

JANUARY A. D. 2008

Dear Friends,

Probably more than twenty five years ago, while involved with the French language broadcast ministry, I wrote an essay on Radio Ministry in the Church. The essay began with the following questions:

*How can evangelization be done by means of the Radio?*

*How can it, afterwards, arrange personal contact and involvement with a congregation?*

Re-reading the essay, my positive conclusions have not been altered. The same “turbulence” aroused at that time, around the Evangelistic ministry of the Christian Church - even the Reformed one, (ones) is still raging and the Church -Churches- is still divided in her conviction and opinions. Proclaiming the Word as Evangelization or rather, and more pragmatically, doing the Deed? **Preaching or Acting?** The same conflict still remains. Yet, personally, I have not the slightest doubt that both the preaching of the Word and doing the good Work remain the perennial ministry of the Church of Christ in our modern world. However, based on the Lord’s command as we read it on the pages of the New Testament, and the urgent need of present day man and society, I believe that *preaching* remains the primary task, which in no way will exclude or contradict the *doing*.

The proclamation of the Gospel is the fundamental mission of the Christian Church. It is both an **Order given** and, like all other orders, also a **Gift received**. It is so much more urgent that the growing so-called **secularization** of our present world (*a mere disguise to worship some new idols, baptized with various names*), with its devastating effects, touches also the Church herself and the least can be said in this respect, is the growing de-vitalization of her faith.

Therefore, do not be surprised if, almost in my eighties in a few days, that primary order is being received as a renewed **CALL** to preach the Gospel also in Armenia. It is not only the **call from above** which daily renews in me the enthusiasm to minister despite difficulties and hindrances. Not a single difficulty has to this day discouraged me to persevere, as so many letters of gratitude and of urgent appeals to continue are received regularly.

The last field where **HAVADK YEV GUIANK\*** (REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE) has reached is, guess where: **Russia!** There are now living in Russia as many Armenians as in the homeland! The economic situation in Armenia has obliged hundreds of thousands of Armenians to emigrate in that big country and I feel happy to know them there, rather than in some Muslim and Arab country where so many Armenian young ladies have been exported. For what activity? To earn some money— I will let you conjecture how.

My friend and helper in Armenia, Arthur, was recently visiting several large Russian cities, where important Armenian communities have been established and distributing materials. The cds containing our messages, the quarterly with its rich content, many copies of the Biblical and theological literature we have produced, were received as *Manna* from heaven by people who, spiritually speaking, have been starving for many years. Many of them belong to the traditional Armenian Church. They have received our productions with their evangelistic content as something totally new, and are discovering that the Gospel is something completely different than national tradition, ecclesiastical ritual, or absurd superstitious customs that replace the saving faith and hide the free gift of Grace! I do not exaggerate when I say that they are introduced into a totally new life.

I will not reproduce verbally their letters as that would require several pages to share them with you. Through simple lines, my purpose is to let you know, again, that age and poor health are not a hindrance to getting up every morning and listening again to that divine calling I first heard as a child, to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus-Christ, in the communion of His Holy Spirit.

This ministry has been carried now for more than ten years thanks to your faithful prayers and your donations. You too, in your own way, share as members of the Church of Jesus-Christ, this essential Ministry.

I hope you will not get involved in a useless debate concerning the choice between *preaching* or *doing*, proclamation or *social assistance*. The one does not hinder the other. On the contrary, the *proclamation* will inspire and sustain the *working*.

Therefore once again, I appeal to you in order to benefit from your faithful assistance and sincere cooperation, in a task which is not just mine, but equally yours in Armenia, through the ministry of **REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE**. Faithfully in the Lord and Savior, we serve together with gratitude, joy and dedication.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. A.R. Kayayan