


TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

JULY 2014



**What is the solution to
the evil and strife
in this world?**

(see page 12)

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Thoughts from the Editor

Where's My Panic Button?

Don't you wish you had a special button you could punch whenever life got crazy and suddenly everything would be okay? Your boss wants you to work overtime but your daughter has a music lesson, your father is sick, you have a dozen people coming over this weekend and you still haven't cleaned the house or bought the groceries and you keep forgetting to pay your credit card bill *and* the rent! HELP!

We've all been there, haven't we? Some of us may find ourselves under that kind of pressure on a regular basis and run ourselves so ragged that we don't even realize the toll it's taking on us—physically, emotionally, mentally, relationally and spiritually. We know we have to do something about it but, well, we're too busy right now!

Over the years, God has taught me what to do when things get a little hairy:

1. **Don't try to revolutionize your life in the midst of the chaos.** Take time to pray, casting your anxiety on the Lord, asking for strength, and committing to

making some changes—with His help—once the storm has passed. Then get back to the situation at hand.

2. **Keep things in perspective.**

Imagine the worst-case scenario in your situation. It's likely not as bad as you think. Things can *always* be worse—and for the majority of the people in the world, they are.

3. **Ask for help.** Whether you need more time, some hands-on assistance, a listening ear, advice, or prayer support, humble yourself and talk to someone. God always provides.

4. **Learn to say no.** Don't try to squeeze things into your schedule that sap your time, energy and joy. That might mean saying no to someone asking you to do something that God's not calling you to do—or saying no to your own desires. It might even mean saying no to a job, a relationship, or long-held habits.

5. **Don't forget to love.** When we feel like the world is crashing down around us, it can be easy to focus on ourselves and lose sight of God's will for us: to love Him and to love others.

Now then, wouldn't a panic buttons be better used as a door stopper?



Ann-Margret Hovsepian

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Letters

Austin, TEXAS

Hope everything is going well and that you're finally enjoying the long-awaited summer! Just wanted to give you all a quick update. After a week of living in temporary locations, I have finally settled into my "permanent" apartment. The Lord was very good and faithful in giving me a place to stay until my lease started. The first week at work was excellent! I absolutely love my new job working with the archives of the Tarlton Law Library.

I found a nice church here. The messages are excellent and gospel-centered, and the people are welcoming and curious to know more about God's Word. Thanks, everyone, for your prayers regarding this job and trip and settling in! I appreciate them very, very much. I know you all have access to God's ear and are not afraid to use it. I really miss my Temple family, and thank God for your friendship and encouragement. Hope all is going well. Sending my best wishes to everyone!

Evelina Stulgaityte

Dhaka, BANGLADESH

We are thankful to God, first, for all His deeds. We are also thankful to all our prayer partners, spiritual contributors and churches that are helping this ministry by donating, praying and caring for us. Our prayer is: "God, we thank you for their lives because through them you are working here in Bangladesh."

Presently, 100% of the William Shakespeare Academy's income is being used for church planting, preaching the gospel, the preschool, Sunday school, Bible school and all other mission work. Our ministries are already exceeding our income.

God wants much more from us for Bangladesh, a country of about 170 million people (99.5% unsaved) in a small space of 147,570 square kilometres.

If we could develop our school (i.e. increase accommodation, increase salaries to recruit more qualified teachers, purchase necessary supplies and furniture, and obtain international accreditation), our income would double or triple and even more than that and the ministry would be self sustained. Kindly pray for this situation!

Shankar Shikdar
Blessings for Humanity

Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES

The last five months have been busy ones for us here. With no shortage of projects needing our attention, the main challenge has been finding the time. In February, we made our second trip of the year to Tacloban, (the city worst affected by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013) and the surrounding towns.

At the Haven for abused women the ladies are very thankful when we are able to help them with food, snacks and milk powder for their children. Maria is continuing with the counselling and motherhood classes, and the attendance of the women has been growing.

We decided to triple the size of our usual back-to-school event this year and bring all the materials to Tacloban to help as many children as we could. We couldn't have done it without our supporters, and it was a miracle to reach our goal of helping 3,000 children. God bless you.

