

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church



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160th Anniversary Of The Armenian Evangelical Church

October 2006

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Romans 10:14-15

In the month of October the Armenian churches commemorate the memory of the *Translators* who invented the Armenian alphabet in 404 A.D. But why do we still commemorate this event after so many centuries?

To answer this question let's look at the verses mentioned above. Paul argues that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved, but that people will not call on someone they do not believe in, and to believe in someone they need to have heard about that person, but to hear about him, someone must come and tell them about that person, and the messenger to go and deliver the message they need to be sent. Paul is talking about the gospel, the Good News. In order for people to believe in God, they need to have heard about Him through those who come and preach His Word.

The Christian leaders of the day knew

that for the full conversion of the common people they needed to have the Word of God in the language that all people could understand. So, following the invention of the Armenian alphabet, *St. Sahag* and *St. Mesrop*, recruited a team of translators and the first thing they did was translate the Bible into Armenian. Then they sent the clergy, armed with this new Armenian translation, to go and preach and teach the Word of God to the common people. According to Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian, “This led the way to an unprecedented spiritual awakening for the Armenian people.”

We commemorate this event because it was a defining moment in the development of the Christian faith among the Armenian people. In order for the people to be saved, they needed to believe, and in order to believe, they needed to hear the salvation message of the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they understood.

Friends, the *Translators* gave us the alphabet and the Bible in our own language. Let's honor their memory and efforts by reading it, studying it, believing in it and by faith call on the name of the Lord so that we may be saved.

Pastor Makarios Darawi

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Armenian Evangelical Church
Celebrates 160th Anniversary In
Yerevan, Armenia,
September 13-25, 2006
by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

From September 13 to 26, 2006, more than two hundred clergy and lay representatives from 15 countries joined a hundred of their fellow Armenian Evangelicals in our motherland Armenia to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church.

The celebrations included the following activities:

1. A press conference to the Armenian media was held at the newly purchased Armenian Evangelical Center in Yerevan, on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.
2. A book festival in honor of (AEWC)'s Executive Director Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian's bilingual book, The Benefits and Contributions of the Armenian Evangelical Church to the Armenian Nation, was sponsored by the Writers' Union of Armenia, on Thursday, September 14, at its headquarters in Yerevan. The president of the Writers' Union of Armenia, Dr. Levon Ananian, paid tribute to Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian for his literary contribution to the contemporary Armenian culture in general, and for his aforementioned book on Armenian Evangelicalism in particular. Then, he invited Rev. Joseph Matossian to give a review on the book. Selected excerpts of the book were read by the members of the Writers' Union. Then, President Ananian invited the honoree to address the audience, following which Rev. Tootikian autographed copies of his book for those writers who received complementary copies. There were more than 200 people in attendance, including some prominent Armenian writers.
3. A delegation of 15 lay and clergy representatives of (AEWC)'s five Unions and two organizations paid an official visit to Mr. Robert Kocharian, President of the Republic of Armenia, on Thursday, September 14. The President commended the Armenian Evangelical Church and the AMAA for their multi- dimensional services to the Armenian

Republic and the Armenian nation in religious, educational, cultural and humanitarian realms, and congratulated the delegation on the 160th Anniversary of their church.

4. One of the highlights of the 160th Anniversary celebration was the All-Armenian Evangelical Conference, which was held from September 14th to 17th. Two hundred delegates and some guests attended the conference, whose main theme was "Future Directions of the Armenian Evangelical Church."
5. Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its biennial meeting on September 14th and 16th, at the Armenian Evangelical Center in Yerevan.
6. A musical concert, in participation with select members of the national philharmonic and musical ensembles, was held on Thursday evening, September 14th.
7. The opening of an Armenian Evangelical Historical Exhibition, on the 160th Anniversary, took place on September 15, 2006.
8. The Armenian Evangelical "Avedis" Choral group presented an inspirational sacred concert, on Friday evening, September 15.
9. On Saturday evening, September 16, a play from the life of Armenian national hero Soghomon Tehlirian entitled "Endless Return" was presented.
10. A Worship Service, attended by the two hundred delegates of the All-Armenian Evangelical Conference, as well as hundreds of members representing the forty Armenian Evangelical churches of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, was held on Sunday, September 17, in the Opera Hall. During the morning worship service four licensed preachers were ordained in Christian ministry. It was a moving scene to see when, thirty-one ordained ministers laid their hands over the heads of the four candidates who knelt down to receive Christian ordination.
11. 160th Anniverary celebration of the Armenian Evangelical Church was held in the auditorium of the American University of Armenia, on Sunday, September 17.

