

CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



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The “velvet revolution” and fighting corruption

Dear friends,

The recent “velvet revolution” which took place in Armenia seems to mark to end of the post-soviet era in this young republic which gained its independence in 1991 amidst very harsh circumstances. The conflict with neighboring Azerbaijan around ownership of the Nagorny Karabagh territory (still under Armenian control) was actually one of the reasons for Armenia’s unilateral declaration of independence twenty seven years ago. This conflict is still a source of threat to the Armenian nation. Young men are sent to the border as soldiers to protect what constitutes an integral part of its historical homeland. However, internal tensions constitute just as dangerous threats to the social cohesion of a tiny and very fragile country, notwithstanding its century long resilience towards adverse situations. The “velvet revolution” has put these tensions in evidence. A strong popular movement mostly directed against corruption of the elites has brought journalist —and former opponent Nikol Pachinian— to the position of Prime Minister (the highest one in the State executive, according to the new constitution).

Criticism has not spared the traditional Armenian Apostolic Church, as M. G. —a listener of our radio broadcast— writes to us: *After the revolution, some clergymen and youth representatives rebelled against the supreme patriarch of all Armenians and their only demand was having “A new Catholicos” [patriarch] in “New Armenia.” The participants expressed their disappointment towards the supreme patriarch’s actions and behavior throughout these years. To be honest I do not know what will be the result of all these protests but I do hope that God will help our political and religious leaders to establish peace, love and tolerance in Armenia. Without going much into details I would like to mention that as a proud citizen of my country and as a believer I do hope that God will always be with our nation and will give wisdom to each of us, citizens, political and religious leaders, to do everything to create a bright future for our lovely country. In order to do this I believe that each person should start from himself or herself because if we really want to change something we should start from ourselves. We should free our hearts from hatred, clean our minds from evil thoughts and be ready to accept the immense love that our Father gives each of us every moment of our life.*

Forthcoming publication of “The Christian in the City.”

Christians for Armenia does not enter into partisan considerations when it comes to commenting current events of the life of Armenia as a state. Still, this does not mean that the Biblical message we bring through our broadcasts and books does not touch on principles concerning the exercise of political and other civil mandates. Quite the contrary, in good Reformed tradition! That is why the forthcoming publication of “The Christian in the City”, by Revs A.R. and E. Kayayan comes at a very providential time, in view of recent political events. Originally written in French and published in 1995, it was augmented

with an insightful study by well known Reformed theologian Paul Wells, and translated into Armenian by our collaborator Ashot Blbulyan. We ask you to pray that the ideas and notions exposed in this book would inspire all Armenians who will read it, especially those in leadership positions. May all ponder seriously about the nature and calling of any God given mandate, and at all times seek first His Kingdom and its righteousness (Matt. 6:33).

Bible translation and next publications

Our New Testament and Psalms translation in modern Eastern Armenian continues to grow. During a recent youth camp organized by the educational Endanik Center (which hosts the activities of our ministry), our translator of the Psalms, Hoveek Thovmasyan, introduced them in a series of talks to the young public. His purpose was to instill among boys and girls a passion for reading the Scriptures, assuring them that they can find Psalms corresponding to their emotions and thoughts, in which God addresses them personally as their Creator and Redeemer. We also rejoice with Hoveek that the Lord provided him with a life companion, Tsovinar, who shares his faith and his enthusiasm for Bible translation: they were married on July 27, in the presence of our faithful collaborators at Endanik, Arthur and Knarik Minasyan.

Once again, we ask that you consider giving to the work of Christians for Armenia. Individual donations can be made by using the PayPal function on our website, www.christiansforarmenia.org.

Thanking you for your prayers and continued support,

The committee for
Christians for Armenia.



Hoveek Thovmasyan, our translator of the Psalms, introduces them to a public of young Armenians



Hoveek and Tsovinar were wedded on 27 July during a beautiful ceremony

Please send your donations to the following address:

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