

The Calvary Messenger

Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



Volume 47 / Number 2
2018

The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132-2902 Office (415) 586-2000
Website: www.calvaryarmenianchurch.org / Office Email: cacc@calvaryarmenianchurch.org

A View from Calvary *Rev. Calvin Sagherian, Pastor*

Why bother with the church?

Why should I bother with the church? This is how someone answered this question: Not because of what the church can do for you, sooner or later that will not be enough. Not because of a leader, because human leaders let you down. Not because of a program or building or activity because they get old. Not because of a certain group of people because they change or move. But because of who shed His blood to redeem the church.

Jesus loves the church and gave His life for her. In going through the book of Haggai in the Old Testament, we learned that the temple or the church is:

1. A visible sign of God's presence to the nations; that God did not go out of business just because the building was destroyed;
2. A visible sign of God's presence to the community, that God is among them to love them, care for them and provide for them;
3. A visible sign of the people's dedication and faith that God is worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done.

We know that the church is not the building but the people – *“living stones, being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). And the people are to live a life of worship both in the church building as well as outside in the world, in every area of our lives, which honors God – “... a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).*

Those returning from exile did not bother with the temple, but used all their resources to build themselves nice houses. Sadly, the quality of their lives did not improve one bit, because God was dishonored by their neglect of His house, hence their neglect of worship (Haggai 1:4-6). Each of us needs to ask him/herself this question: How true is that of me? Does God take top priority in my life? Is that evident in my giving of my tithes and first fruits, as well as my time to invest in the lives of others? Do I bother with the church for whom Jesus shed His blood?

God has a way of getting our attention when we neglect Him. He has said, *“I will not give my glory to another” (Isa 42:8). And when we minimize God's glory in our lives, we become restless and anxious, knowing that something is missing. We become like the hamster, which runs faster and faster hoping to get somewhere, but in reality, gets nowhere. The Bible says, “Unless the Lord builds the house its laborers labor in vain” (Ps 127:1).*

(continued on page three)

Vacation Bible Camp: Jesus Rescues!

Matthew Silverman

Stranded on a jungle island, with no way off. What are we to do? All we can do is trust in Jesus, and his power to save! That was the theme for VBC this year, with jungle animals and island games all part of the theme.

We went into the week with around 45 kids registered, but by the end of the week over 55 ended up coming and hearing the gospel. Each day presented a different theme of trials we face over our lives: loneliness, worry, struggle, sin, powerlessness...and in each difficulty we were reminded that Jesus Rescues!

The week started off with quite a bit of struggles: short on volunteers, and with extra kids showing up, everyone was putting in extra hours to make the week run smoothly. Rather than rely on the same people showing up each day, volunteers came on days they were available and filled in the gaps.

Keeping with the jungle island theme, the mission project focused on supporting scholarships for kids going to school in Haiti. Many families in isolated parts of the country can't afford school for their children, making it very difficult to rise out of poverty. For elementary aged children in Haiti, a full year of school costs about \$100. During the week, the VBC kids raised just over \$200, which will be a huge help for kids in need.

I want to say a special thank you to all the volunteers that helped during the week, whether teaching or preparing food or just spending time with the kids, your contributions were much appreciated. Let's continue to work as a church to share the gospel with the community around us, and especially with the next generation.



Kids in Haiti using the new library with donated books; reading and learning outside of school.



Vacation Bible Camp Photo



Delivering food to needy families who would otherwise go hungry.



Vacation Bible camp in Haiti, teaching kids about the death and resurrection of Jesus, and its meaning for their salvation.

