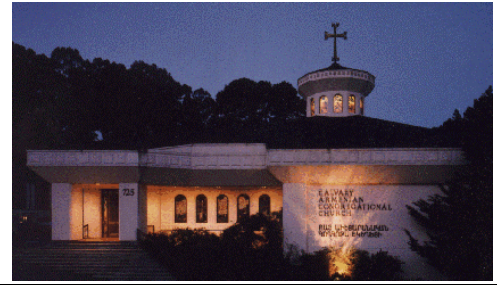


# The Calvary Messenger

## 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. Calvin Sagherian, Pastor

## Installation Service for Rev. Calvin Sagherian

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, San Francisco, CA

March 3, 2019 was a special day in the life of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church. In recognition of God's guidance every step of the way, Rev. Calvin Sagherian was installed as the 18th Pastor of the church in her 92 years of service to the community. Each of the four pastors taking part in the service have been longtime friends to Pastor Calvin. As co-laborers in Christ,



they have each had a unique impact on Pastor Calvin's life and ministry. Rev. Gregory Haroutunian, senior pastor of First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, gave the exhortation to the candidate, speaking on Acts 20:17-36, with the title, 'Begin with the End in Mind.' He challenged Rev. Sagherian from the text to be a man of prayer and the Word, to be transparent and bold, and to always embrace hardship. A key verse was, "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:24). Rev. Daniel Albarian, senior pastor of Christian Outreach to Armenians, Glendale, gave the challenge to the congregation. He encouraged them to be a faithful church, that is characterized by being sacrificial (Mt. 16:24-25), submissive (Heb. 13:17) and united (Jn. 17:21). He also reminded them not to expect things to stay the same, but to seek the Lord for His good plans for this next chapter in the life of Calvary Church. Rev. Berdj Djambazin, the minister to the AEUNA, officiated the service. After leading the candidate and congregation through the questions of covenant, he encouraging Rev. Sagherian to commune with God on a daily basis. He also reminded the pastor to remain faithful to God's Word and close to the people. Finally, Rev. Nerses Balabanian, former pastor of

### 2019 Coming Events

**Sunday, June 16**  
Father's Day & Graduation  
**July 22 - 26**  
Vacation Bible Camp  
**Sunday, August 18**  
Annual Picnic



*(continued on page two)*

Calvary Church and current senior pastor of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, Fresno, offered the prayer of installation. He committed Rev. Calvin and his wife, Janine, to the Lord's grace, asking for His protection over them and their family. He then prayed a blessing over the congregation. The service continued with video greetings prepared by two other previous pastors of Calvary Church, Rev. Stephen Muncherian and Rev. Nishan Bakalian, also friends and colleagues in ministry. It was clear to all present this was a celebration of God's intervention. He had been faithful to provide a pastor with a heart after God to a church with a history of faithfulness to God's word and His mission. There was an awareness that in this match, God was making a way forward for a new season for Calvary church, a heart for service and a willingness to follow God's leading for their unique place in God's Kingdom plan. The service was concluded with a benediction by Rev. Calvin Sagherian and, as always... a joyous fellowship hour with plenty of food prepared by the women of the church.



## Calvary Family Christmas Celebration

Lara Khoury



A group of young CACC ladies hosted the annual Christmas Luncheon, which took place on Sunday, December 16, 2018. After the church service, the church family was welcomed into the festively decorated Hallajian Hall. Pastor Calvin opened the luncheon with prayer.



A tasty lunch was served, followed by a desert buffet. Lina Barsoyan led the program, which included Carols led by Ari and Jenny Ekmekji and a story by Pastor Calvin. He spoke about the beloved Christmas carol "Silent Night" which illustrates the gift of peace that Christ brings during this advent season. This was followed by fun games for the whole family. The warm time of fellowship ended with a surprise visit



from "Gaghant Baba". He not only brought treats to the little ones but joy and laughter to the hearts of everyone present. We thank the Lord for this wonderful time of fellowship and celebration of his birth. A special thank you also goes to all the ladies who made this event possible.





## *What is the Purpose of the Church?*

*Rev. Calvin Sagharian*

Several years ago I decided to go to Best Buy on Black Friday to shop for “deals”. I got there by 6:00 am, which was already too late. I picked up a few items such as a hand-held vacuum cleaner and a cordless phone, which were on sale at a great discount and stood in line for an hour to pay for them. I later discovered that what I bought were things that I neither needed, nor did they work well. I was unfocused and unrestrained in my shopping! It is said that if you don’t have a goal in life, you will always achieve it.

