

The Calvary Messenger

Գրողները Լրատվիչ



Volume 35 / Number 4
FALL 2006

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

Let Us Prepare For the Feast
Exodus 12:1-11

For this wonderful renewal Sunday, I chose a passage from Exodus. I chose the Passover preparation as a model for our preparation for our FEAST. Yes, I want to call our year a year of feast. It is a feast because we are walking with our Lord Jesus Christ. The best feast in the world. We are part of this feast.

I found nine steps in this passage that can apply to our preparation.

1. "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household." (v. 3) **Time is very important.** God has given instructions to the Israelites to be ready at a certain time (on the 10th of the first month). We live in time. We are born in time. Christmas and Easter happened at certain times. There is a time for everything.

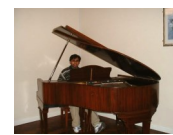
2. "Each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household" (v. 3). **Each family, each household** needs to have a **lamb**. God is interested in each family and household. God is revealing his **DIVINE PROTECTION** plan. God could save the Israelites without that

(continued on page two)

25th Annual Food Festival & Boutique Noel

Saturday November 11, 2006

Lunchon & Dinner Served
12 Noon - 9:00 pm



Live Music



*Delicious
Armenian Food*



*Take-out Booth / Crafts Boutique
Hyebucks Café / Raffle*

For Information Call (415) 586-2000

Email: cacc@cacc-sf.org

Website: www.cacc-sf.org

Free Admission

(continued from page one)



lamb. He could ask Moses to pray collectively and God has that power to save collectively. No, He did not choose that way. He asked **each family**, each household to be responsible for the lamb. Likewise, each family and person in our church has the responsibility to plug in to God through our ministries.

3. "If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat." (v. 4) We read about **sharing**, we read about **not having more than what we need**. God does not want **any waste**. Unfortunately, very often the world is wasting its resources. Share with the needy, help the one who is weaker than your family and try to be content with what you have.

4. "The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats." (v. 5) God wants the best and not the leftover. Our attitude towards God is "If I have time, if my work is done, if sport practices are done, then I have time for God." God gave His best on Calvary, His Son Jesus Christ. God did not compromise; He gave His best. How dare we compromise with God? Therefore, find the right ministry for your growth, and **bring in your best resources**.

5. "Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month," (v. 6) The Israelites were charged with **responsibility** to look after the animals. Now 14 days are not a long time. Perhaps you think it is not an important job. The point is we should not take lightly what God is asking us. Jesus told the parable of the talents. The one had one talent buried it in the ground. I love the story of the lost sheep. We can leave the 99 and find the lost one. It does not mean that 99 are not important. The 99 are in a safe place. There are the lost ones who need more attention. We need to take care of the congregation. We need to find the lost one and get him/her plugged in to God.

6. "Slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs." (v. 6-7) The image can disturb you but it was the main thing. The blood of the lamb was going to be the sign to be saved. Two images are very

important: **The blood, and the blood on the door.** Jesus said: **"this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."** (Mathew 26:28) He also said **"I am the gate (door)"** (John 10:7). This was God's plan for protection of the Israelites. This was the insurance provided by God. We as Christians have a new covenant with God. We do not need to slaughter and sacrifice lambs any more. Jesus is the Lamb of God. He is the door for our salvation. God is our protection and our refuge.

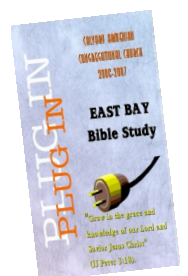
7. "That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast." (v. 8) God gives instructions in details. God reveals His will to us everyday. Just listen and obey. Therefore, plug in.

8. "This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand" (v. 11) While they are eating, they are dressed well and ready to go: **belt, sandals and staff** in the hand. It was food, or energy, for the next day. They have a long way to go. Food so that we are on our feet with belt ready to live the new life. This food is not to make us fat and lazy. Unfortunately, we have many churchgoers who are just "eating" without exercise and application. I have a dream for our church. I would love to see that most of the congregation has a group for spiritual nourishment. That is not an end by itself, but it helps us to bring forth the Kingdom of God and not our Kingdom. All these ministries and committees are not ends in themselves. They serve to help us **"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** (II Peter 3:18) and become more Christlike in our character.

9 "Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover." (v. 11) **Haste, hurry up, life is too short, do not waste time.** Time is valuable. Use it wisely. Therefore, let us prepare the feast. We don't know when Jesus is coming back. We do know that we need to be obedient to God. We need to know that we have to be ready and PLUG IN TO GOD. We do not have any other choice. Because disobedience to God is death and destruction.

Let us go to celebrate the feast of the Lord. Let us go and plug in to God.

