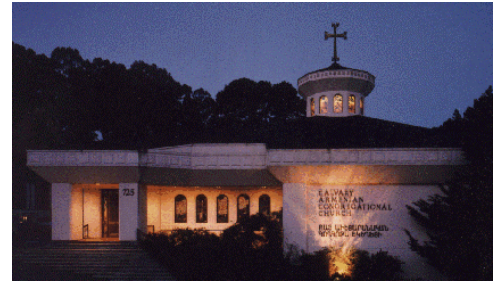


The Calvary Messenger

Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



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

Rev. Nerses Balabanian
Pastor

ABIDE IN ME...BEAR FRUIT
Իմ մէջս կեցէ՛ք . . . Պտղաբեր Եղէ՛ք
“Abide in me, as I also abide in you.
No branch can bear fruit by itself...”
(John 15:4)

Իմ մէջս կեցէ՛ք ու ես ձեր մէջ: Ծիւղը
չի կրնար ինքնիրմէ
պտուղ բերել... (Յովհ. 15.4)

C A C C • 2 0 1 1 - 2 0 1 2

-Abide in me...Bear Fruit
“Abide in me as also I abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself...”(John 15:4)

This is our slogan for the year 2011-2012. What a vital command from Jesus to us! There is no church without abiding in Jesus. In fact, there is no Christian life or testimony without abiding in him. As a result, there are no fruits without living in Christ.

Lately I visited a Californian vineyard. The owner who passionately takes care of his vineyard took us on a tour. Only then I realized how much time and effort is put into keeping a vineyard healthy. This investment is not just to keep a beautiful green field with shiny grape leaves, but to get the

best grapes and make the best wine. The owner explained that **Pinot Noir** was imported from Burgundy, France. The only way they could turn an ordinary vine into Pinot Noir was through **grafting**. This means they **cut** the old branch and **insert** the new upon it.

This is exactly how God works in us through His Son Jesus. The only way we will abide in Him is when we open our hearts, when we are broken so that **the NEW, the BEST, would be grafted upon us.**

(continued on page five)

2011-2012 Coming Events

- Saturday, November 12**
Food Festival
- Sunday, November 20**
Thanksgiving Sunday
- Saturday, December 17**
Christmas Celebration
- Sunday, December 25**
Christmas Sunday
- Sunday, January 1**
New Year Service
- Saturday, March 31**
CACC Concert
- Sunday, April 1**
Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 5**
Maundy Thursday Service
- Sunday, April 8**
Easter Sunday

Renewal Sunday

“Abide in Me, Bear Fruit” is the selected theme for the year 2011-2012. On Renewal Sunday, Sept 11, the church was filled with all those who came to start the year together and dedicate our ministries to the Lord.

The Pastor invited the representatives of all the committees, the ministries and the Bible study groups to come up for the renewal of their commitment and the rededication of their particular area of service. It was a heart-filling moment as we read our vows, prayed together and asked for God’s blessing. The Pastor’s sermon was based on John 15 in which Jesus uses the imagery of a vine and its branches to get across his point. The vine bears fruit only if the branches abide on the vine.

Renewal Sunday was also the day when Choir and Sunday School resumed their ministry after the summer break.

The day concluded with a delicious luncheon of sini-kufte prepared by the church ladies.

May we all abide in Christ and may we bear fruit for the glory of His Name!



Women's Retreat

By Navor Sadakian

On the weekend of September 30 - October 2nd, a group of twelve women from our church drove to Ventura, CA to attend 12th Biennial Women’s Conference. The theme for this year was from Psalm 121:1-4 “Go tell it on the Mountain”. Our enthusiastic speaker was Dr. Nairy Ohanian, who is a missionary, teacher and a speaker. Nairy’s life and message was very encouraging to us all. Her love for Christ and fellow humans was contagious. She called us to action, trusting God and looking for “Divine Moments”.



The weekend was also full of other activities, prayer time, seminars, sharing, and of course the Saturday night Banquet.

And to top it all, we had sweet fellowship with other Armenian sisters from all over California, we reconnected with some old friends and we met some new ones. Incredible joy and fellowship.

