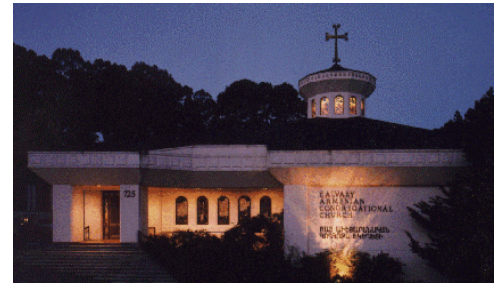


# The Calvary Messenger

## Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



Volume 39 / Number 2  
2010

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  
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## A View from Calvary

We live in the post-modern times when electronic technology is booming. iPods, iPhones, iPads, Blackberrys... all kinds of devices helping us to be connected with each other and with the entire world. I wonder, is ibadveli next?!

Virtual games create a setting where players can play say a tennis game without being really on the field. With these new games, people are working out, doing sports and other activities without really being on the field.

Likewise, we can also attend services and listen to sermons without actually being in the worship service. We can be at home and learn about the Bible, sing songs, and become part of a "virtual church".

### What does the Bible teach us about worship?

Of course we can worship God alone. We can worship God on the top of the mountain all by ourselves. We can worship God in our own rooms alone. **But public worship cannot be replaced by individual worship.** In fact, I am not sure if we can practice Christianity without **being together**.

We were saved by the redeeming act of Christ on the cross. But our individual salvation should reflect in corporate worship and service. We come together to sing together, to pray together, to listen together, to laugh and cry together, to hold together and encourage together.

"(Worship) is the place where we remember the past, receive power to face the present and conceive hope for tomorrow" (quoted from the NIV Application Commentary - Psalms p. 680).

Yes, we remember the past. We remember how God walked with us as individuals and as a community. We remember how God performed miracles in our lives. We share those memories, we rejoice and sometimes we weep about those memories.

But also when we come together we receive power from God for the present day. Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt 18:20). There is power in coming together. The presence of the Lord in our corporate worship is very powerful.

I acknowledge that for the CACC congregation it is tough to commute. As the pastor of the church, my role is to encourage you to come to worship together to our services. Not only on Sundays, but also to be part of small



## 2010 Coming Events

**Monday - Friday, July 19-23**

Vacation Bible Camp

**Sunday, August 22**

Annual Picnic

**September 12**

Renewal Sunday

**Saturday & Sunday, November 13-14**

Food Festival

**Saturday, December 18**

Christmas Celebration

(continued on page seven)

Sing & Play  
Splash

Bible  
Voyage

Goodies from  
the Galley



Clipper Ship  
Crafts

Ship Rec  
Games

Floating  
Finale



July 19th-23rd

10am-1pm

aftercare program 1-3pm

Calvary Armenian  
Congregational Church  
725 Brotherhood Way  
San Francisco

morning program:  
\$35.00/child/week  
includes snacks,  
crafts and T-shirt  
aftercare:  
\$20.00/child/week  
includes lunch



for more info contact  
Rene Avanesian  
(415) 215-0936

register online  
<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/cacc>



### Calvary Armenian Congregational Church



Please join us for a day of worship, food,  
fellowship and of course fun!!

Tavli  
Tournament!



BBQ  
DINNER  
RAFFLE!!!

GAMES FOR THE KIDS!

#### MENU

Choice of Chicken or Steak w/ Pilaf, Salad, Hummus, Watermelon and Dessert

Adults: \$13.00 & Children (under 12): \$7.00

-Bottled Water = \$1 & Soda = 50¢

-Park Entry Fee = \$5 per vehicle

August 22, 2010

(Worship Service at 11a.m. & Food Service at Noon)

Huddart Park, Werder Shelter

1100 King's Mountain Road

Woodside, CA 94062-4216

REMEMBER TO BRING A FRIEND!

Make Your Reservations At: (415) 586-2000



The Bay Area Armenian Community rallied together on April 24th to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The "Walk for Remembrance" walkathon across the Golden Gate Bridge attracted more than 800 participants who came out to help raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide. The event was organized by the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Northern California, which

encompasses all Armenian organizations including Calvary Church. The walk commenced on the San Francisco side of the bridge with prayers offered by the clergy and culminated on the Marin County side of the bridge. Several special guests, including members of the Darfur Coalition, members of the Rwandan community and a Holocaust survivor joined us for the walk. Later that day, the community gathered at Saint Ignatius Church in San Francisco for commemorative event.