Rev. Nerses Balabanian
Pastor



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 Union of North America (AEUNA)** is committed to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthening our churches. Our goal is to meet the multi-faceted spiritual, educational and social needs of our AEUNA community. The A.E.U.N.A., of which CACC is a member, was founded to unite our churches, pastors and organizations within an ecclesiastical fellowship for ministry, mission and service in the name of Jesus Christ and to preserve, maintain and nurture our rich and unique culture. Pray for our Minister to the Union, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Moderator, Rev. Bernard Guekguezian and the A.E.U.N.A. Board of Directors.

Armenian Evangelical Fellowships of Gayaran and Aintab, Armenia: This ministry is located in one of the most underprivileged neighborhoods of Yerevan. Living conditions are deplorable. The spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the people are great. In addition, there is a great need for a church building which CACC is contributing financially towards. Please pray for Pastor Hovhanness Frangulian, the fellowship, and those who are ministered to.

Rick and Rebecca Emenaker (Hakimian) are missionaries with **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)**. They serve in Moscow, Russia, where Rick, in addition to working at the MAF Headquarters, oversees the Distance Education (DE) project in Eurasia. DE provides Biblical and Theological training to Christian leaders in remote locations using computers, CD’s and the internet. Through relationships developed through flying, in the community (which includes many Armenians), and their neighborhood the Gospel is being shared and people are responding. Pray for those who need to know Jesus and for opportunities to witness. Pray for Rick, Rebecca and their 3 children, for God’s safety and guidance.

Thank You

I would like to thank all of my friends at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church for their prayers, visitations and phone calls.

Thank you again for your kind thoughts and prayers.

Azkanaz Mackitarian

AEUNA SISTER CHURCHES

- * **First Armenian Church**
Belmont, MA
Rev. Gregory Hartunian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Cambridge, Ontario, Canada
Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Chicago, IL
Rev. Samuel Agulian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Congregational Church**
Detroit, MI
Rev. Makarios Darawi, Pastor
- **Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church**
Downey, CA
Rev. Jirair Sogomian, Interim Pastor
- **First Armenian Presbyterian Church**
Fresno, CA
Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Senior Pastor
Aren Balabanian, Associate Pastor
John Baloian, Director of Youth

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

Church News



BIRTH

We congratulate Ara and Sirena Haleblian for their twin newborn son and daughter, Allan Azad Haleblian and Anais Hasmig Haleblian, born on Monday, July 24, 2006. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Manoushagian and grandmother, Hasmig Haleblian.

We congratulate Dimitri and Sherrie (Paregian) Dogadkin for their newborn son, Dimitri Maximus Dogadkin, born on Saturday, September 23, 2006. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Dogadkin and Paregian.

We congratulate Armen and Rubina Boldi for their newborn son, Ethan Boldi, born on Friday, September 29, 2006. Congtatulations also to the grandparents, Boldi and Kazanjian.

Bible Studies

Dinner and a Bible Study

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

Contact Anahid Yeremian
email: anahid@slac.Stanford.edu

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 am @ Arpi Haleblian's 12044 Saraglen Court, Saratoga (408) 257-0799.

Bagel Time With God



Monthly Fellowship for Men
Every Fourth Saturday of the Month
8:30 am - 10:00 am

@ Foothill Covenant Church
1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos
Contact Rev. Nerses Balabanian
email: Pastor@cacc-sf.org

College & Career Bible Studies & Fellowship

The College and Career group meets every Wednesday from 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm for prayer, worship, Bible study and fellowship. Location to be announced by email.

Contact Rev. Nerses Balabanian (650) 815-8679
or email: Pastor@cacc-sf.org

East Bay prayer & Bible Study

Every 1st & 3rd Fridays, 7:30-9:00 pm
@ 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:** You are invited to join us to pray together, study the word of God, and fellowship together in a relax home setting. Our meeting will be bilingual. This is not an invitation to join any church, it is simply a fellowship of Armenian believers in this area. We will meet regularly first and third Fridays of each month. The first meeting of each month will be a devotional Bible study, and the third Friday of each month will be a prayer meeting.

