

# The Calvary Messenger

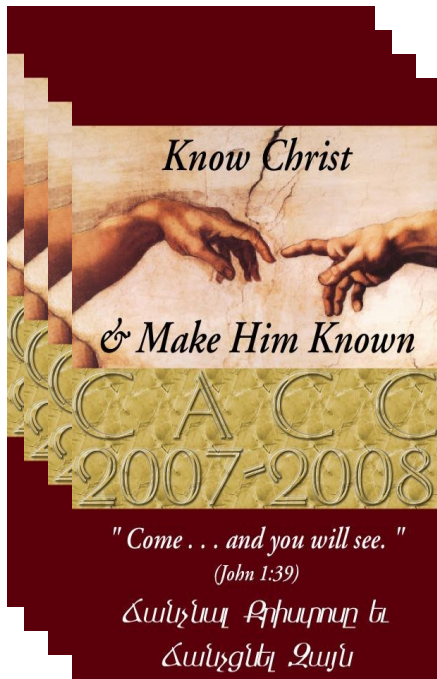
## Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



Volume 36 / Number 3  
2007

The Newsletter of the  
**Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco**  
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## A View from Calvary



### Come and See

Little Michael Damir is a regular member of our Sunday School and last summer he attended Vacation Bible School. His parents told me that he was very happy, and talked about God with them after the VBS was over. One day at school, a friend of Michael found out that he attended VBS last summer. One thing led to another, and Michael said: "I love God more than anybody."

"Who's God?" asked his little friend.  
"I don't know," said Michael.  
"Is he from the commercial?" asked his friend.  
"No," said Michael.  
"He looks like you?" said his friend.  
"No, he doesn't look like me; he doesn't have teeth." responded Michael.  
The teacher, who overheard the conversation, interrupted their discussion by asking Michael, "What else do you know about God?"  
After thinking for a moment, Michael responded:  
"God is strong; God is real except you cannot see Him. He died and went to heaven then he came back to life."

I love little Michael's honest answer. No wonder Jesus told us that unless we are like little children, we will not have a place in the Kingdom of God. I am challenged by one of the youngest members of CACC to find that he takes the invitation "Come and see" seriously.

This sentence was used by Jesus and his disciples to invite people to follow Jesus. John the Baptist sent his two disciples to follow the "Lamb of God." When they saw Jesus, they called him "Rabbi", our teacher. They also wanted to know what Jesus did, and where he stayed. Jesus said, "Come and see."

Andrew was one of those disciples who obeyed and followed Jesus. However, the first thing Andrew did was to go and invite his brother Simon, who was later known as Peter. We do not know much about Andrew. We only know that he was a

*(continued on page two)*

## 2007 Coming Events

**Saturday, November 10**

Annual Food Festival

**Saturday, December 15**

11th Christmas Banquet

Speaker

Rev. Berdj Djambazian

(continued from page one)

disciple of Jesus. His name is mentioned in the Bible only three times, and at all these occasion he was inviting people to come to meet Jesus.

God wants ordinary people to invite people to Him. People who are not preachers, who are not prophets, whose names are not written on the first pages of magazines. They are people of the "second seat." Yet, their task in inviting people is unique and exceptional.

We see ordinary people like the Samaritan woman. Jesus was thirsty. The Samaritan woman was there with a bucket. She was surprised that a Jewish man would talk to her and ask for water. In the end when the conversation went further and deeper, she asked for living water from Jesus. Then she left everything, even her bucket, and went to the village and invited her people "Come and see..."

I love little Michael's response when he said he did not know who God was. He was honest. Yet, he felt God's presence in his life and he liked to share it with his friend. You do not have to have all the answers in order to invite someone to God. I am not asking big things from you. I am asking a simple thing. **Share your testimony** with your friends, neighbors, colleagues.

We are called to be light and salt. It is not a choice. It should be done.

Our slogan for this year is the following: **Know Christ and make Him known.**

Knowing Christ was stressed in our last year's slogan: *Plug In to God*. We cannot ignore that theme and therefore our ministries that help us plug in to God will continue this year as well. However, I want to emphasize this year the second part of our slogan: **to Make Him Known**. There are many who do not have the taste of Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

I once read by Brian Bill about something he called BLT: Build relationships, Look for opportunities, and Take non-Christians to outreach events. We need to move and put it in practice. Therefore, go, invite and say: COME AND SEE.

*Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor*

# Renewal Sunday

"Come....and you will see." John 1:39

Renewal Sunday was September 16, 2007. It was an exciting time of resurrection and communion for our church. We began the morning with a beautiful buffet breakfast complete with "fool" in Halajian hall hosted by the Sunday School. The balloons said "welcome" and we ate and discovered our new goal for 2007-08. "Know Christ and Make Him Known." Of course we must still remain "Plugged In" - our goal from last year.



In the sanctuary, the Youth Band performed and we sang songs of worship. Twenty-one different mission, ministry, committee and study group leaders came forward for prayer and blessings.

The scripture "Come....and you will see." is from the calling together of the disciples. It is a calling for our church congregation too. When Andrew found Christ to be the Messiah, he told his brother Simon (Peter). Andrew's role was to invite people to Jesus. And this is our new goal - to be a "light", to care, to love and to invite people to Calvary Church. If we do this, then the spirit of the Lord will do the rest.

Our Sunday school children had a special program as well. Badveli gave a children's message during the church service. Then the children played games in Halajian Hall. Parents registered their children for Sunday School and the congregation joined together in Halajian Hall. During the social hour, we "plugged in" by signing-up for church service and Bible study. The excitement of renewal was an exhilarating experience.

*Sherry Arroyo*

## Father of the Year

Congratulations to Levon Gulesserian CACC's Father of the Year 2007! The church honored Levon for his years of dedicated service and exemplary life as a father.

Levon's dedication to the Church goes back to his years in Lebanon when, along with his brother, he was the backbone of the Christian Endeavor work. Levon not only worked on numerous committees, but also wholeheartedly supported the CE activities, publications, KCHAG and the like.



Upon arriving to the US, Levon along with his late wife Shaké, found in CACC a new family. The couple served the church in various capacities and with great devotion.

God blessed Levon and Shaké with three children, Aline, Dikran and Alec, and four grandchildren Kevin, Max, Cole and Andrea Shaké.

Levon, may God bless you and your dear family.

### GENERAL FUND As of August 31, 2007

Year-to-date Cash inflows (revenue):  
\$151,160  
Year-to-date Cash outflows (expenses):  
\$176,004  
Year-to-date Shortfall: (\$24,844)

## Annual Picnic

This year's annual picnic was held on August 19 at Huddart Park near the town of Woodside. Thanks to the support and effort of all of the volunteers, this year's picnic committee and most of all the enthusiasm of the CACC church members, we are pleased and grateful to announce that we had one of the biggest turnouts in recent memory.



Over 150 people came for the worship service and then enjoyed food, fellowship, fun, games and wonderful music; all within God's own natural cathedral.



This year the picnic committee agreed to make some changes to the regular picnic menu including serving steak and chicken breast instead of shish-ka-bob. Fortunately, the changes were very well received, particularly the steak which was reported to be *shad hamov!* Above all, we are most thankful that we were able to provide our first major service to the Church and we hope that we will continue to serve God's will as He sees fit.



We hope that everyone had as good a time attending the picnic as we had putting it on. May we all have as wonderful a time in 2008!

*Marty & Taleen DeArcangelis*

# Missions Corner

## ***A Visit to Armenian Evangelical Church of Sofia***

Last Spring my wife Arpi and I had the opportunity of visiting Bulgaria. Beginning with nineteenth century there has been an Armenian community in Bulgaria. Presently there are over 30,000 Armenians living in Bulgaria. The largest concentrations of Armenians are in the cities of Plovdiv and Sofia, where they have their churches, schools and various Armenian organizations.

There has been an Armenian Evangelical community ever since the early nineteen hundreds and presently there are six Armenian Evangelical & Methodist Churches in the cities of Burgas, Plovdiv, Russe, Shumen, Sofia and Varna.



National Evangelical Church of Sofia

Arpi and I had the opportunity of worshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Sofia. The Armenian Evangelical Church of Sofia was established in 1933, and presently they meet in one of the auxiliary halls of the National Bulgarian Evangelical Church (picture). The pastor of the church is Rev. Sarkis Paravazian.