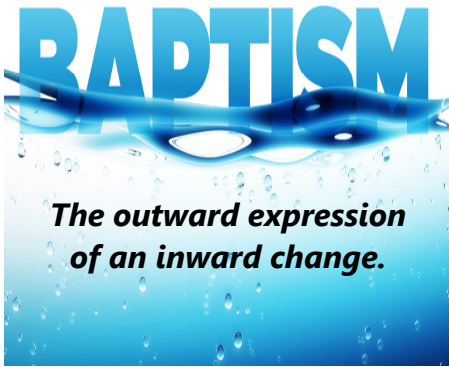
Jonah Bishop

Baptism Scheduled!

We've finally been able to establish a date for the next baptismal service: Sunday, July 20.

To encourage and guide others who may be thinking of baptism but aren't sure about it, we've also scheduled an information session. Anyone is welcome to attend a short briefing in Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's office on Sunday, July 6, right after the worship service. Since we also have coffee and fellowship after the service, family members of those in the class will have something to do while they wait.

There will also be a time of fellowship and celebration following the baptismal service on July 20. Please see the next announcement for more information about a change we're making to our monthly schedule.



New Format for Third-Sunday Fellowship Time

Since a number of people are unable to participate in Praise Lunch—or some stay only for lunch and not the worship and fellowship time that follows—we've decided to discontinue this activity for the time being.

We didn't want to completely eliminate the opportunity for fellowship, however, so we will have coffee and fellowship on the third Sunday of each month, just as we do on the first Sunday. We hope that this will make it easier for people to stay after the service and get to know each other better. This change is already reflected in the prayer calendar on pages 6 and 7.

We are grateful to the few people who have been contributing desserts and snacks for the fellowship time on Communion Sunday but we would love it if more of you helped by bringing some kind of dessert with you, at least to one of the two fellowship times.

More Good-Byes

This past year has been a mixed bag of hellos and good-byes: We've had several new members join our congregation (either officially or through regular attendance) but we've also had a number of young people and couples move away.



Theresa Arbour - July 3
Helene Kazarossian - 6
Jo-Ann Bouclair - 8
Lana Ptacek - 1-

Giovanni Cofino - 13
Guy Beauchamp - 20
Isabelle Illidge - 21
Alice Arbour - 22

News

We're always sad to see people go and yet we are grateful for the time we had with them and trust that God will continue to guide and bless them.

Most recently, we said good-bye to **Violy Velez**, who has moved to New Hampshire, and to **Vahe** and **Meerna Dzaghgouni** who are in the process of moving to the Cayman Islands.

Please pray for our church family members who are going through major transitions in their lives, either because of their studies and jobs or simply because they're relocating.

Please pray, too, that the Lord will continue to bless and equip our remaining members so that our ministry will be effective in our community and around the world.

Women's Retreat Reminder

The annual Quebec Baptist Women fall retreat is just three months away! This year's retreat will be held October 3 to 5 and the speaker is **Rita Castaneda**, a Montrealer herself.

If you do not yet have a registration form, please speak with **Jessie Hovsepian** or ask one of the greeters. The early bird deadline (to save \$10) is August 4 and the final deadline to register is September 1. Please hurry and sign up to reserve your room as soon as possible.

Church Directory: Help Us Stay Up to Date

As people come and go or move within the city, it becomes difficult to keep track of everyone's phone number and other contact information. Please help us out!

If you have either started coming to Temple Baptist in the past year or have changed your information in that time but have not filled out a visitors' card or given us your details, please do so as soon as you can. The most important things we need are your phone number and email address. We have prepared slips of paper, available from the greeters, that you can use to give us your updated information.



Thank you for your cooperation!

Free Books

We still have a sizable collection of Christian books that we're giving away. If you haven't seen them yet, head down to the main fellowship hall and look for the low table below the windows. We also have many back issues of the *Temple News* that you can help yourself to.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Breakfast and fellowship on
Saturday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship

Next meeting on Saturday,
July 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Missions Update: Armenia

News from Getap

By Lilit Mantashyan, Yerevan

[Late May] The son of the woman on the far left (in the photo) committed suicide some years ago. When Artur (my father) and Brother Haig went to this family's home to talk with them about God, they met the woman sitting next to the young man; she had come from Russia for a short time. She is the daughter of the old lady and the sister of the man who committed suicide.

