



AMMAA

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31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.
Tel. (201) 265-2607; Fax (201) 265-6015
E-Mail: amaa@amaa.org;
Website: www.amaa.org
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COVER PICTURE

Dzidzernagapert, Armenian Genocide Memorial
Yerevan, Armenia
Inset: Avedisian School Students

Because He Lives

Andrew Torigian

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has been raised, as He said. 'Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples. He has been raised from the dead, and indeed He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28:1-10).

During this Easter Season, we are keenly aware of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also know the fact that death and resurrection are intimately bound together in our daily lives. We cannot have one without the other. No resurrection is available to us, unless we die. It may hurt to give up the carefree days of our youth, but it is the only way to adulthood and the special joys that come with it.

Death does not only have to do with the last moments of life on earth. It is about each and every moment of our lives on earth. Why not take a moment now to pause and think of one of those moments. It is about dying ourselves so we can be resurrected in Christ.

We Armenians were the first nation in the world to accept Christianity and then under extreme circumstances continued to fight our enemies to preserve our faith. We know the sacrifices that were made in the Battle of Avarayr in 451 A.D. against the Persians. We still suffer from the Genocide inflicted upon us by the Ottoman Empire. But we persevered and kept our Christianity. And we will continue to do so even though in this modern day our stalwart heroes like Hrant Dink are still being targeted.

Because we believe in the triumph of Easter and know that Jesus Christ lives in us, we will prevail.

Քրիստոս Յարեալ ի Մեռելոց. Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնը Քրիստոսի
Krisdos hanyav ee merelotz orhnyal e haroutiounn Krisdosi.
(Christ is risen from the dead. Blessed be the resurrection of Christ.)

AMAA Month Celebrated Around the World

Armenian evangelicals throughout the world designate March of each year as Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Month. This tradition offers a joyous occasion for celebrating in a special way the mission and service ministries of the AMAA.

The AMAA was established in 1918 in Worcester, MA as the “missionary arm” of Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide. The purpose was to serve the physical and spiritual needs of Armenians both overseas and at home. To fulfill this worldwide mission, various evangelistic, educational, relief and social service programs and projects were maintained in the Middle East and at home. Over the years the ministries were expanded to other countries around the world and to the newly independent Republic of Armenia. Today AMAA supports 140 different projects in 22 countries.

The mission and service ministries of the AMAA are made possible through the grace of God, the gifts of caring individuals, and the support of churches and affiliated organizations.

To renew and to fulfill their commitment, during the month of March, Armenian evangelicals praise God for the AMAA, pray for God’s guidance and ask that God will bless this unique ministry and use it to demonstrate the reality of His great love.

In March of 2007 Armenian Evangelical churches in North America participated in this celebration, with great enthusiasm. The Board of Directors of the AMAA at its last meeting made commitments for major projects in Armenia, Middle East, Europe and North America. AMAA Board Members, staff, chapters and volunteers were all geared up to update the congregations on the new activities.

On Sunday, March 4 AMAA Board Members and staff visited churches on the West Coast. AMAA Executive Director Andrew Torigian participated in the worship service and special program at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey, CA. Field Director Dikran Youmshakian preached at the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) of Los Angeles; Vice President Peter Kougasian preached at the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church in Pasadena, CA; AMAA Board Member Rev. Ara Guekguezian preached at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood and Board Member Dr. Raffi Balabanian preached at the Armenian Church of the Nazarene in Glendale, CA.

The celebrations went on during the rest of the month with AMAA President Dr. H. Steven Aharonian’s participation at the missions luncheon at UACC on Sunday, March 11th. The Field Director visited other churches and fellowships including the Armenian Christian Fellowship of Thousand Oaks, CA on Tuesday, March 7; Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno on March 12; First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal on Sunday, March 25 and the First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA on Sunday, April 1.

This year’s celebrations were enhanced with the participation of the children and the youth in various churches. Their involvement



AMAA Field Director Dikran Youmshakian at the United Armenian Cong'l Church of Hollywood, CA; Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Thousand Oaks, CA; Mr. Greg Karamanougian and the youth of the First Armenian Evang'l Church of Montreal.

was crucial and encouraging to assure the continuation of AMAA services.

AMAA month was also observed in other countries around the world including Australia, where on Sunday, March 11, the worship service at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, Australia, was dedicated to the AMAA. Following the service AMA-Australia organized a banquet. 90 people were present. Following a video presentation, Mrs. Araksi Soghomonian made an appeal for child sponsorship.

These celebrations and the moral and financial commitments made on behalf of AMAA members and friends will touch the lives of many disadvantaged people around the world. Through their participation and support, the Christian witness and stewardship

will be felt in areas around the world where AMAA is active and supports churches, schools, universities, orphanages, old age homes, medical clinics, social service centers, summer camps, child education and sponsorship programs.

The gifts received during these celebrations combined with love will multiply and help AMAA meet its current budget of six million dollars to support current projects and help undertake new projects.

We invite concerned and caring individuals to give prayerful thought to AMAA ministries and cheerfully participate sharing their resources with others in need. Those who would like to participate and help us bring change to the



Sunday School children at the First Armenian Church (FAC) in Belmont, MA; Mr. John Simourian encouraging the members of FAC of Belmont to support AMAA's Child Care Programs.

lives of our unfortunate brothers and sisters can contact the AMAA at 201-265-2607 or

send a donation to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652. □

AMAA at Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey, CA

This year, the AMAA Board of Directors was invited to hold their Spring Board meeting in California, at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church (IACC). On Saturday, March 3rd, over forty people - members of the Board, and local guests - gathered at the IACC in Downey, California, to hold a Board of Directors meeting from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Three ladies of the church, Mmes. Marie Birebirian, Mary Arzoian and Kay Zoolalian had prepared a large table for breakfast and snacks which was available to the guests until noon. Following the meeting led by President Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, all those present were treated by the ladies to a delicious luncheon with all the trimmings. Those present enjoyed the fellowship of kindred souls on a bright sunny day in California. For several Board members, it was their first visit to the Immanuel Church, and a guided tour by the pastor was much appreciated.

Sunday was a special day in the life of IACC. It was AMAA Sunday, with Mr. Andrew Torigian, Executive Director, preaching in English at the worship service, and Mr. Sarkis Karaminassian, Pastoral Intern at IACC preaching in Armenian. Following the morning service, the Missions Committee members, headed by Araxy Eksigian, chairperson of the Missions Committee and her able assistants, Araxi Sarchisian Debbie Gabriel and Chris Ashkarian, served a Missions Luncheon to over eighty people. The luncheon was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Vahe Ashkarian, and Mr. Earl Paul, whose commitment to missions is well-known to the congregation.