(continued from page one)

One day an older lady who lived in British Columbia was annoyed by a piece of rock in her back yard. Not being able to move it she decided to smooth it out with sand paper in order to make it the centerpiece in her garden. As she was scrubbing and scrubbing with sandpaper, she noticed something glitter and when she dipped her wet finger in it, she realized that it was gold. She remembered that many years earlier, people had come to B.C to find gold, but to her that had been a waste of time. But now she realized she had struck gold. So she worked harder and scrubbed faster and the yellow dust shined brighter and when she paused for a moment to wipe the sweat from her brow, she noticed that the inside of her wedding ring had been ground to a thread. She had been sanding her own wedding ring, clean off! (*The Rest of God*, by Mark Buchanan, p.43)

Jesus taught us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” and then He added, “all these things will be added to you” (Mt 6:33). When we make the worship of God a priority in our daily lives, walking with Him and obeying Him in all things, then God will bless us. His blessings can come in the form of health, a harmonious family, good friends, success at work, healthy fellowship or church life or even wealth and ultimately peace, shalom, which is wellness, wholeness, contentment and satisfaction. Aren't these the very things we seek? Aren't these the very things for which we work hard? But we must honor Him first.

Joshua Harris answers the question, “Why bother with the church” in this way, “Love the church because of who shed his blood to obtain the church. Love the church because of who the church belongs to. Love the church because of who the church worships. Love the church because you love Jesus Christ and his glory. Love the church because Jesus is worthy and faithful and true. Love the church because Jesus loves the church.” (*Stop Dating the Church*)



Calvary Armenian
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S
37TH ANNUAL

Armenian Food Festival and Boutique Noel

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10
12 PM - 8 PM
725 BROTHERHOOD WAY, SF

- ★ ARMENIAN FOOD & PASTRIES
- ★ LIVE ARMENIAN MUSIC & DANCING
- ★ CRAFTS & GAMES FOR KIDS
- ★ RAFFLE

FREE ADMISSION | CACCSE.ORG | 415-586-1000



Come ONE, Come all

TO THE MAIN EVENT OF THE YEAR

CACC

Renewal Sunday
Carnival

11:00 am ~ Worship Service
Carnival ~ immediately following

Sunday, September 23, 2018

FOOD CRAFTS FUN GAMES
FREE EVENT FUN facepainting

Annual Banquet

Nora Balabanian

On Saturday May 12, 2018, Calvary Armenian Congregational Church held its 92nd annual Banquet.

The banquet commenced at 6:00pm at the Halajian Hall, the church's Interim pastor, Reverend Calvin Sagherian, offered the evening's prayer. The talented Gulesserian siblings Andrea and Peter brought the 150 guests to tears as they passionately sang the Armenian and American National anthems.

This memorable banquet was emceed by Ms. Stephanie Adrouny the vice president of NBC News SF Bay Area. The mistress of ceremonies ensured the smoothness and elegance of this unique banquet where the youth of the church used their God given talents to enrich the program. Ms. Adrouny commented on the idea that the next generation of leaders is ready to step up and serve the church and community.

The enchanted musical program included ballet selections performed by the graceful and talented Barson sisters, Emily and Brooke, who shined the stage with their dazzling performance.



A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Service Award, which was given to Mr. and Mrs. John and Arpi Haleblian who selflessly served the church for many decades. The Haleblians established an exemplary model of tireless service to the Lord as they lovingly dedicates, their time, their house and their talents to serve the church and the Bay Area Armenian community. The Moderator, Dr. Rafi Balabanian, presented the Haleblians with a canvas print of the church congregation photo with 1 *Thes. 1:2-3* Encrypted on it. *We always thank God for you, continually remembering your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Our program was further enhanced by the outstanding piano performance of Andrew Boldi. Andrew, the emerging young pianist has graced the Halajian hall with his God given talent and has always amazed the audience with his performances.



Our Keynote Speaker was Dr. Yervant Zorian, Chief Architect and Fellow at Synopsys, as well as President of Synopsys Armenia. Dr. Zorian, who witnessed the Velvet Revolution in Yerevan, relayed the revitalization of the Armenian identity by referring to the current changes and the dominant optimism in Armenia. As the founder and president of AGBU's Armenian Virtual College (AVC), Dr. Zorian emphasized the vital need for all Armenians to learn the Armenian language and history, and the role of AVC in providing online learning services all around the

world. His eye-opening explanations and illustrations challenged the audience to learn the Armenian language and history and be involved in the sustenance and rebuilding of our beloved Armenia.