While in Moscow, she had met Jehovah's Witnesses and had some idea about God. But she felt all the time that something was still missing, something was still wrong. When she and the young man heard the gospel, they both accepted God in their hearts, with tears in their eyes. Now they realize how it feels to have Jesus in their lives. Do you notice the Bible in the lady's hand? It is a Bible purchased by Joseph Hovsepian Ministries, and she also has some other literature produced by JHM. She was so excited to have them!

[Mid-June] The family in Getap asked my dad to visit them regularly to



worship God together. It was during one of these visits that he saw the 16-year-old daughter of the man who committed suicide weeping at the door. As he began to ask her what had happened, he saw the booklet *Does Your Life Have Meaning?* (by Pastor Hovsepian) on the table. She was obviously reading it and thinking about her life.

She said, "It seems to me that this book was written exactly for me. I cry after every message I read." In short, God spoke to her through this booklet. She and my father talked and read together for three or four hours. After that, she finally felt better and closer to God!

Horom Update

We continue to receive updates and photos from Pastor Tigran Muradyan in the village of Horom where Joseph Hovsepian Ministries is sponsoring the renovation of the church building. As you can see at left, the windows and doors are finished. Some of the interior work still needs to be completed and the last phase will be installing new flooring and purchasing chairs and light fixtures.

Pastor Muradyan says that the church members are looking forward to having their first worship service in the restored building on Sunday, July 13.



Inspirations

Being Watched

By Tamar Dekirmenjian

As a mother, my eyes are always on the alert, paying attention to my toddler's comings and goings, all in an effort to keep him safe and out of trouble.

I recently watched in amazement as he grabbed my keys and headed straight to the front door to "open" it. During the same week, he took the hand-held vacuum and started "vacuuming" the floors. In addition, while we were outside on the patio, he took hold of the watering can to start "watering" the flowers. In the matter of a week, he did things I never told him to do, let alone teach him. Unbeknownst to me, he must have been intently watching my actions and then quickly applying them.

Those events made me realize that, as Christians, we are being watched at all times—whether we are aware of it or not. How we are observed comes twofold, one from an earthly perspective and the other heavenly.

The people we are surrounded by are taking note of our actions, whether they are Christian or not, and therefore you and I must *"do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). We have to be especially cautious around those who don't believe but are aware that we are followers of Christ. People look for any



reason to put believers down and call them hypocrites. Let's not forget that we have an important example to set.

Secondly, there is no escaping that the Creator of our universe, the One who knows the number of hairs on our heads, is watching all of us. *"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good"* (Proverbs 15:3). He sees all that we do as well as all that we think.

Being watched from a human perspective is one-dimensional; however, from God's perspective it is three-dimensional: Our actions, thoughts and heart's intents are all being carefully observed, for *"from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth"* (Psalm 33:14).

We cannot avoid the fact that we are being watched so let's do our best *"to be found by Him [and others!] without spot or blemish and at peace"* (2 Peter 3:14).

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

www.templebaptistmontreal.com

Inspirations

Tract Distribution: Not that Complicated

By *Fernanda Lafrance*

I am not very good at memorizing verses from the Bible. I love to read it, but learning it by heart is not my thing so what I do is write verses down and hang them in frames around my house.

There are many passages from the Bible I like and sometimes paraphrase when I can't remember them exactly. One of those passages is one I never forget because it's also a well-known one; it is the commission that we have as Christians.

We are called to share the gospel, to tell the Good News, something that, as a non-Christian, I didn't see much. I never knew that Christians were called to share the gospel with all nations. In fact, I thought that Christ had come to do something great only for some people—special people. However, after I accepted the Lord as my Saviour, I learned that I was called to become a missionary. Wherever I was, I was called to share what God had done for me.

I've never imagined myself in the streets talking about God very loudly and to no one in particular. Thankfully—and sooner than later—I realized that there are a lot of other effortless ways to do it.

Not so long ago I decided to be part of the ministry of tract distribution at

Temple Baptist. Why? Because it's simple.

I don't feel really confident talking face-to-face about the gospel. If someone asks me a question about God or about how I deal with daily problems, I'd rather share what God has done in my life than quote what is written in the Bible, and yet I can only do that with people around me. So what about people I'm not very close to? Well, I can hand them a Bible tract that talks about God.



