poured his life into inner-city ministry in Chicago for the last several years. A volunteer pastor and full-time educator in public schools (working as a teacher and a librarian), he's had many opportunities to work with children and families from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

This past January, he began teaching a new group of kids on Wednesdays. A week later, he wrote to me:

*I focus on Volunteering for Jesus (aka Missions) and each month the kids will take turns selecting a country that we will study and pray for. You will never guess which country Ronnie (nine years old) selected. Canada! I let the class know that they would receive a prize if they remembered to pray for Canada every day.*

*The pastor called me this afternoon. They went out to eat with another family. His daughters Imani, who is 6, and Mya, who is 10, when asking the blessing for their meal, prayed for Canada. The pastor was shocked and didn't know everything behind the prayers but he was thankful his kids were thinking outside Chicago.*

*I was wondering: Would you mind if the kids write you letters? I will send them to you along with their pictures and maybe you could write back to them?*

A few weeks later, he sent me four notes from his students and this update:

*We started our Wednesday evening Bible studies back last week and the kids*

*couldn't wait to tell me they'd been praying for Canada all that time! (Maybe that's why all the gold medals in the Olympics?)*

*They also made video clips to send to you. Not sure if you can use these in your service, but thought your Temple Baptist family like to know people in Chicago are praying for you.*

We showed the video clips at our last Praise Lunch, much to the delight of those present. Since we can't show videos in the *Temple News*, we hope you'll enjoy the notes I received:

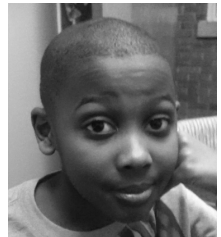
*From **Mya**: How many countries and states have you visited to tell people about God? What is it like being a missionary? Do you have a big church? My name is Mya*

*Thompson and I am 11 years old and I want to be a fashion designer, artist, and scientist. I go to Connection Community Church on 91st and Merrill. I'm praying for Canada, your dad, and you. I'm looking forward to hearing back from you.*



*From **Ronnie**: I would like to learn what is Canada like? How is the weather? How is the food? Do the polar bears attack people? How old is your church?*

*How many people come to your church? My name is Ronnie Gray and I'm nine. I am praying for Canada every day and your dad, the pastor. I go to Dixon Elementary School in Chicago. Good bye.*



# Special Report

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From **Anthony**:

*I want to know about your country. I'm seven years old and I'm in second grade. I go to the Connection Community Church. How big is your church? Why don't some people in Canada believe in God? What does your church do to help the people believe in God? My birthday is on June 24. I was born in 2006. Bye and I can't wait to hear what you say.*



From **Imani**:

*How is your church doing? And are the people who don't believe in God? Can you check this Sunday to see if they want to believe in God? And how is your day going? My name is Imani Gray and I am in first grade. My birthday is February 6. I was born in 2007. I will be praying for Canada and your father who is the pastor of your church. I will pray for you, too. Good bye, Miss Ann.*



## Inspirations

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### Isn't That Typical?

It's seem like that are more controversies and debates among Christians these days than ever before. With that in mind, the following illustration seems more sad than funny...

A man who had been stranded on a deserted island for two years was at last found. The media accompanied the rescue team, and when they arrived they saw that the man had built three huts. When asked what the huts represented, the man explained.

"Well, this hut is my home. And that hut over there is where I go to church."

The reporters seemed moved by the revelation that he had a place of worship. But then one asked, "What is that hut over there?"

"That's where I *used* to go to church!"

### Choose the Right Side

When the author walks onto the stage, the play is over. God is going to invade, all right; but what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else comes crashing in?

This time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. That will not be the time for choosing; it will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realized it before or not.

Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side.

— C.S. Lewis

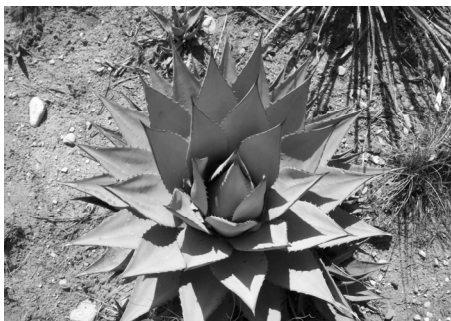
See the Pastor's message on page 12 for more about making this decision.

## Rest in the Desert

By Julie Westfall Tsoukalas

Have you ever been in a spiritual desert? We can learn a lot from God's creation about not only *surviving* time in a spiritual desert but also *thriving* and making the most of our time there until God leads us back out.

There are plants that can survive for years on the water they store from a single rainfall. If we soak up everything God rains down, when times of drought come we will have stored up plenty to get us through. Keeping a journal of the prayers God has answered, or a "blessings jar" in which we store (and revisit) notes about the work of the Lord in our lives, are just two ways we can



store up "water" for later.

