

October 2009

Dear friends,

By the almighty power of the Holy Spirit, the work of Christians for Armenia continues to bear fruit, praise be to God, and we have much news to report.

Letters pouring from Armenia attest to the great resources that are found in the broadcasts and literature of Christians for Armenia. They come not only from lay people but also, importantly, from University Professors who lecture in music, art, and theology and are busy forming the next generation of Armenians.

A lecturer in theology at the Artsakh State University writes:

“...My father used to say that every person in his life should do a thing which will satisfy him and will cause the sense of inexhaustible gratitude in the hearts of others. Involuntarily, I remembered my father’s words when I saw the two wonderful works by A. Kayayan, *A General Introduction to the New Testament* and *The Introduction to the Old Testament*. For me, these works are wonderful guidebooks. To tell the truth, the greater part of my lectures I take from the Faith and Life broadcasting aired in Artsakh.”

Another writes regarding the book on Islam:

“First of all, my attention grasped the fact of how well the conception of Islam is explained....The anxiety the author expresses in the book will probably awaken many people from their deep drowsiness and I believe that contemporary Europe will sober up and see the danger threatening the Christian world which the author calls “calm Jihad.”

This past September, two of our Armenian committee members, Rev. Movses Jambazian and Vasken Khanjian traveled to Armenia to assess our work there and to report back to the committee regarding what they see as the future direction of the ministry. There, they met with the Armenian team, including Arthur Minassian, who has been our right arm on the field, as well as the team of translators and editors who work on our publications and broadcasts. The annual committee meeting of Christians for Armenia was held shortly after their return.

The committee elected Rev. Movses Janbazian as committee chairman and elected Rev. Eric Kayayan as vice-chairman. One of the primary concerns addressed during the meeting was the identification of a suitable candidate to lead the ministry in the future. Support in the training of such a candidate will be essential and requires careful planning, but we hope to be able to achieve this in the coming year. Please pray that of the candidates already identified, one of them will emerge as qualified.

Our publication schedule for the next year is as follows:

Calvin, the Man and the Reformer, is ready to go to print and will have an initial print run of 3000.

The translation of *The New Testament*, by Rev. Kayayan, is currently being edited and we have set June of 2010 as its publication date.

The Bible Encyclopedia will consist of approximately 1600 entries and much work remains to be done; we estimate that it will need another two years to complete this huge undertaking. This work is a crucial tool as nothing current is available in Armenian, the only Bible Dictionary being a copy of an 1881 edition published in Constantinople, with no additions or revisions.

The team in Armenia is working on assembling a cd-rom compilation of the 18 books already published and 20 issues of the magazine. This will allow a wider and less expensive distribution of these essential tools to Armenians in Armenia, Russia, and Georgia.

A large part of the budget for the ministry will be allocated toward the translation of standard Reformed works (such as a commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism and a Reformed Dogmatic) to train and educate both shepherds of the Church and laity for the long run. In addition, a yearly teaching visit to Armenia by pastors of the committee is being planned.

Dear friends, much work awaits us. We ask for your renewed commitment, that through your gifts and prayers, the good news of the Gospel may be consistently preached to a new generation of Armenians.

In His Grace,

The Christians for Armenia Committee