Contact Nazo or Rouzan (925) 556-1549

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>

and Prayer



Church-Wide Prayer Meeting

Every First Thursday of the Month
6:30 pm
@ Foothill Covenant Church
1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos
Everyone is Welcome

Foster City/Peninsula Bible Study

Monthly Fellowship and
Bible Study
Every Last Thursday
of the Month
7:00 pm
@ Jerry and Seta Tujian's
521 Pitcairn Drive
Foster City
Everyone is Welcome
Contact Rev. Nerses Balabanian
(650) 815-8679

Coffee Time with God in San Francisco



Monthly Fellowship and Bible Study



Every Last Thursday
of the Month
11:00 am at C.A.C.C.
Everyone is Welcome
Contact Rev. Nerses Balabanian
(650) 815-8679

HomeBuilders Bible Studies

"Building Teamwork in your Marriage"
Every Third Saturday of the
Month at 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
November 18, 2006
@ Foothill Covenant Church
1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos
Contact Lara Khoury
(408) 275-8511

FaithBuilders Bible Studies

Topic:
"The Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6"
Every First Friday of the
Month at 7:00 pm
We will be using the book *Fifty-seven Words that
Change the World: A Journey Through the
Lord's Prayer* by Darrell W. Johnson.
November 3, 2006 at
Vicken & Caroline Sagherian's home
December 1, 2006 at
Rafi & Nora Balabanian's home
January 5, 2007
Hagop & Nanor Sadakian's home
You may order your copy on-line or at a
Christian bookstore.
Contact Vicken & Caroline Sagherian
(408) 737-1921
or Rafi & Nora Balabanian
(408) 257-6811

CACC Financial Report

Summary results for the period January 1st through August
31st, 2006:

	Actuals	Budget	% of Budget
Income (Cash in)	\$149,968.90	\$248,516.00	60%
Expenses (Cash out)	\$164,107.51	\$248,516.00	66%
Net Income (Loss):	\$(14,138.61)		

Contributions (Pledges & Donations) update as of August 31st,
2006

		% of Goal
Contributions (Pledges & Donations)		
Goal for 2006:	\$136,766.00	
Contributions (Pledges & Donations) Received as of August 31, 2006:	\$ 92,208.00	67%

Children Ministries



2006 Vacation Bible School

We were so happy to be able to offer VBS again this past summer on July 24th - 28th, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. This year we tried something new, offering rides to children from the South Bay and Peninsula who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Much thanks to Pastor and Sevan Balabanian for providing this wonderful service.

Sixteen children attended VBS at CACC, all of whom attend KZV Armenian School except one who came from seeing the banner we posted in front of the church. The total cost for the week per child was \$35.00 with a maximum set at \$70.00 per family. This included a T-shirt, DVD of all the program music, crafts and snacks.

Once again we used Group Publishing's curriculum. This year's program was entitled Fiesta - Where Kids Are Fired Up About Jesus. Fiesta is an exciting, fun-filled, Bible based program that helped the children learn that Jesus Is Our Friend, Jesus Is Our Life, Jesus Is Our Leader, Jesus Is Our Savior, and Jesus Is Our Helper.

These daily Bible points were carefully integrated into each station activity to reinforce learning. Our station activities started with Sing & Play Olé (worship and praise time) led by Nanor Balabanian, then Hot Bible Adventures (Bible story and prayer time) co-taught by Mrs. Sevan Balabanian and Mrs. Arpi Haleblian, Maraca Munchies (snack time) prepared by Mrs. Marge Damir, Cactus Crafts (arts and crafts time) led by Mrs. Rene Avanesian, Grande Games (play time) led by Mrs. Taleen Nazarian and Ari Nazarian, and the Fiesta Finale (wrap up and Bible memory verse time) which was also led by Mrs. Sevan Balabanian.

It was a great week of learning and fellowship, and we were able to expand our outreach to the community. We are very thankful for the lives God entrusted to us that week and the opportunity to teach them more about His love.

Respectfully,

Rene Avanesian

Youth Ministries



When I was asked to serve the youth group, I was uncertain, but then I realized who could God use better than someone who could understand their needs and relate to

them, since I myself used to be in their position. We started the year off with a pizza party at the Pastor and Sevan Balabanian's home, inviting the entire youth group to attend. It was a great time to fellowship with each other and to hear what the youth wanted to get out of this year. One of the ideas proposed by many of the youth was the passion to reach out to the community. Along with this, we came up with different activities we could do to build unity.

For the past few weeks, we have been meeting at 11:00 am on Sundays in the youth room. We start by singing worship songs. Our group is blessed with talented musicians who play the guitar, the keyboard, and the bongos. We read some verses from the Bible and we pray. After that, the Jr. High goes with Sevan Balabanian and the High School are with me. With the High Schoolers, we have been talking about how the character of a follower of Christ should look like and how our actions should reveal whom we claim to follow. Jr. High is studying about Jesus meeting people wherever they are in their lives. I am looking forward to see what the Lord has in store for us. We appreciate your prayers and support!

Jennifer Bosnoyan



"That was the best sermon on giving I've ever heard."

Missions Corner



The CACC Missions committee has always encouraged and financially supported our youth to consider short term missions. One of the best conferences introducing Missions has been the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship's Urbana Convention. In the past we have had several of our youth attend the conference which has had a great impact in their lives. This December will mark the 21st Urbana Conference. We would encourage our youth to prayerfully consider attending the conference the details of which follows:

What Is Urbana 06?

