

CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015



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***“In Syria, many
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comprise the
population being
persecuted”***

Armenian Genocide Centennial

Dear friends of Christians for Armenia,

On April 24, the worldwide Armenian community along with European countries and the United States will commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenian Christians were exterminated by the Ottoman Turks.

Commemorating the events of 1915 at the Vatican, Pope Francis linked the Armenian Genocide to the current persecution of Assyrian and Coptic Christians. Indeed, this persecution could also be termed a genocide as the extermination of Middle Eastern Christians is being undertaken in a ruthless, systematic way.

“1.5 million Armenians were exterminated by Ottoman Turks in 1915.”

It is not a mere subjugation with the eventual goal of integrating a people for economic gain, but the eradication of an entire people, Christians. At the writing of this letter, another group of Christians, this time Ethiopian, has been executed in order to “extinguish polytheism,” a reference to the Trinity. T.S. Eliot once wrote, “The historical sense involves a perception, not only of the pastness of the past, but of its presence.” As we pause to reflect on the events of 1915, it is not out of a morbid sense of looking back or a feeling of victimhood but out of an urgent sense of the tragic relevance this still holds for us in 2015. *The presence of the past*: in Syria, many Armenians comprise the Christian population being persecuted and driven out of its home...Genocide, again. Is there a solution? How does this concern the work of CFA?

The Endanik Youth Center of Gyumri, where we have our offices and with whom we collaborate closely, was selected by the Armenian Department of Education to hold a series of events called “Silent Witnesses to History” as a commemoration of the genocide.

Listener Letters

A letter from a listener mentions that the motto for the Armenian Genocide Centennial is “I Remember and I Demand.” ‘Demand’ refers of course to acknowledgment of the genocide, (by the Turkish government) but also for justice. At the same time, she correctly writes,

“But we should remember that as real Christians we must always adhere to the precepts of our Lord and always be ready to forgive our debtors. As the book by Rev. Eric Kayayan, *Giving an Account of Hope*, states, the principle of responsibility naturally leads us to the *principle of justice. Justice must be the cornerstone by which public works should be managed.* That is why, let us always be fair-minded and always willing to forgive and seek forgiveness.”

On a different crisis facing the Armenian nation, we received a letter from the Colonel of the Shirak Region Police Department thanking us for having trans-

lated *Truth under Attack*, by Eryl Davis. He had sought assistance in finding a missing girl —thought to have been involved with the Emo cult— from the Endanik School, where he received a copy of the book from our representative, Arthur Minasyan. After a thorough review, his Police Department has decided to adopt the book as a guide. As a result, Endanik will organize a seminar entitled “Believe to Understand” with the participation of police staff, leaders of the city Gyumri and other surrounding towns where they will be exposed to our ministry. He writes, “On behalf of police staff I want to express our gratitude to Mr. Minasyan for assisting police works and for providing such kind of valuable literature to us. We want to express our thanks also to those people who due to their devoted and every day work prepare and publish such kind of spiritual literature.”

The Work of CFA

These are examples of the ways in which the work of CFA seeks to equip Armenians to reflect on their situation, both historical and personal, from a Christian and eternal perspective. Our mission is to fortify Armenian Christians and the church in Armenia, as the only solution to survival amidst hostile Muslim neighbors, against destructive forces such as cults, and against spiritual apathy.

Our regular radio broadcasts and publications of relevant and solid Christian books reach Armenians in Armenia, Georgia, and Nagorno Karabagh. In the past three years, 200 new radio messages written in French by Rev. Eric Kayayan have been translated into Armenian and added to the messages of Rev. Aaron Kayayan. This expanded resource continues to be broadcast on Radio Hay four times a week.

The Bible study on the book of Genesis written by Rev. Mark Vander Hart is currently being translated, with a target publication date of end of June. This will provide an important tool to help people gather together in small group Bible studies, a specific request from our team, which we hope to encourage as we publish additional studies.

Please continue to pray for our ministry, for Armenian Christians and the Armenian Church but most importantly for the persecuted church around the world. We know that in Jesus’ own words, wars and persecution are inevitable, but when one part of the body suffers, the *whole* body suffers. May we continue to preach the Good News about the Kingdom throughout the whole world so that all nations will hear it.

In Christ,

The Committee for Christians for Armenia

“We seek to equip Armenians to reflect on their situation, historical and personal, from a Christian perspective.”



Arthur Minasyan meeting with our French translator and Armenian editor.



Murad Torassian recording messages translated from French into Armenian.

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