

The Calvary Messenger

Գործընթացայ Լրատվություն



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

Practice... Where?

It has been nine months since I started my service at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church. I do hope that God is using me and my family to serve for His kingdom. I like to evaluate my ministry. In fact, I meet with other pastors who serve in San Francisco and the Peninsula to evaluate our ministries and share our concerns. Lately, the primary issue in our discussion was:

Where do we practice Christianity?

Where do we practice our faith?

Life in this part of the world is so rushed that people do not have time for socializing with each other. A typical day for many who work in the Silicon Valley starts by grabbing a quick bite, going to the garage at about 7:00 a.m., pushing the garage door button, getting into the car and driving to work. At work, most of the time we face the computer and have very little human interaction. In the evening, we come back exhausted, push the remote control button of the garage door, enter home, greet the family and finish the day exhausted.

Where can one practice the Christian faith in such a lifestyle? Churches and pastors are

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Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
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Annual Picnic



Sunday, July 23, 2006

Junipero Serra Park | BayView Shelter
1801 Crystal Springs Road, San Bruno
(650) 589-5708

Service of Worship at the Park - 11:00 a.m.

Children's Program - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$12 Adult | \$6 (12 and under)

Parking fee per car - \$5

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struggling to raise this issue in their congregations. As a Middle Eastern pastor, this was not an issue in my previous context. I was serving in a community which had a dynamic social network. I challenged them to practice the principles of the Christian faith within that community, hoping that they would be “light and salt,” and the message of our Lord Jesus Christ would spread all over.

Here people live at geographic distances and that affects our relationships with each other. You need an extra effort to decide to reach out to someone at a weeknight or weekend. In this part of the world, we are taught: What is my right? The biblical understanding is very different: How do I live in the right way with God and the others (neighbor, family, loved and unloved ones...)

This is our challenge: How do I live in the right way? The answer is in the Bible. In order to understand the Bible, we need commitments to read and follow these principles. In one word, the Christian faith is a lifestyle. In our context, we need more effort to find ways to create the community and practice CHRISTIANITY.

We are defeated if we think that life in this part of the world is unchangeable, therefore we live as everyone else does. Instead, we can ask God to direct us daily for new challenges and encounters with people. We can practice Christianity. We can become the “salt and light” of the world. God will help the ones who are ready to go an extra mile in their spiritual journey.

Jesus said: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Mathew 5:16

Rev. Nerses Balabanian
Pastor

Deacons Prayer Time

Pray Without Ceasing, Read with Expectation, and let Actions Speak.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins one to another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. James 5:13-16

In these and many passages like these in the Holy Bible, God teaches us the importance that prayer plays in our relationship to Him, the almighty creator of the universe. God has made so many provisions for us to be able to have a close relationship with Him, giving us his Word in which he reveals his character and will to us, giving us a direct access to himself through prayer, AND making us righteous by the blood of his only begotten son, part of the triune Godhead Himself, so that we may come into His presence.

This is our privilege not our right. This is a gift from God, not something we can

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Women's Ministries

Calvary Circle News

Mayfest Luncheon

Our ladies' Calvary Circle will host the annual Mayfest Luncheon on Saturday, May 13th at 12 noon in the Halajian Hall.

This year's speaker will be Pastor Leslyn Musch from the Lighthouse Regional Church of Concord, California. Pastor Musch is the president and co-founder of Global Prayer Ministries. She has ministered in more than 20 countries on five continents during her 24 years of ministry. She is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and is currently working on a Ph.D. in theology. She has compiled a book of Scriptures for everyday life experiences called, *The Hope Chest*, and has been a contributor to the *New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* and the *Spirit-filled Women's Devotional Bible*.

The title of her presentation for the Mayfest will be "*Turning the Ordinary into the Extraordinary*".

This event promises to be a very special day. There will also be a raffle and bake sale of home made items such as choreg and kurabia.

The ticket price is \$20 per person and childcare will be available with reservation.

Please contact Nanor Sadakian @ (650) 579-7122, Jackie Sadakian-Pirio @ (408) 239-0358, or Margi Shamlan @ (415) 664 -1965 for more information.

Margaret Shamlan

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earn. Yet we would do well to take this gift and privilege seriously, for this is God's way of drawing us close to himself, helping us to want all the good things that he wants for humanity, and then allowing him to bestow those things on us more abundantly than we can ask. Knowing the joy of His salvation and the joy of serving God by doing his will is how we can have an abundant and meaningful life. It all starts at its baseline by knowing Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord personally, and being in constant communication with him personally and collectively by praying, studying the Bible and exercising that which God teaches us.

