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Progress on the translation of the Old Testament

Dear friends,

We were quite pleased to hear recently from our team of translators and editors that half the text of the Old Testament has already been translated. This comprises the Psalms that were included in our 2022 edition of the New Testament. Still, even if more difficult books - like Job, Ezekiel or Isaiah - are still due (and that will take some time to complete!) we are confidently moving forward. In the meantime, our editors have gone through a thorough check of the New Testament translation published in 2022 in order to bring about improvements for the sake of increased clarity in Eastern Armenian. Making progress through the Old Testament also means establishing with growing precision a list of cross references between OT and NT. Our chief goal remains to strive towards both faithfulness to the Hebrew text and clarity of idiomatic expression.

Ideally, we would like to include Scripture readings among the radio programs that we broadcast on a weekly basis. Discussing this new project (that will require some additional budget for recording and broadcasting), as well as following up other aspects of the work will be at the core of my forthcoming visit to Armenia, DV between 5 and 12 July. During this visit, I also hope to attend the launch of a book made of 145 translated radio messages (originally in French) that I produced between 1998 and 2014. In future, another 165 such texts could also form a second devotional in the same vein.

Remaining strong in our faith despite hardships

We received the letter below from one of our listeners, originally from the Nagorno-Karabagh. He had to flee from his homeland in 2022, when the whole of Karabagh -a.k.a. Artsakh-, was taken over by Azerbaijan. While reading it, we were once again strongly brought under the conviction that we may not slumber in our efforts to bring God's Word to the people of Armenia. The Gospel is the only Good News that can transcend the severe hardships Armenians are going through, giving them a reason to hope against all hope.





Dear staff of "Faith and Life", your radio programs have become like a family to me. I am Stepan G. from the city of Martuni, Artsakh. I am a teacher. It is difficult for me to speak about the cruel and painful past days that we went through. We saw pain and suffering, hunger and brutal war. Time seemed to stand still and there was no sign of hope. But keeping the pain in our hearts, we remained unbreakable, because the strong Armenian spirit is in us, because we believe that one day the truth and the good shall win and a handful of my land will be freed from the clutches of evil. I pray the Almighty God to strengthen us all and keep the hope and faith of every Armenian strong.

**"We may not slumber
in our efforts to bring
God's Word to the
people of Armenia."**

From time to time I ask myself how we were able to withstand the opposite depression. It seemed that the suffering was insurmountable, impossible to resist. However, every time a feeling of helplessness arose in me, I repeated your message to hope against depression. It helped me to calm down, to hope in the liberating God who defeated all the forces of death and darkness in the person of Jesus Christ.

How can we have hope when we understand the effects of depression on our mental world and our nervous system? I agree with you that some kind of entertainment, if healthy, can rebalance some depressive tendencies. It is indeed necessary to treat depression with the help of different methods. But in all this, the most important healing power was given by Jesus Christ with his Grace. I wish you health and happiness. May God bless and protect all of us.

"To hope in the liberating God who defeated all the forces of death and darkness in the person of Jesus Christ": this is the very message of Easter, that we receive from the mouth of an Armenian who lost every possession he had and now lives somewhere as a refugee. May we be humbled and resilient amidst personal trials, knowing that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom 8.37).



**« In Spirit and in Truth » : a devotional made
of 145 messages translated from French, will
be released in a few weeks**

Warmly in Christ,

Rev Eric Kayayan

On behalf of the committee of Christians for Armenia

Please send your donations to the following address :

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