

The Calvary Messenger

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

“\$84,600.00”

God is GOOD. It is an honor to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. As I read the *Messenger* reports about the different activities, I praised God for His presence in our church ministries. Starting from the **Food Festival**, which was a great success, to the **Christmas banquet**, which challenged us to look at the birth of Jesus from a different perspective, we moved to the year 2008 with a new vision.

While many of us were serving during the Food Festival, I was running around doing different things. More than anything else, I was interested in seeing new faces coming in. I approached a mother and a daughter who were sitting and enjoying our delicious food. They said they had never been in this church. Driving on Brotherhood Way, they had seen the festival sign many times during the past years, but had never entered. They were very happy. More than that, they were interested in our youth program. I told them about our activities and services. Some of us had a conversation with them, and they left the church. They will hopefully come again.

These kinds of events excite me. Our 2008 motto is **“Know Jesus and Make Him Known.”** We need to get out of our comfort zone and meet people who are unchurched. Let me tell you that the statistics say that only 5% of the Bay Area population attends church. This means that 95% of the populations is the unchurched “flock” waiting outside to receive an invitation. CACC is moving forward. I know some of you are taking this call seriously. But we need to mobilize the whole church. That will take time, but let us use the time wisely. Everyday God gives us “84600” dollars to use. We need to spend it the same day we receive it. Next day we will receive another “84600” dollars. The day contains 84600 seconds. We should use them. If we don’t, they are gone and will not be replaced.

My message is simple. **Do not take inviting, praying, and loving “others” lightly.** If you have the light, pass it on. If you have the “salt”, use it. Go and make a difference through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor

2008 Coming Events

Sunday, March 16

Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 20

Maundy Thursday

Sunday, March 23

Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 26

CACC Leadership Retreat

Saturday, May 10

Annual Banquet

Speaker: Mr. Zaven Khanjian

Sunday, June 8

Graduation Sunday

Monday-Friday | July 14-18

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, August 17

Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 14

Renewal Sunday

Saturday, November 8

Food Festival

Saturday, December 20

Christmas Banquet

26th Annual Food Festival

“And we know that all things work together for good, to them who love God...”
Roman 8:28

How about showers, and more showers throughout November 10, the day of our Food Festival. The more it rained, the more people poured in. We truly had showers of Blessing.

Calvary Church Halajian hall was a place of excitement. All the tables were decorated with beautiful floral centerpieces. The Christmas tree at the boutique Noel was beckoning people to come and view the handmade afghans, baby apparel, jewelry, scarves, fancy vases, rugs, etc.



A little further down, the country Cupboard was a busy shopping post. All the Armenian delicacies were gracing the shelves, such as, jams, paklava, shahabiyet, apple strudel, kadaif, rojig, basdekh, kurabia, mamoul, choereg, Easter bread, cookies, derev, and many more. This was also the station for take out food.



The prizes for the Raffle were expensive items, such as diamond earrings, a Khachkar

direct from Armenia, a Napa trip adventure, and rugs donated by the Simonian and Gertmenian Rug Companies and many other prizes.

The Youth in the hallway had their Hyeback Café beautifully decorated and were eager to serve their popcorn, Armenian coffee and snacks. What a lovely time for our youth to congregate together and enjoy one another.



This year, our entertainment team was fabulous. The overhead projector was showing the dance groups from Armenia. Our Pastor and his jazz band presented several numbers to the delight of the attendees. Lara Palanjian's melodious voice echoed in the hall. We heard many say, "Lara sing, sing, sing". We also had Sevan and

Karine enrich the program with their beautiful duet. Last, but not least, our guests from St. Andrew Apostolic Church, Arax Dance Group, with Mrs. Narguizian as their instructor and Mrs. Alexanian, their coordinator were absolutely stunning. They danced Armenian dances so nimbly and gracefully that people just could not watch enough.



At 12:00 noon, the food counter was ready to serve. The mouth watering aroma of the kebabs had filled the whole area. There, we served our famous pilaf, the exquisite yalanchis, the prize winning souboeregs, yum yum kuftas, a special appetizer eech, hummos, spinach boereg, imam bayeldi, lahmajoun, pilaf, salad, coffee and soft drinks. What a way to enjoy our food festival by sitting with family

and friends at the tables with Scripture verses on our trays, with loads of delicious food.

It was a commendable effort on the part of many who labored and did such an outstanding job. It was indeed one of our best Festivals! We thank every and each one of you for taking part in coming, in serving and in making our Festival a success.

