

The Calvary Messenger

Գրողները Լրագրեր



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The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
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A View From Calvary

What about 2006?

Christmas time has gone. New Year came too and everything is back to normal. Life is just going on. At Christmas we learned that **technology is not enough**. We use technology; I am using it now while typing my word on a computer. It is practical to have technology. Yet, one can not rely on it to find meaning in life. Life is more than technology. The wise men of the Bible could use all possible means to find Jesus. They did not know who this newborn king was. Nevertheless **they wanted to find Him**. By their calculation they did arrive in Jerusalem. The star was their leader. But “technology” was not enough to take them to the main target. Only God’s Word in the book of Micah revealed that the newborn was to be found in Bethlehem. Now the star that they saw in the East directed them to Bethlehem and stopped where the child was. Without God’s direction we can do nothing. Without God’s wisdom all our technology is a waste. We need God. **Technology will take you to Jerusalem but God’s revelation will take you to Bethlehem.**

We studied that we need God’s direction daily to find His will for our lives. Some people, like the Israelites, are just interested to see God’s big miracles. People are interested in the acts and activities of God. We see that Moses was interested in God’s ways. He wanted to find daily what God’s will was for his life. Moses asks God: “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us from here” (Exodus 33: 15). And God promises:” My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest” (Exodus 33:14)

2006 is another year full of surprises. We need to be ready to face them. How? The best way is to go to God. He is our creator. He knows the best for us. So why not surrender to Him? One has to understand that without obedience to the will of God one can not continue. And when we know His will, we need to obey. In order to understand God one has to have a personal experience with Him. After justification by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we need the daily presence of God in our lives through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not work in a vacuum. If we do not open our hearts and minds, we will never know His daily guidance.

I will urge you to make walking with God daily a priority. Quiet time, prayer time, Bible study, serving God, tithing, and worshiping God must be on our priority list.

Let us celebrate our new year with Him. He promised to be with us. His presence will lead us in the right direction.

May God lead us all.
Amen

Rev. Nerses Balabanian

Pastor

The Calvary Messenger is produced as a quarterly ministry update for our congregation and friends. Donations to offset printing and mailing costs are appreciated. Any comments, errors, omissions and/or newsworthy items may be addressed to the editors, care of the church office or sent via email to our box at cacc@cacc-sf.org. Please check our website for current ministry information. <http://www.cacc-sf.org>

BIRTH

We congratulate Setrag and Joyce Nazarethian for their newborn son, Christian Setrag Nazarethian, born on Friday, January 6, 2006. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

ENGAGEMENT

Nerses Dermenjian and Barbara Medzian announced their engagement on Thursday, October 27, 2005. Our best wishes to both families.

Women's Ministries

Calvary Circle News

One of the highlights of this year was our annual bazaar which took place November 12. It was overwhelming to see how Halajian Hall was decorated complete with Christmas tree and festive decor. The Boutique Noel, the Country Cupboard, the platform loaded with raffle prizes was a beautiful sight. The food counter exuding the aroma of our famous Armenian foods was very inviting. Our Calvary Circle ladies and friends labored for many days to bring forth their culinary skills in sou boereg, yalanchi, manti, kufta, spinach boereg, hummus and many other dishes. The tantalizing whiff of the lamb, lulu and chicken kebabs was mouth watering. The sidewalk cafe hosted by our youth was quite busy serving drinks of all sorts. Our live music, performed by our pastor, Rev. Balabanian, Hagop Nazarian and Gagik Manookian was appreciated by young and old. Many could not help themselves but with the mood of the music an impromptu dance group was created. This was an added excitement of the evening. Our children had also their fun time and with songs and stories and crafts they were entertained. There were bookmarks with scripture verses which were prepared by our youth and definitely added to the Christmas spirit.

We praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy in enabling us to have a successful Bazaar. Many thanks to all our guests who came and enjoyed themselves. And, many thanks to all who helped in our Bazaar 2005.

