

August 2008

Dear Friends,

We rejoice in knowing that God answers our prayers and meets our needs. A significant donation from one of our supporting churches is making the following publications in Armenian possible: The New Testament translation in Armenian, *The New Bible Dictionary*, *The Theology of God*, *A Teenage Catechism*, and a special issue of the quarterly devoted to John Calvin.

This is a tremendous gift to the Armenian people. Many correspondents write of the impact that our publications have had in their lives, and how they have lent them to family and friends who in turn have lent them to other family and friends. One correspondent writes, after reading *A General Introduction to the Old Testament*, "It seems to me that you speak to us with the wonderful words of Ezekiel, 'I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.' Thank you again for your work and for transmitting to us the messages and word of God."

The reference of Ezekiel in relation to the Armenian people is stunning and one that must inspire us to keep our commitment to preach the Gospel to Armenians unflinching. As the first nation to officially adopt Christianity in 301 AD, and one that is culturally and historically anchored in the Christian faith, Armenia, like Israel, was called by God. Yet, centuries later, its faith has become static, often led by unfaithful priests and leaders. And, like Israel, Armenians also became in a way "foreigners in a strange land," ruled by authoritarian governments; first when the Ottoman Turks took over the Western portion of their land and, more recently, under the Soviet regime.

And so, as we continue our work, we realize that not only Ezekiel's message is timeless but that God's mercy is endless. Indeed, He is turning hearts into flesh, restoring those who turn back to Him. Praise be to God for transforming our humble efforts for the glory of His Kingdom.

Once again, we ask for your continued commitment to this ministry as we strive to answer God's call. Many individuals and churches have contacted us since my father's passing to express condolences, and also to ask how they can help and what they should pray for. I should like to share our most pressing needs with you.

The radio broadcasts, the foundation of this ministry, are continuing to run, and we are grateful to have twelve years worth of messages to rebroadcast. But the quarterly broadcasting cost is \$12,000.00, not a small sum for our small ministry. We also ask that you please pray for our partners in Armenia. They have given their full commitment, time, and energy toward continuing this work and need to feel our continued support and prayers especially now during this time of transition. Living in Armenia as they do, the faithful preaching of the Gospel is not a choice but a necessity. Their correspondence shows a clear sense of urgency.

We will meet as a full committee in October to discuss the coming year and to establish our plans to continue the ministry and will share these with you in the November newsletter. I recall that at last year's October meeting my father expressed the wish to go to Armenia one last time. The Lord did not grant this trip, but the love of the Gospel which my father left in Armenia is much more lasting. Here is a beautiful testimony of this from our friends and partners in Armenia:

Today as we mourn the loss of our dear brother, our prayer is that his message, his wisdom and his pastoral love from the very letter and spirit of the Gospel henceforth may teach, instruct and build up us. Our prayer is that his heart of a Pastor may call for thousands and thousands of Christians to raise the name of Jesus even higher, to proclaim the message of Salvation to many thirsty souls.

Thank you for sharing our commitment to preach the Gospel to Armenia.

In Christ,

Alix Kayayan-Kragt
Secretary, Reformed Faith and Life

PS. If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please send us an e-mail at:
info@christiansforarmenia.org