Sister Mary Krikorian Preaching

The day we visited there were around 40 worshipers and the Lord's message was preached by sister Mary Krikorian (picture). The service was conducted in Armenian. The attendees were mostly native born and some newcomers from Armenia.

The Sunday we were there was the last Sunday of the Sunday school. At the end of the service the kids gathered around a table (picture), by the altar, and in a question & answer session demonstrated what they had learned during the year.



Sunday School Children of Armenian Evangelical Church of Sofia

We left the church blessed and praised God that His word is being preached in various corners of the World to Armenian people.

Let us remember & pray for our sister churches in Bulgaria.

In Him,

*John Haleblian*



*We received thank you letters from Syria and Lebanon from the following churches: Arm. Evang. Martyrs Church, Allepo; Arm. Evang. Emmanuel Church, Beirut; Arm. Evang. Eshrefieh Church, Beirut; Arm. Evang. Nor Marash Church, Beirut; and Arm. Evang. Ainjar Church, Ainjar.*

*The CACC Mission Committee sent financial aid to support summer camps for Youth and Junior High and Vacation Bible Schools. The photo is the VBS of Nor Marash Church, Beirut.*

# Vacation Bible School

July 24th - 28th, 2007

What an amazing time we had at VBS again this past July. As you may remember from last year,



we began offering rides to children from the South Bay and Peninsula who otherwise would not have been able to attend. This year, in addition to this wonderful service by Pastor and Sevan Balabanian, we extended our hours until 3:00 p.m. to accommodate even more children with working parents.

God blessed us with a record of 31 children attending VBS at CACC, the majority of whom attend KZV Armenian School. 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, all crafts and snacks.



As in previous years, we used Group Publishing's curriculum. This year's program was entitled Avalanche Ranch - A Wild Ride Through God's Word. Avalanche

From 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. we provided lunch, and after care for approximately half of the children who attended the morning program. This was a more loosely structured time centered around team games and activities. Lunches were donated by Yvonne Minassian, Nanor Sadakian, and Taleen Nazarian.



Besides the dedicated leaders, we had help from other wonderful volunteers including Sherry Arroyo

(decorating), Loucine Tokmakjian, Sossi Chinchinian & Azad Balabanian (activities and photos).



I would like to thank all of you for your prayers. This was indeed 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*

# Ministry Opportunities

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES** (Contact Alidz Nazarian, Coordinator (408) 241-3232)

**Our Sunday School** is located downstairs and is from 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Each first Sunday of the month our Sunday School children begin with us in the sanctuary for worship and a Children's Message. Please pick up your children from their Sunday School classes at 12:15 p.m. Please keep your children safe by keeping them off the Halajian Hall stage.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES** (High School & Junior High) (Contact Jennifer Bosnoyan (925) 785-9918 and Sevan Balabanian (650) 815-8680)

**SUNDAY STUDY & STUFF** - 11 am (Youth Room)

**COLLEGE & CAREER MINISTRIES** (Contact Ara Kullukian)

**FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY:** Every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Location to be announced by email. Everyone is welcome.

**DINNER AND A BIBLE STUDY**

Every Monday, 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.

**DESSERT AND BIBLE STUDY**

Every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at C.A.C.C. Fireside Room. Please come and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

**CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER MEETING**

Every first Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos. Everyone is welcome.

**FOSTER CITY/PENINSULA BIBLE STUDY** (Contact Badveli Nerses Balabanian (650) 493-1972)

Monthly Fellowship and Bible Study every last Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Jerry & Seta Tujian's, 521 Pitcairn Drive, Foster City. Everyone is welcome.

**COFFEE TIME WITH GOD**

Every Thursday - 10:30 a.m. @ Arpi Haleblan's, 12044 Saraglen Court, Saratoga. Everyone is welcome.

**COFFEE TIME WITH GOD IN SAN FRANCISCO**

(Contact Badveli Nerses Balabanian (650) 493-1972)

Monthly Fellowship and Bible Study every first Thursday of the month, 11:00 a.m. at C.A.C.C. Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome.