# Missions Corner

## Visit with Calvary

I am grateful for Calvary's support in prayer and financial gifts to our ministry in Los Angeles with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. As I minister among young students, the community of Calvary Church joins with me in that endeavor. Students are being transformed on the college campus and I love having the front row seat to see how God is at work in students' lives.



In John 1.12, the writer speaks of Jesus empowering us to become children of God. In many ways, our ministry is like an adoption agency, where we match lost children to their loving Father.

One of those lost students is Jessica who is a graduating senior. Though she did not grow up in the church, she became attracted to faith in God in her college years. As a recent transfer student last year, Jessica found herself inundated with anxieties and stress. She began to look for ways to address those anxieties. She tried to find comfort in a romantic relationship that left her feeling more empty. She put her energy in grades but those kept coming below her expectations. Finally, last summer, she got an internship with one of the Big 4 accounting firms. By the end of the summer, she realized that even the internship failed to address her emptiness.

Last October she joined us for a retreat where she fell in love with the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. She realized that God was inviting her into her family and welcoming her home. She committed herself to follow Jesus. And as she has grown in her faith, God has empowered her to be a light for others who are looking to fill their voids. Unlike last summer where she spent her energy in an internship, this summer she will be joining a team of summer missionaries to the Middle East (a ministry that was first established by Nairy Ohanian, who is a familiar person with the Calvary community).

But Jessica's story doesn't end there. After her retreat weekend, she decided to host weekly dinners and Bible Studies with her friends who are not believers. As that group has grown in community, three of them came with her to a Winter Retreat. I met Adam at that retreat. He had grown up in the church, but had left it four years earlier. At that weekend, Adam reconnected with God and also came home once again.

Romans 1.16 speaks of a gospel that has power to transform. Jessica and Adam have been transformed by God through our ministry. It's unfortunate that many in the Calvary community will never meet these two students and countless others that you touch. But I know that on the other side of this life, it will be a glorious reunion to see the lives touched by your investment in ministries outside of the Church. Glory be to God!

*Eddy Ekmejji*

## Save the Date

Armenian Evangelical Union of North America

**20th Biennial Convention**

*“Union in Christ”*

**July 8 - 11, 2010**

Hosted by The Armenian Congregational  
Church of Greater Detroit

The Calvary Messenger is produced as a 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>

# World Day of Prayer

Ladies from five Armenian Churches in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Calvary Church, came together to praise God, on the World Day of Prayer, namely on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Saint John Armenian Apostolic Church.



The theme was taken from Psalm 150, namely "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" given to us from the ladies in Cameroon, Africa.

It was an uplifting service as the ladies sang, prayed and listened to a challenging message given by Mrs. Lisa Kradjian. She emphasized the need to praise God wholeheartedly.

We heard about the encounter of the Samaritan woman with Jesus, where she found out that Jesus alone can give



her eternal water and her life was changed dramatically.

Thus today we do praise God because of His precious gift to us Jesus, through whom we can become His children.

The service was followed by a Lenten luncheon prepared by the Saint John's ladies, where we had ample time to fellowship.

Respectfully,

*Arpi Halebian*

## Whose Job is it?

This is a story about four people EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, and NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY thought SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about this because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.

## Thank You

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our CACC (and UACC/FAPC) friends and family who have been a gracious support to our family. We are touched by the kind phone calls, emails, cards, and visits during Hovsep's illness, as well as by the kindness you have shown us after his passing.

Warmly,

*Alice Marashian and children/grandchildren*



# Musical Night at Calvary

A night filled with the beautiful harmonies of gospel, Armenian classics, and jazz. Musical Night at Calvary on March 27, 2010, showcased the many talented members of our congregation in both song and musical abilities. Performances featured our very gifted CACC choir, the lively CACC Jazz Quartet, and the accomplished Men's A Cappella Ensemble.



The audience enjoyed uplifting classics such as "Everytime I Feel the



Spirit", "Jan, Hayasdan (Sweet Armenia)", "Arax", "He is Lord", and so many more. It was an evening to remember, full of exhilaration and brightening spirits around.



Special thanks to Rev. Nerses Balabanian - Musical Director, Armine Adrouny - Accompanist, Stephanie Adrouny - Mistress of Ceremony, the CACC choir, the CACC Jazz Quartet, and the Men's A Cappella Ensemble. And, of course to the incredible soloists who performed: Armig Amirkhanian, Zaven Khachadourian, Hagop Nazarian and Lara Palanjian.



