

June 2007

Dear Christian Friends,

Who remembers, or has ever heard of, Lengtimour (or *Tamerlan*) *Genghis Khan*, the *Mongol*, and the *Tatars*, the *Seljuk's* or the *Ottomans*? Those barbarian tribes converted to Islam who invaded — inundated might be a more proper term— the Western part of Asia? Armenia was not spared from their devastating raids. And, since then, even if names have changed, is still or nearly, under the sway of threatening Islamic states and never safe from new forms of political pressures.

During the past centuries, Armenia — the first nation historically to have officially accepted the Christian faith— has remained faithful to her Christian heritage and a witness, at no small price, even at the cost of martyrdom. Today's independent Armenia is surrounded by unfriendly Islamic states. To mention only two of them, Azerbaijan and Turkey, who with the almost open complicity of some Western powers, present concrete threats to both her national and religious independence. Yet, Armenia can, if she benefits from adequate assistance from the West, become a Christian bulwark against the spread and the dominion of an Islam which causes to us in the West, so much concern.

We all still in the USA remember the atrocious day of 9/11. The crime committed on our soil —in our airs— could not be accomplished otherwise than by those who receive their inspiration and form their convictions from one of the most brutal religions of the world, Islam. We will mourn for longtime still the more than 3,000 victims of that day.

However compare that crime — and we are well prepared and must be prepared to defend ourselves against it— to the hundred of thousands of Armenian victims over more than 15 long centuries, of the same vicious treatment. The latest manifestation of this having been the Genocide of 1915, which the Turkish Government, even some Western powers motivated by political interests, attempt to deny.

Can we assist Armenia in her struggle to conserve her newly gained political independence and so her Christian faith against one of the most heinous enemies of our Lord Jesus Christ? I do not exaggerate when I write that each time I visit Armenia I feel as if treading on a soil which covers the bodies of the martyrs for the Christian faith.

RFL is helping through the extremely limited means at its disposal to rekindle that faith: our four weekly broadcast messages, the distribution of hundreds of C.D copies, the Quarterly, which our friends in Armenia tell us is of exceptional quality, the numerous publications —soon two catechisms for teenagers, a daily meditation volume, an introduction to the doctrine of the revealed God— all of them based on Evangelical and Reformed theology and deep convictions.

Nothing as such had ever been undertaken during the 160 years of the existence of Armenian evangelicalism.

This ministry, now almost 12 years old, is conducted without a paid minister (only our helpers in Armenia), with insufficient secretarial assistance, and by a man approaching his eighties, with the accompanying health problems, yet still able to work and produce like a man in his forties. Undeniably, this is a sign of the Lord's assistance, and the determination as obedience to the Call, to proclaim the Gospel to Armenia.

Our budget is a minimum one and has almost not changed since the past five years. The number of our supporters – congregations and individuals- is very limited. Yet, despite the restricted numbers of those who support the ministry, their faithfulness —your faithfulness dear friends— allows us to continue the work. May you be warmly thanked for your continued interest. Without you, this ministry would not be possible. Although we do not like to send letters for the purpose of raising funds, we must ask you to continue to support us as you have done in the past, both through your gifts and through your prayers.

The impact of the ministry you support is great, as the following attests:

A recent letter, among many other encouraging ones, was written by an Armenian living in Russia. He recently visited his family in Armenia. There, he discovered all of our work, CDs and books. He could not believe his eyes, he writes, that the Christian faith —he is used to its traditional expression only— can be explained in such a way! He therefore pleads to receive them in Russia and if possible to receive many copies that he can distribute around him

Arthur, my dear and competent helper in Armenia, agrees with me that it is now imperative to visit that part and other parts of Russia where tens of thousands of Armenian are residing; to see what can be done to bring the Gospel to those expatriates who do not have the slightest idea of what the Biblical and Reformed faith is.

While writing these lines, one of the least quoted texts of the New Testament, the 3rd Letter of the Elder John, verse 7, comes to mind:

“Because *that for his name's sake they went forth*”. I would almost translate it, “*they walked out*” Or paraphrasing for the sake of our broadcast ministry “*they went on the air*”!
That name is none other than that of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

Brothers and Sisters, rejoice with us, that a modest ministry such as ours, of which you have become partners, is accomplishing a mission similar to that of the Church to which the Elder John belongs.

**For the sake of the Name of Jesus Christ,
For the Glory of the Father,
In the Communion of the Holy Spirit.**

Yours faithfully

Rev. A.R.Kayayan