Urbana 06 is InterVarsity's twenty-first student missions convention. Urbana is held triennially and is an expression of InterVarsity's purpose to transform students and develop world changers. Urbana 06 will take place December 27-31, 2006, in St. Louis, Missouri.

What Needs Does Urbana Address?

Human beings are created in the image of God and have a fundamental need to be in a relationship with their Creator. Urbana motivates young men and women to announce and demonstrate God's reconciling love in the whole world.

University students are at a critical decision-making point in their lives. Their decisions today will influence the future of the world. Urbana shapes the nature of their influence by bringing students together with experts in global ministries and representatives from churches, mission agencies, and Christian educational institutions.

What Are Urbana's Objectives?

- For generations Urbana has sought to accomplish four objectives:
1. Declare God's character and mission as revealed in Scripture (*missio Dei*).
 2. Inform participants about the current realities in global missions.
 3. Call all participants about the current realities in global missions.
 4. Motivate participants to serve in global and crosscultural missions.

We use the word "mission" to describe the process by which God is redeeming his creation. One day this process will be finished. The word "missions" describes human efforts aimed at bringing the message of reconciliation between God and people.

Contact Information

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA
 tel 608.274.7995
 email info@urbana.org
 web www.intervarsity.org
www.urbana.org

الكنيسة الارمنية الانجيلية - الاشرفية
 ՎԱՅ ԱՐԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ, ԷՅՐԷՖԻԷ
 ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHRAFIEH

29 Յունիս 2006

Սուրբ Հոգին
 մե վրայ
 եկած ասեմը
 գորութիւն
 պիտի առնէ՞
 ու ինձի համար
 վկանք պիտի
 ըլլա՞մ:

Պատարճան
 Արեւնապետ եւ Անդամներ
 Ման Ֆրանսիսկոյի հայ Անկաթարանական
 Գողգոթա Եկեղեցիի
 Միախոնարական Յանձնախումբի

Քրիստոսով սիրելի գործակիցներ,

Կ'ողջունենք ձեզ մեր Փրկչին՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի պատրասկան անունովը եւ սիրովը եւ կը մաղթենք ձեզի յաջողութիւն ձեր բոլոր գործերուն մէջ:

Փառք կու փանք Աստուծոյ, որ անգամ մը ես յիշած էք մեր եկեղեցին եւ 100 Ամ. քուրար նուիրած յարկացուելու համար ամառնային Մր. Գրոց վարժարանի եւ կամ համագումարներու:

Գործք 1: 8

Անցեալ փարի ձեր դրկած գումարը յարկացուեցաւ՝ պատրաստաց համագումարին իսկ այս փարի պիտի յարկացուի փոքրիկներու համագումարին: Ունինք մէկէ աւելի կարիքատար փոքրիկներ որոնք կ'ուզեն համագումարին մասնակցիլ սակայն իրենց ծնողքին փութասկան վիճակը չ'արտօնել իրենց որ մասնակցին: Ուստի մեծապէս կը գնահատենք ձեր դրկած նիւթական նուէրը եւ մեր երախտագիտութիւնը կը յայտնենք ձեզի:

Աստուծոյ օրհնութիւնը կը հայցենք ձեր եկեղեցիին, հովիւին եւ յարկապէս միախոնարական յանձնախումբին աշխատանքներուն վրայ: Մեր աղօթքն է որ Աստուած գործածէ ձեր ջանքերը անմահ հոգիներու փրկութեան եւ Իր փառքին ու թագաւորութեան փարածման համար:

Ձերն ողջոյններով եւ սիրով կը մնանք ձերդ երախտապարտ եւ աղօթարար:

Աշոֆիէի Սուրբ Անդամական Եկեղեցիի
 Տնօրէնական Կոմիտէի
 Մարտիրոս Կրտսէ
 Տնօրէնական Կոմիտէի
 Արեւնապետ
 Մարտիրոս Կրտսէ
 Արեւնապետ

P.O. Box 80758 Bourj Hammoud

Phone: 442596

John Haleblian
 Missions Committee Chairperson

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San Francisco, California 94132-2902

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



10th Annual Christmas Banquet



*An evening of celebrating our life in Jesus Christ, God with us.
Guest Speaker*

Chaplain (Major) Lucy Der-Garabedian

Saturday, December 16th, 2006

Reception for Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, California

Presented by Youth, College & Career Ministries

Tickets: \$40 Adults, \$25 Students, \$150 Sponsor (2 tickets)

For tickets please contact

Arax Kizirian at (415) 586-2000 or cacc@cacc-sf.org