Following the luncheon, Mr. James Surmeian, Chair of the Board of Deacons, MC'd the program which included two solos by Mr. Baghdo Khojikian, a short video presentation of the work of AMAA around the world, and an inspiring talk by Mr. Andrew Torigian. Following the formal program, there was plenty of time for the guests (among whom were many Board members) to interact with members of the congregation.

Our special thanks goes to all (named and unnamed) who participated by their labors of love in making our AMAA Missions Sunday a memorable experience to all present. The end result was a promise that it will not be long before the AMAA Board of Directors return to the hospitality and warmth of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church. □



AMAA Board of Directors meeting at the Immanuel Armenian Cong'l Church in Downey (IACC), CA (above); Below from left to right: Araxy Eksigian (Chair of Missions Committee), Debbie Gabriel, Andy Torigian, Executive Director of AMAA, Rev. Jirair Sogomian, Pastor of IACC, Araxi Sarchisian and Jim Surmeian (Chair of Board of Deacons).

Operations In Armenia: The Unrecognized Ministry

Al DePaola, Jr.*

I recently returned from a trip to Armenia, not to visit all the wonderful, important historical sites or the many successful ministries of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). My trip focused on the unsung heroes of the behind-the-scenes operations of AMAA in Armenia, the administrative support functions that are the backbone of all we do in Armenia. Now, most people do not give much thought to (much less write about) administrative support. It is one of those functions in an organization that does not create excitement or enthusiasm. It is not like opening a new church, sponsoring needy children, or providing emergency relief to disaster victims. Yet, without all the work accomplished by administration, those programs would not be able to function. Administrative personnel ensure the funds are received and distributed properly, according to approved budgets. They handle the logistics, ensuring the needed sup-

plies are obtained and reach the intended areas. They monitor all programs and activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and generate reporting to the government, AMAA headquarters, and our major partners. Basically, administration is the oil that runs throughout the engine keeping everything moving.

In accomplishing all this, administrative support in Armenia operates on a lean budget and lean staff, but they are able to accomplish much and maintain solid controls. The administrative support functions are professional, well-defined, and well-controlled. As you can imagine, to support the many, many ministries reaching thousands in Armenia and Karabagh, this is absolutely necessary. It is amazing to observe the Operations offices in action. It is very, very busy but well-orchestrated and choreographed. Everyone knows their responsibilities well, and key positions are cross-trained so more than one person can



Accounting Staff. (l to r) Jirair Sargsyan, bookkeeper; Rouzan Kniazyan, accountant; and Zina Giragosyan, controller.

assume key positions when necessary.

All in all, it was exciting to see this ministry in action! Yes, I did call it a ministry because it is a critical part of the AMAA's mission in Armenia and Karabagh. The work of the Operations staff plays an important role in accomplishing the work of the Lord for His Kingdom. For the most part, this is done without recognition or accolades, and they like it that way knowing that the Lord sees and rewards. However, I did want to take this opportunity to thank Rev. René Léonian, our Armenia representative, and Mr. Harout Necessian, our deputy Armenia representative and Operations Manager, and all the administrative support staff for all their hard work and dedication.

I know prayer and support for administration is not something we consider. We need to realize this is also a vital part of the ministry and needs our prayers and support. These individuals sacrifice of themselves to work with the limited resources available to them to complete their jobs with excellence. This is because to us this is not a job – it is, in fact, a ministry. □

*Al DePaola Jr. is the Operations Director of the AMAA.



(l to r) Lousine Ohanyan, External Relations Coordinator and Gayane Haroutyunyan, Operations Admin Asst.



Azat Srapionyan, Senior Storage Coordinator (right) loading Supplies with Driver Avik.

AMAA/AEUNA JOINT HOME MISSION COMMITTEE MEETS AT THE UNITED ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AMAA/AEUNA Joint Home Mission Committee held their semi-annual meeting at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA. The discussions focused on how best the Union and the AMAA can continue serving the Armenian Evangelical Churches and Fellowships in the USA and Canada. Pictured from left to right are: Rev. Apraham Chaparian, AEUNA Treasurer; Rev. Ronald Tovmassian, AEUNA Moderator; Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; Rev. Joseph Matossian, AEUNA Minister to the Union; H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., AMAA President; and Dikran Youmshakian, AMAA Field Director. □



AMAA's Sixth Annual Spring Concert benefits Summer Camps in Armenia and Karabagh

Ani A. Janbazian

Heavy rains and winds could not keep supporters from attending Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Spring Concert at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ on Sunday, April 15 2007. AMAA's sixth annual Spring Concert, to benefit the children of Armenia and Karabagh to attend summer camps, was organized by AMAA's Summer Camp/Christmas Committee.

The program began with welcoming words from Elbiz Baghdikian, Chair of the Committee and Mr. Andrew Torigian, AMAA's Executive Director. Opening the concert was Bulgarian pianist, Varta Tchakarian who performed pieces by Robert Schumann, Liduino Pitombeira, Arno Babadjanian, and Aram Khachaturian. Tchakarian, who has performed as a soloist in Europe as well as the United States is a winner of numerous competitions and holds a Masters degree from the Juilliard School of New York. Her background and extensive training in music and piano was evident in all her pieces, especially when she performed the audience favorite—Elegy, with it's main melody derived from Sayat-Nova's *Kanee Vourdjian Im*, which Babadjanian had dedicated to the memory of Aram Khachaturian. Tchakarian's final piece

was the well-recognized and fast-paced Sabre Dance from "Gayane Ballet", by Aram Khachaturian.

The second half of the concert featured vocalist Serge Barseghyan, bass. Barseghyan, a former student of the Sayat-Nova Music School in Yerevan, has performed in Europe and as soloist at Juilliard Opera Center of New York. Barseghyan performed ten works by composers Komitas, Tigran Chukhadjian, Gioacchino Russini, Tchaikovsky, Ernest Charles, Stanislas Gastaldon, Salvatore Cardillo, Augustin Lara, Vagharshak Kodoyan, and Alexander Haroutunian. Originally from Belarus, Juilliard student Liza Stepanova accompanied on piano. The final piece, *Hayrenikis Hed* by Alexander Haroutunian (words by renown poet Hovhannes Toumanian), was sung like an anthem with strength and emotion, which the audience loved. Barseghyan's powerhouse vocals with Stepanova's brilliant technique and rhythm delivered an unforgettable performance. Concluding the concert, Barseghyan impressed the audience once more when he sang Komitas' *Hayastan* as an encore while accompanying himself on the piano.

A reception followed the concert where audience members had a chance to meet the artists. □



Children enjoy nutritious meals at camp in Armenia, thanks to such concerts and events.



The artists - Liza Stepanova, Pianist; Serge Barseghyan, Vocalist; and Varta Tchakarian, Pianist.



