

TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2014



“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”

(Proverbs 22:6 NLT)

Thoughts from the Editor

No Fishing from the Balcony!

There once was a hotel in Texas called the Flagship, built right near the Gulf of Mexico. Large windows around the dining room on the first floor gave a beautiful view of the water, but the hotel was spending a lot of money replacing the windows. Can you guess why?

Some guests thought it would be a good idea to go fishing from their balconies! It was such a long way from their balconies to the water that they would put heavy weights on the fishing lines. Then they would cast their lines. . .

WOOOSHHHHH! **CRASH!** The weights would smash right into the expensive windows below.

The hotel tried to stop people from fishing from the balconies, but nothing worked. Finally, the hotel management

took down the “No Fishing from the Balcony” signs in the guest rooms and, ironically, no one fished from them again!

Then again, maybe we shouldn’t be surprised. People always seem to want to do what they know they’re not allowed to. Babies do it. Children do it. Even adults do it! Of course, when children do it, we call it disobedience; when we do it, we call it liberty. But it’s rebellion, plain and simple—one of the most difficult sins to overcome.

Humans can be very stubborn, not wanting to obey God even though we know very well that His commands are good and right. In spite of our stubbornness and pride, however, the Bible promises that if we stop rebelling and turn to God, He will forgive us. Isaiah 55:7 says:

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

What is a sin you’re tempted to indulge in the more you’re convicted you must not? In what ways does your heart rebel against God? Unless, with His help, you forsake unrighteousness, it will continue to cause destruction in your life.

Ann-Margret Hovsepien



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On the cover: Liliane Arbour at Junior Church

Letters

Horom, ARMENIA

We want to inform you that we received the May Temple News and are glad to read our news updates continuously in your monthly magazines. That means you always remember us and pray for us like a family. Another short update is that the renovation of the church building is still in process. We have already reconstructed the floor and are finally done with it. The outside front door is also placed. Thank you very much!

Brother Joseph, we give praise that you were with us in the three-month process of the church renovation project. We would like to tell you about the many blessings we received during this project.

First, I want to mention that people in Armenia are usually unemployed and many people just leave for Russia to earn money for their families' survival. However, there have been some problems connected with the visa of this country, so many people could not go to Russia. Happily, many workers and labourers from about 16 families managed to find work because of this church renovation project. On average, they earned about \$5,300 and have been able to take care of their families' needs.

Also there have been testimonies among our villagers. Many of them regularly visit to look at the renovation work. One of them once said, "God has again visited you." Our church members and Sunday School children praise God in their daily prayers and are looking forward to the end of this project.

My wife Valya asked me to include her prayer in my letter: "Dear Jesus, Thank You so much for answering the prayers of your nation and our family, who were

bought with the price of your blood. Thank you very much for your endless love and blessings through the Hovsepian family. Jesus, hallowed be Your name. In the name of the Father and the Holy Spirit, Amen."

Pastor Tigran Muradyan

Editor's note: You can read more about our work in Armenia later in this issue.

Montreal, QUEBEC

Led by the Holy Spirit, I met Pastor Joseph Hovsepian and have been welcomed. I have since met and had fellowship with the church. I'm very encouraged by and enjoy the Bible studies and Men's Fellowship group.

The Lord is great and answers all of our prayers and needs. I will continue coming and the Lord has a purpose for everything. Thank you and God bless you.

Nick Grigoropoulos

California City, CALIFORNIA

[In Spanish] Dear brothers, the peace of Christ be with you. I am writing to ask for information about the materials that you have in Spanish. It would be very helpful for my new life in Christ. I thank you in advance for the list of materials that are available. God bless your ministry.

Sergio B.

(inmate at state prison)

Prince Albert, SASKATCHEWAN

Dear folks, How is your ministry coming along? I need you to please send me the Temple News from January until July.

Bobby C.

(inmate at provincial correctional centre)

Baptismal Service

It was with great joy that we witnessed three people be baptized on Sunday, July 20. **Katteline Osei** has been coming to Temple for several years (her husband **Emmanuel** began attending with his parents in his late teens) and she has been helping with our nursery and Junior Church programs.

