

# The Calvary Messenger

## Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



Volume 42 / Number 2  
2013

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: [www.calvaryarmenianchurch.org/](http://www.calvaryarmenianchurch.org/) Office Email: [cacc@cacc-sf.org](mailto:cacc@cacc-sf.org) / Rev. Nerses Balabanian:  
[nbalabanian@gmail.com](mailto:nbalabanian@gmail.com)

### *A View from Calvary*

*Rev. Nerses Balabanian*  
*Pastor*

**2013 Coming Events**

- July 15 - 19**  
Vacation Bible Camp
- Sunday, August 18**  
Annual Picnic
- Sunday, September 15**  
Renewal Sunday
- Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 9,10**  
CACC Food Festival
- Saturday, December 21**  
Christmas Celebration

“Nothing New Under the Sun, Everything New Under the SON” this is the title of the sermon series I am preaching from the book of Ecclesiastes. The author, Solomon, wrote this towards the end of his life questioning the meaning of life.

Solomon studies life “under the sun” and finds out that nothing is ever new. Yet, Solomon discovers that life “under the sun” has a NEW meaning when we know God, when we worship Him, when we fear Him in awe, and develop a relationship with our CREATOR. Then everything is NEW under the sun, because we KNOW Jesus Christ The SON. (Please check the sermons on the website for more details about this topic.)

This week, I was excited to meet five new pastors from Armenia, my Hayrenik (Homeland) Hayasdan. Five pastors, Hovhannes Hovsepian (Yerevan), Hrant Badalian (Ardashad), Sarkis Ochianian (Goris), Kevork Kasparian (Zeytoon and Bangladesh), and Vartan Apinian (Vanatzor) visited our church. They were guests of the AMAA hosted by Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian. Badveli Melkonian saw the need for the pastors of Armenia to visit the Armenian Evangelical churches and communities of the Diaspora. He planned these meetings so they would spend time with pastors and lay people in our churches in California. In fact, the groups started their trip three weeks ago in LA and headed to Fresno and San Francisco. Hearing the stories of these pastors tells us that there is something new under the sun. In fact, EVERYTHING is new in their lives under the SON Jesus Christ. All of these young men accepted Christ after the Independence of Armenia in 1991. All of them heard about Christ through the AMAA’s mission in Armenia. It was truly inspiring to hear how God worked in their lives, changed their lives, and eventually called them to ministry. One of them, who had married his wife 30 years ago in a civil ceremony (Pastor Kevork), wanted to celebrate a Christian wedding. They had tasted a new love, a new life in Christ and they wanted to reunite in Christ. It’s amazing how Christ’s love can change our lives and can make things new. Another pastor (Sarkis) was telling how his brother (Pastor Araig) and his wife were killed in a car accident seven years ago. He and his wife adopted the children of his brother and raised them along with two of their own children. Talking about new, they had two children and now four. Yet, God brought new blessings in this family.



Their testimonies were helpful for me to see how God is working in the lives of so many people in our homeland Armenia and changing their lives. Everything is NEW under the SON.

Their testimonies were helpful for me to see how God is working in the lives of so many people in our homeland Armenia and changing their lives. Everything is NEW under the SON.

Well, it is summer, and the sun is up and hot. (Well not everywhere in the Bay Area). Let us be receptive to Christ though His Word so that our lives would be transformed into His Image and we would find the newness of life.

# Palm Sunday

Lorig Kalfayan

Palm Sunday celebrates the joyous occasion of Jesus riding in on a donkey to Jerusalem and being greeted by crowds shouting "Hosanna" while holding up olive branches.

The children re-enacted the happy occasion by holding Easter lilies and olive branches while walking down the aisle onto the altar. The children sang three songs very cheerfully.



After their performance they were very excited and proud while they headed down to the Sunday School room to take a group picture. They were then read a story and participated in Easter Arts and Crafts. The sound of joyful children singing enthusiastically really embodies the true celebration of Palm Sunday.

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

## Annual Picnic

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

**When:**  
August 18, 2013 with Worship

Service @11a.m.  
Food Service @12 noon

**Where:**  
Huddart Park, Werder Shelter  
1100 Kings Mountain Road  
Woodside CA (650) 851-0326

### MENU

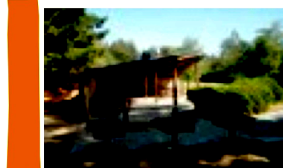
Variety of delicious Kebab w/ Pilaf, Salad, Hummus, Watermelon and Dessert included

- \* Adults: \$12 (2 skewers - \$3 for extra skewer)
- \* Children (under 12): \$6
- \* Bottled Water: \$1
- \* Soda: \$1

Park Entry Fee:  
\$6 per vehicle

Raffle and Games!!!

