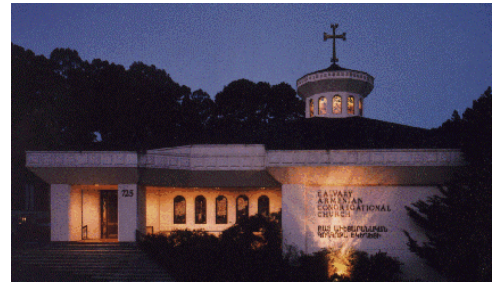


# The Calvary Messenger

## Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



Volume 37 / Number 3  
2008

The Newsletter of the  
**Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco**  
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132-2902 Office (415) 586-2000 / Fax (415) 333-1076  
Website: <http://www.cacc-sf.org> / Office Email: [cacc@cacc-sf.org](mailto:cacc@cacc-sf.org) / Rev. Nerses Balabanian: [pastor@cacc-sf.org](mailto:pastor@cacc-sf.org)

## A View from Calvary

As CACC family, we have a special Sunday worship service every September called Renewal Sunday. Each year we present a biblical slogan, which helps us focus, plan and aim for the coming year. Our topic for this year is **"A Renewing Mind"**. My aim as pastor is to help our church move **further in Christian growth**. There are many church members who attend churches, **make decisions for Christ, and yet have not made a commitment for Christ**. Christianity is not static religion. It should not be religion; it should be lifestyle, a transformed lifestyle that helps us grow in faith and become instruments of God in this world.

**"Do not conform** any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

Paul sometimes uses verbs in the imperative form and other times in the passive form. Here in Romans 12:2 the form is **passive imperative**. "Be transformed". However, this cannot be done by ourselves. **Only God can change our inner being**. Our mind will be transformed **by the Spirit of our Lord**. All of us are exposed to different ideologies everyday. Let us not allow the "world" to deform us. Most of us spend 40-60 hours working in some kind of occupation. We spend hours with nonbeliever colleagues and friends. We drive and hear all kinds of programs and music. TV, movies and media are strong "teachers" influencing our lives. Our job is to cooperate with God's Spirit by seeking to nurture our minds with information that will **reprogram** our thinking and **will be in line with the values of God**.

Three basic suggestions to the CACC congregation (or to your local church):

1. **Commit to becoming a disciple of Christ**
2. **Share a Collective commitment as the body of Christ** (I don't know how one can be a Christian or practice Christianity without a body.)
3. **Commit to a ministry** (Involve in one of the ministries of CACC)

May God help us.

Amen

## 2008 Coming Events

**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

Food Festival

**Saturday, December 20, 2008**

Christmas Banquet

**Sunday, January 11, 2009**

Welcome Babies Luncheon

**2008**  
*Christmas Banquet*

Christmas  
Family  
Food  
Fun  
Entertainment  
Atmosphere

**Saturday, December 20th**  
Reception at 6:00 PM  
Dinner at 6:30 PM

featuring the  
**Covenant Four Quartet**

Tickets: \$40 Adults, \$25 Students, \$150 Sponsor (2 tickets)  
Contact the Church Office at (415) 586-2000 or [cacc@cacc-sf.org](mailto:cacc@cacc-sf.org)

**Calvary Armenian Congregational Church**  
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco

*Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor*

# 2008 Vacation Bible School

As we go about our daily life, it is so awesome to be used by God. Whether it is something behind the scenes or a more upfront, active role, God has a plan for all of us to be a member of the body of Christ.

We were so happy to be able to offer VBS again this past summer on July 14th - 18th, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm with aftercare from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. It was a great week of learning and fellowship, and we were able to expand our outreach to the community.



We had 31 children attend this year. Everyone enjoyed this wonderful week of God's blessings. We know that the seeds of God's Word were planted in their hearts.

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, crafts and snacks.

The program this year was entitled Power Lab - Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power. Power Lab is an exciting, fun-filled, Bible based program that helped the children learn that Jesus gives us the power to be thankful, help others, be brave, live forever, and tell



others about God.

These daily Bible points were carefully integrated into each station activity to reinforce learning. Our station activities started with Sonic Sing & Play (worship and praise time), then Bible Blast (Bible story and prayer time), Test Tube Treats (snack time), Wacky Works Crafts (arts and crafts time), Hyperspeed Games (play time), and the Faith Fusion Finale (wrap up and Bible memory verse time).



As many of you know, VBS is something that I am very passionate about and am very thankful for the lives God entrusted to us that week and the opportunity to teach them more about His love. God says we are to let our actions match our

passion, in other words, our actions should show what we believe. What are you passionate about today? I challenge you to let people know!



We are "to be witnesses to God in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8.