The others who were baptized are among the newest additions to our church family: **Michael** and **Julie Mosher**. Michael shared his moving testimony at the July Men's Fellowship meeting and we've enjoyed getting to know this young couple.

Please pray for all three who were baptized, that the Lord will continue to strengthen their faith and their commitments to Him.

Hello, Goodbye

Last issue we mentioned that we've had to say good-bye to several people over the last year or two. This month we are saying *adieu* to **Greg** and **Tamar Dekirmenjian** as they make final arrangements to move to California.

We will miss them, especially as both were very active in the life of our church; Greg as a deacon and former youth leader, Tamar as a teacher, and both as occasional contributors to the

Temple News. Please pray for them at this time of transition.

We also have a few young adults coming and going during these summer months as they pursue continuing education or careers. Please remember them in your prayers as well.

With all the good-byes we've said, we've also said many, many hellos. You'll notice that there are quite a few new names in the prayer calendar at the centre of this newsletter. It's been a blessing to welcome newcomers almost every Sunday! We encourage you to make an effort to meet the people whose names you don't recognize.

Men's & Women's Fellowship

We won't be making any changes to our schedule for these two monthly events this summer, so we hope that both groups will see high attendance at the August meetings.

On Saturday, August 9, **Mark Kirsten** will be sharing his testimony at the Men's Breakfast, which begins at 9:00 a.m. Men, invite your friends!

On Saturday, August 16, **Fernanda Lafrance** and **Anna Vlassova** will be leading the Women's Fellowship meeting. A brunch is being planned and the theme, appropriately, will be *fellowship*.



In August...

Caleb Exantus - August 9
Salvatore Balliro - 12
Violy Velez - 15
Kofi Boahene - 19

Joshua Livingston - 19
Rachel Peres - 25
Ruth Hovsepien - 28

News

Please speak with Fernanda for details.

Ladies, please also remember that the deadline to register for the Quebec Baptist Women Fall Retreat is September 1. If you don't have a form, speak with **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**.

Junior Church Summer Update

By Theresa Piercy Arbour

Junior Church is going strong this summer! After the Armour of God series, we started a new topic: the Fruit of the Spirit. The kids enjoyed learning about some fairly abstract concepts (explaining faithfulness was a highlight for me!) that we tried to illustrate with examples they can relate to. It was rewarding to see



**Mar Lafrance (left) and
Desiree Cofino**

them start to understand and pipe up with experiences of their own.

We ended the series by planting a seed in a pot so that they could watch it grow at home, just like God plants the seeds of the

Fruit of the Spirit in us!

This spring also marked the first time that we have had other teachers join us. **Wheng Cofino** and I are thankful that **Fernanda Lafrance**, **Anna Vlassova**, **Tamar Dekirmenjian** and **Ann-Margret Hovsepian** have accepted to be part of a regular rotation and share in the teaching and craft duties. It has been beneficial for the kids to have some new energy in the class as these ladies each bring their unique style to the group.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement!

Sermons Online

Did you know that you can listen to all of Pastor Joseph Hovsepian's Sunday sermons online? This means you don't have to miss any when you're sick or out of town and, if there was a message that particularly inspired you, you can hear it again and even share it with a friend.

Simple go to our website (www.templebaptistmontreal.com) and click on the image at the top right ("Listen to Current Message") to hear the latest sermon, or on the text link directly below it ("For more sermons click here.") to access the archives. Alternatively, you can also click on "Media" from the top menu to access all the sermons as well as many other useful resources we provide.

In September...

Junior Clerveaux - September 2

Wheng Cofino - 2

Alex Kazarossian - 2

Jill MacInnes - 3

Yaroslav Lyeshchiner - 5

Angie Lantos - 7

Theresa Chen - 9

Greg Dekirmenjian - 9

Patricia Peres - 13

Lilian Ndogmo - 14

Jonah Bishop (Phil.) - 18

Meerna Dzaghgouni - 19

Brihanna Peart - 21

Emmanuel Osei - 23

Missions Update: Armenia



On behalf of Joseph Hovsepien Ministries and those being helped in Armenia, Pastor **Joseph Hovsepien** would like to thank the members of Temple Baptist Church for their overwhelming generosity and support of the ministry.