Plants also survive in the desert by shedding unnecessary leaves that use up stored water and cause evaporation by the sun. Perhaps we need to trim back on things we are doing and examine how we spend our time while we experience drought. Surely we need to focus more intently on the Lord in these times, and things that are a distraction must go.

A final way plants survive in the desert is by growing their roots down deep to get water from the underground source. We must learn to seek the Lord, to shoot our roots down deep so we can drink directly from the source of life. Devotions and spiritual books written by others are great tools, but the Lord wants to speak directly to us as individuals. Make time to hear straight from Him, secure a quiet place, and shoot your roots deep into His Word.

Then, as Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, you will not feel the heat, you will not wither, or worry in drought, and you will continue producing fruit. Thriving in the desert is much easier when we trust and hope in the Lord!

*Editor's note: Julie and her husband Jimmy work as missionaries at Deaf Bible Baptist Church in Chipata, Zambia.*

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## 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 **April 20**.*

# Pastor's Page

...continued from page 12

## 2. Walk in Purity

God said: *“Be holy, because I am holy.”* (1 Peter 1:16) What is impurity? Paul starts his list with sexual immorality of any kind and then moves on to other sins in general, such as impurity of thought, filthy language, suggestive jokes foolish talking, etc. Believers are warned to have no part in such ungodly behaviour. To do so is to dishonour the name of Christ, to destroy other lives and ruin one's own testimony and bring terrible retribution.

Rather, Christian believers must be a light in the world and *“live as children of light”* (Ephesians 5:8). The Ephesians *“were once darkness, but now they are light in the Lord.”* Paul did not say that they had been *in* darkness, but that they had been the personification of darkness.

Now, through Jesus, they had become light. He is light and they are in Him so now they are a light in the Lord. Therefore, they should walk as children

of light, producing the fruit of the Spirit, consisting of all forms of goodness, righteousness and truth.

**Goodness** is an inclusive term for all moral excellence. **Righteousness** means integrity in all dealings with God and men. **Truth** is honesty, equity and reality. Put them all together and you have the light of a Christ- filled life shining out in the darkness of the world.

Light, by nature, exposes what is in darkness and the contrast shows sin for what it really is. Verse 11 says: *“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness but rather expose them”*

## 3. Walk in Wisdom

Verse 15 says: *“Be very careful, then how you live, not as unwise but as wise.”* The Christian walk must be one of wisdom, manifested in the lives of believers who understand the will of God and live by it.

Verses 16-17 say: *“Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”*

In these evil days, you must decide where you belong and whom you will serve: Jesus or the corrupt world system. The eternal destiny of your soul rests in your hands; it's your choice. Jesus said: *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money”* (Matthew 6:24).

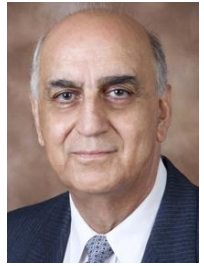
God wants you to make an exclusive choice. You will either serve Jesus. . . or you will not.

*Pastor Joseph Hovsepien*



# The Pastor's Page

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## Choices in Our Spiritual Journey

Ephesians 5:1-21

The difficulty in the church in Ephesus was the same difficulty today's churches face. They were not sure whom they should follow. Most decisions people make are based on cultural and traditional norms and lifestyles around them. Today, more than ever before, Christians are confused and torn in trying to choose between the lifestyle and culture of the world and the way of life God approves and accepts.

That is why we, the followers of Christ, must constantly make choices in our spiritual journey of life: Do we choose that which displeases God or that which pleases Him? Do we follow the living God, our Creator, or the gods of the world? More often than we would like to admit, we negotiate or compromise and then justify our decisions and actions.

Joshua challenged all the Israelites when he said: *"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."* (Joshua 24:15)

Joshua challenged the people to forsake idolatry and to serve God. He did not say it was okay to serve other gods as long as they also served the Living God. It had to be either the living God or their gods. He asked them to make an either/or choice, an exclusive choice.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus: *"Be imitators of God"* (Ephesians 5:1). The same challenge applies to us, too. Are we going to follow the gods of this world system or the one living God?

The answer seems to be very clear but applying it in our daily living seems to be difficult. The gods of this world are very powerful and influential. Being a Christian and living a godly life is like swimming against the current. The corrupt and ungodly world system in which we live makes it very difficult to go forward, but God is there to help us through the Holy Spirit.

Paul said that the Christian walk is at least three things:

1. It is walking in godly love, the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross by dying for sinners.
2. It is being light in the world.
3. It is being wise, not foolish. Believers should walk and live in the wisdom that comes from God through His holy Word.

### 1. Walk in Love

When he wrote to the church in Corinth, Paul said: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

...continued on page 11