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**“Praise the Lord for having reached
this significant step!”**

**Approaching the release of the New Testament and Psalms
in Armenian**

Dear friends,

In 2005 Rev Aaron Kayayan, initiator of the ministry of *Christians for Armenia*, realized that the Armenian people were in great need of an accurate translation of the New Testament, based on the original Greek text, that would bring the readers much closer to the meaning of the Spirit in the Word He inspired. Being well conversant with Greek, he undertook to do it himself. It was basically completed when he passed away in 2008. However, despite the quality of his translation, recognized by many initial readers, the fact that it was done in the Western Armenian idiom, and not the Eastern Armenian one (spoken by Armenians living in Armenia, Russia and other neighboring countries such as Georgia) was an obstacle to its diffusion in this particular area. After Rev Kayayan was recalled to the Lord, the committee of *Christians for Armenia* took up the task again, and decided to add the Psalms to the New Testament. It took years before a consistent and well cemented team of Armenian translators and proofreaders could be constituted, working under the administrative supervision of our faithful collaborator in Gyumri, Artur Minasyan. At long last, after several years of very hard work and many rounds of refining the translation in good Eastern-Armenian idiom while remaining faithful to the source text, we have come to the point of sending the completed text of the New Testament and the Psalms to the printer. Praise the Lord for having reached this significant step!

Our goal is to have no less than 5 000 copies printed, at an estimated US\$7 per copy, thus bringing the total printing costs to \$35 000. In order not to delay further this long-awaited publication, the committee of CFA will draw on its reserves but we also are appealing to you, our faithful supporters, for special donations to this project. There is another solid and compelling reason for doing so...

Initiating now the translation of the whole Old Testament

After seriously considering the current situation with our team of translators, and taking into consideration the various challenges we





have faced so far, we have come to the conclusion that we should continue our effort while the solid dynamics of our team work has reached good momentum: we are therefore undertaking to translate the rest of the Old Testament, in order to make all 66 books of the Word of God available to the Armenian public in a faithful and readable translation. Learning from our past experiences, we estimate that it should take between 4 and 5 years to complete this project in good conditions. This being said, we will need to recover progressively the amount advanced now for the printing of our NT & Psalms, in order to ensure the smooth management of our finances during the next 50 months: some US\$120 000 will be needed for the translation and editing of the OT text only. With regard to the use of study footnotes freely provided by Ligonier ministries (coming from their *Reformation Study Bible*) the license granted by them applies only to a publication of the whole Bible (not to parts of it). This motivates us to pursue the translation of the totality of the footnote material - parallel to the Biblical text itself - while most of what concerns the NT has been done.

“We are undertaking to translate the rest of the Old Testament”

A new publication

In the meantime, a new publication produced by our ministry is about the see the light: *Gospel Perspectives* is the translation from French to Armenian of five theological articles on various topics related to evangelization. One of them is a study I wrote on the last verses of Matthew 28 (the Great Commission) that was first published in English in the Reformed theological journal *Unio cum Christo*. Another article presents the life and remarkable achievements of Cyril Lukaris, the Greek Orthodox patriarch of the 17th century who genuinely attempted to reform the Church he belonged to and lead her towards greater faithfulness to Christ. It is hoped that the urgency and correct motivations for evangelizing the nations will be better grasped by Armenian Christians, so that they may not see themselves as a kind of *chosen people* on account of their long history and traditions of Christianity, or because of their sufferings through the centuries, with no accountability before the Lord God and His expressed commandments.

May we all never fall into that same temptation, and may we continue to serve Him with our energy, resources, obedience and humble prayers.

Rev Eric Kayayan

“Gospel Perspectives” is the translation from French to Armenian of five theological articles on evangelization



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