(1st photo) Some of the Summer Camp/Christmas Committee members pictured with the artists: Louisa Janbazian, Rose Torigian, Elbiz Baghdikian, Andrew Torigian (AMAA Executive Director), Pianist Liza Stepanova, Vocalist Serge Barseghyan, Pianist Varta Tchakarian, Helen Eberle, Adrienne Talanian and Elizabeth Aynilian (missing from picture are: Rosemarie Ashbahian, Janet Avakian, Lily Anne Babigian, Ann Chalemian, Rosemarie Goulian, Ida Gueyikian, Lucy Janjigian, Seta Nalbandian, Carol Goulian Stewart, and Marilyn Voskian. (2nd photo) Pianist Varta Tchakarian.



"Children Helping Children" Luncheon and Children's Fashion Show

Joyce Stein

March 31st marked a celebration event in the ballroom of the legendary Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA. 450 guests and supporters of AMAA's Orphan/Child Care Committee, were captivated during the reception, to see festive tables adorned with over one hundred extraordinary silent auction items.

Spring flowers greeted them when they entered the ballroom while luncheon co-chairs Argine Jean Kelegian and Lori Muncherian warmly welcomed the lively gathering. Joyce Stein followed with remarks about the AMAA and its critical ministry to deprived children and their families. In a special tribute, Linda Kay Abdulian co-chair of the Los Angeles Committee was recognized for her ten years of faithful service. Linda spoke of the profound needs in Armenia and she urged others to support the AMAA's praiseworthy mission.

A very moving video presentation of needy Armenian children touched the hearts of all the guests, and many pledged to sponsor a child.

The delightful afternoon was capped by a brilliant fashion show featuring sixty breathtaking children!

And a final sparkling message of heartfelt thanks was given by Los Angeles co-chair Arsine Phillips--thanking those present, inspiring them to never forget the children.

The triumph of the day was the result of thirty ladies' hard work and perseverance: a total of \$190,000.00 raised! □



(Clockwise) The luncheon co-chairs, Argine Jean Kelegian and Lori Muncherian; Joyce Stein presenting thank you gift to Linda Kay Abdulian; Some of the members of the Orphan Care committee (l to r) Joyce Stein, Elizabeth Agbalian, Suzie Phillips, Arsine Phillips, Argine Jean Kelegian, Hermine Janoyan, Christina Jabarian, Mary Hovanessian, Nora Tavlian, Lucy Gulvartian, and Barbara Poladian.

Spiritual Corner

GOOD OUT OF YOUR SUFFERING

I Peter 4:12-19

Dikran Youmshakian

"If you suffer it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal. However if you suffer as a Christian do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name." (I Peter 4:15-16).

God never guaranteed an easy life for his followers and for those who bear His name. Just look at the history of Christian faith from the first century Christian martyrs to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The assassination of Hrant Dink and the recent stabbing of Christian workers in Malatya, Turkey, are also sad examples that are hard to understand and deal with.

However, the Apostle Peter in his letter presents a better way to deal with suffering. He reminds us not to be surprised as if a strange thing is happening. Instead he confirms that suffering is part of Christian faith. But there is a difference. We are protected by a shield. Christians have the shield of Christ, and they do not suffer as murderers or thieves. Suffering for them is not a shame, but a reason to praise God. What does the unfaithful or the criminal have? Only face their criminal activity and day after day be ashamed of being the perpetrator. While a Christian undergoing trials is reminded to continue to praise God, the criminal will be haunted with the ungodly act committed.

As we remember the victims of cruel acts let us be reminded of our Christian faith and continue to do good as God commands. Our sincere hope is that others will realize the difference, accept their wrong doing and take action in their lives. Then, the world will change for the better. □

BOOK SERVICE PROGRAM

BOOKS

ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY, by Aharon Sapsezian, The Faith of a nation. 143 pp., pb, No. 252 \$10.00

ARMENIAN CHURCH ARCHITECTURE, by Lawrence K. Cone, Armenian church architecture as it is exemplified in stone monuments built throughout the ages, 159 pp., hc. No. 50b \$20.00

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH 2000 – Compiled and Edited by Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, An album illustrating and describing each organized Armenian Evang'l Church in 18 countries (over 300 pictures). The album may be useful not only as a reference work, but also as a “snapshot” of the Armenian Evang'l Church family as of the year 2000. 125 pp., hc, No. 292 \$20.00

ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE, by Hagop & Marilyn Arshagouni, 52 pp, hc, No. 289 \$15.00

ARMENIAN LEGENDS, as told by Armenian great poet/writer Hovhannes Toumanian and translated into English by Arshavir Mckertich, 118 pp., pb. No. 294 \$12.00

ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE & EMBROIDERY, by Alice Odian Kasparian, A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens (a third in color), 127 pp, hc. # 120 \$15.00

ARMENIANS RESOLVE TO SURVIVE TURKISH GENOCIDE, by Douglas Y. Haig, 258 pp., pb. No. 273..... \$15.00

THE BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATION (in English & Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 190 pp, hc, # 295 \$20.00

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA, by Rev. Sarkis Papajian, 134 pp, pb, No. 140..... \$5.00

THE BURNING TIGRIS, by Peter Balakian, 475 pp, hc, # 306 \$26.95

BLESSINGS IN BITTER CUPS, by Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., Tragic, yet triumphant story of a small clan of successful working class Armenians, living in Turkey, just prior to the outbreak of World War I, 250 pp, hc. # 305 \$20.00

CHRISTIANITY - VOL. I, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 254 pp., hc. No. 243 \$25.00

CHRISTIANITY - VOL. II, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 421 pp., hc. No. 243b \$30.00

CLAWS OF THE CRAB: GERGIA AND ARMENIA IN CRISIS, by Stephen Brook, 354 pp., hc. # 237 \$25.00

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE, by George A. Bournoutian, examines the history of the Armenians in relation to that of the rest of the world. pb. # 316 \$35.00

CONVERSATIONS WITH CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ARTISTS, by Jackie Abramian, 190 pp., pb, # 258 \$7.00

DAYS OF TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA, by Henry H. Riggs. An American Missionary born in Ottoman Empire, gives a first hand account of events in Kharbert during the Genocide, 220 pp, pb, # 267 \$25.00

ESCAPE TO MUSA DAGH OR THE BANISHMENT OF ZEITOU AND SUEIDIA'S REVOLT, by Rev. D. Antreassian, 74 pp, pb, No. 234..... \$7.00

FAITH, CHURCH, MISSION, by Vigen Guroian, 176 pp, pb. No. 244.....\$14.95

FAMOUS EVENTS AND PEOPLE IN THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN HISTORY (in Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 320 pp, hc, # 302..... \$30.00

HAIGAZIAN ARMENOLOGICAL REVIEW - Vol. 17 (Beirut 1997), 560 pp., pb. No. 67m.....\$20.00

HAIGAZIAN ARMENOLOGICAL REVIEW - Vol. 19 (Beirut 1999), 463 pp., pb. No. 67n.....\$20.00

HAIGAZIAN ARMENOLOGICAL REVIEW - Vol. 20 (Beirut 2001), 465 pp., pb. No. 67o.....\$20.00

THE HERITAGE OF ARMENIAN LITERATURE, VOLUME I, From the Oral Tradition to the Golden Age 388 pp., hc, # 288 \$35.00

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LIFE'S LIVING TOWARD GROWING, by Vigen Guroian, 108 pp., pb, No. 287..... \$12.00

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REV. DR. MOVSES B. JANBAZIAN - MAN OF VISION WITH A MISSION, Depicts the life and excerpts from the works of Rev. Janbazian, the past Executive Director of the AMAA. 278 pp., hc. #304 - Complimentary..... a donation may be sent.