Rev. Calvin Sagherian concluded the evening with sincere reflections of the evening and challenged the attendees to strengthen their faith in Christ, in order to pass it on to the next generation (Ps. 145:4-5) just as our grandparents did. In this way we can keep our true Armenian Christian identity.

As the evening ended the people lingered talking to old and new friends before heading home after an unforgettable banquet.

Many thanks to the Banquet Committee and to all our generous sponsors for their kind donations of financial support which made our Annual Banquet such an outstanding event.



Palm Sunday

On March 25, the CACC Sunday School Children's Praise Chorus participated in the worship service, singing songs of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before his crucifixion. The children shared this Palm Sunday message by singing two songs: Jana Alayra's *The People Shout Hosanna*, and Carl Tuttle's *Hosanna (in the Highest)*. They sang how Jesus had come to show the way of salvation to the people, and how the people



eagerly acknowledged Jesus by laying down their cloaks and palm branches along his path shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in Heaven and glory in the highest!" You can read the parallel accounts of this prophetic story in the Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12.



Each Sunday, our children have the opportunity to learn the importance and joy of knowing, loving, and praising our Lord Jesus Christ as we worship Him in Multiple ways (both upstairs in Church, and downstairs during Sunday school time). During the Sunday school hour, children get to experience the joy of praying, they learn Bible truths and praise God through song, they memorize Bible passages (like Psalm 23 this year) to "hide God's word in their hearts," and they receive Bible lessons taught by caring teachers who show them real-life application in each Sunday school class. We pray that each method of learning and worship will help each child get to know and understand who Jesus is, be drawn increasingly closer to a saving faith in Him, and be able to thrive in an authentic and deepening relationship with Him.



Sunday School Teachers and graduates from our 5th grade class
Front Row L to R: Eric Bender, Anais and Alan Haleblian and Peter Gulesserian



Fathers and Children on Fathers Day

Photos of our Church Picnic



We had a wonderful day at our annual church picnic with worship, fellowship, food and games.



Thank you for your hard work!



Thank you for serving us.



Tireless workers preparing for the picnic



Children playing

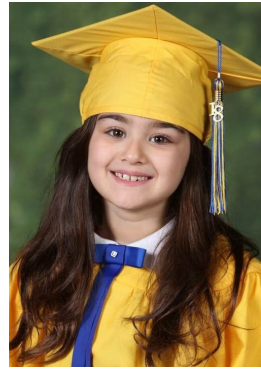
CACC 2018 Graduates



Talar Balabanian (Pre.K)



Teddy Vartkessian (Pre.K)



Aleni Arslanian (K)



Brooke Barson (Elem.)



Dmitri Dogadkin (Elem.)



Peter Gulesserian (Elem.)



Daron Kalebjian (Elem.)



Emily Barson (M.Sch.)



Jazelle Bryant (M.Sch.)



David Khoury (M.Sch.)



Gabriel Damir (H.Sch.)



Rachel Sagherian (H.Sch.)



Rebecca Sagherian (BA)



Amy Beylerian (DPT)

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

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

Church News

WEDDING

We congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Arek and Marissa (Esquibel) Kissoyan, who were married on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Mountain Meadows Golf club in Pomona, California. Our congratulations also to the parents.



CONDOLENCES

Mr. Sarkis Kullukian passed away on Saturday, March 17, 2018. Our condolences and prayers to the Kullukian, Carlsson and DeArcangelis families.

Mr. Mihran Sagatelian passed away on Saturday, August 18, 2018. Our condolences and prayers to the Sagatelyan and Burke families.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, September 23

Sunday, November 18

Please join our

**CACC Facebook page by searching:
@CalvaryArmenian**

**As well as our Instagram page:
@cacc.sf**