The Bible says, “*Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law*” (Pro 29:18 NIV). *Without a vision, people are unrestrained when it comes to the use of their time, money, talents, even their relationships and their work. They ‘let loose’. On the other hand, one may set a goal for herself to save some money to purchase a piece of furniture; or to put towards, retirement. That is focused and intentional. It is not unrestrained.*

God’s revealed Word gives us God’s vision for our lives and helps guide and focus our attention on knowing right from wrong. In the same sense, it’s God’s revealed Word that instructs us to know how to manage our resources, such as our time or money or skills and even our relationships. For example, God’s Word instructs us to invest our money; to give a percentage to the Lord and to help those in need. It also instructs us to use our time wisely and warns us, “*bad company corrupts good morals*” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Most people have a plan – a vision - regarding their education, jobs, promotions; to buy a house or to travel. The bible tells us that we need to have a vision for our spiritual lives as well. We need to be intentional both as individuals as well as a church.

*What is the vision for the church according to God?*

It is to submit to Christ as our head from whom we have life and revelation (Eph 4:16), to bring glory to God through worship (3:21); to preach the good news (Eph 2:1, 4-5, 8-9) and to nurture (4:11-32) those who respond to the gospel.

Here we see the three purposes of the church: **(1) Worship; (2) Evangelism; and (3) Nurture.**

This is what Calvary Armenian Congregational Church has adopted as her vision:

*“As a Christ-centered Armenian Church, the primary purpose of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church is to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior through worship, spiritual nourishment, fellowship and evangelism - with special focus on the spiritual and physical needs of the Armenian people”*

We can simplify this further according to the vision that Jesus gave us, based on the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-31):

**Love God, Love one another; love others who need Jesus; by...**

- Building a loving commitment to God - **Worship**
- Building a loving commitment to the body of Christ (one another) - **Nurture**
- Building a loving commitment to the world - those who need Jesus - **Evangelism**

We see this played out in **Acts 2:37-47**

When Peter shared the gospel, the people were convicted of their sin and asked, “*what shall we do?*” Peter responded, “*Repent and be baptized.*” *Three thousand joined the 120 followers of Jesus and all became the church which grew and multiplied.*

How did they grow and multiply? “*They were devoted to the apostles’ teaching (study of God’s word), also to fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer*” (Acts 2:42). *They learned to love God and **worship** Him as they were **nurtured** by the apostles. They put to practice what they were learning. “And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). That’s **evangelism.***

Many years ago a swimmer by the name of Florence Chadwick decided to swim the twenty-one miles from the island of Catalina to the mainland. On that day the weather was cold and foggy. Whenever she got tired and discouraged, her mother encouraged her to keep going from a boat alongside of Florence, because she knew her daughter could do it. Finally, after swimming for 15 hours, when Florence was emotionally and physically exhausted, she stopped. At that point she discovered that she only had half a mile left to finish her course. The next day when the reporters asked her why she could not finish the course when she was so close to the end, she said, “the fog obstructed my view of my goal.”

My prayer is that we keep our eyes on Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). He will empower and motivate us through His Spirit to accomplish His vision for us: to worship the Lord, nurture our congregation and reach out to those who need Jesus.

# Alice Adjemian's Obituary

Tanig Ward



Alice Adjemian was born in Beirut, Lebanon, on December 30th, 1929, to Krikor and Myrene Eureka.

Alice was raised in a family deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. She demonstrated her own faith in God through many acts of service.

In Beirut, Alice met Mihran Adjemian through mutual family friends and they were married in 1958. They enjoyed 28 wonderful years of marriage. Alice worked as a seamstress in a neighborhood clothing shop. She was very creative and had a flare for making fashionable clothing. She was truly a Lebanese fashionista.

Alice moved to San Francisco with her husband and daughters, to be closer to her sisters Arshalous Sarafian, Arpy Banerian, and Audrine Anitablian.

Alice was a long-term, and well loved employee at Macy's and retired after 20 years.

December 30, 1929 - February 17, 2019

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church was her second home. Alice gave her love and her life to this church, as she had to Christ. She sang for many years in the church choir. She loved being with her church family, cooking for everyone, attending bazaars, and enjoyed traveling to Armenia periodically with the church.

Alice had many wonderful memories which were shared by many of her dear friends. She had many precious photos of special family members and friends. Alice received many phone calls daily and was always eager to share what new adventure was going on in her life.

Alice had the gift of hospitality and loved hosting friends and family. She had a natural talent and passion for cooking delicious Armenian dishes. She displayed her love through the food she prepared and always offered a second and third helping. Alice was always stylish. And she always loved to advise family members about what to wear. After all, we were her entourage.