In His service,

Margaret Watson
Food Festival Coordinator

Missions Corner

I have shared with you many times, what the Lord is doing in Hayasdan through the church ministries of AMAA.

During our last trip to Hayasdan, Arpi and I had the opportunity of visiting and exploring another dimension of AMAA work in Hayasdan, in the realm of Education.

We were privileged to visit the first Armenian Evangelical day school (see picture) "The Khoren and Shoushanig Avedisian Primary School", established in 1998 in the south-west Malatia section of Yerevan (otherwise called Bangladesh area).



General View of Avedisian School

The school started as a kindergarten and every year a class has been added and this year they have 308 students, 100 in Kindergarten and 208 in grades 1 to 7. Similar to Armenian Evangelical schools Arpi and I attended in Lebanon. The Bible is part of the curriculum and an opportunity to share it with the children of the surrounding community.



Arpi & Mrs. Melania Keghamyan
the Principal of Avedisian School

We had the opportunity to meet with the Principal Mrs. Melania Keghamyan (see picture), a dynamic leader in the Armenian Evangelical community, who was recently chosen as the best principal in the country.



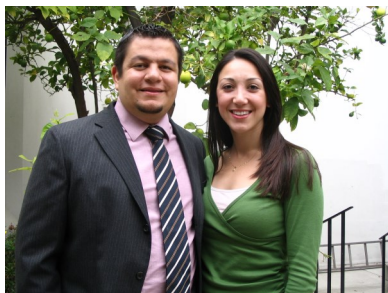
Kindergarten Children of Avedisian School

Mrs. Keghamyan led us through the school and we did visit many classrooms as well as sleeping quarters for the preschool and Kindergarten (see pictures of Kindergarten children). All the classrooms were beautifully decorated and had a cheerful atmosphere.

Please continue to pray for AMAA and their various ministries in Hayasdan.

In Him,

John Haleblian



We thank God for the ministry of Razmig and Jennifer Minassian. Razmig grew up at CACC and God called him for ministry. Last year after graduation from seminary they lived in Boston, MA where Razmig served in the First Armenian Church of Belmont as an intern under Rev. Greg Haroutunian. His internship ended at the end of September where Jennifer and he moved back to California and God led them to the United Armenian Congregational Church, in Hollywood, CA. Razmig started in the full time ministry on October

15th, and he is the Pastor of Christian Education. His main responsibilities are to direct the youth ministries, lead the college ministries and oversee and lead the worship teams of the church. Razmig is also in a continual preaching rotation for the morning and the evening services. Through God's grace, Jennifer has also found a job in a local hospital, "Providence, St. Joseph Hospital, Burbank" and she is working as an Emergency Technician in the ER. She is also pursuing her passion as she is in the process of applying to Physicians Assistance Graduate program. May God use this couple for the spread of the Good News.

Annual Christmas Banquet



The 11th Annual Christmas Banquet occurred on December 15, 2007 and was hosted by CACC's Youth and College and Career groups. Those attending enjoyed an evening full of entertainment, food and fellowship. Raffi and Nora Balabanian welcomed our guests with a wonderful punch and hors d'oeuvres in the lobby while our youth entertained them with instrumental Christmas carols. The banquet was then opened by the emcee, Martin DeArcangelis, whose humor and serious words directed and colored the program in a unique way.

Throughout the evening numerous musical acts performed including the CACC Jazz Quartet and a number of gentlemen who dazzled the ivories during dinner.

Other entertainment came in the form of a short family Christmas dramatic skit and a violin and piano duet which helped to keep the evening buzzing along.

Attendees were treated to the strong message of Rev. Berdj Djambazian as he struck us with the stark reality of war and genocide in Darfur, through the world premiere of the film, "Darfur Tragedy" and through the live testimony of his missionary work in the region. More importantly, Rev. Djambazian enlightened our souls to the fact of Christ's power through the distinct miracles he has performed in the midst of such despair and hardship. A wonderful dinner of chicken and



luleh kebab was provided by Sinbad Restaurant and a delectable dessert was made and donated by the loving hands of Sarah Nazarethian.



A special Christmas award was bestowed upon Hagop and Taleen Nazarian who were recognized for their tremendous work with the CACC youth. The evening was then brought to a close in carol sing along led by the CACC youth and Sevan Balabanian.

This magnificent event was made possible through the great efforts of a number of CACC members and the Christmas Banquet committee. A big thank you must go out to Araxi Ekmekjian who arranged and donated the center pieces. Thanks for the effort of Calvary Career Bible Study group for the decoration efforts and for transforming Halajian Hall into a winter wonderland.

