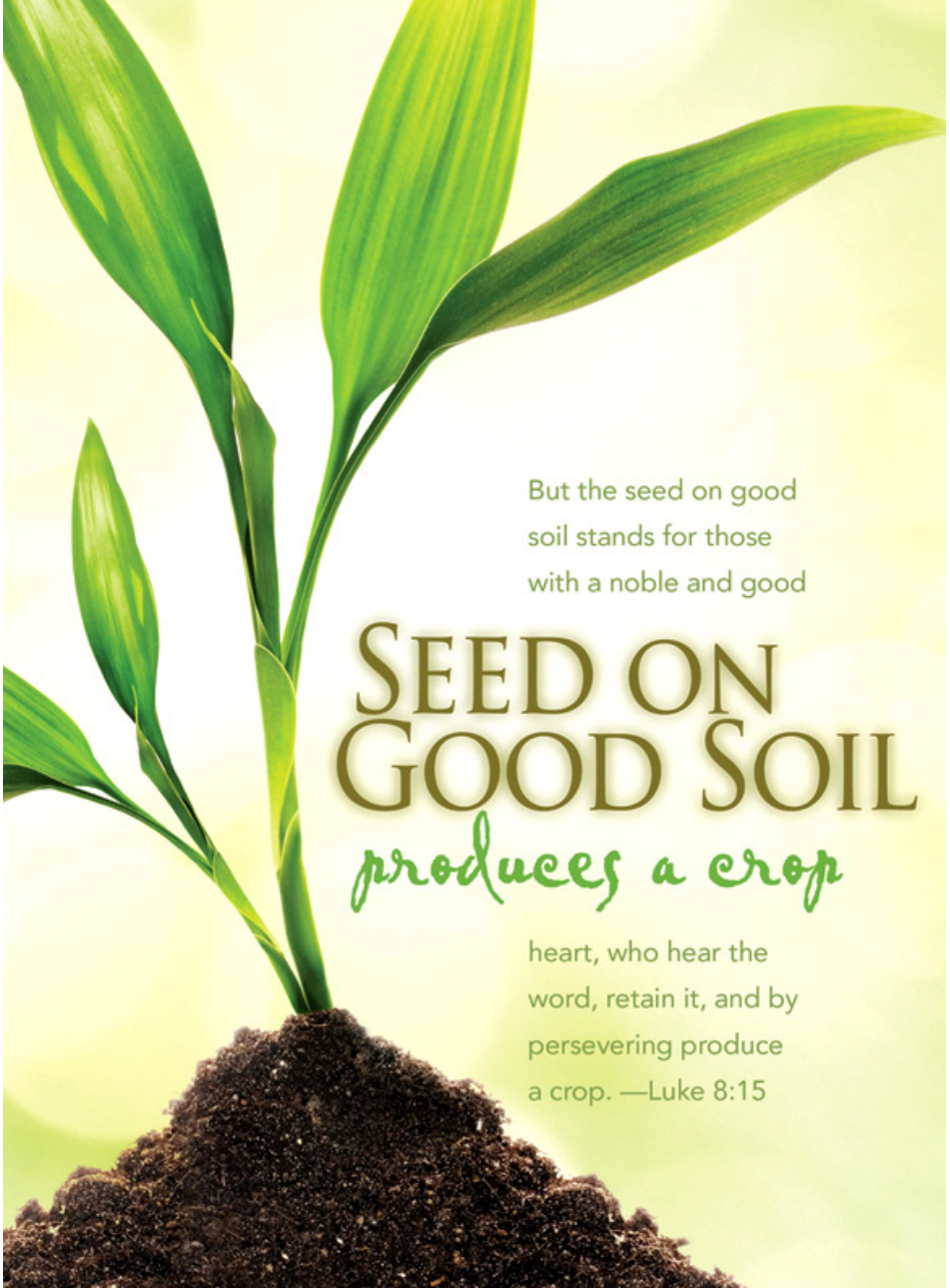


TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 2014



But the seed on good
soil stands for those
with a noble and good

SEED ON GOOD SOIL *produces a crop*

heart, who hear the
word, retain it, and by
persevering produce
a crop. —Luke 8:15

Thoughts from the Editor

Thank God for the Fleas!