MUSA DAGH, by Rev. Dikran Antreassian, Escape of Musa Dagh or the banishment of Zeitoun and Suedia's revolt, 74 pp., pb. No. 234..... \$7.00

MUSA DAGH BOY, by Rev. Garabed Tilikian, Story of Survival and Service, 143 pp., pb. No. 232..... (Complimentary - a donation may be sent)

NEITHER TO LAUGH NOR TO WEEP, by Rev. A. Hartunian, A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide, 204 pp., pb. No. 56C..... \$9.95

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL, Ten Keys to Church Vitality, by Carnegie S. Calian, 150 pp., hc, No. 278 \$16.95

UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 501 pp., hc, No. 271 \$35.00

VIEWS ON GOOD NEWS, 365 Inspiring Daily Devotions for Christian Living, by Asien Surmeian, pb., # 309 \$20.00

THE INDISPENSABLE HERITAGE, by Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian - ԱՆՓՈՒՔԱՐԻՆՆԵՆԻ ԺԱՌԱՆԳՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ՝ Հեղինակ՝ Վեր. Պարգեև Ն. Տարագնեան, Դասախօսութիւններ Հայ Աւետ. Ծարժման մասին եւ Աստուածաբանական, Փիլիսոփայական, եկեղեցական ու վարդապետական յօդուածներ, 317 էջ, թղթ., թիւ 308, գին..... \$15.00

INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT (in Armenian), by Jerair Bizdikian, 347 pp., pb, No. 272..... \$10.00

NAZAR THE BRAVE - (Children's book) A Satiric Legend, by Hovhanness Toumanian, Translated by Arshavir Mkerich (in English & Eastern Armenian) - ԶԱՋ ՆԱԶԱՐ՝ Յովհաննէս Թումանեան, pb., # 315. \$15.00

NEW BOOKS

AN ARMENIAN FAMILY REUNION, by Mitchell Kalpakgian. A Lifetime of Unforgettable and Delightful Stories. 159 pp, pb. # 317..... \$18.00

ARMENIAN FOOD - Fact, Fiction & Foklore, by Irina Petrosian and David Underwood. The rich history, legends, and stories about Armenia's delightful cuisine. 243 pp, pb. # 318..... \$20.00

FIVE NOVELLAS, by Robert Hal Tertessian. A collection of descriptive works that reflect the life and observations of the author in a way that only fiction and literature can. 419 pp, pb. # 319..... \$15.00

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ARMENIAN BIBLES

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT (hc - extra large) # 13k	\$15.00
ARMENIAN REFERENCE BIBLE - PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF 1700 th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY - hc green - extra large - # 13n	\$20.00
ARMENIAN REFERENCE BIBLE - PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF 1600 th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN ALPHABET - hc black - large - # 13x1	\$25.00
pb black - large # 13x2	\$20.00
Leather bound black - large # 13x3	\$30.00
Leather bound white - large # 13x4	\$30.00
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Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago to Host AMAA's 88th Annual Meeting

Friday April 27 was a historic day for the Armenian Evangelical Community of Chicago. The Armenian Evangelical Church received its certificate of occupancy for the newly constructed church building on Golf Road in the Mount Prospect suburb of Chicago.

AMAA Field Director, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian visited the church and together with a group from the church had the first service of praise that afternoon. Rev. Samuel Agulian, Pastor of the Church, announced that the building was ready for the worshippers. Mr. Youmshakian greeted those present on behalf of the AMAA, and thanked the Church for their partnership in mission and service to the Lord. AMAA has supported the church financially, and the congregation are faithful supporters of the AMAA

A special service and a banquet will be held during the weekend of May 19-20 to officially dedicate the church at this new location and new facilities.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago this year will host AMAA's 88th Annual meeting during the week of October 11-14. Please reserve the date on your calendars. Details will follow. □



(above) The newly constructed church building of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Greater Chicago. (below) The first Prayer meeting in the newly constructed church.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 92ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AT TIMES SQUARE IN NEW YORK CITY



Andy Torigian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) represented and spoke on behalf of the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Community at the Times Square gathering in New York City in Commemoration of the 92nd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide organized by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. The estimated crowd by the police of those present were 3,000 people. There were also senators, representatives, state assembly people and others who spoke on this occasion. □

The above photograph was taken by John Shadanian, Esq.

MARIE APELIAN NURSE'S FUND

Daniel and wife Nicole Apelian and their brother David Apelian recently established the AMAA MARIE APELIAN NURSE'S FUND in honor of their mother Marie Apelian thanking God for



her safe return after her honorable service in Iraq. Marie Apelian served both in Kuwait and Iraq. Her tour of duty included her stay on the mainland USA before and after her deployment which lasted two years and without leave. She was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. The newly-established fund will support AMAA's medical projects in Armenia and Karabagh encouraging the involvement of female nurses there. Marie is married to Dr. Vahe Apelian. They reside in Loveland, OH. □

KIWANIS CLUB WELCOMES AMAA

The Hasbrouck Heights/Teterboro Kiwanis Club welcomed Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, Field Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) at their April 18th meeting as their speaker on Child Sponsorship. Kiwanis is a global organization whose main commitment is "Serving the Children of the World". One of the major projects of the AMAA is Child Sponsorship, which supports children in Armenia and the Middle East with food, clothing, medical needs, tuition, and school supplies. Mr. Youmshakian spoke about the need for support of thousands of children who became virtually homeless after the devastating earthquake in Armenia in 1988, and the war in Lebanon. The AMAA also supports other children's programs during the summer and the holiday season as well as spiritual programs, such as the Vacation Bible Schools. □



The Armenian Evangelical Church in Tehran

Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian

Armenians have lived in Iran for centuries. Most of present day Armenians of Iran are descendants of those who were brought here by the Safavid King Abbas of Iran in the Early 17th century. At present there are about 70,000 Armenians concentrated mainly in Tehran, Isfahan, Tabriz and Urumieh, where they have their schools, churches and cultural centers. During the last 20 years, migration has been a great concern for all national and church leaders, and the sad reality is that the Armenian community in Iran is shrinking.

