

# CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

## REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



NEWSLETTER  
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## From Armenian history

Dear partners in mission,

In book 9 of his *Church History*, the great historian from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Eusebius of Caesarea, reports as a contemporary event that Maximin Daia, one of the last pagan emperors of Rome, undertook a military campaign against Armenians to bring them back to the old pagan deities which they had worshipped a few years before. This campaign was launched hardly ten years after the Armenian king Tiridates' decision to make his country a Christian nation, thus around the year 310. Eusebius writes,

*In addition to this, the tyrant was troubled with war against the Armenians, people who had been friends and allies of the Romans from early times. But since they were Christians and ardent in their reverence to the Deity, this God-hater tried to make them sacrifice to idols and demons and so turned them from friends into foes, enemies instead of allies. The fact that all these things occurred at the same time completely refuted the tyrant's impudent boasting against the Deity, for he had the gall to proclaim that in his day famine, plague and war were averted by his enthusiasm for the idols and his attacks on us. All of these impacting him at the*

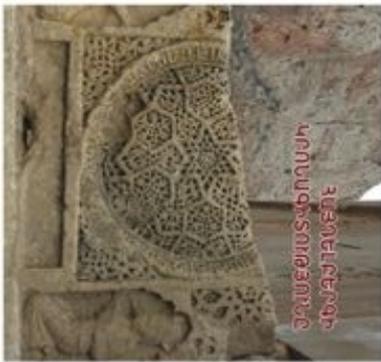
*same time served as prelude to his overthrow. He and his army were worn out by the Armenian war, while people in the cities under his rule were so ravaged by famine and plague that 2500 Attic drachmas were given for a single measure of wheat. Countless numbers died in the cities and even more in the villages and countryside.*

Armenia, therefore, was not only the first nation to adopt Christianity as its religion, but also the very first one to have to defend itself on account of its Christian faith! Despite the scant information we receive from Eusebius about this failed military campaign waged by the Roman emperor of the East, we derive from his account that Armenians fought valiantly to prevent the return of pagan darkness and demonic practices in their midst.

Can one say the same of Armenians today, while neo-paganism and other sects threaten to undo the very social fabric of this small and frail nation?



*Christians for Armenia* is committed to fight the return of pagan and sectarian influence in Armenia via the production of meaningful literature based on the liberating message of the Gospel.



## Excerpts of letters

That we do exercise a definite influence on the religious landscape of Armenia can be seen from the following excerpts of letters received and compiled by our collaborator Ani Avdalyan in Gyumri (the second largest city in Armenia). A teacher of the Armenian language from Echmiadzin (the see of the Armenian Apostolic church, near the capital Erevan) writes the following about our volume on John Calvin, published last year:

*the names such as Darwin as an evolutionist, Michelangelo as a representative of Renaissance, Luther as a theologian, etc. J. Calvin's life and activity is worth praising. Facing many difficulties, he managed to overcome them and become a great Reformer. One thing is clear and undeniable: a human being can't exist without God: "For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Our talent is not our personal property. We owe them to God. And we - readers and listeners of "Reformed Faith and Life" owe much of our religious knowledge to Rev. Kayayan and his working staff.*

An ethnographer from the Academy of Science of Armenia also writes to us:

*Being a worker at the Armenological centre, I want to express my deep gratitude to you for publishing journals and books for so many years which open new horizons for theologians, faithful Christians and make them deepen into faith, know God and His Truth. When you have new publications, please don't forget our centre.*



*Christians for Armenia's latest production was made available shortly before Christmas 2010: a double CD-Rom containing about 500 messages recorded for the radio by the late Rev. A.R. Kayayan*

*It was a fine idea to translate this book into Armenian and publish it as Armenian Christians also have the right to get acquainted with great Reformers. For many Armenian Christians John Calvin's name was unknown before the publication of this book. Though Calvin was a great Reformer and well-known theologian, his name didn't mean anything in spite of*

## New completed project

In addition to individuals, various church groups are interested in using our publications to further train and educate their pastors. Our representative in Armenia, Arthur Minasyan, reports that the respective chairpersons of the Union of Armenian Evangelical churches and the Union of Armenian Evangelical-Baptist churches, as well as leaders of some Pentecostal churches, have requested that we send them at least 50 copies of our various publications.

Christians for Armenia's latest production was made available shortly before Christmas 2010: a double CD-Rom containing about 500 messages recorded for the radio by the late Rev. A.R. Kayayan, as well as some 18 publications (in extenso) produced by our ministry during the last 20 years: in itself a remarkable pool of documents

which can be easily handled and used by anyone interested in deepening his/her understanding of the Christian faith.

Your active support to maintain this ministry and help us to complete our next projects (two translations are currently under way) is crucial if we are to continue: we will only be able to effectively oppose neo-paganism, materialism, and nihilism with the help of dedicated Christians who want to combat with us under the victorious banner of our Lord Jesus-Christ, for whom so many Armenians martyrs gave their lives in the past.

In Christ,

The Committee for Christians for Armenia

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*Our Armenian collaborators in discussion*

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

**Tel: +1-616 690-8609 - Email: [info@christiansforarmenia.org](mailto:info@christiansforarmenia.org)**

**[www.christiansforarmenia.org](http://www.christiansforarmenia.org)**