During World War II, when the Ten Boom family was arrested for hiding refugees in their home, sisters Corrie and Betsie were sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. Their barracks was over-crowded and full of fleas.

Betsie, who was older (and who died within the year), reminded Corrie that they had read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 just that morning. She said they needed to thank God for everything about their new living quarters. At first, Corrie refused to thank God for the fleas but she eventually relented gave in to Betsie's wise counsel.

In the months that followed, the sisters were surprised that they were able to study the Bible and pray openly without the guards bothering them. It wasn't until much later that they found out the guards had avoided entering their barracks because of the fleas.

God used what looked like a problem to protect the women in that barracks. Betsie was right. They *could* give thanks for everything!

In this issue, Tamar Dekirmenjian shares her own testimony of how God reminded her of the importance of being grateful in whatever circumstance we

find ourselves. What we see as problems are usually only temporary inconveniences. Sometimes our problems turn out to be blessings in disguise.

Think about something in your life that you have difficulty thanking God for. I encourage you to take time today—and in the coming days, for as long as it takes—to thank God for that exact thing you struggle with, trusting that He knows what He's doing in allowing that challenge to be present in your life.

Can you thank God for the “fleas” in your life today?

Ann-Margret Hovsepian



Be cheerful no
matter what;
pray all the
time;
thank
God
no matter
what happens.
-1 Thes 5:18

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Letters

Edmonton, ALBERTA

Even though I live in Edmonton, God has placed in my heart a desire to pray and support Temple Baptist Church. I simply don't see the same attention to worship, holiness and righteousness in my church over here.

God bless Temple and Pastor Joseph.

Robert Harder

Editor's note: Robert has indeed been generous with donations toward both our church's ministry and our mission work in Armenia. Thank you, Bob!

Yerevan, ARMENIA

Dear Hovsepian Family and Temple Baptist Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would like to express special thanks to you for your love. I pray and I am sure that God will richly bless you and will fulfill all your needs according to His promises. I am really very thankful for everything you have done. [Editor's note: Please see page 8 for a report about Arayik and how we were able to help.]

Thank you very much for your prayers, too. While being operated on, I felt nothing at all and it seemed to me I was in heaven. I felt your presence due to your prayers. . .prayers of the saints.

I thank the Lord for keeping me safe and for giving me another opportunity to serve Him. Thank you very much for your love and help. We are always praying for you.

Arayik Sardaryan

Horom, ARMENIA

We studied the book of Proverbs with our church members the week before Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Then some testimonies and visits followed and we had opportunities to encourage believers to spread the Good News.

Two of our sisters, Mariam and Shushanik, evangelized a woman of 52 named Nakhshun and her 14-year-old granddaughter Alisa. As a result, they both accepted God as their Lord and Saviour. They came from a nearby village called Nor Kyanq ("New Life" in English), which is about 5 km from our village. Please pray for these souls (Luke 15:10).

We had a nice worship service with the Sunday School kids at Easter. We sang, prayed and gave some testimonies. We shared your tracts with them and gave even more for them to distribute.

May the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, with your family and with your ministries.

Tigran Muradyan

Editor's note: Please see page 9 for a special report about Horom.



We appreciate the work of our writers and the way they inspire us. Please tell us how an article or testimony has touched your heart! We'll include your note on our letters page. The deadline for next issue is May 23.

Notice Anything?

We hope you enjoy the extra splashes of colour in this issue! We recently decided that the difference in price to make all the *Temple News* pages colour was reasonable enough to go in that direction. We haven't had time yet to figure out a redesign that will take full advantage of this but, for now, we've made a few tweaks here and there to brighten up our newsletter.

A few of you have been faithful in financially supporting the *Temple News* and we appreciate that. If anyone else would like to help, you can simply add an extra amount to your regular offering envelope and write "Temple News" on the Designated line or give us a separate donation. Thank you!

New Member

The newest addition to our church's membership roll is **Brian Norton**, whom we officially welcomed as a member on Sunday, April 6. We truly appreciate Brian's enthusiasm and helpfulness.

God Be With You!

It was a blessing to have **Evelina Stulgaityte** among us these past several months while she studied in Montreal but it's time for her to return home to Virginia. We wish her all the best as she prepares for the next stage of her life.