Reservations are appreciated  
Please call the Church Office  
(415) 586-2000



Sing & Play  
Rock

Epic Bible  
Adventures

The King's  
Kitchen

Imagination  
Station

Tournament  
Games

Fanfare  
Finale



July 15th-19th  
10am-3pm

Calvary Armenian  
Congregational Church  
725 Brotherhood Way  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
(415) 586-2000



\$50.00/child/week  
includes snacks,  
crafts, T-shirt & lunch



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



# Musical Night at Calvary

Caroline Sagherian

Have you ever had the opportunity to experience Musical Night at Calvary? What a blessing to have such beautiful, sacred music fill the sanctuary as a prelude to the Easter season. This year, on Saturday, March 23, under the gifted musical direction of Badveli Nerses Balabanian, the 4th annual Musical Night at Calvary concert ministered mightily to all those in attendance. The specially arranged hymns, spiritual songs and instrumental music performed that night were spiritually filling and provided a moving experience which led me to feel gratitude and give praise to God for His generous and amazing grace.

The music we heard and enjoyed that night was a gift from God. We listened to magnificent pieces, beautifully performed by the Calvary Choir and Calvary Men's Ensemble, together with the impressive voice of mezzo soprano Mrs. Seda Kizirian, the outstanding piano accompaniment of Mrs. Sevan Balabanian, and the majestic trumpet-playing of Mr. Jason Park.

The evening was a glorious musical journey which celebrated and exalted our Lord Jesus Christ. The song *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* led the way, giving us a glorious focus for the evening. The journey took us, during the Lenten season, to the cross of Jesus with the splendidly-arranged medleys of *Lamb of God* and *The Old Rugged Cross*. These melodies showed us that the Son of God, Jesus Himself, was the only perfect, worthy and best sacrifice that could take our place to satisfy the wrath of God for our sin.



Proceeding forward, we came to some anthems of Resurrection Day, starting with the ancient Armenian sharagan (or chant) from the 10th century titled *Nor Dzaghig* (or New Flower). The message of this resurrection chant was emotionally stirring and God-exalting as it proclaimed, "A new flower has bloomed on the new grave. It was the Light of Resurrection. Good news, Christ is risen."

From there, we progressed to celebrating the fact that He Lives - with the fine arrangement combining the famous chorus, *Because He Lives* with the beautiful Easter hymn, *He Lives* - to produce a wonderful and jubilant song. Knowing that truth helped us to turn to a

traditional spiritual song composed with a heart to share the disclosure that we are all *Standin' in the Need of Prayer*.

We then sampled the popular Armenian songs, *Karoon Yerevan* and *Noubar, Noubar*, as well as the towering, resplendent piece which is the prelude to Charpentier's *Te Deum*, which took us to the mountain top of this emotional and meaningful journey in music.

(continued on page four)

We then got to hear two additional Armenian songs (*Groungner*, about an Armenian crane, and *Kele, Kele*) which were dedicated to our Armenian brothers and sisters in Syria as well as other parts of the world who are suffering cruel situations. *Groungner* cries out, "Dear crane, come and bring us good news of peace."

The greatest good news of peace, of course, is still the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ which offers salvation and eternal life to those who believe. An invitation toward that end came with the song, *Come, Christians Join to Sing*. And the majestic hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, reminded us that the LORD is our stronghold and protector in Whom we can find refuge.



Before we made passage into the finale, we were treated with two short and fun traditional Armenian pieces: *Dzengele, Mengele* and *Maral-Maral*. With the ending of this tour came the venerable medley titled, *Risen Today!* This concluding segment drew us to a place of worship, praising God for His wonderful gift of eternal life in Him.

We thank Badveli Nerses, and all the musical participants who, with God's help, dedicated themselves to months of hard work and practice to produce a wonderful Musical Night at Calvary again this year. We also recognize Mrs. Armine Adrouny, Director of Musical Ministry at CACC, for her boundless help and

abiding support in making Musical Night at Calvary night a resounding success. And, most importantly, we give ALL the glory for Musical Night at Calvary to God...! "By Scripture alone, by faith alone, by God's grace alone, through Christ alone, glory be to God alone!"

## Graduation Sunday *Aibeen Hartunian*

Every year we celebrate graduation Sunday with a luncheon and a talent program. June 9th was that special day dedicated to our graduates of 2013.