Your gifts of money, medicine, reading glasses, clothing and suitcases are a great blessing and encouragement. We know that the Lord will bless and multiply these gifts in ways we may never be able to measure.

Thank you for being a part of this special work and for caring about brothers and sisters in Christ thousands of miles away. God bless you all!

The Countdown Begins

By Ann-Margret Hovsepien

By the time most of you read this, Pastor **Joseph Hovsepien** and I will be working on final preparations for our mission trip to Armenia (August 12 to September 4). Our entire family and our Christian brethren in Armenia truly appreciate the prayer support and encouragement so many of you have blessed us with. It gives us strength and courage as

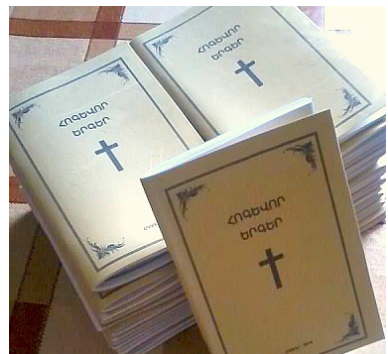
we get ready to go, not entirely sure what is ahead of us.

Some of our schedule has been organized—for example, where Dad will preach on Sundays—but, for the most part, we will take things a day at a time and pray for discernment about where God is leading us. We know we will make trips to Horom (where I will stay for three nights with Pastor **Tigran Muradyan's** family), Spitak, Sayat Nova and other villages. There will be at least one baptismal service and many home visits, Bible studies and prayer meetings.

I will, as often as possible, send reports and photos to allow you to witness the gospel outreach taking place in Armenia and the progress of projects we have shared about in the past.

Horom Hymnbooks

On page 11, you'll find a couple more photos from Horom showing the final stages of renovation work on the church there. (Also, see page 3 for a letter from the local pastor, **Tigran Muradyan**.) An additional aspect of Joseph Hovsepien Ministries' Project Horom was the printing of new hymnbooks for the congregation, pictured below.



Mission Updates

Project Horom

It's almost finished! We'll take photos of the completely renovated church building during the upcoming trip to Armenia and share them with you soon.



Floor tiles ready to be laid down.



Newly installed interior door.

Our Other Mission Fields

We talk a lot about the work being done in Armenia because of our pastor's direct involvement. However, we want to remind you that we also support other ministries and missionaries.

This month, especially, we ask you to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines who have been affected by yet another storm. On July 16, **Jonah Bishop**, one of the missionaries Temple Baptist Church supports, reported on Facebook: *"We had some extreme wind last night and this morning it was around 150 kilometres per hour. Our mango tree fell into the street and a window was smashed but, besides an over-12-hour power cut, we didn't suffer. Please pray for those who have lost homes or loved ones in this latest typhoon."*

The latest news report we saw indicated that the storm, which killed at least 38 people, destroyed about 7,000 houses and damaged 19,000. More than 530,000 people had taken refuge in evacuation centres. Please pray for the Bishops as they reach out to those affected.

GOOD NEWS!

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.



Our Story

How We Met Again

By Mina and Stan Lefort

Mina: We were both born on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. I met Stan when I was 15 years old at a dance in the small schoolhouse. He asked me to dance and then offered to take me home. I said yes. I liked his looks and his soft eyes. He touched my heart.

Stan: I was 18. At the dance, I looked across the room and saw a pair of eyes that made my heart skip a beat.

Mina: After that evening, we only saw each other twice more and then I went to work in a small village called Frizzleton. Back then, not everyone had telephones so we both went our own ways.

Stan: We didn't have a car and there were no buses. It was hard to see each other. I came up to Montreal and lived my own life, never getting married.

Mina: When I look back, I see that God had another plan. I had been brought up Roman Catholic and wasn't a believer at that time but I went to a Baptist church with two girls that I worked with. I looked across the church and there was a young man constantly looking at me.

Sometime later, we saw each other at a store and he asked me out. We were married in Toronto in 1958 when we

were both 21 years old. Afterward, we moved back to Cape Breton.

Carey was a wonderful man. We had three sons and a daughter and worked hard to bring up our children the best way we could. I became a Christian in June 1973 and was baptized that August. From then on, I prayed for my children to be saved and they all became believers. Two of my sons are Baptist ministers.