Wedding Bells

It's been a while since we had a wedding at Temple and we're very excited to announce this one. **Stan Lefort**, who was baptized last year, and **Mina Morrison** will be married on Saturday, May 31.

We've enjoyed getting to know this sweet couple over the past couple of years and wish them many blessings as they join their lives together.



Time to Clean Up!

It looks like spring is finally here so we're eager to get our church building—inside and out—back into tip-top shape. We hope you'll want to help us!

On Saturday, May 24, we'll open the doors at 9:00 a.m. and start sweeping, dusting, mopping, vacuuming, scrubbing and polishing. There's lots to do and we need as many hands on deck as possible. Please come early so that we can get organized and assign jobs quickly...and finish up quickly, too.

For more information about the cleaning and maintenance of the church, please speak with **Ruth Hovsepian**, **Guy Beauchamp** or **Jacques Dénomée**.



Jasmin Shikdar - May 1
Jeremiah Osei - 14
Kate Li On Wing - 31

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

Resurrection Sunday Review

This year we had a good turnout again for our Good Friday service and shared a special time of worship and remembrance. Almost twice as many attended church on Easter Sunday, however, and it was a wonderful experience.

Sadly, our soloist, **Elise Guekgezian**, was sick and was not able to share her music ministry with us but our men “wowed” us with an unrehearsed song. The front of the sanctuary was crowded with 27 men (including a young boy and at least two visitors) who came forward to sing “Christ Arose!”

Also, Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** decided to take a few minutes to invite worshippers to share how they would say “Christ is Risen” and “He is risen indeed!” in their own languages. It was moving to hear this proclamation expressed in one language after another, an indication not only of how multi-cultural our congregation is but how the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ has touched every people group. We heard “Christ is Risen” in languages such as Hindi, German, Spanish, Greek, Russian, Creole, Thai, Armenian, Dutch, Twi, Romanian, Tagalog and more.

We praise God for these blessings and pray that He will continue to use our

church to reach many souls—in all parts of the world—and lead them to Christ.

Women’s Events

Ladies, please plan to come to the annual Quebec Baptist Women Spring Event, which three of our young women will be speaking at. The theme is ZEAR! (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. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end with a potluck lunch. For more information, please speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**, **Fernanda Lafrance** or **Anna Vlassova**.

Also, we encourage you to reserve the weekend of October 3 to 5 so that you can attend the annual Quebec Baptist Women fall retreat. This year’s speaker is **Rita Castaneda**, a dear friend of Temple Baptist Church. Full details and registration forms will be available in mid-May.

Men’s Breakfast

We encourage all our men, from young boys to great-grandfathers, to attend the Men’s Breakfast and Fellowship on Saturday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please speak with **Quentin Newhouse**.



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.*

Special Report: Armenia

Editor's note: Wondering about the colours used for the page heading? The flag of Armenia is made up of red, blue and orange stripes.

Spiritually Satisfied

By Lilit Mantashyan

It is always a blessing for us to share with you any good news from Armenia, especially when you have your share in it. When Pastor Joseph Hovsepian and Ann-Margret were in Armenia last year, Pastor Joseph preached in a village called Sayat Nova. The people of that small group always remember this visit and send their greetings; they are grateful for the literature Pastor Joseph provides (Bibles, books, tracts, etc.)

At the beginning of April, my father (Artur) was in Sayat Nova again and he met a young lady there. She was really hungry for the Word of God and had a desire to know God and to have a relationship with Him. Praise God, she accepted Christ as her Lord and Saviour and was very happy for that!

When she got all the literature, she promised to read all of it. She suggested praying for the person who wrote the books and tracts and all the members of that group prayed for Pastor Joseph Hovsepian. May God bless your ministries and make them more and more and more fruitful all over the world.

Thank you, TBC Family!

We would like to give some context to the letter on page 3 from **Arayik Sardaryan**, for those of you who are not aware of the situation. After hearing that Brother Arayik had suffered a heart attack in early April, we quickly alerted the

members of our Group Ministry (our deacons' board) about the news. We knew that Arayik required two surgeries and that the hospital bill would be around \$10,000. Acting quickly, the Group Ministry unanimously passed a motion to cover the expenses of Arayik's surgery and any related medical expenses.