Praise and thanks to our Heavenly Father for making this possible. Gratitude to husbands and other family members who took over the care of our families in our absence. My wish and prayer is that next time all the women of our church would have the chance to attend and be blessed.

In Appreciation of My Sibling

By Anayis Adroony

When someone does a favor for us we go out of our way to thank that person over and over again. Yet, this is not always true when a sibling or family member comes to our aid. Sometimes we take their services for granted. We might even expect their help as if it is our right.

This is a “thank you” to a sibling who went out of his way, often neglecting his family duties, to care for me after I had fallen and broken my hip. He made sure I was getting the proper medical treatment and often contacted my doctors.

During these troubled times he would visit me at least twice a day and together with his wife Armine they fed me and took care of all of my needs.

I can’t find the proper way to thank them except to thank God for my family members. I am grateful that I was born in a Godly family.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone in the church for your prayers, cards and visits.

May God bless you and make His face shine upon you.

Annual Picnic

By Marty and Taleen DeArcangelis

Our annual Picnic was held on August 21, 2011 at Huddart Park in Woodside. We began our day among both nature and friends by praising the Lord through a rousing worship service from Badveli Nerses complete with by-request hymns. We were once again also graced with perfect weather by the Lord. We are so grateful for all those that could attend and worship with us.

Lunch service this year saw a return of kebab featuring beef and chicken kebabs served with rice, salad, hummus and bread. Everyone's sweet tooth was satisfied through the many wonderful desserts that everyone brought.



In these difficult financial times we decided to roll back the prices so that all who wished to attend could attend and not be deterred by cost. Our church picnic is after all a time for worship and fellowship in nature so that we can have a little fun while putting the spirit of the Lord and love towards one another at the fore. We felt that this is particularly true for families. Thankfully it appears that our goal was met as many families joined us this year to make this a wonderful church family event.

In reality, the only way we could lower the picnic prices was due to the continued support we have received of the Picnic Raffle. Now in its third year we were once again so very grateful and pleased for all the support of our little raffle. Thanks so much

to everyone who has supported the raffle over these past few years. This year Joe and Marianne Ghatta took home our BBQ Starter Kit 3rd Prize; while Berj Eldemir took home the 2nd Prize Big BBQ Basket and our grand prize of a custom BBQ Dinner for six was won by Nora Arabian. Thanks once again to everyone who bought raffle tickets this year as your support goes directly to support all the Church's efforts and activities.

We must of course send great thanks to the many people who helped us make the picnic possible this year and of course to all those who attended, we cannot thank you enough. Special thanks goes to everyone who helped us prepare the food, cook the food, serve the food and of course to all those who donated their time and food to once again help produce a wonderful picnic. We hope to see you all again next year amongst the trees, the clouds and the sun.



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. Please check our website for current ministry information: <http://www.cacc-sf.org>

Vacation Bible Camp

By Sevan Palanjian

We had a week of crazy fun and adventure during our Vacation Bible Camp July 18-22, 2011. What a blessing to have had 53 energetic children, all together here at CACC to sing, to worship, and learn about our Lord. After a worship and praise session each morning, our leaders led the kids to partake in their Wild Bible Adventure groups. The Bible lesson was discussed in detail, and the children were asked to reflect on their own lives as they considered the point of the daily lesson.



We learned that God created us, God listens to us, God watches over us, God loves us no matter what, and God gives good gifts. Each lesson focused on one Bible story. This year's theme we called Pandamania, and naturally we spent our time among many of God's beautiful creation, the Panda. You will most likely notice the jungle-like experience created around our fellowship hall.

We learned about Elijah and his success over the prophets of Baal because God listened to his prayer and sent fire. We even experienced the dark belly of the fish because God was watching over Jonah. We also felt sorry for Peter who betrayed our Lord, and we recognized that we are forgiven our sins through Jesus Christ. We recognized our own faults but are thankful for a Lord who is going to love us, and give us eternal life.



Our last lesson, God gives good gifts, reminded us that God hears our prayers and answers them. The lesson allowed the students to "experience" how Hannah felt when she prayed to have a baby for a long time. When God blessed her with baby Samuel, the students each received candy. To their detriment, we collected the candy when Hannah gave up her only child to serve the Lord. The children complained when asked to give up their candy. We then discussed Hannah's completely opposite reaction to losing the child. She willingly and peacefully gave up the child. She was able to do so with God's love and comfort.