Aram Nazarian prepared a slideshow featuring the graduates. Their pictures were shown, along with the graduates' schools and corresponding degrees. Ilda Kullukian and Nanor Sadakian prepared a delicious luncheon of lahmejyun, salad, hummus & pita bread which our youth served.



Once again, Sherry Shegoian was responsible for the festive table decorations. A cake congratulating the graduates was cut and served. Lorig Kalfayan presented the children for their talent program.



The Sunday School sang several songs, and many of the children showcased their talents by singing, reciting poetry or playing the piano. Pastor Nerses expressed gratitude to all of the Sunday school teachers and their helpers - Alidz Nazarian, Lori Ishkanian, Lorig Kalfayan, Marge Damir, Julia Damir, Sevan Palanjian, Arpi Haleblian and Lorena Asdourian for their hard work throughout the year. He said these volunteers miss the worship service every Sunday in order to be with our children and teach them about Jesus.

## Our Visit to the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) in Armavir

Arpi and I had the wonderful opportunity of visiting ECA in Armavir on our recent visit to Armenia, in April 2013.

Armavir is the main city of Armavir 'Marz' (region) with a population of about 40,000 located 45 km. west of Yerevan. It is located near the famous site of Sardarapat battlefield.

Several months ago, during his visit to Calvary Church, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, ECA Senior Pastor, introduced us to the concept of having a 'Spiritual Relationship' with a sister church in Armenia. He advised us to consider pairing with ECA in Armavir. After prayerful consideration, Mrs. Alina Balabanian undertook to be the contact person to spearhead this important relationship.

Fortunately when we were in Yerevan Rev. Melkonian was in town and he took us to Armavir to worship with the members of the Armavir church. The ECA, Armavir, was started about 15 years ago by Pastor Garush Antonyan, who continues to pastor the church now.



Evangelical Church of Armenia  
in Armavir

The Armavir Church is located in a two story building (see picture). The lower floor is the church and the upper floor has a conference room/church office complex. The church has a seating capacity of about 70, though the Sunday we were there, it was packed with over 100 attendees both adult and children together.

As the church was getting ready for worship, the choir (see picture) prepared the congregation with songs for 30 minutes. Simultaneously a small prayer group upstairs was bringing the service to the throne of



Armavir Church Choir

God and asking for His blessings.

During the service we had two messages, one from Pastor Antonyan (see picture) who preached from Psalm 113 & secondly Rev. Melkonian (see picture) gave a message, taken from Acts 1:4-9.



Pastor Garush Antonyan Preaching

As an usher at Calvary church, who participates in the 'plate collection', I was delighted to see two kids about 10 years old collect the offerings and one of them gave the prayer of thanks.

After the church service Armavir church has a Sunday school program, where about 70 children attend each Sunday.

Arpi and I were blessed with our visit to ECA Armavir. I would urge each member of Calvary church to consider joining Alina Balabanian in the 'Spiritual' sister church project. As we take

up this challenge we will be blessed, and be a blessing to our sisters and brothers in Armavir.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian Preaching

## Don Watson's Biography



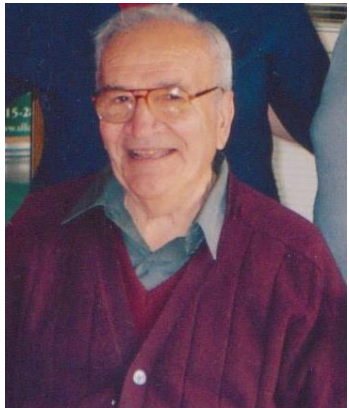
Don Watson, member of CACC for the last 15 years, went to be with the Lord on April 13, 2013 after a valiant battle with cancer. His Memorial Service was held at South Hills Community Church in San Jose. Many from CACC attended the service. Pastor Balabanian gave a message highlighting Don's involvement with the church. The Men's Ensemble graced the service with one of Don's favorite hymns, "It is Well with My Soul." Then again, Zaven Khachadourian, with his beautiful tenor, sang "My Tribute," another hymn that Don loved.

Don was a Bible scholar and a true child of God. In several previous churches, he taught Adult Sunday School. He was a Board Member at Valley Christian School for 18 years, where Margaret taught.

As a young man, Don excelled in school and became a chemical and mechanical engineer. He worked at FMC for 35 years. He was very creative at his work and had many patents. His love for his family was his first priority. His beloved wife, Margaret, dear children and grandchildren attest to that.