**BAGEL TIME WITH GOD**

Monthly Fellowship for Men every fourth Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos. Everyone is welcome.

**HOMEBUILDERS BIBLE STUDY** (Contact Lara Khoury at CholakianLara@yahoo.com or (408) 275-8511)

Every Third Saturday of the Month, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos. Everyone is welcome.

**FAITHBUILDERS BIBLE STUDY** (Contact Vicken & Caroline Sagherian at CSagher@aol.com or (408) 737-1921 or Rafi & Nora Balabanian at NoraBal@aol.com. or (408) 257-6811)

Every First Friday of the Month, 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced. Everyone is welcome.

Ա՜խ, քո սէրը որքան քաղցր է,  
Դառն կեանքիս համ կու տայ:  
Ա՜խ, քո խօսքը ջուր է իրաւ,  
Պապակ սրտիս զով կու տայ:

Քո վերքերից ամէն մէկը  
Բուժող դեղ է վերքերիս,  
Փրկիչ Յիսուս, փառաց լոյսդ  
Խաւար սրտիս լոյս կու տայ:

Կարօտում եմ թէ մի վայրկեան  
Հեռանում ես իմ մտից:  
Յուրտ է հագնում ողջ մարմինս  
Երբ գնում ես իմ մտից:

Մի անբակ անտէր տուն է  
Սիրոս դառնում առանց քեզ:  
Օրհնեալ Տէրս, առաջնորդիր,  
Ետ չմնամ քո հօտից:

Մխիթարող իմ Տէրն ես դու  
Անմխիթար այս դարում:  
Արդարութեան հարդերձներով  
Մեր Հոգին ես զարդարում:

Կարդիթեր Քոչարեան  
(շարունակելի յաջորդ թիւով)

# 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. Ron Tovmassian and the A.E.U.N.A. Board of Directors.

**Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Gayaran and Evangelical Church of Aintab, Armenia:** The Gayaran Fellowship is located in one of the most underprivileged neighborhoods of Yerevan. Living conditions are deplorable. The spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the people great. Pray for Pastor Hovig Frangoulian and the Fellowship. The Aintab Church is located in the village of Aintab and they gather in a Church building which was remodeled with the help of our church. Pray for Pastor Gagik Hovanessian, the fellowship, and those who are ministered to.

**Rick and Rebecca Ememaker (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.

**George and Armine Manoukian** minister with **Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)**. 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 Armenian. They have made several trips to Armenia to teach children and future instructors. Pray for George and Armine that they will know God’s future direction for this vital ministry.

## AEUNA SISTER CHURCHES FOR THE QUARTER

- \* **First Armenian Church**  
Belmont, MA  
Rev. Gregory Haroutunian, 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  
Rev. Aren Balabanian, Associate Pastor  
John Baloian, Director of Youth
- \* **Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church**  
Fresno, CA  
Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Pastor
- \* **Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church**  
Havertown, PA  
Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor
- \* **Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Rev. Dikran Shanlian, 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

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](mailto:cacc@cacc-sf.org). Please check our website for current ministry information. <http://www.cacc-sf.org>



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## **Church News**

### **BIRTH**



We congratulate Stephen and Tanya (Gulesserian) Velyvis for their newborn daughter, Julia Frances Velyvis, born on Friday, July 13, 2007. Congratulations also to both families.

We congratulate Claude and Lara Khoury for their newborn daughter, Isabella Anna Khoury, born on Friday, September 28, 2007. Congratulations also to both families.

### **CONDOLENCES**

Mrs. Nevart Orchanian who passed away on Saturday, July 21, 2007. Our condolences and prayers to the Orchanian and Pehlevanian families.

Mrs. Araxie Manoukian (mother of Caroline Sagherian and Daniel Manoukian) who passed away on Sunday, July 22, 2007. Our condolences and prayers to the Manoukian and Sagherian families.

## **26th Annual Food Festival and Boutique Noel**

**Saturday, November 10, 2007**

**12 noon - 9:00 p.m.**

**Luncheon & Dinner served  
Delicious Armenian Food  
& Delicacies**

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

**Free Admission**

**For Information Call: (415) 586-2000**