Most of all thanks to those who attended the evenings festivities, all those who helped to make the evening special, our church members and the sponsors for displaying such generosity to the CACC youth. May we have a wonderful and Christ filled year that will lead us to another joyous Christmas Banquet in 2008.

Christmas Banquet Committee

Dinner and a Bible Study

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Psalm 150:6

We are learning to praise the Lord in all circumstances. The Dinner and Bible Study group has grown in obedience to the Lord, character and number.



This year we completed selected Psalms and Proverbs and started to study Acts. We meet on Monday at 7:00 p.m. for dinner and then for Bible study and prayer till about 9:30 or 10:00. Time flies.

The average attendance is about 17 persons with frequent attendance of 20 or more. We continue to grow by learning about the life of the believers in the first century A.D. and applying those lessons to our everyday life. We are learning what it means to care for our fellow men in very practical terms. We continue to pray for each other and requests from others, for nations, particularly for America, Armenia and the Middle East. We are asking God "What do You have for me to do today. Please show me and equip me to do it"

JOIN US IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE TO DRAW CLOSER TO GOD, AND BECAUSE OF IT, TO DRAW CLOSER TO EACH OTHER.

Sincerely,

Anahid Yeremian

Christmas Sunday 2007

What a joy it was to be present at church on Christmas Sunday! The service began with the lighting of the advent wreath by our Sunday School boys. The liturgy was read in English and Armenian that told the prophecy and the realization of the birth of Jesus. After each scripture reading the Calvary orchestra accompanied the congregational singing of Christmas carols.

Of course the church was filled with many people, but the most adorable ones were the Sunday School children. They sang and performed with percussion instruments about Christmas around the world.

The CACC Jazz Ensemble also gave an amazing professional quality performance, as did the Calvary choir. So, as you can see, we worshiped and rejoiced in the excitement of the season.

Then, Badveli Nerses showed us a short comic video about the Christmas season. The actor described the hectic insanity of Christmas. We laughed, but on the inside we felt sad about how true the comedian was. Next we learned how to put Christ back into Christmas. This is not the cute, romantic little cherub in the manger, but our Savior.

Baby Jesus, Son of God, born to Mary and Joseph is our "Everlasting Father." Many people do not have a living father or mother. However, everyone has Jesus as their Father if they ask Him into their lives.

One of our beloved church members, Sam Yeramian, (age 92) recently accepted Jesus as his "Everlasting Father." Badveli asked Sam to come forward and light the Christmas candle in the center of the advent wreath.

Christmas Sunday was a joy because it grounded our hearts in the meaning of the holiday, in love and renewal of faith. Then again, this happens every Sunday at CACC, and therefore we need to be part of this exciting ministry.



Sherry Arroyo

Rosine Tabakian Shamlian's Biography



Rosine was born in 1914 in Marash, Turkey to the late Hovaness Orchanian and Almast Tchorbajian. When she was a toddler the family escaped the Armenian Genocide to Aleppo, Syria. Like many displaced Armenians, Rosine and her extended family were forced to live in small shacks in a refugee camp. In these difficult times, many of the survivors contracted malaria. Some of Rosine's family members also became ill and Almast, her mother, nursed each one back to health. However, Almast was not able to fight off the malaria herself

- she died leaving behind her precious first born Rosine and three of her younger children. By no choice of her own, Rosine took on the role of mother when she was no more than 10 years old. No one seemed to be able to console her from her loss. Then one day a family friend explained to her about believing in Jesus and receiving the gift of eternal life - and that someday she would be able to be with her dear mother in heaven. Her faith gave her great comfort and from then on, she decided to live a life worshipping God. A short time after her mother's death, her father, Hovaness, met and married a wonderful and caring young lady, in the camp, Marie Nalbandian. Marie truly loved and nurtured Rosine and her family. Soon after the family moved to Alexandria, Egypt and settled in a land which welcomed all Armenians with open arms.

There Rosine excelled in her studies at school. As she grew older she learned how to design and sew beautiful clothes. She would get scraps of yardage and sew them into attractive dresses for herself and her family. She was always dressed elegantly and to the T. Her talents were far more than just making beautiful clothes. She also became a very creative and innovative cook. She would make delicious dinners. If anyone asked how she made a particular dish, her response would be a pinch of this and a touch of that - no big deal. (panmu-che). As she developed into a pretty and talented young woman, she also grew in her faith for God. She studied the Bible and attended church regularly.