Another event that Calvary Circle hosted in December was a Christmas Luncheon for NorCal. These are the seniors in the Bay Area. There was a large number of ladies and gentlemen who filled our Halajian Hall. The

mood was festive and the food was very sumptuous. There was music, laughter and fun. Our seniors enjoyed making Christmas decorations. It was beautiful to watch how happy our guests were. The special guest was Mr. Tony Bastian who elaborated on Medicare Part D. This was rather enlightening to know what the pros and cons were. Nevertheless, the benefits were emphasized. After many good wishes of a Merry Christmas our seniors adjourned.

Calvary Circle Ladies wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

On behalf of Calvary Circle,

Margaret Watson

*People are often
Unreasonable and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind,
People may accuse you of ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.*

*If you are honest,
People may cheat you.
Be honest anyway.*

*If you find happiness,
People may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today
May be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have,
And it may never be enough.
Give your best anyway.*

*For you see, in the end,
It is between you and God.
It never was between you and them anyway.*

Mother Teresa

Prayer & Renewal

“Seven days without prayer makes one weak.”

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us in the Library for prayer 10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Below and on the next page are suggestions for your daily prayer. Please see the weekly Sunday bulletin for updated information.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES FOR THE QUARTER

Please remember to pray for God’s world-wide ministry of evangelism. Please continue to pray for the persecuted Church.

George and Armine Manoukian minister with **Child Evangelism Fellowship** (C.E.F.). The ministry of C.E.F., is focused on reaching children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. George and Armine have a special burden for Armenian children and have prepared numerous C.E.F. teaching materials in Armenia. Pray for George and Armine so that they will know God’s future direction for this vital ministry. They are planning to go to Armenia this summer.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America acts as a missions arm of the Armenian Evangelical churches. Its projects and ministries are farflung on six continents, includes churches, schools, medical and social services and evangelistic projects. Pray for the Executive Director Mr. Andrew Torigian, his co-workers, and that the AMAA will continue to focus on reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

New Directions For Armenian Youth. This ministry was started 11 years ago to help High School age group people in the Hollywood area who are at risk for involvement in drug abuse and other gang related activities. The problems with Armenian youth in the Los Angeles area are critical. Please pray of the Executive Director, Abe Chaparian, his fellow



Vartanantz
Divine Liturgy
and
Commemorative Program

Thursday, February 23, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

**at St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church
650 Spruce Street, Oakland**

Speaker: Rev. Nerses Balabanian

With the participation of our Bay Area Armenian Apostolic
and Evangelical Churches.

AEUNA SISTER CHURCHES

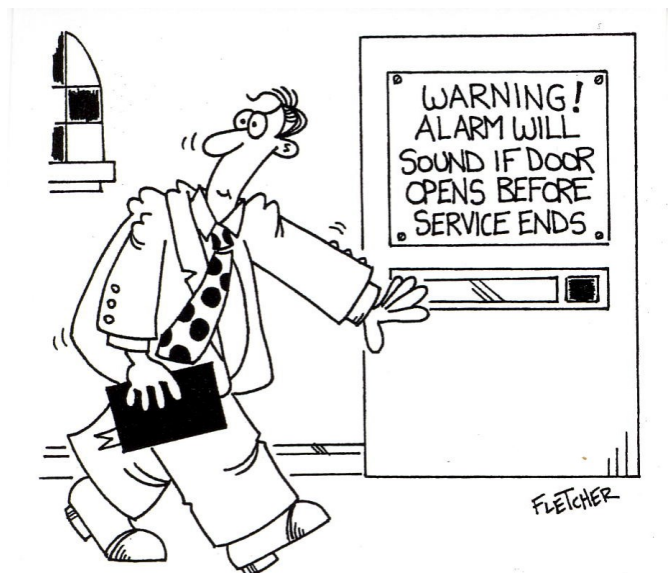
- * **Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church**
Fresno, CA
Rev. Ara Guekguegian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church**
Havertown, PA
Searching for a Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church**
Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Hollywood, CA
Rev. Apraham Chaparian, Pastor
Abe Chaparian, Exec. Dir. N.D.A.Y.
- * **United Armenian Congregational Church**
Hollywood, CA
Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor
Makarios Darawi, Associate Pastor
Rev. Jason Matossian, Youth Pastor
- * **Saint Nareg Armenian Church**
Montebello, CA
Rev. Krikor Haleblian, Ph.D., Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Rev. Mher Khatchigian, Pastor

