

September 2007

Dear Christian Friends,

Exciting and unusual news continues to pour in from around the world – news of political strife and revolution, social upheaval and war, terrorism and the massacre of innocents. But what about Armenia? It was less than twenty years ago that she recovered her political independence from the Soviet Regime.

When Armenia is mentioned, it is mainly because of the not yet recognized Genocide of 1915 under the Ottoman Turks. The writer of this letter is the son of parents who miraculously escaped, escaping also other unbelievable treatments from the same traditional oppressors. He almost knows, although never the direct eyewitness of the barbarian treatments, all the details of what his parents were the targets of. Except in few circles, Western circles and immoral governments deny that atrocious reality because their political and strategic and economical interests would be jeopardized by present day Turkey.

From Armenia, not much sensational news is arriving. Except that in that region of Asia it seems to be the only country which is not troubled by serious political and social upheavals, contrary to the neighboring countries.

Does this mean that a social and rather satisfying political situation is all Armenia needs, or has to be satisfied with? Certainly not. Armenia too still remains a major mission field. However, exciting world news may spawn sensational missionary statements. The basis of ministry —of my ministry— is not constituted by such news. On the contrary the urgency for evangelization stems from the mandate I read in almost every page of my Bible, the ultimate guide on mission. From the infallible record of the mercy and infinite Grace of our Redeemer God, manifested in Jesus-Christ, communicated and applied through the efficient power of the Holy Spirit.

More than ten years ago, our Broadcast and literature ministry in the Armenian language started. I knew then that the urgency for evangelization does not stem from reading current events reported in daily papers. After officially retiring from the French mission field, I had the certainty that God was calling me to proclaim His Kingdom in my mother tongue, the Armenian language, in Armenia.

I will not attempt to evaluate the results of my mission in these two–pages. Results will be evaluated by Him who has called me and whose Spirit and Word are guiding me. As a Reformed minister, I have learned that a faithful ministry must sustain a ministry which imposes real sacrifice. A mere word must qualify my ministry too, that of faithfulness. Dear friends, the results are there for the **SOLI DEO GLORIA**.

Recent letters received witness that the Spirit and the Word are powerfully operating in the hearts of listeners and of readers. It is not easy to translate from Armenian the enthusiastic contents of those letters. The reality is that men and women come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Often they give also their age, to prove that they are not just old fashioned traditionalists seeking refuge in a traditional religion.

As I write these lines, a phone call from Arthur, just back from a visit in Georgia, another Christian country, filled me with unimaginable joy and a much needed encouragement. In a few days, he realized how much among the Armenian population of that country there was need of our ministry and how much people he met were pressing him to get our literature and proposing to broadcast our messages in their Radios and even TV! Yet the sad thing is that the Georgian government has adopted a severely anti-Armenian policy hindering Armenians youth to speak their mother tongue and almost obliging them to leave the country; however, allowing Muslim Turks to inundate the country and make possessions there. Soon my friend and helper will also visit many Russian cities where there are established Armenians as much as there are in the homeland. From there too, requests come to establish centers for our ministry.

The question is: shall I pursue this ministry? I have no doubt that it has proved to be a necessity and that it remains so. Despite health problems and age, I have decided to pursue it faithfully as long as the Lord still grants me the strength.

Our next publications, a daily meditations volume and a catechism book for teenagers (including a doctrinal part and the life and ministry of Jesus) will be published soon. The Bible dictionary is currently being revised. God willing, next year it may be published. Other writings are ready also to be published, as the need for Christian literature is enormous in Armenia and among Armenians in the Diaspora.

I asked if I shall continue the ministry. In very difficult conditions, not least of a technical nature, undoubtedly YES. Nevertheless, **it cannot go on if the financial means are not being supplied.** Two years ago the US dollar was worth 500 trams. Today, it has come down to some 33 trams and the donations we receive have remained almost the same since ten years ago.

Dear friends, Armenia is a genuine mission field. Don't expect sensational news, but trust that the Lord is efficiently working there too. Your generosity will allow this ministry to go on, and will allow many in Armenia, old and young, men and women, to come to the faith Of Jesus Christ, as we have understood and confessed it in the Reformed Calvinian way.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

With Christian Greetings

Rev A.R.Kayayan