Won't you join the Calvary Deacons and congregation in monthly fervent prayer to seek God's will and step out in confidence to accomplish it?

**Every first Thursday of the month at
6:30 pm
Foothill Covenant Church
1555 Oak Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94024**

Anahid Yeremian

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>

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.

The Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Hollywood is dedicated to meeting the needs of immigrant Armenians in the Los Angeles area. Since its inception, thousands of people have benefited from the center's outreach. Through assisting with the social needs of our people a means is provided through which the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared. Please pray for the A.E.S.S.C. board of directors, staff, and those they minister to.

New Directions For Armenian Youth. This ministry was started 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 workers and the youth they are reaching.

Drs. Tom and Cynthia Hale for many years were medical missionaries in the Himalayan country of Nepal. While in medical school they vowed to work together among primitive people to share the love of Jesus by way of their medical practice. Currently they are traveling around the world sharing their experiences as missionaries, training others and encouraging ongoing support and participation in missions especially in Nepal.

Armenian Evangelical Church - Hrazdan, Armenia. Our sister church in Hrazdan has about 150 members. Brother Edik Tadevosian is the pastor. The church gathers in a small apartment converted into a sanctuary that seats about 130 people. The church is involved in local home Bible studies and thriving children's and youth ministries. Pastor Tadevosian is also very involved in assisting the needy in the community.

AEUNA SISTER CHURCHES

- * **First Armenian Evangelical Church**
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Rev. Georges Dabbo, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
New York, NY
Searching for a Pastor
- * **Armenian Presbyterian Church**
Paramus, NJ
Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor
- * **Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church**
Pasadena, CA
Rev. Kevork George Terian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church**
Providence, RI
Searching for a Pastor
- * **Ararat Armenian Congregational Church**
Salem, NH
Rev. Ara Heghinian, 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

BIRTH

We congratulate Rodney and Aileen Hartunian for their newborn son, Kyle Hartunian, born on Monday, December 19, 2005.

We congratulate Chris and Salpi Dunlap for their newborn son, Logan Aramis Dunlap, born on Tuesday, February 14, 2006. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Harout and Houry Arroyan.

We congratulate Gagik and Karine Manookian for their newborn daughter, Emily Manookian, born on Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

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

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. @ Arpi Haleblian's 12044 Saraglen Court, Saratoga (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.

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

Join us on May 19, 2006 at 7:00 pm for the HomeBuilders Bible study at the home of Vicken & Caroline Sagherian 1201 Morningside Drive, Sunnyvale (408) 737-1921

Topic: Improving Communication in Your Marriage: From understanding the Barriers to Communication to Achieving spiritual Intimacy.
Couples of all ages welcome.
Children welcome.



Deacons' Prayer Time

Every First Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
@ 1961 Pruneridge Avenue, Suite A, San Jose
Everyone is Welcome

Bagel Time With God

Monthly Fellowship For Men 

Saturday, May 27, 2006
8:30 am - 10:00 am
at Foothill Covenant Church
1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos

Missions Corner

Dear Calvary Family,

As you know Calvary Church for the past six years has been supporting Missions, both by encouraging our youth to participate in Missions activities and supporting Missions programs around the world. The attached is a thank you letter from Vartoug Balekjian of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church in Lebanon, one of the projects that we supported last year, where Pastor Nerses Balabanian was their previous pastor. Please continue to pray for the various CACC supported Missions programs and Missions in general around the world.

John Haleblian

Missions Committee Chairperson

“A Big Thank You

The Sunday School family at the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Dora (Beirut, Lebanon) wants to thank you for your encouraging support of its programs, specially the Christmas program it had in December 2005.

We are a group of almost 70 children, who come from Torosian School, as well as the apartment buildings across our church and some neighboring homes. Fifteen young men and women volunteer to serve these kids on Sunday mornings and at special gatherings and outings. Ten of these volunteer young people have or are in the course of a university education.

Our theme for the year 2005-2006 is the “Fruit of the Spirit”. The worship part of the Sunday school, with singing and Bible verses,

is done in the church hall; then the children split into classes according to their ages and are taught the Bible lesson. Our yearly program includes two 10-minute participations at the Christmas & Palm Sunday Church services with a sketch and songs; two outings in February & June and a Christmas outreach project. This year we had adopted Julieta Gharibian, a 12-year old orphan girl from Artsakh, so the December 2005 collections (\$70) went to her and her mother through the AMAA office in Yerevan, Armenia.