OUR SISTER CHURCH IN ARMENIA

- * **Armenian Evangelical Church of Hrazdan**
Edik Tadevosian, Pastor

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN ARMENIA

- * **Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Gayaran and Aintab**
Hovhanness Frangoulian, Pastor



Bible Studies and Prayer

East Bay Prayer & Bible Study

Every 1st & 3rd Fridays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

@ the Bosnoyan's, 7979 Countess Ct., Dublin

Prayer Time: 1. To pray for the needs of our church families. 2. To intercede for spiritual renewal and removal on behalf of our Armenian people. **Study Time:** Purpose: To identify and help modify the anger that is keeping us from inner peace and contentment that God is offering. The study will deal with the following areas: Identify the best ways to handle anger / Understand how pride, fear, loneliness and inferiority feed anger / Uncover and eliminate the myths that perpetuate anger / Identify learned patterns of relating, thinking, and behaving that influence your anger.

Contact Nazo or Rouzan (925) 556-1549

Dinner and a Bible Study

Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at C.A.C.C. Fireside Room. Please come and bring a friend, dinner starts at 7:00 p.m., Bible study at 7:45 p.m., followed by prayer time. Everyone is welcome.



HomeBuilders Marriage & Family Ministries

Bible Study - Prayer - Support - Encouragement

Dates for the following Fridays:

February 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

March 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

April 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Couples of all ages welcome.
Children welcome.

Coffee Time With God

This is a weekly women's fellowship time intended to EXALT God and EDIFY one another through prayer, fellowship and the study of His word.

Every Thursday - 10:30 a.m. @ Lara Khoury's, 350 Budd Avenue, Apt. I-5, Campbell (408) 378-7003.

Women's World Day of Prayer

"Signs of the Times"

Saturday, March 4, 2006 at 11:00am

@ Saint John Church

Guest Speaker

Yerestgeen Sirarpie Aivazian

contact: Arpi Haleblian (408) 257-0799

College & Career Bible Studies & Fellowship

The College and Career group meets every Wednesday from 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. for prayer, worship, Bible study and fellowship. The studies are held at Rev. & Mrs. Nerses Balabanian's home, 938 Celia Drive, Palo Alto (650) 493-1972.

BAGEL TIME WITH GOD

Monthly Fellowship For Men

Saturday, February 25, 2006

8:30 am - 10:00 am

at Foothill Covenant Church
1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos

Missions Corner

Have You Prayed for your Missionary Lately

More than anything else, missionaries thrive on our prayers. Calvary church has been financially supporting various missionaries and pastors around the world. So that we can intelligently pray for our missionaries, I will try to incorporate parts of their prayer letters in our Calvary Messenger. The attached is from December 2005 Christmas letter of Rick and Rebecca Emenaker, who serve the Lord in Russia working with Mission Aviation Fellowship.

“Rick was in Sweden in early November for meetings with MAF-Sweden and another Swedish mission organization called “Light to the People”, regarding possible mission aviation work in the Krasnoyarsk region. As a result, Albert (a Russian pilot), and his wife, Julia, and their daughter, Anna, are taking a major step of faith this January by leaving their jobs, home and relatives, and moving from Kasan to Krasnoyarsk, a Siberian city North of Western Mongolia. They will be supported this first year by the above mentioned missions along with MAF-US. Albert will be seeking the favor of local officials, and civil aviation, to find a way to actually get mission aviation literally off the ground in the region north of Krasnoyarsk. He will also be working with local churches and mission groups who work in the region to know their needs better and how we might serve them. The task is daunting because of the government and other obstacles.