Don loved life. He tried every possible means to meet life's demand. And finally the Lord said, "Come to Me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

## Ardson Shegoian's Biography



Ardson Shegoian was very fortunate to be born in Yerevan in 1918. His parents had fled Van, Turkey in 1915 and in walking to Yerevan (about 180 miles) his grandparents and brother died. Ardson was born in a hospital and weighed 10 pounds at birth.

His parents, Ghazar and Zaroohy, were unhappy living in Bolshevik Armenia during the beginning stages of communism. They decided to leave Yerevan in 1922 and start a new life in the United States. They settled in Kingsburg, California and lived on a farm. Ardson went to school and learned English. His parents were sharecroppers and his mother also worked in the local cannery. Ardson's father died when he was only 17 years old, and it was up to him to support himself and his mother.

Ardson came to San Francisco in 1936 with his Uncle Vartan Gazarian to look for work. He loved working with wood and was able to get his start in a cabinet shop. Ardson and his mother had a \$1,000 life insurance policy on Ghazar. They were able to buy a house in San Francisco for \$5,000. Ardson lived in that house for over 70 years.

In 1942 Ardson was called to join in World War II. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers in Guadalcanal, Philippines and post war Japan. After returning home to San Francisco he met Gladys Manoogian. They were introduced to each other by Badveli Nishan Hachian.

Ardson and Gladys were married in Fresno and considered it their second home. In San Francisco Sherry and Jim were born and lived with Grandma Zaroohy, three generations in one house. Ardson continued his building career as an architectural draftsman and project manager.

Extremely religious and very giving, Ardson was an Elder and Sunday School Superintendent in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. He was the church Moderator at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church and served on the Building Committee. He also was a 30 year member of the Knights of Vartan and a past Commander.

His long and blessed life is a testament to his faith in God and love of his family.

# CACC 2013 Graduates



London Dunlap (Pre-K)



Dikran Ekmekji (Pre-K)



Leia Guekguezian (Pre-K)



Isabella Khoury (Pre-K)



Peter Gulesserian (K)



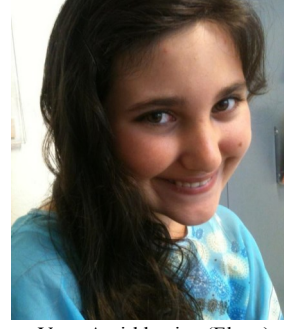
Alan Haleblian (K)



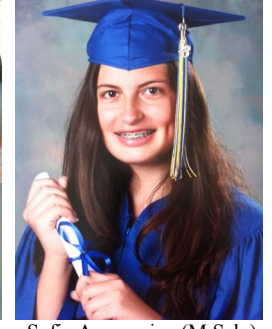
Anais Haleblian (K)



Daron Kalebjian (K)



Vana Amirkhanian (Elem.)



Sofia Avanesian (M.Sch.)



Rubina Karapetyan (M.Sch.)



Phillip Shamlian (M.Sch.)



Colin Gulesserian (H.Sch.)



Alexa Nazarian (H.Sch.)



Aram Nazarian (H.Sch.)



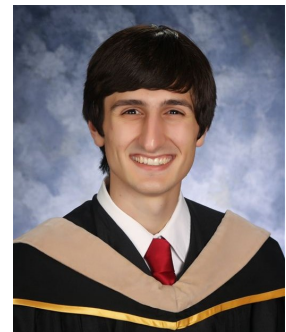
Chinar Merjanian (AA)



Lara Agulian (B.A.)



Levon Minassian (B.A.)



Mark Sagerian (B.S.)



Nanor Balabianian (M.A.)



Matthew Silverman (Ph.D.)

## Graduates without Photos

**André Shabazian (High School),  
Brien Badeer (B.S.), John Badeer (M.S.)**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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>

## Church News

### BIRTH

We congratulate Aren and Alina Balabanian for their newborn daughter, Talar Areni Balabanian, born on Monday, May 27, 2013. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

### BAPTISM

Our congratulations to Paul Westernoff on his baptism on Sunday, May 26, 2013. Please pray for him.

### CONDOLENCES

Mr. Don Watson passed away on Saturday, April 13, 2013. Our condolences and prayers to the Watson family.

Mr. Ardson Shegoian passed away on Sunday, April 28, 2013. Our condolences and prayers also to the Shegoian and Arroyo families.

### UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, July 7

Sunday, September 15

Sunday, November 24

Sunday, January 5, 2014



THE BOARD HAD ONLY ONE HESITATION IN HIRING A FEMALE PASTOR