In November 2007, Carey was diagnosed with lung cancer. It was a difficult and sad time for the family. He died in February 2009. At that point, I decided to come to Montreal to help my brother take care of our mother who is now 102.

Three years later, Stan and I found each other again—60 years since the last time we'd seen each other. At first we became good friends but, after two years and five months, we became more than friends.

Stan: I accepted the Lord and became a born-again Christian on October 27, 2013 and was baptized on December 8. We were married on May 31 at Temple Baptist Church by Pastor Joseph Hovse-

pian and hope to be blessed for many more years.

Mina: Stan is a wonderful, caring and tender-hearted man. I believe in prayer and the Lord has blessed me twice! *"Now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13)



Inspirations

The Truth: Our Best Defence

By Rita Assan

“If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” (Isaiah 7:9b)

At our Tuesday Bible study, we are almost at the last chapter of Ephesians, chapter 6, one of most inspired chapters in the Bible. Even though it is not first time we are studying this book, I am already excited to get there. This is a chapter that prepares you and me for the battle in our spiritual journey. No true Christian will ever escape the battle. We must be prepared to face it, but how?

The Bible tells us that we do not fight against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers of this dark world, and against spiritual forces in the heavenly realms. We need to put on the armour of God. Without it, we are defenceless against our enemy (Ephesians 6:10-13). God enables us to stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around our waist and the breastplate of righteousness in place. The *truth* is our main defence against the father of lies and it reminds us of God’s faithfulness at the moment we need it most. We often lose the battle because we are not prepared. We are defeated because we do not know the truth.

It does not matter how long you have been a Christian or how much you know. The truth is, no one graduates from the Word of God and prayer. We must continue in them until we are called to meet the Saviour.

Being equipped for battle enables us to increase in faith and not be overcome

by doubt; it helps us to be strong in trials and suffering.

When we study the Word of God and pray together, He prepares us to stand firm when we are under the attack of the enemy. God’s inspired Word declares that the knowledge of the truth leads us to godliness. It also reminds us that in the latter days, some will abandon their faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons (1Timothy 4:1). *[Editor’s note: See more on this topic on page 16 of this issue.]*

According to the Scriptures, wickedness will increase as the time of Christ’s return draws nearer. We are warned to be on guard so that we will not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall. *“But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus.”* (2 Peter 3:17)

The truth transforms our improper thinking. Group study of the Word of God, backed by prayer, will increase our faith in God, enlighten the eyes of our understanding and help us to experience God’s will in our lives.

Beloved, we need to establish a strong foundation in our Christian lives. Our close relationship with God comes through knowing Him and communicating with Him and knowing more about Him. The better we know God, the deeper our relationship with Him is, and the better we are ready to stand in the face of whatever situation we encounter in our Christian walk.

There are not enough excuses to prevent us from studying together. Where there is a will, there is a way. God asks us not to give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing (Hebrews 10:25). A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

Inspirations

The Amazing Word of God

One of our church members, **Shirley Dumont**, makes good use of her solitary time by taking notes as she reads her Bible and then entering those notes on her computer for easy reference when she wants to look something up.

Shirley has also collected many inspiring observations and facts about the Bible, which she would like to share to encourage you.

There are three ways to know there is a God: through the Scriptures, in creation and nature, and in our hearts and minds. The Bible is one of the primary periscopes through which we can learn about God.

The Bible is multi-faceted. It is history, literature, theology, prophecy and a love letter from God to His people. God has used this amazing volume to shape cultures and transform millions of lives. The Bible is God's explanation of the cosmos, of history and of our place in this grand story.

The Bible, the first book ever printed, was printed in 1454 by Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. It

had been translated into English in 1382 by John Wycliffe. The Bible has been translated into more than 2,000 languages with countless more partial translations and audio translations (for unwritten languages). It is the most-sold book of all time.

Psalm 119, the longest chapter of the Bible (it has 176 verses), focuses on the importance of the powerful, life-giving Word of God. It has 22 stanzas of 8 verses each, one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Nearly every verse in the chapter explicitly mentions God's Word.

