

April, 2007

Dear Christian friends,

It is possible that some of you may have heard about the treacherous assassination, last January, of **Hrant Dink**, editor-in-chief of an Armenian daily newspaper in Istanbul, by a 17 year old teenager, who acted under the sponsorship and complicity of an extremist nationalistic and racist Turkish mafia. Hrant was accused of having insulted the *turkishness* and the country's dignity, for openly and courageously speaking of the obligation of the present-day Turkish government to recognize the Genocide of his people in 1915. The whole world has been indignant about this horrible crime and many Turks even have shared in that indignation and horror. I learned that Hrant was an Armenian evangelical Christian, a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Istanbul, and one of its former elders. So, not only was he courageously protesting because of his Armenian national origins, but as a Christian he was also raising his voice and using his pen in the name of justice and the necessary reparation of a horrible crime Turks are responsible for.

As with Armenians all over the world, we again remember during the month of April the 1915 Genocide and we agree that Hrant is one of the victims —the first in the 21st century— of the same genocide. We also pray and rightly expect that some Western power, not exclusively in pursuit of its materialistic or political interests with Turkey, demand from its present-day government the official recognition of **THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**.

From the ministry's side of Reformed Faith and Life I have again very good news to share with you. Most encouraging and rewarding for our efforts.

First, let me mention the publication of a very special *Book of Daily Meditations*. This volume has been conceived in a specially ordered collection of biblical texts centered on essential biblical themes, each ending with a short prayer. It may almost be conceived as a sort of Bible commentary and an elementary introduction to Biblical doctrine.

Until now, all that Armenians have had in this realm is a very famous 9th century meditation-book with a highly mystical and subjectivist content. It is known by the name of its author, Naregatsi (Gregory of NAREG). Unfortunately, it is not accessible to all Armenians as it has not adequately been translated into modern Armenian. Our work compensates for such a lack of biblical devotional material. It adequately familiarizes the believer with the content of the Scriptures. Such a publication is of paramount importance when one considers that it has only been some fifteen years since Armenia was liberated from the atheistic and tyrannical yoke of the Soviet regime.

A soon-to-be-published book will be the *Doctrinal Catechism* for teen-agers. This, too, is a must. As my dear friend and helper in Armenia, Arthur, reminds me, "we work with many schools where we supply our written material and even in the National Church's educational institutions where our Catechism will also be an extremely valuable tool to instruct young people and lead their hearts to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Recently received letters from our broadcast programs, written by readers of our written material, are eloquent witnesses of the necessity of pursuing our ministry, which according to many is a very special kind of its own.

A professor writes that one of our latest publications, *The Divine Revelation*, is a real discovery of what the Christian faith is really all about. "We had no notion of it," she writes, "as under the former Soviet regime we were not allowed to become familiar with Biblical truths. Now we know what we believe and why to believe."

Another correspondent writes: "How happy we are to have come to the knowledge that our sins have been forgiven by the crucified Lord and Savior. Your highly valuable ministry has introduced us to this vital truth and reality. We now know what it means to acquire the true faith and," he adds, "to understand and accept it **TODAY** as it is the requirement of the Word of God, **not to wait for tomorrow.**"

Another writes, "So it is only by Grace and by Faith that we obtain our salvation. Through the reading of the Bible I know that Christ lives in me. I know to be the object of the Love of God. I receive from it my daily spiritual nourishment and can trust my person to His care. Thank you for having helped us to discover such eternal truths."

Another, expressing his gratitude for both the broadcast and the written material, tells that she writes in the name of many others with whom she listens to the broadcast. "Thank you for the vital part you are assuming, standing next to us, helping us in a wonderful manner."

From another listener, "You communicate to us what the Church Universal need to know and grasp, the truths that reveal her essence and her calling. Your messages, I am persuaded, are strengthening the link-fellowship- between you and your listeners and readers."

Dear friends, the Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures are doing what we Reformed people are persuaded they will accomplish in every age, everywhere, and in everyone willing to listen and to obey. Our ministry -ministries- are never in vain, if we ourselves remain faithful to them. If we do not doubt that the same power and efficiency are still available for those who believe in Christ and carry on the task he has entrusted to them.

Let me again thank all of you who share our modest ministry. Your financial support, your perseverant prayers, make it possible. Please continue your Christian fellowship with us. Reformed Faith and Life is *not* the work of a single minister, or even of a committee, but of your ministry. I personally and warmly wish to express my gratitude as I express it to Him who has chosen me, a weak and inadequate member of His Church to carry it on the Armenian soil.

Faithfully yours,

Reverend A.R. Kayayan