

April 15, 2010

Dear friends,

As we come from having celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and head into the season of Pentecost, let us ask: can we selfishly keep the glad news of the freedom we have in Christ to ourselves? Can we keep the greatest love of all stuffed in a keepsake box?

It would be easy to do so; to live our daily lives, in both its joy and turmoil, to turn our eyes inward, to experience and enjoy fellowship with Christ privately rather than publicly. Yet, the words of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection are clear: “...*Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*” Our Lord did not need to name “all nations;” all-knowing, He already foresaw the nation of Armenia, its struggles and its needs; He already had a plan to reach His beloved children there.

This is why the ministry of Christians to Armenia continues and why we ask you to continue with us through your own joys and turmoils, that the Armenian people may be blessed by hearing the Word of God, and that we may be blessed and feel joy in sharing it.

We praise God that the book on John Calvin is being printed at the writing of this letter. It has been no small undertaking to translate excerpts from Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, excerpts from his *Commentaries on the Old and New Testament*, and selected sermons. Added to this volume are posthumous articles written by Rev. Aaron Kayayan, who undertook this ambitious project months before his death, as well as a biography and articles on Calvin’s political thought written by Rev. Eric Kayayan. Our team in Armenia is extremely positive about the impact this volume will have for the spiritual and intellectual development of Armenian Christians.

We are working on developing our next list of publications to be translated which we will report in our next newsletter. We are happy to have secured a highly competent and theologically trained translator on our staff in Armenia and are grateful for the dedication of our team in the work they do amidst difficult practical circumstances.

A surprising request was recently made by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt, to receive a list of our publications. One of the largest libraries and research institutions in the world (it holds more than 8 million volumes from all over the world) the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was rebuilt in 2002 to surpass the ancient library of Alexandria (in the 3rd Century BC *the* largest library of the ancient world) whose mission it was to gather all the world’s knowledge.

Sermons by Rev. Aaron Kayayan are being rebroadcast in Javakh, a historically Armenian region now part of Southern Georgia. The broadcasts are reaching the Armenian minority who lives under oppressive circumstances in this region, the Georgian government closing down Armenian schools and churches. One of these listeners requests our publications and writes:

“...though the region of Marneul is mainly inhabited by Muslims, Armenians keep our Christian church high by their prayers and sermon. Let’s hope and believe that our compatriots in Javakh will live by God’s canon law. I am very happy that the religious sounds of “Faith and Life” has been again spread over South Georgia and the divine light has come into each Armenian soul. Listening to religious radio programs you feel rested.”

And so it is that Armenians still experience displacement to this day, as well as religious and cultural discrimination. Yet, God’s Word provides consolation and hope.

As we remember the anniversary of the 1915 Armenian genocide on April 24, we wish to remember those Armenians who were martyrs to their faith, carrying their Bibles to the deserts of Syria, and holding on to their historic faith as they marched to their death. May this faith continue to be quenched and strengthened in each new generation of Armenians through the hope of new life in Christ. May we be the ones to gladly share the greatest love of all.

In His service,

The Christians for Armenia Committee