After Rick’s and MAP-Sweden’s survey in the Krasnoyarsk region in September, they saw the need and benefit mission aviation could provide. However, there are still many obstacles, mainly in getting permission to operate. If mission aviation is to become a reality in this region, it will take hard work, tenacity, perseverance, a lot of time, and, above all, a deep dependence on God. Some may wonder if it is worth all the effort, toil, time, and finances in pursuing missionary aviation in

the Krasnoyarsk region. We believe it is. Many have been praying and believe God is leading in this direction. If successful, establishing mission aviation in the Krasnoyarsk region could establish a ‘beachhead,’ a point of entry into other parts of Siberia where this ministry would be invaluable. So although we don’t know what the outcome will be, we are moving forward because we believe it is the right thing, at the right time, to be doing. The results are in God’s hands.

Praise God with us for Albert and his family as they willingly take this step. Please keep them in prayer.”

Thanks for joining with our Missions Committee members for praying for the Emenakers.

John Haleblian

Missions Committee Chairperson

Armenian School

We completed three years of Armenian language study. The students had interest in learning reading and also speaking.

Today they are able to sing ‘Park yev Badiv’ and ‘Hayr Mer’ in Armenian during our Sunday church service.

The only place where they hear Armenian spoken is in church on Sunday. They appreciate also learning conversation in Armenian during our Coffee time.

It takes interest as well as commitment to master our difficult language.

Arpi Haleblian

Coffee Time With God With God



A few years ago a few Calvary ladies came together to study the Word of God. The group grew up as more ladies expressed their desire in reading the Bible together and studying it. They gave the group the name "Coffee Time with God" to describe the warm setting of meeting around the table with a cup of coffee in their hands!

The group meets every Thursday morning at 10:30 at Khourys' home in Campbell and includes ladies of all age groups. It is not a neighborhood circle any more since there are some who drive from San Mateo, Belmont, and Foster City. At present, not only 12-15 ladies are coming regularly, but also 3-5 infants and toddlers (along with their strollers, seats, toys, and more)!

In the last months, and under the leadership of Arpy Haleblian the study of the Gospel of Matthew has proved to be very interesting and has generated some hot discussions!

Let's pray that the group grows deeper in faith and experiences the life-changing power of God's Word.

Sevan Balabanian

Youth Ministries

Greetings,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! Instead of my usual update on Bible Studies or social events, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the families that invited the high school students (joined by a few Jr. high students) to their homes for caroling on Sunday, December 18th. Ten of us set out and had the opportunity to make 7 different stops to visit with different families. We had a wonderful time with each of you, not only singing and rejoicing in the birth of our Lord and Savior, but of having the opportunity to spend quality time with you, and having the opportunity to further our relationships with others within the church. Many thanks to those of you who opened your homes to us on that December Sunday; we had a wonderful time at each stop! And to those of you who we were unable to see... don't worry... Christmas Caroling 2006 will come around in only 315 days! We hope to see each family during Christmas Caroling 2006!

Chris Tozlian

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Eugenie Balabanian (the mother of Rev. Nerses and Rafi Balabanian) passed away on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 in Aleppo, Syria. Our condolences and prayers to the family.

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
725 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, California 94132-2902

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Calvary Armenian Congregational Church



**Celebrating 80th
Anniversary Banquet**



Saturday, April 29th, 2006

Social Hour at 6:00 p.m. / Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Halajian Hall, 725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco

Guest Speaker

Justice Steven Vartabedian

Sponsorships are welcome.

Free childcare available.

***For reservations contact: Nora Balabanian (408) 257-6811
& Arax Kizirian (415) 586-2000***