Distributing Bible tracts is not as complicated as it sounds. The procedure is basically this: I stand in the middle of a busy place, I say Hi! and then I offer a Bible tract. After that I face two scenarios: a) the person in front of me takes the tract or b) the person in front of me

doesn't take the tract. That's it!

Does every person read the tracts? Will all those people be saved? Will any of them be saved because I decided to give them a Bible tract? This is not my business; I share the Good News and God does the rest. End of the story.

God is with me every second of my life. He listens to me when I need Him and even when I think I don't need Him. He answers my prayers, He allows me to live one more day, He takes care of my loved ones, helps us pay our bills, makes the sun rise every single day, and so much, much, much, much more!

Giving out tracts is a tiny way to say "thanks" to my Lord and to respond to my commission as a Christian.

The Pastor's Page

...continued from page 12

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Jesus came to take our sins upon Himself. He suffered the punishment we deserved. He died the death we should have died. He bore the guilt we should have borne.

The message of the Bible does not end with the death of Jesus for our sins; a dead Saviour would have little, if any, power to help us in this life. But Jesus rose from the dead! He demonstrated victory over death, fear and sin.

Jesus is the bridge by which we can cross the gap between us and God. There is no other bridge, there is no other way. Jesus said of Himself: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6) On another occasion, Jesus said: *"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life."* (John 6:47-48)

This means that anyone who admits he is a sinner, accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who died to save him from sin, and becomes a child of God by asking God to take control of his life and accepting the complete authority of God.



What is wrong with the world today? It is the absence of God in the lives of individuals and governments. If Christ is not in control of the life of a nation and its people, then that nation is controlled by evil and will not prosper. And sin, restlessness and tension will destroy it.

To the question "What is wrong with the world?" and "What is the solution?" God's answer is: *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)

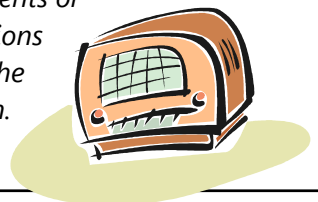
God is the only solution to our world and personal problems! Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, put it this way: *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* (John 6:68)

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

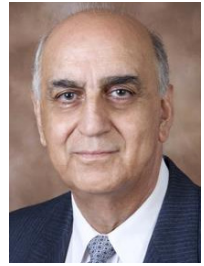
GOOD NEWS!

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.



The Pastor's Page



Is There a Solution?

Something is wrong with the world today: Tension, crisis after crisis, suffering, fear, and hopelessness are everywhere. Parents kill their own children, children kill their parents, and even religious leaders are involved in sinful acts and corruption. We don't have to look beyond our own lives to find fear, tension and despair.

Why all this evil? What is the solution? Is there even a solution?

Some look to politics and governments for an answer but, after centuries of every conceivable form of government, it is clear that no government—no matter how good it may be—can claim to have the answer. That's because no government can be stronger than its people. Some injustices can be controlled by law, but law cannot change the human heart.

Others feel that the answer is education. If education was the answer, then the centers of higher learning would be places of harmony, of greatest dedication to the common good, of morality and happiness. But we know that this is not true. So, higher education is not the answer to our problems.

Many believe the problem is that some have too much while others have too little, that good economics is the answer. But if economics was the answer, we would have seen that those who have the most money and comfort would be

the happiest and most unselfish people. But we know that most of them are not.

Now, if the answer to the world's problems is not found in politics, economics, education or even man-made religions, where is it found?

The Bible is very clear that we (the human race) rebelled against the authority of God and rejected His control. In doing so, we cut off ourselves from the only source of peace: God.

The tensions and conflicts that are in our society are the result of tensions and conflicts within our hearts. Our sins have made a separation between God and us. This separation is so great that man cannot bridge it.

The Bible tells us that sin is the problem in the world but it does not stop there. It also tells us what the solution is! God's answer to the world's problem is not a **plan**; it is a **person**—God Himself!

The Bible teaches that God is a God of love. However, because He is also holy, He cannot tolerate sin. God's love wants to rescue man from sin and bring him back to friendship with God but His holiness cannot overlook sin.

How, then, can these two factors in the nature of God be reconciled? This is why God sent His Son from heaven in the form of a human, into the human race. Because God is love, He wanted to save and restore the human race.

John 3:16-17 makes that very clear:

...continued on page 11

