

Christmas 2009

Dear friends,

As we begin this Advent season, we are reminded again of what the Lord has done for us. He has lifted the darkness veiling our hearts and brought us into His glorious light. It is impossible to have received this gift, to know its peace and joy, and not to share it with those around us. But more than that, God also asks us to share this gift far beyond our borders, to the ends of the earth.

This is where the ministry of Christians for Armenia comes in. And this is where you have faithfully responded to God's calling by supporting our ministry over the years. Not because it is convenient, certainly not because it is trendy, but because you have been moved to help spread the joy of a risen Lord to the ends of the earth; in this case, to a small country called Armenia.

What a testimony to God's providence, that He would use North Americans —most of whom have never set foot in Armenia and have no personal ties to Armenia— to do His work there! It is extraordinary and yet completely in line with the history of redemption and of the Lord's unusual methods to accomplish His will. We are grateful that He has chosen you and us for that task.

In our October newsletter, following our last committee meeting, we reported much about the work of Christians for Armenia. Since then, the book *Theology and Christology* has been published, and the book *Calvin: the Man and the Reformer* is due to be published this month. It is our hope that the CD-rom compiling our 18 published books and 20 magazines will also soon be completed.

As you may already know from being involved with Reformed Faith and Life, Armenia has deep Christian roots. So why make such an effort to bring God's word there? Because, throughout the centuries, these roots have been stripped by a nationalism that has made a lively Christian faith stagnant. More recently, various sects, such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are also fiercely attacking these roots.

These sects, hiding under the guise of Christianity but rejecting its basic beliefs, have no scruples in recruiting and manipulating children to increase their ranks. They are causing much disruption in the schools according to our team in Armenia, including one of the teachers at the Endanik School who calls their actions "a destruction of souls." We believe that only through knowledge of the Word of God and the living Christ can the Armenians come out of their national and personal darkness into His light. Only then will their roots heal and allow the tree to grow strong and stable.

The unstable spiritual condition in Armenia is providing fertile soil for the work of Christians for Armenia. Our broadcasts have motivated members of the Armenian Apostolic Church to organize their own radio programs; nearly all theological and educational institutions in Armenia use the books of Rev. Kayayan as their primary textbooks. Our publications and various cd-roms are distributed to the elderly, the ill, or disabled people who cannot attend church, as well as to prison libraries. Through many letters we learn of the hope and consolation that through our ministry, God's word is bringing to those willing to receive it.

Once again, we ask for your support. Not because it is convenient or trendy, but because you hear God's voice calling you to an unknown people half a world away, with whom you share only one thing: a Creator who gave His only Son to redeem us.

May we all rejoice in glad tidings of comfort and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

In His name,

The Christians for Armenia Committee