Respectfully,

*Rene Avanesian*

VBS Director

P.S. Many thanks to all of you who share my passion and helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a success. Pastor Nerses Balabanian. Crew Leaders: Jenny Balabanian, Sevan Balabanian, Marge Damir, Arpi Haleblan, Lori Krakirian, Kohar Minassian, Taleen Nazarian, Sevan Palanjian, Lauren Speers. Lunch: Anayis Adrouny, Armig Amirkhanian, Margi Shamlian, Rosalie Kalebjian, Nanor Sadakian, Yvonne Minassian. Decorations: Sherry Arroyo. Helpers: Azad Balabanian, Alexa Nazarian, Aram Nazarian.

# Missions Corner

## A Visit to Armenian Evangelical Church of Belgium

Recently I had the opportunity to worship with our Armenian Evangelical brothers and sisters in Brussels, Belgium.

Even though there has been a small Armenian population in Belgium for a long time, recent arrivals first from Turkey and later from Armenia has increased the Armenian population to around 20,000 (as with all Armenian census, the numbers are guesstimates).

The Armenian Evangelical Churches in Belgium started in 1991 and presently the Armenian Evangelical Union has 6 churches, two in Brussels, and the others in Antwerp, Hasselt, Liege and Mehelen.



Rev. Krikor Khayiguian preaching and Rev. Sarkis Pachaian translating.

On May 4, 2008 I visited the largest church found in the St. Lambrechts-Woluwe section of Brussels. The Church presently meets in a rented church building, where Rev. Sarkis Pachaian, who is originally from Turkey, is the pastor of the church. There were around 80 worshipers of all ages. The message was given by Rev. Krikor Khayiguian visiting from Valence, France. He spoke in French which was translated into Turkish.

It is interesting to note that there are two distinct worship languages in Evangelical churches of Belgium. The congregations are comprised of either mostly Armenians from Turkey or mostly Armenians from Armenia, where in the former, the church services are French/Turkish and the latter French/Armenian. The congregation of the church I had the opportunity to visit was mostly from Turkey and during the whole service there was only one song that was sung in Armenian. After church there was reception where the predominant language was Turkish. I thanked my grandfather who, by not being able to learn Armenian, forced us to learn Turkish, which made my visit memorable.



Rev. Sarkis Pachaian with John Haleblian

I left the church blessed and praised God that His word is being preached in various corners of the world to Armenian people in multiple languages (yes, I have heard in my lifetime sermons in Armenian, Arabic, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian & Turkish. All in Armenian Evangelical churches worldwide).

As we concentrate on the work of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), let us remember and pray for our sister Armenian Evangelical Churches both in Armenia and in the Diaspora.

In Him,

*John Haleblian*

# Renewal Sunday

## Annual Picnic

Once again this year we were blessed by the Lord with wonderful weather and wonderful people at the annual picnic held on August 10 at Huddart Park in Woodside. Those who attended enjoyed Badveli Nerses' wonderful worship service in God's own cathedral. Following worship services a hot picnic lunch of steak or chicken, pilaf, salad, hummos was served up followed by the beloved watermelon and desserts. After everyone had their fill the air resounded with the wonderful music supplied by Badveli Nerses, Hagop Nazarian and Serop Moroyan. The laughter of children and adults alike was added to the mix as children played and ran as the adults talked, kibitzed and engaged in the fellowship that ties the church together. In all it was a beautiful and joy-filled event.

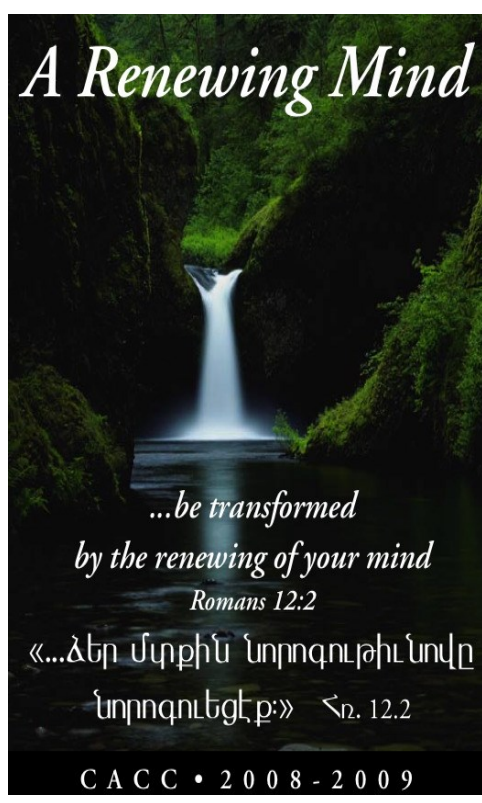
We could not have such a wonderful time without you to help and encourage us, so thank you for your encouragement leading up to the event and for showing your support of us and the church by blessing us with your presence at



this year's picnic. Taleen and I would also like to thank all those who helped us put on this event, particularly the entire Kullukian Family (we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you) and Hartley and Susan Appleton who went above and beyond the call by arriving very early and leaving very late helping us with every aspect of the picnic throughout the day.