We are grateful for our generous and caring church family!

Mission: Armenia 2014

By Ann-Margret Hovsepian

After months of telling people, "We'll let you know as soon as we decide," we're finally ready to answer the question "When are you returning to Armenia?" Just before Easter weekend, Pastor Joseph (my father) told our family that he felt the Lord *is* calling us to go back to Armenia. This will be his fifth trip and my second. We're eager to see how the Lord will unveil His plans for this mission trip and where He leads us to go to do ministry.

We have some tentative plans and goals but nothing is set in stone yet. However, we have booked our tickets and we'll be flying out August 12 and returning September 4. Also, we were blessed to find an apartment to rent for the three weeks we'll be there, which will be much cheaper than staying in a hotel.

Some of you will want to know how you can help. What we *don't* need is clothing. Thanks to a steady stream of donations over the past year, we already have two suitcases full of clothes to take with us. However, we will be collecting reading glasses again and, of course, any monetary gifts that our friends would like to contribute toward special projects or needs we come across. (For example, last

Special Report: Armenia

year one couple from Temple donated an amount that we were able to give to a preschool in the village of Horom.)

Please note that this mission trip is being sponsored by Joseph Hovsepien Ministries (a small team made up of our family and our valuable helper Lilit Mantashyan in Yerevan) and not by the church but we are grateful that many of our church members have supported these mission trips with their prayers, encouragement and financial gifts.

If you have any questions about this trip or about how you can help, please speak to either Pastor Joseph or to me.

Project Horom

By Ann-Margret Hovsepien

Another village that we visited last year was Horom, where I left a little piece of my heart. It was shocking to see the condition of the building that the local faithful believers worshipped in. The “church” is a dilapidated structure that suffered much damage during the 1988 earthquake in Armenia. The roof is in dire need of repair, all the windows and at least one door are broken, and there is no electricity, water, gas or any type of heating other than the dung bricks they use for fuel when it’s very cold. These

photos (and the one on the cover of the April issue) give only a glimpse at the desperate situation.

Through Joseph Hovsepien Ministries, our family has decided to fully finance the renovation and restoration of the church building in Horom. Financial commitments have already been made by a few individuals and the work will begin immediately.

The first order of business will be to install electricity and then purchase 30 to 50 new hymnbooks so that the congregation can worship together. Next will be replacing or repairing windows, doors, flooring and the roof.

Pastor Tigran Muradyan, the shepherd of this precious flock, is overseeing the project and will be taking before-and-after photos so that we can share with you the transformation that takes place this summer. We expect all the work to be finished by the time we return to Armenia in August.

We’re very excited about this project and I, personally, cannot wait to return to Horom and rejoice with the church members about their newly safe and warm place of worship.

If you would like to know more about this project and support it in any way, please speak with Pastor Joseph.



Inspirations

Finding a Christian Partner

By Greg Dekirmenjian

I remember when I was still single, hoping to getting married one day. The challenge was finding the right person!

I used to spend time in the Word, attend church and Bible studies, lead a youth group and prepare Bible studies for them. During those years, I got closer to God and He moulded and shaped me to become a true Christian soldier. I remember spending a lot of time listening to and reading sermons about dating and marriage and preparing myself for the future.

Then I met Tamar at a youth retreat in northern Montreal. We kept in touch during for two or three years and I saw her a few times during that period. I asked my friends about her past and the type of girl she was. I felt like a hockey scout trying to recruit for my team.

One day, after a church service in Toronto (where Tamar is from), Tamar and I decided to start dating. The first thing we did is pray in the church parking lot, asking for guidance from God and, most importantly, for His will to be done and for us to glorify Him as a couple.

That's how our relationship started and we've never looked back. We were always in constant prayer together and even asked God to close the doors between us if it wasn't in His will. I did marry Tamar and today we have a wonderful and beautiful child.

Dating can be very challenging today. There are a lot of temptations and we tend to close our eyes to a lot of things that go against our faith. As long as you spend a good amount of time with God and scout properly, He will find you

that right person if it is in His will.

Romans 12:2 says, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Home

By Tamar Dekirmenjian

We can all agree that we had a very long and tough winter this year. The winter blues affected many of us. Frigid temperatures and snow accumulation made us dream of warm, sunny days. Stuck at home most days with my toddler, I really looked forward to spring approaching.