The Armenian Evangelical Church has a 130-year history in Tehran. In the earlier years, congregations grew rapidly and Armenian Evangelical churches were established in several cities and villages of Iran. Over the years, they attracted some non-Armenians also who worshipped together with Armenians. The movement from villages to cities and from smaller cities to the capital and the migration out of Iran made the Armenian Evangelical Church and the entire Evangelical Church smaller.

Today, we have a central church building, St. John Church, and two house churches in Tehran. The number of members is about 200, and each week about 125 people worship with us in our three churches.

The membership is very young and about 50 young and middle aged members cooperate with our two pastors, Rev. Sergey Shahverdian and Rev. Hendrik Shahnazarian, and two lay ministers in different committees and church bodies.

Christian education has had a prominent place in our church life and ministry during the last 25 years. Many trained young teachers and leaders not only serve in our various ministries, such as Sunday School, teenage groups, youth groups, young couples groups, as Deacons and Elders, but also help the Persian-speaking Evangelical churches and train their future leaders. About 100 people from different age groups attend our weekly programs and this year about 150 attended our summer conferences. Our church committees create different opportunities to bring the entire church family together for special thanksgiving services, sharing a meal



Family Camp

together.

Caring for those in need has also been one of our major concerns. Caring for 15 needy families, providing zero interest loans for young people and couples, who are in need of financial support to start a new job, to marry or to rent or buy an apartment, has been a great service our church has rendered during the last 20 years, following the caring leadership of our martyred pastor, the late Rev. Tateos Mikaelian.

Many non-Armenians show interest in Christianity and like to know more about Jesus, but not being able to service non-Armenians, we provide them with literature and guide them to the Persian-speaking churches.

Together with the Assyrian and Persian-speaking Evangelicals, we cooperate under a Synod, through which we are members of many regional and global international inter-church organizations. Our Church leaders also have a very good relationship with other local churches, especially with the Armenian Orthodox and Catholic churches and closely cooperate with them especially in the Inter-church Publication Committee that provides Christian literature and arranges seminars for different age groups. The Armenian Evangelical Church in Tehran is a member of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

Migration is a major challenge for all the churches and Christian communities. Prayer for the faithful remnant and for being a faithful witness in a majority non-Christian society is a great need. □



Youth Camp



Sunday School

ԹԱՆԿԱԳԻՆ՝ ԱՍՏՈՒԾՈՅ ՀԱՄԱՐ

«Թո՛ղ տուէք այդ մանր տղոցը եւ մի՛ արգիլէք ասոնք ինձի գալէն, վասնզի երկինքի թագաւորութիւնը այդպիսիներուն է»: Մատթէոս 19. 14

Վեր. Աւետիս Պոյնէրեան*

Այսօր Աւետարանչականի Կիրակի է: Թերեւս ըսէք. «Ի՞նչ է կապը կարդացուած հատուածին (Մատթ. 9. 13-15) եւ Աւետարանչականի Կիրակիին միջեւ»:

Կը խորհիմ պատասխանը պարզ է: Յիսուս կը սիրէ մանուկները: Յիսուս կը սիրէ զանոնք առանց խտրութեան: Կիրակւորեայ դպրոցի երգին բառերը կ'ըսեն. «Սեւ, ճերմակ, կարմիր, դեղին, բոլորն ալ են թանկագին: Յիսուս կը սիրէ բոլոր մանուկները աշխարհի»:

Ուրեմն, եթէ պատիկները թանկագին են Յիսուսի համար, եւ եթէ Յիսուս կը սիրէ զիրենք, ուրեմն պատիկները թանկագին ըլլալու են մեզի համար եւ մենք եւս սիրելու ենք զիրենք:

Յիսուսի օրերուն պատիկները կարելոր չէին նկատուեր, թէւ ընդունուած երեւոյթ էր տեսնել մարգարէ մը կամ քահանայ մը, որ կ'օրհնէր պատիկները, ձեռք կը դնէր անոնց վրայ, կ'օրհնէր զանոնք եւ կ'աղօթէր անոնց համար:

Կարդացուած հատուածին մէջ աշակերտները յանդիմանեցին բերողները: Անոնք խորհեցան թէ Յիսուս աւելի կարելոր ընելիքներ ունէր, եւ հետեւաբար խանգարուելու չէր: Անոնք ուզեցին պատիկները հեռու պահել Յիսուսի մօտեմալէն, արգելք հանդիսացան անոնց Յիսուսի գալէն, եւ այդպէս ընելով, անոնք ըսած եղան, թէ՛ պատիկները կարելոր չեն Յիսուսի համար:

Յիսուս անտարբեր ու ձեռնաձախ չմնաց: Ան միջամտեց ըսելով. «Թո՛ղ տուէք այդ մանր տղոցը եւ մի՛ արգիլէք ասոնք ինձի գալէն»: Աշակերտները խորհեցան, թէ իրենք աւելի կարելոր էին, քան պատիկները: Վերջապէս, իրենք Յիսուսի աշակերտներն էին, Անոր անունով կը սորվեցնէին, Անոր անունով հրաշքներ կը կատարէին:

Յիսուս այդ դէպքը յարմար պատեհութիւն մը նկատեց սորվեցնելու իր աշակերտներուն եւ այսօր իրաքանչիւրիս, թէ իր սէրը պայմանաւոր չէ: Բան մը ընելու չենք որպէսզի արժանի ըլլանք Իր սիրոյն: Յիսուսի սէրը ձրի շնորհք, ձրի պարգեւ է տրուած իրաքանչիւրիս առանց խտրութեան:

Դարձեալ յիշենք երգին բառերը. «Սեւ, ճերմակ, կարմիր, դեղին, բոլորն ալ են թանկագին: Յիսուս կը սիրէ բոլոր մանուկները աշխարհի»: Բան մը ընելու չենք որպէսզի շահինք կամ ձեռք ձգենք Յիսուսի սէրը: Յիսուս կը սիրէ իրաքանչիւրս որովհետեւ Ան Ինքիրմէ կը սիրէ: Յիսուսի սէրը Ի՛ր ձրի շնորհքն ու ձրի պարգեւն է:

Յիսուսի մօտ բերուող պատիկները բան մը չըրին: Բան մը ընելու պէ՛տք չունէին որպէսզի Յիսուս զիրենք սիրէր:

Բայց ի՞նչ կը նշանակէ Յիսուսի՝ «Երկինքի թագաւորութիւնը այդպիսիներուն է» խօսքը: Յիսուս ի՞նչ ըսել կ'ուզէ այս խօսքով:

Կը խորհիմ, թէ երբ կը շահարկենք պատիկներուն կեանքին մէջ, կը շահարկենք Աստուծոյ թագաւորութեան մէջ: 83 տոկոսը, որոնք կ'ընդունին Յիսուսը որպէս իրենց կեանքին Տէրը եւ Փրկիչը 18 տարեկանէն առաջ, հաստատ կը մնան իրենց որոշումին մէջ: Միայն 17 տոկոսը կ'ընդունին Յիսուսը որպէս իրենց կեանքին Տէրը եւ Փրկիչը 18 տարեկանէն ետք:



Ուրեմն կը տեսնենք, թէ ինչո՛ւ Յիսուս թանկագին կը սեպէ պատիկները եւ զանոնք կը սիրէ:

Այո՛, պատիկները մեր շահարկութիւնն են, մեր յաւիտենական շահարկութիւնը: Ո՛ր պիտի ըլլանք մենք՝ որպէս քրիստոնէայ ընտանիքներ, եկեղեցիներ եւ կազմակերպութիւններ ասկէ 20 տարի ետք, եթէ այսօր չշահարկենք մեր պատիկներուն կեանքին մէջ:

Այո՛ պատիկները մեր թանկագին ժառանգութիւնն են: Անոնք մեր յաւիտենական շահարկութիւնն են: Ուրիշ առիթով մը Յիսուս այսպէս ըսաւ. «Ճշմարիտ կ'ըսես ձեզի, ով որ Աստուծոյ թագաւորութիւնը պատիկ տղու մը պէս չ'ընդունի, բնաւ պիտի չ'մտնէ անոր մէջ» (Մարկ. 10. 15): Իրա՛ւ, երկինքի թագաւորութիւնը պատիկներունն է:

Կարդացուած հատուածին մէջ Յիսուս Իր խօսքը եւ ուսուցումը վերջացնելէ յետոյ ձեռքը պատիկներուն վրայ դրաւ ու զանոնք օրհնեց: Կը խորհի՞ք, թէ այդ պատիկները մոռցան Յիսուսը: Կը խորհի՞ք, թէ այդ պատիկները չընդունեցին Յիսուսը՝ որպէս իրենց կեանքին Տէրը եւ Փրկիչը: Երբե՛ք: Անոնք տեսան ու լսեցին Յիսուսի իրենց համար կատարած պաշտպանութիւնը ու խօսած խօսքը: Տեսան, լսեցին եւ առ յաւիտ փոխուեցան: Առաւել՝ անոնք ստացան Յիսուսի օրհնութիւնը:

Այսօր, մինչ կը տօնենք Աւետարանչականի Կիրակին, հետեւելով Յիսուսին օրհնակին՝ թանկագին սեպենք պատիկները: Սիրենք զանոնք եւ շահարկենք անոնց կեանքին մէջ Աստուծոյ ու անոնց սիրոյն:

Թերեւս հարցնէք. «Ի՞նչպէս ընենք ասոնք»: Աւետարանչականը պատիկներու յատուկ քանի-քանի ծրագիրներ ունի, որոնց կրնանք օժանդակել թէ՛ նիւթապէս եւ թէ՛ բարոյապէս:

Ուրեմն, անցնինք գործի այսօր:

* Վեր. Աւետիս Պոյնէրեան հովին է Պոսթոնի Հայ Աւետարանական Նահատակաց Եկեղեցիի: Այս քարոզը մատուցուած է Աւետարանչականի Կիրակիի առթիւ:

ՉՔԱԻՈՐ ՄԱՆՈՒԿՆԵՐՈՒ ԽՆԱՄԱԿԱԼՈՒԹԻՒՆ



Մեր երկնաոր Հայրը մեզ Իր խնամակալութեան տակ առած է, եւ մենք ընդունելով Իր սէրն ու գուրգուրանքը, փոխանցելու ենք զայն նաեւ ուրիշներու, սկսելով մանուկներէն:

Դժբախտաբար հազարաւոր ծնողագուրկ, լքուած կամ չճշտութեամբ երեխաներ կան աշխարհի գրեթէ բոլոր երկիրներուն մէջ: Հայ մանուկներ ալ կան այս դժբախտ խումբին մէջ, եւ մենք որպէս Հայ Բրիտանացիներ, սիրելու ենք զիրենք, ինչպէս Յիսուս ինչորեք Իր աշակերտներէն:

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, շնորհիւ բարերար անձերու, կը խնամակալէ աւելի քան 4000 երեխաներ Մայր Հայրենիքի եւ Միջին Արեւելքի մէջ: Սակայն գրկուած մանուկներու թիւը շատ աւելի է: Հարիւրաւոր Հայ մանուկներ Հայաստանի մէջ պետք ունին հոգատարութեան: Հարիւրաւոր աշակերտներ Լիբանանի մէջ դպրոցէ գրկուած կը մնան: Մանուկի մը կեանքը փրկել կ'ենթադրէ սէր, գուրգուրանք եւ հոգատարութիւն:

Այս երեքը կարելի է իրագործել տարեկան միայն 250 տուարի նուէրով: Անոր պիտի միանայ Աստուծոյ սէրն ու խնամակալութիւնը:

Եթէ կը փափաքիք նման երեխայ մը ձեր հովանաւորութեան տակ առնել, հանցեք լեցնել վարի կտրոնը եւ ձեր չէֆին հետ դրկել Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան գրասենեակը:

Այո, կը փափաքիք խնամակալ ըլլալ շքաւոր երեխաներու

Հայաստանէն Միջին Արեւելքէն

Ներփակ կը գտնէք մեր նուէրը \$_____

Անուն _____

Հասցէ _____

Հեռ. _____

Ի Մէյլ _____

Ձեր նուէրները կրնաք դրկել Աւետարանչականի հասցէին
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

Ալիս Օտապաշեան



Երեքշաբթի, 13 Փետ. 2007-ին, յետ երկարատեւ հիւանդութեան, մեզմէ բաժնուեցաւ սիրուած բանաստեղծուհի եւ թարգմանիչ Ալիս Օտապաշեան: Ան ծնած էր 27 Հոկտ. 1912-ին, Ռազկրատ, Պուլկարիա:

Ալիս իր ուսանողական տարիներէն սկսեալ սիրած է գիրն ու գրականութիւնը, յօդուածներ գրելով եւ թարգմանութիւններ ընելով հայերէնէ պուլկարերէն: Հաստատեալ անձ մը ըլլալուն, ան մասնակցութիւն բերած է նաեւ հայ եւ պուլկար քրիստոնէական միութիւններու:

1940-ին Ալիս ամուսնացած է Պարգեւ Օտապաշեանի հետ: Մի քանի տարուան մէջ անոնք բախտաւորուած են երկու զաւակներով՝ Մէրի եւ Ռաֆֆի: 1952-ին Պարգեւ անակնկալօրէն մահացած է, Ալիսին ձգելով երկու որբ զաւակներ եւ ընտանեկան բոլոր պարտականութիւնները: Իր գորաւոր հաւատքն ու Աստուծոյ շնորհած կամքը առաջնորդած են զինք իր կեանքի ամենադժուար շրջանին: 1959-ին ան պուլկարերէնի թարգմանած է Սիլվա Կապուտիկեանի բանաստեղծութիւնները, որոնք մեծ գոհունակութեամբ ընդունուած են թէ՛ հեղինակին եւ թէ՛ ընթերցատէր հասարակութեան կողմէ:

1966-ին Ալիս իր զակին՝ Ռաֆֆիին հետ փոխադրուած է Ֆիլատելֆիա եւ գործօն անդամ եղած տեղոյն Հայ Նահատակաց Ժողովական Եկեղեցիին եւ վարած զանազան եկեղեցական պաշտօններ:

Ֆիլատելֆիայի տարիները եղած են իր գրական ամենաբեղուն շրջանը: Ան հրատարած է իր առածին անձնական անգլերէն լեզուով բանաստեղծութիւններու հաւաքածօն "Songs For You", որուն ընդմէջէն կը յայտնուի իր բարի եւ լուստես բնատրութիւնը, իր մարդասիրութիւնը, ինչպէս նաեւ իր գորաւոր հաւատքը առ Աստուած:

17 տարի Ֆիլատելֆիա ապրելէ ետք, 1983-ին փոխադրուած է Լոս Անճելըս միասնալու իր աղջկան՝ Մէրիին եւ իր գործօն մասնակցութիւնը բերած է տեղոյն Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքին: Եղած է Հոլիվուտի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի հիմնադիրներէն: Երկար տարիներ զանազան յանձնախումբերու մէջ եղած է եւ իր վարչական անդամ բեղուն գործունէութիւնը բերած է Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերային Ծառայութեան Կեդրոնին մէջ: Լոս Անճելըսի մէջ հրատարակուած են չորս բանաստեղծական գիրքեր եւս Ալիս Օտապաշեանի հեղինակութեամբ:

Դժբախտաբար այս եռանդուն եւ կեանքով լի կինը հեռացաւ իր մտաւորական աշխարհէն եւ կեանքը վատթարացաւ ամէն տեսակետով: Սիրելիներով եւ բարեկամներով շրջապատուած ան չկորսնցոյց իր ժպիտը եւ լուստեսութիւնը, հակառակ որ Էլզայմըր (մտամոլութեան) հիւանդութիւնը իսլած էր իր էութիւնը: Ալիս իր հանգիստը գտաւ Փետրուար 13 2007-ին իր Տէրոջ քով կանչուելով: ☐

ԱՐՂԵՕ՞Ք

Արղեօ՞ք երգերս ողջ պիտ մնա՞ն
Երբ մեկնած եմ ալ աշխարհէն.
Արղեօ՞ք մէկը պիտի կարդա՞յ
Տողերս իբր ձայն մը անցեալէն:

Կամ պիտ՝ մնան դիզուած, անպէտ,
Ու կամաց, կամաց թառամին,
Տաղերն որ այնքան ջերմութեամբ
Կեանքիս աշնան իմաստ տուին:

Եթէ հատ մը յուզէ, գրաւէ
Միայն մէկ սիրտ մը մեծաւոր,
Կամ մէկուն կեանքը նորոգէ,
Ուղղէ քայլերը իր մտքը:

Վարձքըս պիտի ստանայի,
Գոհունակ պիտի մեկնէի,
Պարտքն վճարած բանուորի պէս,
Խաղաղութեամբ պիտ հանգչէի:

Ալիս Օտապաշեան

Rev. Harry M. Missirlian

Rev. Harry M. Missirlian, a prominent Armenian Evangelical leader, the Minister Emeritus of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), passed from this earthly life to eternity with Christ, on Wednesday, April 11, 2007.



Harry Harutune Missirlian was born in Kessab, Syria, on Sept. 20, 1913, to Missak and Elizabeth Missirlian. He was the youngest in a family of six boys and four girls. With the exception of an older sister, he lost all of his family members during the Armenian Genocide.

After World War I, Harutune was placed in Near East Relief orphanages, first in Aleppo, Syria, then in Antilias, and later in Jibeil, Lebanon. When the orphanages closed, he lived in Kessab with his sister and an aunt for a short while and attended the local Armenian Evangelical school and later moved to Aleppo to attend Aleppo College.

In 1935, after teaching for two years in the elementary school of the Immanuel Armenian Evangelical Church in Aleppo, Harutune entered the Near East School of Theology (NEST) and the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. Upon graduation from the NEST and the American University of Beirut in 1940, he became the youth director of the Armenian Evangelical churches of Syria and Lebanon. Due to travel restrictions during World War II, he found it necessary to resign from his beloved youth work and went to his alma mater, Aleppo College, as chaplain and teacher of English, religion and philosophy. In June, 1942, he married Lydia Poladian, a friend from the local church and a schoolmate from the NEST.

Rev. and Mrs. Missirlian and their two daughters arrived in Chicago in January of 1947. For the next six and a half years, he served the Chicago Church with great zeal and dedication. In August of 1950, the family was blessed with a third child, a son.

In 1953, Rev. Missirlian accepted a call from Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno. His vision and leadership influenced the Pilgrim Church to move from downtown to its present location. An area of great concern for Rev. Missirlian was the Armenian Evangelical churches of North America. In order to preserve our Armenian spiritual heritage, he conceived the idea of creating a One Million Dollar Fund, the income of which would make it possible for the small struggling churches to continue to serve their people adequately. Rev. Missirlian worked very hard for the merger of the Armenian Evangelical Unions of California and Eastern States and his dream was realized in the creation of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) in 1971. In 1976, Rev. Missirlian spearheaded the publication of the bilingual Armenian Evangelical Hymnal, which is still being used in our AEUNA churches. In 1988, he published an anthology of his sermons, articles and short essays entitled Treasures In Earthen Vessels.

After serving the Pilgrim Church for twenty-seven years, Rev. Missirlian, retired in October of 1980. Soon afterwards, however, he was called to assist the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco. The congregation was in the process of building a new sanctuary. After the completion and dedication of the sanctuary, he accepted a call to be minister to the AEUNA in November of 1983. His focus was to raise a million dollar endowment fund, to recruit and help in the training and placing of young ministers, to counsel with ministers and churches, and to establish a permanent office for the Union. Having accomplished his mission, he retired in August of 1988. After he retired, He was given the title Minister Emeritus to the AEUNA.

Rev. Missirlian lost his wife Lydia on December 28, 1991. However, the Lord had other plans for him. He was preparing a life partner in the person of Arousiag Tovmassian. They were married in August of 1993 and lived in Fresno, CA.