Reverend John Tabakian, who had just returned from the USA, noticed Rosine in the congregation and that was the beginning of love, marriage and their life together. God blessed John and Rosine with two children, Paul and Armine. Rosine became a dedicated partner to her husband, always joining him in pastoral visitations, helping those who were needy, caring for the sick and comforting those who were in pain and suffering. In 1958, Reverend John Tabakian left Egypt with his family to become the pastor at Olivet Congregational Church in Parlier, near Fresno, California. They had to overcome many hardships in a new country. Rosine worked many long hours outside the home to supplement her husband's income and help with the children's educational needs. In 1966, Reverend John died unexpectedly. On his death bed he made Rosine promise to bring his 85 year old mother to America from Egypt. One year later and with great difficulties, Rosine was able to bring her mother-in-law to the US and cared for her until her death at 90 years old. Rosine eventually joined her daughter in the San Francisco Bay Area where she met and later married the late Toros Shamlian. Toros was a wonderful husband and a great grandfather to all of Rosine's grandchildren.

Rosine was a dedicated mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and servant of God. She was not only blessed with two loving children, but also a caring daughter-in-law, Lucy Tabakian and a wonderful son-in-law Dr. Zaven Adrouny who gave her excellent care for many years until the day she died. She was blessed with 5 grandchildren. The first Jane,

whom Rosine loved and adored but to her great sorrow, died as a child. Rosine would later be blessed with more grandchildren: John and his wife Army, Karen and her husband David, Stephanie and John-Paul. Rosine was fortunate enough to witness the births of her great grandchildren and doted on them endlessly. They include Sloan, Emily, Gillian and Brooke. She is survived by her beloved sister Berjohie Plavjian and her husband Jacko, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. In particular Virginia Balakian, who had become a second daughter, and her sister, Anayis Mananian. Rosine's 93 years of life were defined by her courage, unwavering dedication to her God, her family and extended family members. Her faith in God touched all aspects of her life. Her tireless commitment to serving the Lord, her church and her family were her greatest joys in life. Her absence can never be replaced, but her memory will be one we will cherish forever.

Ministry Opportunities

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (Contact Alidz Nazarian, Coordinator (408) 241-3232)

Our Sunday School is located downstairs and is from 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Each first Sunday of the month our Sunday School children begin with us in the sanctuary for worship and a Children's Message. Please pick up your children from their Sunday School classes at 12:15 p.m. Please keep your children safe by keeping them off the Halajian Hall stage.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (High School & Junior High) (Contact Jennifer Bosnoyan (925) 785-9918 and Sevan Balabanian (650) 815-8680)
SUNDAY STUDY & STUFF - 11 am (Youth Room)

COLLEGE & CAREER MINISTRIES (Contact Ara Kullukian)
FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY: Every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Location to be announced by email. Everyone is welcome.

DINNER AND A BIBLE STUDY
Every Monday, 7:00 p.m. at C.A.C.C. Fireside Room. Please come and bring a friend, dinner starts at 7:00 p.m., Bible study at 7:45 p.m., followed by prayer time. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER MEETING
Every first Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos. Everyone is welcome.

FOSTER CITY/PENINSULA BIBLE STUDY (Contact Badveli Nerses Balabanian (650) 493-1972)
Monthly Fellowship and Bible Study every last Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Jerry & Seta Tujian's, 521 Pitcairn Drive, Foster City. Everyone is welcome.

COFFEE TIME WITH GOD
Every Thursday - 10:30 a.m. @ Arpi Haleblian's, 12044 Saraglen Court, Saratoga. Everyone is welcome.

COFFEE TIME WITH GOD IN SAN FRANCISCO (Contact Badveli Nerses Balabanian (650) 493-1972)
Monthly Fellowship and Bible Study every first Thursday of the month, 11:00 a.m. at C.A.C.C. Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome.

BAGEL TIME WITH GOD
Monthly Fellowship for Men every fourth Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos. Everyone is welcome.

HOMEBUILDERS BIBLE STUDY (Contact Lara Khoury at CholakianLara@yahoo.com or (408) 275-8511)
Every Third Saturday of the Month, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Avenue, Los Altos. Everyone is welcome.

FAITHBUILDERS BIBLE STUDY (Contact Vicken & Caroline Sagherian at CSagher@aol.com or (408) 737-1921 or Rafi & Nora Balabanian at NoraBal@aol.com. or (408) 257-6811)
Every First Friday of the Month, 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced. Everyone is welcome.

