

June 2011

Many years ago, following decades-long service in French radio evangelism to Africa's francophone population, Rev. Aaron Kayayan began to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord to the Armenian people in Armenia. This new ministry began after the fall of the Soviet Union with its militant atheism. He saw the desperate need in Armenia and began to record messages in Armenian, write and translate books, and visit and preach whenever and wherever he was able.

Aaron has gone home to be with our Redeemer, and now the work he began is being continued by the Reformed Faith and Life Armenia committee. We have continued broadcasting his radio messages four times a week, maintained correspondence with listeners, and added to the translated works into Armenian. Work has also begun to have Rev. Eric Kayayan's French radio sermons translated into Armenian and presented by a native speaker.

In May and June Rev. Adam Kaloostian (Ontario URC) and Rev. Movses Janbazian (Pasadena URC) visited Armenia. While there, they met with pastors and teachers in various churches, as well as para-church leaders. They were given many opportunities to teach different groups, and preached in two churches. They returned with mixed news.

The Gospel has gone forth, but as we know from history, errors and false teachers have also gone out with it. The Armenian people have no systematic theological teaching, and distortions have crept in. Many would speak of accepting Jesus, but then giving a purely moralistic testimony of their faith which any Mormon or Roman Catholic would have found acceptable. Others remain convinced that belonging to the Armenian Orthodox Church and practicing its traditions secures their blessed eternal destiny.

Having already been warned from history and previous visits, RFL had already planned to build on the earlier work of our brother. We are pleased to announce an additional tool in this ministry. Two years ago we commissioned a translation of Ursinus' commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism, to complement and aid in the teaching of the Catechism. This work is nearing publication, Lord willing by October, and will be made available in Armenia to teachers in the churches there.

The Pasadena URC has chosen to partner with this work, using technologies unavailable to Rev. Kayayan twenty years ago. They intend to use a professional video-conferencing system to provide live classroom teaching to the teachers as well as to the students in Armenia, working through the Heidelberg Catechism and the Ursinus' commentary, helping to lay the same foundation there that has benefited the Reformed Churches around the world for more than 450 years. We pray that many will want to learn, and hope to print and distribute thousands, even tens of thousands of copies of the Catechism.

We also pray that the live interaction, the ability to ask questions and have them answered immediately will allow us to teach sound doctrine to the people in a way not possible before. And perhaps the Spirit will use His Word to set ablaze a fervent desire

among the Armenians to see Reformed churches established and thriving in their homeland.

We are now engaged in translating Herman Bavinck's "Our Reasonable Faith," which we believe will compliment the Ursinus' commentary on the Heidelberg, and give Armenia a much better foundation for the building of the true Church.

Many of our Federation's churches both in the USA and Canada, as well as other Reformed and Presbyterian denominations have generously supported this work over the years. Your loving prayers and giving has allowed this faithful execution of the Great Commission to take place. We ask you to continue to remember us in your prayers and in your offerings.

The committee of Christians for Armenia