*Karen Barson*

## 84th Anniversary Banquet

The Calvary Church Annual Banquet that gathered more than 150 people from the Bay Area Armenian community on June 5<sup>th</sup> was a memorable event. The Banquet Committee chair, John Kerkezian, introduced Taleen DeArcangelis as the MC of the evening.



After Taleen's welcoming words, Lara Palanjian opened the program with the singing of the National Anthems accompanied by Ara Kullukian.

It was very pleasing to see people meeting each other or reconnecting around the dinner table as they all enjoyed the delicious dinner catered by Aram

Janjigian of Armenian Gourmet.

The musical program for the evening featured the music of Gomidas performed by the following four very special musicians in a string quartet: Azad Balabanian, Alishan Merjanian, Stepan Merjanian and Hagop Nazarian. It was also amazing to hear the outstanding young musician, Alishan Merjanian, play the music of Babajanian on the piano.

The guest speaker of the evening was Mr. Armen Aroyan of Pasadena whose message was entitled "Keeping the Faith." About 20 years ago, and after uncovering his own roots in historical Armenia, Mr. Aroyan started organizing pilgrimage tours to historic



lands. During his 60 tours, Mr. Aroyan has gathered a vast amount of invaluable information and documentary footage in hundreds of historic Armenian sites.

There were several highlights in this very interesting presentation, but what touched most people were the stories of several amazing people Mr. Aroyan had met on his trips. In villages such as Jibin and Arapgir, he found Armenian men and women who despite being totally alone kept their Christian faith and Armenian heritage alive. Their stories were the inspiration of the night.

The evening ended with the closing remarks of Badveli Balabanian and the Benediction given by the Rev. Father Diran Avagyan.



## 60th Wedding Anniversary



**Congratulations to Ardson and Gladys Shegoian on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.**



# CACC 2010 Graduates



Gillian Adrouny (Pre.K)



Emily Barson (K)



David Khoury (K)



Sofia Avanesian (Elem.)



Rubina Karapetian (Elem.)



Maria Amirkhanian (M.Sch.)



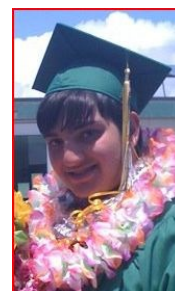
Izak Avanesian (M.Sch.)



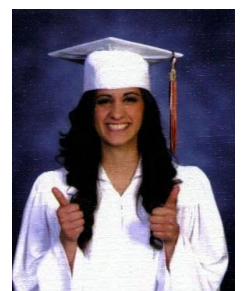
Garen Kissoyan (M.Sch.)



Rebecca Sagherian (M.Sch.)



Narek Ghazaryan (H.Sch.)



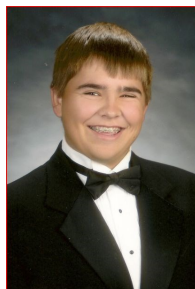
Hera Kissoyan (H. Sch.)



Kohar Minassian (H.Sch.)



Christina Pickett (H.Sch.)



Jason Westmoreland (H.Sch.)



Jennifer Bosnoyan (BA)



Lorig Kalfayan (BS)



Emily Ishkhanian (DDS)

(continued from page one)

groups that meet during the week. Each of us is important for the building of the body and brings a vital part into our church life.

Each Bible study group is becoming a community of believers. Besides learning the Bible which feeds our soul, they call each other, they pray for each other and for the needs of the community.

Paul prayed for the believers at the church Ephesus. He writes: "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how **wide** and **long** and **high** and **deep** is the **love of Christ**, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Eph 3:17-19)

It is also my prayer to you. May God's love fill you abundantly so that it transforms you into a man or woman of God.

**Therefore go, reach out and love someone.**

*Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor*

**Calvary Armenian Congregational Church**  
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## Church News

### BIRTH



We congratulate Christopher and Salpi Dunlap for their newborn son, Lincoln Avedis Dunlap, born on Friday, April 16, 2010. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

### CONDOLENCES

Mr. Hovsep Marashian (father of Taleen Nazarian) who passed away on Monday, March 15, 2010. Our condolences and prayers to Marashian and Nazarian families.

Rev. Karl Vartan Avakian who passed away on Sunday, May, 31, 2010 in Fresno, California. Our condolences and prayers to his dear wife, Nancy, and two children, Laura and David.

### UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

**Sunday, July 25**

at 11:00 am

**Sunday, September 12**

at 11:00 am

**Sunday, November 21**

at 11:00 am



THE BOARD HAD ONLY ONE HESITATION IN HIRING A FEMALE PASTOR