Prayer & Renewal

“Seven days without prayer makes one weak.”

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us in the Library for prayer 10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Below and on the next page are suggestions for your daily prayer. Please see the weekly Sunday bulletin for updated information.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES FOR THE QUARTER

Please remember to pray for God’s world-wide ministry of evangelism. Please continue to pray for the persecuted Church.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) acts as a missions arm of the Armenian Evangelical churches. Its projects and ministries are farflung on six continents, and includes churches, schools, medical and social services, and evangelistic projects. Pray for Executive Director Mr. Andy Torigian, his co-workers, and that the AMAA will continue to focus on reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Church of the Near East (UAECNE) is a family of churches and related organizations throughout Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Greece, Cyprus, and Australia. Its head office is located in Beirut, Lebanon. It includes 27 churches, 13 schools, a university, and other organizations. The mission of the UAECNE has three dimensions: evangelism, social work, and education. Evangelism is carried out in the churches and their various programs such as children’s, youth, and music ministry. The social work programs reach out to the less privileged families through the social centers. The educational mission of the UAECNE is accomplished in the numerous schools it owns and runs where thousands of Armenian children receive a good education in an Armenian and Christian environment.

The Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Hollywood is dedicated to meeting the needs of immigrant Armenians in the Los Angeles area. Since its inception, thousands of people have benefited from the center’s outreach. Through assisting with the social needs of our people a means is provided through which the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared. Please pray for the A.E.S.S.C. board of directors, staff, and those they minister to.

Drs. Tom and Cynthia Hale for many years were medical missionaries in the Himalayan country of Nepal. While in medical school they vowed to work together among primitive people to share the love of Jesus by way of their medical practice. Currently they are traveling around the world sharing their experiences as missionaries, training others and encouraging ongoing support and participation in missions especially in Nepal.

AEUNA SISTER CHURCHES FOR THE QUARTER

- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Hollywood, CA
Rev. Apraham Chaparian, Pastor
- * **United Armenian Congregational Church**
Hollywood, CA
Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jason Matossian, Pastor of Christian Education
- * **Saint Nareg Armenian Church**
Montebello, CA
Searching for a Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Rev. Mher Khatchigian, Pastor
- * **First Armenian Evangelical Church**
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Rev. Georges Dabbo, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
New York, NY
Rev. Peter Doghramji, Pastor
- * **Armenian Presbyterian Church**
Paramus, NJ
Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor
- * **Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church**
Pasadena, CA
Rev. Kevork George Terian, Pastor

OUR SISTER CHURCH IN ARMENIA

- * **Armenian Evangelical Church of Hrazdan**
Edik Tadevosian, Pastor

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN ARMENIA

- * **Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Gayaran and Aintab**
Hovhanness Frangoulian, Pastor

The Calvary Messenger is produced as a quarterly 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>



On January 12, 2008, the Armenian Relief Society’s Erepouni chapter of Oakland honored 25 women from the Armenian churches and organizations of the Bay Area. The *Sisters In Service* event took place at Saroyan

Hall of the KZV Armenian School. Our own Gladys Shegoian and Arpi Halebian were among the women who were honored for their years of church dedicated service in the Armenian community. Serving the Lord is an honor. Congratulations.

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Church News

BIRTH



We congratulate Berj and Maritna Fustukjian for their newborn daughter, **Danella Christina Fustukjian**, born on Tuesday, November 13, 1007. Congratulations to the grandparents and also great-grandparent, Sarah Nazarethian.

We congratulate Andrew and Nicole Simonian for their newborn daughter, **Ashley Lucy Simonian**, born on Sunday, November 11, 2007. Congratulations to Medzian and Simonian families.

We congratulate Noubar and Toukhig Arslanian for their newborn daughter, **Aleek Arin Arslanian**, born on Saturday, December 29, 2007. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Arabian and Arslanian.

We congratulate Eddy and Rhoda Ekmekji for their newborn boy, **Dikran Marco Ekmekji**, born on Friday, February 1, 2008. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Ernest Dombalian who passed away on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. Our condolences and prayers to the Dombalian family.

Mrs. Rosine Shamlian who passed away on Monday, February 4, 2008. Our condolences and prayers to Adrouny, Tabakian, Barson, Plavjian and Shamlian families.

COMMUNION SERVICES **FOR 2008**



Sunday, January 6

Armenian Christmas at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 20

Maundy Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14

Renewal Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 16

Thanksgiving Sunday at 11:00 a.m.