The children also participated in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child, to help share God's love to others in need. By the end of this past week, the children brought in boxes to be sent to children all around the world this November.



They played games, made crafts, and enjoyed snacks, all relating to the Bible stories. They ended their day with singing and a wrap up-lesson that reinforced the Bible point. Each day, the children shared God-sightings, which were things that they experienced during the week that shows God's presence and love in their lives. The children lit up the room with comments such as, "God gave me a home, God gave me my family, and God healed my grandma."

Helping these children reflect on their lives and recognize God's presence is an important part of this ministry. Thank you to all

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(continued from page four)

the volunteers who put forth their time and energy to make Vacation Bible Camp possible. Please remember to pray for these children so that they may grow and further their relationship with our Lord.



We are thankful for the following staff members whose dedication made the 2011 VBC a huge blessing: Rene Avnessian as Director, Sevan Balabanian, Sona Bekmezian, Marge Damir, Lori Ishkanian, Roushig Kalebjian, Lorig Kalfayan, Sevan Palanjian, Lauren Speers, Sharlyn Arroyo and Alex Vartan as Teachers and Izek Avnessian, Sofia Avnessian, Talar Istanbulian, Yerem Istanbulian, Alexa Nazarian, Michelle Torchiyan, Nanor Balabanian and Lori Zadoorian as Assistants. We also need to recognize those who made, served or donated the delicious lunches: Nora Balabanian, Rosalie Kalebjian, Nanor Sadakian, Mihran and Rose Sagatelian, Yvonne Minassian and Alidz Nazarian.

(continued from page one)

Another thing the owner of the vineyard showed us was a huge pile of cut branches and weeds on the side of the vineyard. He explained that these branches were the result of pruning, cutting and cleaning the vineyard. Without 'purification' there will be no healthy vineyard. Isn't this what God does in us when He sanctifies us? We need to let Him prune us and cleanse us from our old self.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep (obey) my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." (John 15:9-10)

Abide means to live in Christ. His love is our daily food. We are nurtured by Him. We experience His love in all dimensions, length, height and depth as Paul said in Ephesians.

Obeying (keeping the commandments) is the result of abiding in His LOVE. Obedience is not done as an obligation; it is the result of a LOVING RELATIONSHIP with our heavenly Father through Jesus. Obedience means to do His will daily in our lives. Without abiding and obeying **there is no fruit.**

The fruit business is not for our self glorification. It is for His glory and honor. We are just means for His Kingdom. **"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."** (John 15:8)

Fruits of Love, Joy, Peace... and many more (Gal. 5:22,23) are products of abiding in Christ. Where do we share those fruits? CACC is a place to share your fruits. **CACC is a great field to serve.** We have many needs and areas of service. We have many aging members who need care, love and visitation. We have young couples who are raising children; they need warm homes and babysitters. We have singles who need to find partners. We have youth who are searching for meaning. We have children who are ready to learn and grow. We have friends outside the church who are searching for something meaningful in life. The needs are all around us.

I cannot do it alone. We need each other as a family who is learning daily to abide in Him and to bear fruits. So come on, join us and let us make "fruit salad" for His glory!

Missions Corner

Visit to Armenian Brotherhood Church of Yerevan

By John Haleblian

I grew up in the Armenian Brotherhood Church in Beirut, Lebanon. As the Armenian Evangelical Church was born out of the Mother Church (*the Armenian Orthodox Apostolic Church*), likewise the Armenian Brotherhood Church was born out of the Armenian Evangelical Church. Initially, the Brotherhood church started as home Bible studies, where a mixed group of people from Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical background came together to study the Bible. Until now Brotherhood church members around the world include believers from all three denominations.

