

CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



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CONTINUING UNREST IN ARMENIA

Dear Friends,

In our last newsletter, we reported on the conflict in Nagorno Karabagh and the danger of war threatening Armenia. The situation in the region is still tense, with frequent gunfire still and continuing worries of a full-blown war breaking out despite a Russian-brokered ceasefire in April.

Adding to the country's instability was a recent hostage-taking situation a week ago in which a radical opposition group seized a police station in Yerevan demanding the release of its leader —arrested for acquiring weapons and ammunition to plan an armed revolt— and force President Serzh Sarkisian to step down.

CELEBRATING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Amidst this unrest, the 170th year anniversary of the first Armenian Evangelical church (founded July 1, 1846 in Istanbul), is being celebrated. Although the modern Armenian evangelical movement began in the 19th century, the beginnings of the Armenian Apostolic Church were themselves evangelical in nature, as illustrated in the spreading of the Bible in Armenian in the fifth century, following the invention of the Armenian alphabet for that very reason. Ever since then, reformers in the Armenian church have continued to work to bring their church back to its Christ-centered origins. As in other parts of the world, the nineteenth century brought about a large-scale movement of reform, illustrated by a desire to read the Bible and prompting Bible translations in both Turkish and modern Armenian in 1822 and 1823. In addition, the first theological seminary was founded in Istanbul in 1828 to provide more consistent theological training for clergy. During the Armenian genocide, three-fourths of Armenian evangelicals were killed. The survivors settled abroad, rebuilding their schools and churches in the diaspora. Today, the work of the Armenian Evangelical Church continues, seeking to influence both the church and culture in Armenia and among the Armenian diaspora. CFA plays a crucial role in supporting the Armenian Evangelical Church by providing solid theological material for pastors through our publications that are regularly distributed to them. More importantly, they rely on CFA for these, and request them directly from our CFA headquarters.

MINISTRY NEWS

We are still on track to publish the translation of fifty Psalms along with the New Testament books of John, Acts, and Romans, before the year is over. Work sessions have been held via Skype between the translation team and Rev. Eric Kayayan, as well as between the translator of the Psalms and Rev. Mark Vander

Hart, a member of our committee who is a specialist of Hebrew and the Old Testament, as well as Greek and the New Testament. Many other work sessions will be scheduled to enable regular contact between the translation team and the CFA committee.

LETTER EXCERPTS

In the meantime, we continue to hear from broadcast listeners and readers of our publications. The recently published study on Genesis by Rev. Vander Hart has been particularly helpful in helping readers to develop a biblical understanding of creation. One reader writes,

“I am deeply touched and will never forget that: “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:8-9). By reading this book I came into another very important idea for me: God knows everything but he does not know evil by experience. I had never thought about this.”

Another person writes,

“Accept my deepest gratitude dear members of “Faith and Life” staff. Lately on my friend’s shelf I suddenly saw the book “Hovhannes Calvin – the Man and the Reformer”, which seemed very interesting to me. After finishing reading I understood that nothing in our life happens accidentally. I found the answers of many questions in this book. A very important fact became clear to me – that Reformers are not sectarians and their belief is based on Jesus Christ. I was deeply assured that besides Apostolic, Protestant, Evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox churches the other religious brunches are sects. Now I know that it was a wrong perception and due to this book I have another opinion all about this. This is one of my best achievements after reading this book.”

Dear friends, please continue to pray and support our ministry. As the world around us seems more and more unstable, we endeavor to preach the good news of the Kingdom to Armenia in order that all nations will hear it.

In Christ,

Christians for Armenia



Roza Hohvanissian, our highly competent Armenian chief editor

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