May God bless CACC with another beautiful and wonderful year of happiness and growth so we may all come to celebrate life's harvest again at the 2009 picnic.

*Marty & Taleen DeArcangelis*



On September 14<sup>th</sup>, nearly 120 people were present at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church to attend the Renewal Sunday Service for the 2008-2009 year. The purpose of the service was to encourage the congregation to start the year with renewed and transformed hearts and minds based on the verse from Romans 12:2 "...be transformed with the renewing of your mind."

The service began with Mr. Hagop Nazarian leading the worship service with the accompaniment of the youth band.

Following the worship, the Pastor led the congregation in prayer. Badveli prayed for the Hurricane survivors in Texas, for world peace, for Armenia and Artsakh and for various needs in the congregation. After the Hayr Mer, the children were asked to come to the front to hear the children's message. As the children sat on the floor of the chancel, Badveli surprised the congregation by putting on a bike helmet. He explained to the children like a bike helmet protects the brain and the mind, similarly the Word of God protects our minds and acts as a shield. Following the children's message, Badveli invited members of all CACC ministries and chairs of committees to come forward and share something about their ministries. Fifteen individuals came forward. Badveli prayed for all of the ministries of the church and continued with delivering the Armenian message. The message highlighted the importance of dedication and commitment to the church. He noted that our lives should be a living sacrifice to our Lord Jesus Christ. Badveli continued his message in English after the choir sang "He Hideth My Soul." He stressed the importance of total commitment and outlined three points of a true committed person. First, one has to be **committed to be a disciple of Jesus** and take personal responsibility and allow Jesus to teach daily. His second point was that one has to have a **commitment to a collective** community and have a collective responsibility to serve the Lord. Finally, one has to be **committed to the ministry** and be involved in the church, he said.

The service concluded with the opening of the Lord's Table.

Following the service, a Food Festival fundraiser lunch was held in the Halajian Hall. The lunch menu included Sini Kufta prepared by the Food Festival Committee and Hariseh donated by the Mousa Ler Commemoration Committee.

*Nanor Balabarian*

# Obeying the Spirit, Touching Lives

September 9, 2008

John 21:13-18

"Jesus came and took the bread, and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead. So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, " Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?", and he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself, and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you would not go."

I don't know how many times and on how many occasions I have read this passage as fast as I can, as slow as I can, analyzed it as much as I can, taught about it as fervently as I can, listened to teachings about it as carefully as I can. But never has this passage jumped out of the page and into my feet, hands, and spirit more significantly than this May, when I was charged by Calvary Armenian Congregational Church (CACC) to spend \$2000 of the New York Life Genocide Compensation Fund allocated to CACC, to help the most needy in Armenian villages. An extra \$400 from private individuals meant I had \$2400 to spend in 5 very poor villages familiar to me due to the Stanford Armenian Students' *Act For Armenia* program.



Akhbradzor Village

The folks in these villages live hand to mouth daily. They have absolutely nothing left over for an emergency. Every unexpected mishap, large or small, is a major hardship for the entire family. In Akhbradzor village, near Lake Sevan, about 20 miles from the Azeri border, where the road to nowhere seems to end, we supported a woman who needed a hernia operation for months but could not pay for it and we bought flour for the village school janitor and her 3 children whose husband died in the Kharabakh war. In Antarout village on Mt. Aragats, a 28 year old man (faithful husband and father of two toddlers), working in the rock quarries collapsed



Vaghatin Village

with a heart attack from the heavy work. His hospital bill of \$460 to revive him was weighing heavy on his mind. "How and where would it come from?" As he put it when I told him we will cover it for him, "I did not know, but apparently God knew". In Vaghatin village, in the middle of the country, a 7 year old boy has been walking on the side of his foot for 2 years because he broke his ankle at the age of 5, but the family could not afford the cost to fix it. "How much?", I asked the school principal who told me the story. "About \$500 to set it back the right way. It's important because the boy is still growing. We have been collecting from the villagers and we already have \$140 dollars. We need \$360 more.". \$140 in 2 years from all the villagers... ! That tells me how financially challenged these folks are, but how rich in spirit they are. Oh Lord, help me to learn your priorities like these people have learned. We are giving this boy a new and straight ankle. In Vaghatin village near Goris and in Shvani Dzor all the way in the south on the corner of Azerbaijan and Iran, we are buying some blackboards for the school that has none, helping one family repair their roof, another to plant a small fruit orchard for sustainability and another to buy two sheep for milk and wool.

