

CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



NEWSLETTER
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Dear Christian friends

As Missions Emphasis Week ended this past September, the committee of Christians for Armenia met to plan the work of the coming year. What better way to introduce this newsletter than with the beginning verses of Psalm 96:

“Sing to the Lord, praise his name, proclaim his salvation day after day, declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” We thank God for allowing us to do that, and for allowing us to see these labors bearing fruit.

New translation project

Elected chairman of the committee was Rev. Eric Kayayan, son of the late Rev. Aaron Kayayan. Eric Kayayan is currently the radio-broadcast minister for the French-language ministry of Reformed Faith and Life and we plan to translate his French broadcasts into Armenian, thus adding fresh broadcasts to the current schedule. We hope you will consider allocating a special gift for these new broadcasts, as this would not be part of our regular budget.

We would also like to present to you as a special project the translation of his recent book on Christian ethics and apologetics, *Giving an Account*

of Hope. This could be an invaluable tool to educate and uplift Armenian Christians, whether they are discovering the Christian walk, maturing in their faith, or Christian educators. Originally written for a French audience seeking God in the modern world, it will have much practical application for Armenian readers in their particular society and political context.

A commentary on the Catechism of Heidelberg by one of its writer, sixteenth century theologian Ursinus, is currently being translated from English into Armenian by our full-time translator, and is due to be published in February 2011.

Book on Calvin

The book on John Calvin, published last year, has been received with tremendous interest. Our friend and representative in Armenia, Arthur, reports that after visiting the second largest Evangelical Church in Armenia, in the town of Vanadzor, to present a copy of the book to its minister, he was called by that church the following day with a request for 200 copies for both the book on Calvin and the book *Revelation and the knowledge of Salvation*. These copies will be distributed to clergy, the library of Academy of Theology, and lecturers of theology. This was Rev. Aaron Kayayan’s greatest wish, that the book on John Calvin be distributed as widely as possible. Praise God!

from disabilities, especially the hearing-impaired, using sign-language and other means to spread false teachings.

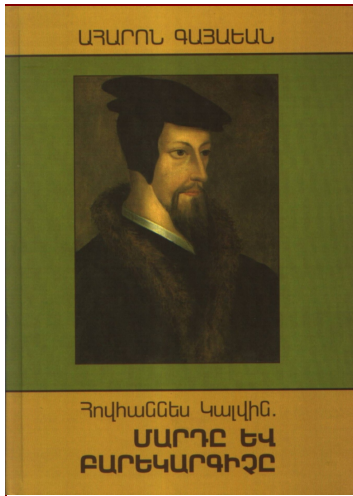
The rise of sects in Armenia

As already noted in previous newsletters, sects are doing much harm to the Christian faith by distorting the truth of Christianity, undermining the traditional Armenian family, and weakening the Armenian state.

Mormons are spreading quickly by spending millions of dollars in the city of Gyumri, devastated by an earthquake in 1988. Convincing the many who have remained destitute to turn away from their Christian faith and to join the sect in order to receive material assistance, Mormons are a powerful entity destabilizing an already fragile nation.

In such a climate, the methodical approach to the study of God’s Word that John Calvin brings can only enhance the Armenian Christian’s life as he or she encounters the Bible and gains an understanding of an orderly God who seeks order within creation, order within nations, order within families, and order within the spirit. As one of our listeners writes, *“It is high time to dispel the mist in our brains.”*

We are receiving many letters of thanks for making available in the Armenian language the life and work of John Calvin. Why would a sixteenth century Frenchman have such an impact on post-communist, twenty-first Century Armenia? Consider that if thirty-five percent of Armenians call themselves Christians, thirty-two percent of Armenians practice paganism. They hold monthly meetings at the pagan temple of Garni, offering oxen sacrifices and engaging in what one of our letter-writers calls “meaningless revelry.” They reach out to those who suffer



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Reactions from listeners and readers

A doctor of psychology working at the Academy of Science in Armenia writes:

“I want to express my deep gratitude to you for publishing journals and books for so many years that have opened new horizons for theologians, faithful Christians, which has helped them deepen their faith and knowledge of God and His truth.”

To finish, we wish to share an extremely moving excerpt of a letter recently received:

“I am one of your constant listeners. It has been many years that the Christians for Armenia radio programs have become a meaningful part of my monotonous life. In moments of disappointment and despair, I listen to the messages of Rev. Kayayan that are filled with the

Holy Spirit. I calm down, renewed with hope and faith. God’s light illuminates my tomorrow and my future.”

Dear friends, through you, your prayers and your gifts, God has been faithful to the Armenian people and to the ministry of Christians for Armenia. He has sustained this work, sometimes steadily, sometimes day by day, and sometimes truly by a miracle. And so we thank you for being his instruments and we ask that you continue to be our partners in the great work of declaring His glory and His marvelous deeds among ALL people.

In His name,

The committee for Christians for Armenia

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In Gyumri, Armenia, our collaborators Ani and Seda are making a list of broadcasts for the next quarter

Christians For Armenia, PO Box 8208 Kentwood, MI 49508, U.S.A.

Tel: +1-616 690-8609 - Email: info@christiansforarmenia.org

www.christiansforarmenia.org