I am often reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1, which says: *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”* How wonderful it would be to go for walks and play in the park without coats and boots! I'm not proud of this, but I found myself sharing (or over-sharing!) about how much I wanted the weather to change so that I could just get out of my home.

As the end of March approached and the weather conditions remained the same, I found myself thinking once again of escaping my home. In the midst of those thoughts, however, I felt convicted.

The Syrian conflict had been on my heart and in my prayers for quite some time. I was devastated by news that Kessab, a city heavily populated by Armenian Christians, was the latest target of rebels, forcing more than 670 families to evacuate their homes. With no notice, these families had to pick up and leave, with just the clothes on their backs, to

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Pastor's Page

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of the believers. This remarkable transformation proves they must have met Christ. Apostle Peter was a frightened coward one day and a mighty preacher the next! Paul's conversion (Acts 9) proves that Christ was alive. No delusion or fabrication could change this dedicated Jewish rabbi into a fiery preacher and follower of Christ.

Finally, there is the empty tomb. The stone was rolled away. Human power might move a huge stone but it cannot raise a dead person. And yet this stone was not rolled away to allow Christ to come out; it was rolled away to allow men to look in and see that He was gone! The true resurrection message is: "Come and see...Go and tell!"

If Jesus' body was stolen, it would have been stolen by either enemies or friends. Enemies would have produced the body and silenced the disciples. Friends or the disciples would not have willingly given their lives for a lie.

Afraid and confused, the religious leaders bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus

while the soldiers were sleeping.

This raises more questions than it answers. Why were the soldiers sleeping instead of guarding? How could the disciples have rolled the stone away without waking the soldiers? If the soldiers were asleep, how did they know the disciples stole the body? If it was true, why did the soldiers have to be bribed?

While truth is self-verifying, a lie has to be supported by countless other lies. The truth is that the resurrection of Jesus is a well-documented fact of history. He presented Himself alive to His disciples by many infallible proofs. The historic evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the great foundation stones—unshakable and immovable—of our Christian faith. This truth can be denied but it cannot be disproved!

Jesus said: "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" (John 14:6)

Jesus is not on the cross or among the dead. He is alive! He has life and gives life. What can be more important than life? Now, because you know He is alive, go and tell everyone!

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

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find refuge in a nearby city. Their homes were broken into and vandalized.

While I was wishing to get out of my home, many of these people were wishing they could go back to theirs. It hit me. I felt ashamed. I could come up with a list of excuses for wanting to step out and be in decent weather, but there is no excuse that can ever get me out of the sin of complaining.

"Rejoice always, pray continually,

give thanks in all circumstances," says the Bible in 1 Thessalonians 5:16. No matter what season we are in, whether things are going our way or not, we are reminded to do "*everything without grumbling*" (Philippians 2:14).

As I asked for forgiveness, the Lord reminded me to be grateful in all circumstances. Let's not fall into the sin of complaining because the Bible warns that it leads to disobedience (Psalm 106:25). What are you grateful for today?

The Pastor's Page

Come and See... Go and Tell!

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

It's easy to stop thinking about Jesus' death and resurrection once the "Easter" holiday is past but Jesus rising from the dead is the most wonderful event in the history of the world, so let's take a few more minutes to reflect on it.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an accepted historical fact. Anyone who questions or denies it must offer the proof that Jesus did *not* rise from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of Christian faith.

Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 and 20: *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is mentioned at least 100 times in the New Testament. It was the main point that Apostle Paul emphasized in his message on the day of Pentecost.

Jesus promised He would rise from the dead. His Holy life proved He always told the truth and even His enemies could

find no fault in Him. There are only two possibilities: Either He came out of the tomb or He was a liar. However, there were many eye-witnesses who testified that they had seen Christ!

For example, in John 20:19 and 26 we read: *"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said: 'Peace be with you!'. . . A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'"*

On another day, 500 people saw Christ alive. In 1 Corinthians 15:6 we read: *"After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep."*

Also, Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:28, *"Then He appeared to James, then to all Apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also."* Some say that these witnesses were hypnotized or hallucinating. Five hundred people all hallucinating at the same time?

We also see the change in the lives

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