(continued on page six)

I can't tell you how many times I have complained about my busy schedule, lack of time for myself, the jealousy of those who would rather tear down my work than elevate theirs and so many other things that "the poor old me" has to "endure". But then God puts me in touch with people like these villagers, who have absolutely nothing, yet feel compelled to give with a glad heart. And give they must, because it is part of their fabric, part of their being, part of their identity, and part of their longing. Along with their prolific blessings, they gave me apples from the tree in the yard, and edible grass they gathered from the nearby hills for the day's soup. I took it with humbleness and great gratitude, because they MUST give. On the way back, in the public bus from Meghri to Yerevan, filled with the aroma of the sweat of really hard working people, I no longer minded the inconvenience. I was lost in my sweet thoughts, "Oh Lord, make me genuine like them! Make my spirit rich like theirs! Help me to see that the blessings they utter to me in your name, more than compensate for any hardship that any man can impose on me. Thank you for trusting me to feed your sheep once in a while! Thank you for moving my church (CACC) in directions that are prepared by you!"

*Anahid Jeremian*

# Ministry Opportunities

For information please call the church office: (415) 586-2000

**Children's Sunday School, Junior High and High School Youth Groups:** San Francisco, every Sunday.

**Women's Coffee Time with God:** San Jose, every Thursday.

**Coffee Time with God:** San Francisco, first Thursday every month.

**Men's Bagel Time with God:** Los Altos, 4th Saturday every month.

**HomeBuilders for Young Couples & Families:** South Bay & Peninsula, 3rd Saturday every month.

**FaithBuilders Couples Ministry:** South Bay & Peninsula, 1st Friday every month.

**College & Career:** South Bay and Peninsula, every Wednesday.

**Weekly Dinner Bible Study:** San Francisco, every Monday.

**Foster City, Peninsula Bible Study:** Last Tuesday every month.

**Church-wide Prayer Meeting:** Los Altos 1st Thursday every month.



"God calls us to evangelism! The bank that holds our mortgage has mentioned it, too."



Mount Ararat



Left to right - John Badeer, Ruzana Badeer, Jennifer Bosnoyan, Brien Badeer, Lorig Kalfayan, Ari Nazarian, Andrew Arroyo, Teny Youmshakian and Levon Minassian.

## Impressions

# Youth Mission Trip to Armenia

### **Andrew Arroyo**

My trip to Armenia is something I will never forget and I have to thank the AMAA for giving me the opportunity to go. From the cities to the camps we got to see how different many of the people live and no matter where they were the AMAA was there to spread the Word of God.

### **Brien Badeer**

Awesome! The best was worshiping and praising God in Armenian!

### **John Badeer**

Armenia was just amazing. Our lives were touched more than we could have ever imagined.

### **Ruzana Badeer**

We went to serve, but were humbled by the altruistic love and hospitality of our Armenian faith sisters and brothers.

### **Jennifer Bosnoyan**

I liked how the people in Armenia were very selfless, willing to help or entertain you no matter what life circumstances they were in.

### **Lorig Kalfayan**

I honestly can't think of anything to say in one sentence other than it was a life changing experience and it reaffirmed my pride in being Armenian.

### **Levon Minassian**

Armenia is like an old steamship. It has been through some stormy seas but its crew still has a rich culture consisting of songs and tales.

### **Ari Nazarian**

The Armenian people resemble Christ's humility: they have so little, yet they are so generous. The AMAA's work in their lives is profound, and I hope to one day support the miracles this organization makes.

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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Daly City, CA 94015  
Permit No. 256

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**



## **Church News**

### **BIRTH**

We congratulate Chris and Salpi Dunlap for their newborn daughter, **London Anais**, born on Sunday, June 22, 2008. Congratulations also to the grandparents.



We congratulate Aaron and Lara (Bosnoyan) Khan for their newborn daughter, **Ella Khan**, born on Friday, July 11, 2008. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

We congratulate Vehazoun and Lauri Guekguezian for their newborn daughter, **Leia Sevana**, born on Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

### **CONDOLENCES**

Mrs. Vartouhie Asdourian who passed away on Tuesday, July 1, 2008. Our condolences and prayers to Asdourian, Sabsezian and Silva Mayorga families.

Ms. Sylva Shemmassian who passed away on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Our condolences and prayers to Shemmassian, Kalfayan, Blannin and Filian families.

### **WEDDING**

We congratulate Kirk and Nairi (Tashjian) Hourdajian, who were married on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at St. Andrew Armenian Apostolic Church, Cupertino, California. Our congratulations also to Tashjian and Hourdajian families.



### **COMMUNION SERVICES FOR 2008**

**Sunday, November 23, 2008**

Thanksgiving Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, January 3, 2009**

New Year's Sunday at 11:00 a.m.



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>