As a minister of the Gospel, he always helped others to find satisfactory solutions to difficult problems. His love for Jesus Christ was the controlling center of his decision making process. His gentle and loving soul will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Blessed be his memory. □

John S. Bogosian

John S. Bogosian, 79, of Newtown Square, died of multiple systems atrophy March 21 at Riddle Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Bogosian grew up developing film in the West Philadelphia camera store of his father, Sarkis. "It was all dip and dunk," he later told a reporter.

After graduating from John Bartram High School, he served in the Navy in the States during World War II. He was called back to duty during the Korean War and was stationed at the Naval Photo Center in Washington, where he processed photographs for President Harry S. Truman and Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

After his discharge, he earned a bachelor's degree at night at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania while working in his father's store. In 1955, he married Marge Berberian, whom he had met at an Armenian students convention in New York City.

Two years later, with a loan from his father, he opened The Camera Shop in the Lawrence Park Shopping Center in Broomall. The business expanded to include stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware.

In 1967, Mr. Bogosian launched a second company, Visual Sound, an audiovisual production and equipment company. "His customers, vendors, and even his competitors, were his friends," said his daughter Karen, who now runs Visual Sound. "He loved his work."

"People use photography to remember fun things, vacations, weddings, a new baby," he told a reporter. "You are part of their good times."

In 1999, Mr. Bogosian sold Camera Shop Inc., which then numbered 72 stores, to Ritz Camera Center. He consulted for Ritz Camera for several years and continued to be involved with Visual Sound until he became ill five years ago.

He was past president of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Broomall, and the board of The National Armenian Student Association of America. He was founding chairman of the Small Business Council of Delaware County, served on Gov. Rendell's Small Business Council, and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business from 1980 to 1986. He also served on the boards of Ocean City Tabernacle and Eastern University.

His is survived by his wife, Marge; son, John Paul; daughters, Karen and Joanne Ikeler; a brother; and twin granddaughters. □



Eliza Youmoushakian Salibian

Eliza Salibian was a remarkable person of great intelligence, humor and energy. But above all, she had a talent which she put to use in beautiful, often original, embroidery. For more than sixty years, her handiwork was her means of support and independence. Through it, she became well-known in the entire Middle East, building a small business in Beirut at a time and in a country where women of her background settled with so much less. Her *atelier* above the famous Automatic building in downtown Beirut was as well-known for the quality of the work she produced as it was for the animated atmosphere of its tiny space. Eliza Salibian continued her work, albeit on a smaller scale, when she moved to Toronto after the beginning of the Lebanese civil war.

Before the word existed for women like her, Eliza Salibian was a professional through and through. She was born in Marash, and snatched out of school after the third grade and put to work as a seamstress' assistant. She was married at sixteen, and by the time her first child, Nazar, was born in Beirut, she was already a working woman.

For a woman to whom so little was given by way of class status, opportunity, and support, Eliza Salibian's achievements were considerable. She belonged to that doomed generation which escaped the horrors of mass violence literally by the skin of their teeth. She was doubly burdened by being ambitious—and strikingly beautiful—at a time when the social and political conditions demanded that minority exiles in a new land be quiet, even subservient, in order to get by, blend in. Eliza Salibian never really accepted such a diminished role. In addition to being a professional, she was a voracious reader, a great conversationalist, and a marvelous story-teller. She was also a fantastic cook whose table was also festive, generous, full of laughter and song.

Although she was born into a restricted society and spent much of her life in the ghetto of Bourj Hammoud, Eliza Salibian was in many ways a very modern woman, and her ideas on social issues were as intelligent as they were contemporary. I always found her open to the world, inquisitive and alive, and it is these qualities that I will miss so much now that my dear mother-in-law is gone. She belonged to that generation who were dealt such a horrible deck of cards. The resilient among them somehow managed to do so much with the leftovers, and Eliza Salibian was resilient to the end.



The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News

Abrahamian Jean

Cherry Hill, NJ

Aljian, John

Beverly Hills, CA

* ***Aramian Tariz***

Carlsbad CA

Baroudjian, Rosine

Pasadena, CA

* ***Bekmezian Millard***

Upper Darby PA

Bousian Lee

Fowler CA

Eskijian, Luther

Altadena, CA

Garabedian Charles

Fresno CA

Ishkanian, Mark

Paramus, NJ

* ***Joovelegian Rose***

Cranston RI

Juskalian, John

Philadelphia, PA

Koundakjian, Richard

Bedford, MA

* ***Margosian John***

Potomac MD

Memley Vahan

Fresno CA

* ***Najarian Stephen***

Newtown Sq PA

* ***Shishmanian Hamazaspe***

Woodcliff Lake, NJ

* Memorials designated for AMAA

Eliza Salibian left us on February 13, 2007 to join the heavenly audience. She was the last of four siblings. She is survived by three sons, Nazar, Ohannes and Vahram; two daughters, Kohar and Hasmig; six grandchildren; nephews and nieces, and many, many friends and co-workers in far-flung towns and cities the world over.

In Lieu of flowers memorial gifts were designated to the AMAA Eliza Salibian Memorial Fund designated to train young women in Armenia in the art of sewing and embroidery.

- By Taline Vosgeritchian Salibian

HAVE A HEART SHOW YOU CARE

The Armenian Children's Milk Fund and You: Making a Difference

As the Armenian Children's Milk Fund continues its 17-year history of helping Armenia's children, we continue our "Have a Heart, Show You Care" fundraising campaign. We are counting on the generosity of supporters like you to make it a success.

Since 1989, ACMF's sustaining nutritional program has given thousands of Armenian children a healthy start in life. ACMF's accomplishments were made possible by the hard work of its volunteers. This diverse group of caring individuals has:

- ✦ Organized dozens of fundraisers;
- ✦ Coordinated the purchase and shipment of infant formula, Pedialyte and dry powdered milk to Armenia and Karabagh;
- ✦ Worked with local health officials in Armenia and Karabagh to identify needy families; and
- ✦ Created a system for distribution of Isomil infant formula to eligible children in six cities in Armenia and Karabagh.

The babies pictured are just a few of thousands of needy children who have received assistance from ACMF. Children who would otherwise not receive proper nutrition, and whose families cannot afford to buy formula, are referred to ACMF by their pediatricians. Every month, ACMF feeds 600 children. ACMF's mission has been constant over the years: To give children a healthy start in life. ACMF is making a difference. But we need your help to continue.

**PLEASE HAVE A HEART,
Show You Care!**



I would like to support and enable ACMF to make a difference in the lives of Armenia's most vulnerable citizens (\$20 will feed one child for one month - \$240 will feed one child for one year).

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ E-Mail: _____

Please make your tax deductible donations to AMAA (earmarked for Milk Fund) and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652
To make a contribution with a credit/debit card or electronic debit to checking account, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607.



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