

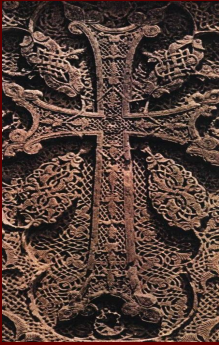
# CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

## REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

### A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2014



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*Without a specific budget in place, we cannot actively begin the work of translation*

Dear friends,

### UKRAINE CRISIS IMPACTS ARMENIA

The uncertain and tense political situation in the Ukraine has real implications for the country of Armenia who, along with several other ex-Soviet states, recently joined a Russian-led customs union. Any sanctions imposed by the United States and the EU will have a grave impact on Armenia, a country already seeing some of its economic sectors slowing down as a result of the Ukraine crisis.

To make matters worse, a new bill proposed by the government of the Russian Federation to the Russian Parliament could seriously affect the population of Armenia. According to this bill, foreigners “of a reproductive age who are well-educated and can adapt well to our culture” are fluent in Russian and used to live in the Soviet Union, could get Russian citizenship in three months merely by passing an interview, refusing their current citizenship, and moving to Russia to live permanently.

With the endemic corruption causing chronic unemployment in Armenia, it is no wonder, then, that some are estimating that 70% of Armenians already living in Russia would renounce their Armenian nationality and that 30% of Armenians living in Armenia would do the same and move to Russia. The ratification of this bill will pose a serious challenge for Armenia and create a demographics crisis in a country experiencing a falling population. The loss of human talent will be devastating. The loss of men to serve in the military and of working-aged people to support an aging population could destroy Armenia’s future.

It is more critical than ever to continue feeding the people of Armenia solid spiritual food. In our December newsletter, we mentioned the project of CFA to translate the New Testament into modern Armenian. It is a long-term project both because of the financial aspect of the work, and because of the difficulty of assembling the right team of scholars who would be fluent both in Greek and Armenian and biblical scholars.

### UPDATE ON NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION

Since then, we have identified a Greek scholar specializing in Koine Greek who teaches New Testament Greek at the Theological Faculty of Yerevan State University and is the chair of the General Linguistics Department. She and her colleagues read, translate and compare Koine with Old Armenian, Latin, Old Latin and Russian. She is also a specialist of Classical Greek, having graduated in Classical languages from the Department of St. Petersburg/Leningrad State University. We have also been granted permission by Ligonier ministries to use the notes from the New Geneva Study Bible, along with the updated Reformation Study Bible notes. By God’s providence, a seemingly impossible project is starting to come together in just a few months.



*Armenian youth commemorates the Genocide on 24 April*

Once more, we urgently appeal to you for designated donations to be given toward this project. Without a specific budget in place, we cannot actively begin the work of translation.

One of our listeners recently expressed the following to us in a letter:

*“God met me with a person who explained to me nearly every Word of the New Testament and I began to understand what it means to be a Christian. I am lucky as I had the opportunity to understand the Bible, but what shall do thousands of people who have no one beside them to answer all their questions? It is a serious problem to ponder upon.”*

We take his question very seriously and pray that a modern New Testament translation accompanied by adequate explanatory notes will provide an answer in Armenia.

### NEW EMPHASIS IN OUR PUBLISHING PROGRAM

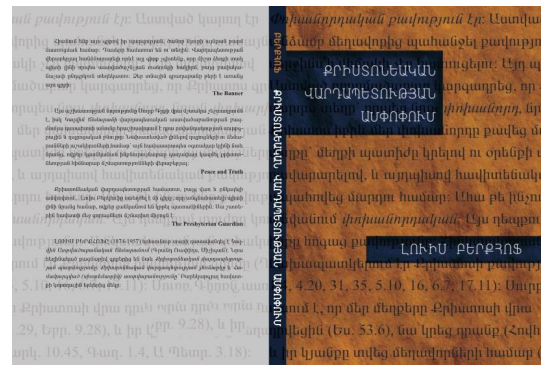
The last book in a series geared toward systematic theology that we have undertaken to translate, A Summary of Christian doctrine by Louis Berkhof, (after the Ursinus commentary on the Heidelberg catechism and Our Reasonable Faith by Herman Bavinck) will soon be printed. As always, we receive many letters thanking us for these solid books. Among these is a letter regarding the recently published Bavinck book:

*“I am deeply impressed by the book of H. Bavinck, and want to express my thanks to Armenian Reformed “Faith and Life” Ministry for giving the readers an opportunity to analyze the belief inside them, for introducing them to books which reflect the light of our Lord. The publication of such books is very important as Armenian believers will have the opportunity to read the books in their mother tongue. I am sure that the book Our Reasonable Faith will be as useful and important for the Armenian readers as it was for me.”*

Our publishing program will now be geared more toward books with a Christian perspective on subjects of cultural relevance as well as books on apologetics. The first book in this vein is a booklet dealing with Biblical sexuality. We have received enthusiastic comments from our team in Armenia regarding the need for this subject, and a request to add more titles relating to Biblical ethics.

We thank you again for your faithful support of our ministry. We ask for your prayers for this ministry and the Armenian people as they face uncertain challenges. Specifically, that the Hope found in Jesus Christ would permeate this people as they face a precarious future.  
In Christ’s service,

The committee for Christians for Armenia



**L. Berkhof’s Summary of Christian Doctrine is about to be published in Armenian**

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Please send your donations to the following address

**REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE**  
**Christians for Armenia**  
**P.O. Box 8208 Kentwood, MI 49508**

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