

CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2013



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Dear friends,

BOOK ON ISLAM AND THE GOSPEL DISTRIBUTED IN KARABAGH

In 1988, the government of historically Armenian Nagorno Karabagh - a region in the Caucasus composed mainly of Armenians and also Azeri Turks - appealed to the Soviet government to have its administrative rule transferred from Azerbaijan to Armenia. A week later, dozens of Armenians were tortured and murdered in Sumgayit, one of the largest Azeri cities.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and a long and bloody war waged by Azerbaijan to retain this territory, Nagorno Karabagh gained its independence in 1994. It is now a fully democratic state, and this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Artsakh freedom movement.

As part of these commemorations, our team leader in Armenia, Arthur Minasyan, was invited by the chairman of the National Assembly to participate in a cultural exchange between youth from Armenia and from Karabagh, and to give a speech to the National Assembly. This provided him with the opportunity to speak about the work of Christians for Armenia and to present a copy of the book *Islam and the Gospel*, (written by the late Rev. A.R. Kayayan), to the Chairman. A few weeks ago, he received a letter of thanks from the staff of the National Assembly and a request for an additional 100 copies to give to each deputy. This book is a much-needed tool in the hands of these deputies who are confronted by Islam on a regular basis.

READER WRITES ABOUT HERMAN BAVINCK'S BOOK

The recently published book by Herman Bavinck, *Our Reasonable Faith*, has been blessing to its readers as the following letter testifies:

"When I read the book of Herman Bavinck, a kind of confusion came in my heart. It was difficult to understand the book, but at the same time it was very interesting, teaching and making the reader ponder his own life.

It has been several days that I am analyzing in my mind what I have read and trying to find out just for myself which of the themes discussed in the book is the most impressive for me. After thinking a lot, I came to the conclusion that the chapter "Sin and Death" made me analyze the life I've lived. The sense of sin and cognition of death is one of the most worrying questions for a human being.

Everyone knows from his own experience that guilty deeds are not out of us. It is impossible to take them off as a dirty cloth and throw them away: it leaves a trace that cannot be erased... Sin makes us lose peace of our mind and heart.



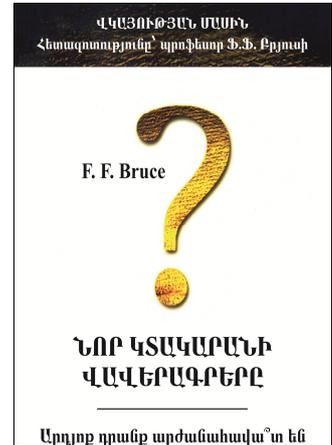
*Our collaborator Arthur Minasyan hands over a copy of the book *Islam and the Gospel* to the chairman of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh*

Fortunately, God is merciful and none of us has the right to become lofty or become desperate... We are living by the hope that God will give us mercy and we will inherit the right to find the peace of our souls in Heaven.

Thank you once more for publishing such a book and for the opportunity to read it."

F.F. BRUCE *THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCUMENTS: ARE THEY RELIABLE?* SOON TO BE PUBLISHED

Forthcoming in our publication schedule is the book by F.F. Bruce, *The New Testament documents, are they reliable?* This has much apologetic relevance, as the Armenian public is not well educated about the origin and mode of transmission of the New Testament. This book will also prepare the way for an ambitious project which we have mentioned in past newsletters, and which was close to Rev. A.R. Kayayan's heart, a translation of the New Testament into the Armenian language.



*F.F. Bruce's book *The New Testament documents* will be published before Christmas.*

ARMENIAN TRANSLATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Over the last year, our committee has been studying how best to undertake this project in order to provide a modern and faithful translation for the Armenian people to read, something which is currently unavailable. This is a long-term project which requires thoughtful planning both linguistically - assembling a reliable team of scholars also fluent in Armenian to ensure equivalence - and theologically, deciding upon solid explanatory notes to accompany the Biblical translation. We have decided that for those reasons, in addition to financial ones, it would be best to tackle the books of the New Testament individually, beginning with the Gospel of John.

We ask that you would prayerfully consider this particular project and if you feel God's leading, that you would designate the funds for this translation. We know that only the Living Word accompanied by the Holy Spirit can transform men, women, and children and we are committed to making this Living Word accessible to all Armenians.

We thank the Lord for having chosen you to minister to the Armenian people with us as His co-workers, despite distance and language-barriers. May you feel richly blessed by our Savior as you prepare to celebrate His birth.

In His name,

The Committee for Christians for Armenia.

This is a long-term project which requires thoughtful planning both linguistically and theologically

Please send your donations to the following address

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