On the other hand, we have our own children who do not always come from comfortable families and we want them to be happy with the Sunday school activities. Christmas is one of those best times we can achieve this aim. So every year we organize a 2-hour fun time with lunch, Santa Clause visit, gifts and games. Your gift of \$200 facilitated this year’s program a lot. We had a fundraising bake sale early in December and your gift, added to the income of that event, helped us gather 85 kids and some parents around a joyful program with lots of laughter and abundant food (pizza, of course!). We hoped our Christmas gifts (a 14-page coloring and games book with Armenian instructions and Christmas theme) would keep them busy during the holidays.

Part of your gift helped us provide transportation to 40 children and 10 teachers to go and watch C.S. Lewis’ “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”.

Thank you again and may our Lord Jesus reward all your endeavors to serve Him.

In His name,

Vartoug Balekjian

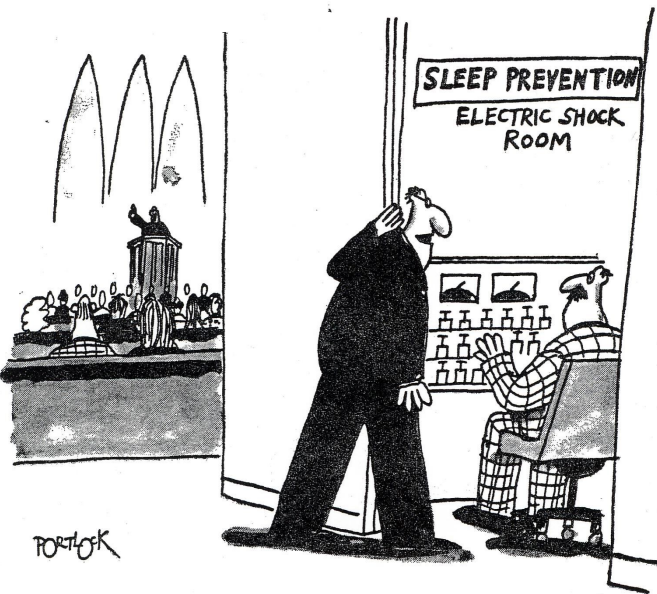
Sunday School Superintendent”

Youth Ministries

Youth Message:

Hello again everyone! I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the congregation for allowing the youth of the church to become more involved in the Sunday morning worship services recently. It has been a blessing for us to be able to participate in worship with you all and a blessing to help lead the worship songs. As always, thank you for your continued support toward the youth of the church. Also, as an update over the Sunday school curriculum, the high school group recently finished its study of James, which impressed upon us the importance of living as Christ's ambassadors within a sinful world. Since then, we have begun our study of the book of Titus, which we pray will teach us the importance of living Godly lives and the importance of not compromising our faith in Christ. May God continue to teach and guide the youth of the church for His glory!

Chris Tozlian



"Row six, third left."
"Row six, third left."

Հայ Աւետարանական Գողգոթա Եկեղեցի
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

Presents

Daniel Decker



*International Recording Artist
and Composer*

*Reaching America, Armenia,
and the World*

The musical journey of Daniel Decker has taken him to Armenia, England, Puerto Rico, Canada, and a thriving career across the United States.

Երաժիշտ Տանիէլ Տէքըր ելոյթներ ունեցած է Հայաստան, Անգլիա, Բորիո Ռիքօ, Քանատա եւ Միացեալ Նահանգներ: Հայաստանը յատուկ տեղ կը գրաւէ իր սրտին մէջ:

Daniel was officially invited by the Armenian Government to present his song "Adana" to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. He presented a live televised concert in the presence of the Armenian President with celebrated Armenian composer Ara Gevorgian.

Through both word and song Daniel works to bring hope to a hurting world. He believes he has a responsibility to his audience to share his faith in Christ.

Saturday, May 27, 2006 at 7 pm

**Calvary Armenian Congregational
Church**

725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco

Tel: (415) 586-2000

Email: cacc@cacc-sf.org

www.cacc-sf.org

Free Admission

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

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Mayfest Luncheon

Saturday, May 13, 2006 @ 12 Noon

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco

Speaker: Leslyn Musch

"Turning the Ordinary into the Extraordinary"

Co-pastor of Lighthouse Regional Church, Concord

Raffle and Bake Sale too!

For reservations call:

Nanor sadakian - (650) 579-7122

Jackie Sadakian-Pirio - (408) 239-0358

Margi Shamlian - (415) 664-1965

Tickets
\$20

Child Care
Available
with
Reservations