Alice is survived by three beautiful daughters: Suzy Bunch, Marina Herrera, Hasmig Adjemian, her four grandchildren Tanig Ward, Sinuhe Fonseca, Alex Bunch, Erika Bunch, and her great grandchild, Leda Fonseca. She had much love to give and was mutually loved by her family and friends.

We will always remember her strength, dedication to family, and her solid faith in God.

## Welcoming 2019 Babies

We congratulate Stephen and Lorig Tovmassian for their newborn daughter, Violet Sylva Tovmassian, born on Saturday, February 23, 2019. Congratulations also to the grandparents: Arpi and Armen Beylerian and Rev. Ron and Renee Tovmassian.



We congratulate Simon and Lauren Margolis for their newborn daughter, Addison Grace Margolis born on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Congratulations also to the grandparents: Anna and Joel Silverman and Abby and Mei Margolis.



We congratulate Danny and Aline Abajian for their newborn son, Neyem Danny Abajian, born on Sunday, April 21, 2019. Congratulations also to the grandparents: Henry and Rosalie Kalabjian and Hagop and Silva Abajian.



# *John Kerkegian's Testimony*

My name is John Kerkegian. My wife, Anahid, and I live in Fremont, California. We cross a bridge and take four freeways to come to church every Sunday, for which we are grateful.

I was born in Bitias, Mousa Dagh (Cilicia), now Turkey, which is close to Antioch, Syria. The believers of Antioch were the first to be called Christians. We are CHRISTIANS. The people of Mousa Dagh moved to Anjar, Lebanon in 1939. Anjar was hot and dusty; many people got sick and died. They prayed and received help from the AMAA, AGBU, and Karagozian Clinic.

In Anjar, when I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I accepted Jesus as my personal SAVIOR. He guided me throughout my life, for which I am grateful.

After I graduated from elementary school, I went Melkonian Educational Institute, Nicosia, Cyprus, which had started as an orphanage then became a boarding school under the guidance of AGBU. They clothed, fed, and educated students, all year round.

I excelled in sports and after graduation, I became a PE teacher/coach. First, at Melkonian for a year and then at the Armenian Evangelical High Schools. The core school was Central High School, Ashrafieh, Beirut. I was eager to further my education. I received a scholarship for Physical Education and Sport in Sonderborg, Denmark which specializes in physical education and sports. The courses were six months long. Preparing students in all aspects of physical education and sports. I took a one year leave of absence from my teaching duties at Central High School in order to complete this program.

I decided to return to Denmark the next summer to get my swimming instructor's certificate. Two weeks before I left Beirut for Denmark, an angel, named Anahid Jamgotchian returned from the United States. Our mutual friends started match making. Long ago I decided to marry a girl who has the following qualities: must be Armenian, has accepted Jesus as her personal savior, had at least a high school education, was more or less pretty, and needed to be tidy. Anahid had all these qualifications. I decided to marry her based on her Christian faith. I believe if someone has Christian faith they love, help, care and forgive others. Two weeks after my return, we got married in the chapel of CMC hospital in the midst of the civil war in Lebanon. A few months ago, we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary through God's blessing.

We left Beirut and settled in Chicago where Anahid was employed by Memorial Hospital. I got a job in the accounting department of the same hospital. Six months later, we moved and settled in San Francisco. Anahid got a job at Mount Zion Hospital and I got a job at the Clearing House of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange. In the next few years, we were blessed with two beautiful sons. As they grew, they needed a safe place to play, (not on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave) so we bought a house in San Lorenzo with a big backyard. We joined San Lorenzo Baptist Church. Anahid worked part time at Levin Hospital in Hayward and took care of the boys, while I commuted to San Francisco.

After a few years, I got a job in Oakland, as an office manager in a stock brokerage house. I convinced the lady, whom I was replacing, to come back after her leave of absence. She returned, and I was let go. I wasn't saddened. Somehow, I had a strange feeling that this was God's doing. My gracious wife told me, "I'll work full time, you take care of the boys and go to school full time." So that's what I did. Throughout the previous years, I was taking evening classes to complete my college degree. I received my B.S. degree from Cal State Hayward and also got my elementary and secondary teaching credentials for life. When I came home from my graduation commencement, there was a big envelope in my mailbox. It was an offer for a fourth-grade teaching position at Fremont Unified School District. I was thrilled and filled with joy. God made my dreams come true. After a year of teaching there, we bought a house and moved to Fremont and joined Thornton Avenue Baptist Church.