During my annual visits to Armenia, I have tried to attend various churches, in addition to the Evangelical Churches of Armenia. During our last visit in April 2011 we had the opportunity to attend the Easter service at the Armenian Brotherhood Church of Yerevan. There are also several other Armenian Brotherhood churches in Armenia; located in cities of Artashat, Norabats, Khachik, etc. The church in

Yerevan sits about as many people as our Calvary church and

was full. Unlike early years, where churches in Hayasdan were attended mostly by older women, the church was full of men and women of all ages. I felt encouraged to see churches being attended by both sexes and all ages. During the following week I saw the same type of attendance at the Evangelical Church of Yerevan.



(picture), the Easter message, namely the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, was preached by my childhood friend Dr. Ropovt Chorbajian of Beirut, Lebanon (picture).

I praise God for His work in Hayasdan and pray that His Word will continue to be freely preached, so that many will hear and be saved.



After singing many Easter songs and listening to the church choir

The CACC supports different projects around the world. Daily Vacation Bible School at the Emmanuel church of Beirut is one of them. Here is a letter we received by Nara Kouzikian Khachadourian.



The DVBS has become an important service in the surrounding neighborhoods of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church, Beirut, Lebanon. This year the DVBS opened its doors to around 100 children on July 4 and lasted for 5 weeks, ending with a performance for the parents. The children came from different backgrounds and even different countries. We had children from Syria, Iran and Canada.

10 young men and women, who are members of the church's youth group, joined the DVBS as servant leaders. They spent

(Continued on the next page)

weekdays from 9 am till 1 pm with those adorable children. The daily program started with a worship session during which the children and the leaders sang age appropriate songs praising God. They also learned Bible verses and heard different stories from the Bible. This year's theme for the elementary classes was "Jesus is King". The children learned that if Jesus is King then we are princes and princesses because we are the children of the King. In support of this theme the children heard about different kings and queens from the Old Testament. As for the Kindergarten children their theme was "God created everything, even me" and they learned about the days of creation.

I am grateful for the volunteers who joined the vision and served our Lord. I am also thankful to the support of the pastor and the church community as a whole as well as the school administration. I thank all those who supported us from all around the world whether by praying or by helping out financially. Finally and most importantly I thank God for blessing us with these children, I also thank Him for this opportunity to serve Him in the best way we can.



the 30th annual
ARMENIAN
FOOD FESTIVAL & BOUTIQUE
NOEL
 at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

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 Երգով
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2011
NOVEMBER 12 & 13
 SATURDAY 12 - 9 pm
 SUNDAY 12:30 - 2:30 pm
 *food service only

FREE ADMISSION
 Authentic Armenian
 food & pastries
 Live music & folk dancing
 Crafts & games
 for kids
 Raffle with
 loads of prizes!

725 Brotherhood Way
 San Francisco
 (415) 586 2000
 cacc-sf.org

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.

HomeBuilders for Young Couples & Families: South Bay & Peninsula, third Saturday every month.

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

Weekly Dinner Bible Study: San Francisco, every Monday.

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

CACC Financial Report

Summary results for the period January 1st through September 30, 2011

2011 Budget:
\$255,000.00 (pledges & donations = \$148,000.00)

As of September 30:
 Total Income:
\$149,582.51 (pledges and donations = \$92,180.75)

Total Expenses: **(\$178,625.33)**

Net Loss: **(\$29,042.82)**

Save the Date

Christmas Celebration
Saturday, December 17, 2011

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
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San Francisco, California 94132-2902

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Church News

BIRTH

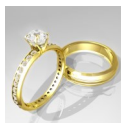
We congratulate Steve and Alin Gedikian for their newborn daughter, Ainsley Lara Gedikian, born on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Congratulations also to the grandparents.



We congratulate Aaron and Lara Khan for their newborn son, Avo Benjamin Khan, born on Wednesday, August 31, 2011. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

WEDDING

We congratulate Michael and Krystal (Pohl) Kerkezian, who were married on Saturday, July 30, 2011 at the Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco, California. Our congratulations also to Kerkezian and Pohl families.



CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Yolanda Camosse Daloian (mother of Christina Grain) who passed away on Friday, August 12, 2011. Our condolences and prayers to Daloian, Alexander and Grain families.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, November 20
at 11:00 am

Sunday, January 1, 2012
at 11:00 am

Sunday, February 12, 2012
at 11:00 am

Thursday, April 5, 2012
at 7:30 pm