The 160th Anniversary celebrations of the Armenian Evangelical Church were historic, and memorable, educational, and inspirational days for those who attended.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Choir Practice, Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study, Every other Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Starting October.
Youth Bible Study, Every other Wednesday
6:00 p.m. Starting October.
Children's Library, Every Sunday 12:15 to
1:00p.m.

Monthly

Children's Message, (First Sunday of the
month. Parents bring your children into the
worship service).
ACC Women's Fellowship, (Second Sunday
of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).
ACC Men's Ministries, (Second Sunday of
the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).
Prayer & Care Group, (Second Thursday of
the month, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Women of all
ages welcome.).
Board of Trustees Meeting, (Third
Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.).
Prayer Meeting, (Third Sunday of the
month following the worship service).
Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday
of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Harvest Night



Please reserve Friday, October 27, 2006, at 7:00
p.m. for our Family Night. All ages are welcome.
Donations are \$12.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children
6-12 years old, no charge for children under 6 years.
Come enjoy a delicious meal, featuring "Monte"
and games. Please write your names on the sign-up
sheet on the church bulletin board, or call the church
office for reservations.

Church Directory

We are currently working on the 2007-2008
ACC church directory, if you are in the
directory and you would like us to make
changes or you would like us to *add* your
name to the new directory, please call the
church office.

We will be posting an updated copy of all the
current information we have on the bulletin
board by the fellowship entrance. Please
check it and make corrections if necessary.

Attention All ACC Families

The A.C.C Deacons Board members have
decided to start making occasional phone calls
for the well being of the church families. Be
advised that you might receive a phone call
from one of our deacons.

Adult Mid-Week Bible Study

The mid-week adult Bible studies will start on
October 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Christian
Education Room. Meetings for this year will
be **October 11th, 25th, November 8th, 29th,
December 13th, 2006.**

Youth Ministry

Attention families of youth entering 6th
through 12th grade! We plan to begin meeting
regularly for Bible study and fellowship every
other Wednesday evening, at 6:00 p.m.
Meetings for this year are **October 4th, 18th
November 1st, 15th, and December 6th,
2006.**

A.C.C. Women's Fellowship News

We are changing the format of our meetings
to include spiritually uplifting devotionals,
discussion or guest speakers. The theme of
our upcoming meetings will be based on the
inspirational book, "Calm My Anxious Heart"
by Linda Dillow. Copies will be available for a
\$12 donation. Women of all ages, please plan
to join us each 2nd Sunday of the month for
our meetings promptly from 12:30 to 1:30p.m.
Childcare available upon request.

Giving Opportunity

Donations of or funds for these items will be greatly appreciated.

- * **Christian Library Books**, (Adult, youth and children).
- * **Children's Christian Videos and DVDs**
- * **Pew Bibles**
- * **Christian Education Rooms** accepting funds for redecorating completed this summer.
- * **Audiovisual Equipment** (Projector, DVD player, portable CD players), camcorder, digital camera.

Reminders!

- * Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by **sponsoring the Fellowship Hour or donating flowers**. Please sign-up on the bulletin board.
- * On your next trip to the store, or your pantry, collect some **non-perishable food items** to share with the needy people of Oakland County. Please bring your contributions to the Food Bank box in the foyer.

Volunteers Needed

- *Nursery
 - *Children's Library Staff
- If able to help, please call the office or speak to Jennifer Darawi.

Pastor's Trip To Armenia

Come join us on October 27th during the family night for a full report and a slide show of Pastor Mak's trip to Armenia, and his visit to our sister church of Dilijan.

SIMON JAVIZIAN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



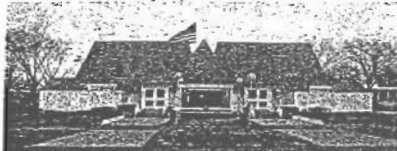
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