For centuries, people have followed the Bible, treasured it, obeyed it, and even worshipped it. They have quoted it and misquoted it. People have translated it, recorded it, smuggled it, sold it and given it away. Many have dismissed it, denied it or blamed it, and most of us have used it and abused it. Many faithful believers have suffered and been imprisoned for possessing it. Some have burned it to try to get rid of it. Others have buried it to try to keep it.

"We have treasured the words of your mouth more than our portion of food." (Job 23:12)



Dig into God's Word with us!

**Join us for Bible study on
Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m.**

The Pastor's Page

...continued from page 16

Gospel message? *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Christ died for our sins, according to the Bible. He was buried and rose again, according to the Bible. And we are saved by faith alone according to Jesus (John 3:16). However, false teachers and churches teach that we are saved by works or law-keeping, not by grace. Apostle Paul puts it this way: *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.”* (Galatians 2:20-21)

The devil's arguments may sound convincing but they are not true! His lies sound like higher standards of holiness to those deceived by his lies. He adds to the gospel rules, doctrines and man-made religious activities. Other times, he removes basic truths and replaces them with humanistic messages. We must hold to the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Satan Contradicts the Message of the Cross

The devil hates the message of the cross. There are only two messages in this world:

1. Satan says: “Do nothing for there is no God.”
2. Christ says: “It is done; believe and live.”

Rejecting the cross and the blood shed on it is more appealing and politically correct for many today. The cross seems too violent, too bloody, too gross for them. Some hymnbooks no longer have hymns that mention Jesus' blood. Many ministers don't preach and teach about the blood and its saving power.

The devil has been at work brain-washing people with his social “gospel.” This all-inclusive, politically correct social gospel is useless. It is not the saving Gospel. The Bible makes it very clear that the only way to heaven is through Jesus and His saving blood.

Satan Creates Controversy and Confusion Among Christians

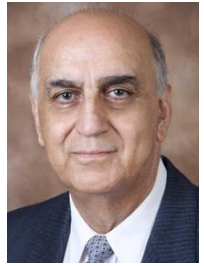
Satan's workers appear to be righteous and religious, like “angels of light” when they are, in fact, the ones who cause trouble in churches. They sound so right, so convincing. The devil uses them to divide and conquer. These false Christians often appear to be super-spiritual, but all they do is sow strife and bitterness among believers.

Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honour but pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure but pays with pain; he promises profit but pays with loss; he promises life but pays with death.

Resist him when he appears in his best dress suit. Remember that if you are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ and you are serving Him, your name is written in the Book of Life. You are going to heaven and the devil and his servants are going to hell. Do you have the assurance of your salvation? If not, invite Christ into your heart and life right now!

Pastor Joseph Hovsepien

The Pastor's Page



More Dangerous When In Disguise

2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-2

There are many misconceptions about the devil and cartoon characterizations, in particular, are far from the truth. To accomplish his mission, the devil can look like anything or anyone he wants to.

He can look like that handsome man or beautiful woman you met on the street. He can appear as an exciting business opportunity, a bottle of alcohol, a gambling tip, an exciting experience, etc. Anything that will lure people into his trap, he'll disguise himself as that.

The devil is cunning, crafty and subtle. He won't come as an obvious enemy. But he may come as a religious person or ideology.

The Bible is very clear that satanic religions will rise and increase. Satan will introduce seemingly innocent activities to the churches seeking entertainment and easy Christianity.

He will appear as a charismatic person with great many followers. Many appear to be preaching the gospel yet are only promoting themselves for monetary, political or other gains. They seem to be preaching the gospel and yet it is a Christ-less gospel. Remember that Satan

knows Scripture. He can quote it and he can also twist it to fit his needs.

We read in 1 Timothy 4:1, "*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*" People will become involved with seducing and evil spirits. People will compromise and water down the message of Jesus Christ, even accepting doctrines of demons (cults, other gods, etc.)

The devil is more dangerous when in disguise! He actually is very effective and dangerous when he is clothed with religious respectability.

Satan Complicates the Gospel

He does this by using false leaders, teachers and doctrines. "*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no*

wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve." (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

The simple gospel message is often complicated by Satan, so that people do not understand it. What is this simple



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