While teaching, I continued to attend school and got my Masters' Degree in School Administration and Supervision. However, I realized I wasn't interested in becoming a school administrator. Instead, I continued to teach and became a part time real estate agent. I worked weekends and summers selling real estate. I thank God, because of the combination of teaching and selling real estate, we have a very comfortable life today.

We transferred our membership from the Baptist church of Fremont to CACC soon after the church moved to the present location. I love this church and have held various positions. The congregation is small, yet has great and strong faith. The Holy Spirit empowers them to serve God and the church. Wherever there is a group of people, there will be misunderstandings, different opinions, likes and dislikes, but we are ONE IN CHRIST. His love is our path and serving Him and the church is the greatest honour. That's what makes us a great and blessed congregation. There is no place for hate in any congregation. Hate destroys the mind and soul just like termites destroy wood. Forgiving is the saintliest thing to do. I am grateful that I am part of this wonderful, loving congregation. God bless all of us for working in unison for His glory.

By the way, do you take a pill of faith? The ingredients of the pill are reading the Bible, praying, and attending church service every Sunday, on time. There are also three behavioural characteristics that destroy the mind and soul; they are addiction, lust, and greed.

I have great respect for pastors including our own pastor. They can easily get a job like anyone of us and yet they chose to serve the mighty and loving God and His people. They are not perfect and are human beings like all of us. I respect them, pray for them and help them whenever I can. I hope you will do the same. God showered them with His blessings to serve their congregations.

I am very proud and humbled to be a part of this wonderful, loving and faithful congregation. I pray for this church and its members. Amen.



## Family Night at CACC

*Alina Balabanian*

The young couples and young families of our church have been gathering at church on Saturday evenings- once a month, for dinner, fellowship and a study/discussion. The primary purpose of this special time is to build community and grow together in Christ. The evening begins with a welcome and prayer, sharing a delicious meal and fellowshiping, followed by a time when the adults convene to participate in a study led by Rev. Calvin Sagherian. During this time, the children and youth are dismissed to their respective groups.



We are so blessed that childcare is offered on site and it is a place where the children play games, craft beautiful pieces and have a wonderful time together, led by Alidz Nazarian. A youth program is also provided on site, at the same time and is a great opportunity where the youth of our church can get together under the leadership of their leader, Dr. Matt Silverman.

In February we had a special Valentine's Dinner for all the couples and Badveli and his wife, Janine spoke on what it means



for a husband and wife to submit to one another. The topic centered on: How can a husband love his wife and how can a wife submit to her husband? We find the answer in the apostle Paul's summary of his teaching on the marriage relationship in Ephesians 5, "(A husband) must love his wife as he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband" (Eph 5:33). Men



are created to need respect like they need air to breath. Women are created to need love as they need air to breath. When they don't get what they need or they are disrespected or unloved, respectively, they get on what is known as the "crazy cycle" continuing to be unloving and disrespectful (based on "Love & Respect" by Emerson Eggerichs).

We also recently kicked off a new series titled "The Art of Marriage-Getting to the Heart of God's Design" and we look forward to seeing how God will use His Word to guide and mold our marriages.

We consider it a joy and a blessing to see so many couples and families in our church family and our prayer is that they may get closer to Christ and one another through this ministry.



# CACC 2019 Graduates



Vaun Kalebjian (K)



Reese Adrouny (Elem.)



Leia Guekguezian (Elem.)



Alan Haleblian (Elem.)



Anais Haleblian (Elem.)



Isabella Khoury (Elem.)



Gillian Adrouny (M.Sch.)



Hanna Bender (M.Sch.)



Andrew Boldi (M.Sch.)



Luke Guekguezian (M.Sch.)

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

## *Church News*

### **CONDOLENCES**

Mrs. Alice Adjemian passed away on Sunday, February 17, 2019. Our condolences and prayers to the families.

Mrs. Eliz Mihranian (mother of Marine and grand-mother of Arpi and Sona Bekmezian) passed away on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Our condolences and prayers to the families.

Mrs. Marineh Arslanian Rydberg (Marianne Ghatta's mother) passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019. Our condolences and prayers to the families.

Mrs. Alice Minassian (mother of Norayr Minassian) passed away on Sunday, May 19, 2019. Our condolences and prayers to the families.

**Some of the Missions we support as a church through prayer and finances.**

#### In Armenia

1. Evangelical Church of Armenia and Karabagh - Camps.
2. Aintab Church - Pastor Gagik Hovanessian.
3. Alaverdi Church - Pastor Artur Ochinian.
4. Armavir Church - Pastor Garush Antonian

#### In Turkey

Armenian Evangelical Church in Istanbul - Rev. Krikor Agabagolu.