



# Trumpet's Sound

---

49<sup>th</sup> year, Australia  
MARCH - APRIL 2018



"Trumpet's Sound" is a bi-monthly publication of the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church in Sydney, Australia.

Editor - Pastor Harry Hratsh Kiujian

### Contact Address:

ACM AUSTRALIA  
PO BOX 1593,  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057  
EMAIL: [hkiujian@acmaust.org](mailto:hkiujian@acmaust.org)  
URL: [www.acmaust.org](http://www.acmaust.org)

## In this issue...

Obeying God . . . . . 3  
*Pastor Harry Kiujian*

Let's not lie to one another . . . . 4  
*Vartan Sarkissian*

How to be a godly leader . . . . . 7  
*George Hawke*

We are created for His  
pleasure (2) . . . . . 9  
*Pastor Raffi Chaparian*

Jesus appears to His disciples . 12  
*Don Stormer*

News from the office . . . . . 15  
*ACM team*

Cover photo: "Tatev Monastery", Photo by  
ACM team 2017.



## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for our next container (number 18) being shipped to Armenia from Australia
- Pray for our many sick and for the support we need in helping them
- Pray for our food distribution in Musaler and Vanadzor
- Pray for the many children and the youth being reached with the Gospel
- Pray for our co-workers and their families
- Pray for the Bible study group in Etchmyazin and the need for larger premises
- Pray that ACM's new Gospel Chapel in Gyumri will be used to glorify the Lord
- Rejoice as we celebrate our 20th anniversary

*The next mission team will depart in August – if you wish to join, please contact us: [info@acmaust.org](mailto:info@acmaust.org)*

*The costs of the publication are covered by the gifts of believers,  
who donate out of the generosity of their hearts.*

## **Obeying God**

**O**ne of the most difficult things for all humans to learn is obedience. Obedience is for children, for teenagers and adults, and for presidents and kings alike, but we all struggle with it.

*I remember my son was only 10 when he asked me until what age he was supposed to obey me. I replied that Isaac was a grown man with a beard when he obeyed his father's wish about finding a wife for himself. He accepted his father's instructions.*

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth (Ephesians 6:1-30).*

*The prodigal son did not obey his father. He wanted his inheritance so he could spend it as he pleased, but he came back soon after he has lost it all, repenting for his disobedience and asking his father to have him as a servant in the house.*

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).*

*Jonah was a prophet but is remembered as one who disobeyed God. Would you like to be remembered as a person who disobeyed God? Jonah knew that Nineveh was a place with wicked people who did not deserve God's mercy. He wanted to see Nineveh destroyed but God planned for their salvation. However, Jonah bought his ticket, took a ship and ran away from God's presence, but the Lord ordered a great fish to swallow him. For three days Jonah was in darkness: three days to think about rejecting God's will, three days for his hardened heart to soften. At the end he repented and obeyed God. The clouds obeyed, the storms obeyed, the waves obeyed, the seamen obeyed, and the fish obeyed, but Jonah disobeyed.*

*I think the life of every individual parallels Jonah's experience. God calls us, but we rebel. We search for everything in life except God, until*

we come to a point where we are so low that we finally recognise our inability and come to the conclusion that salvation is from the Lord.

If you haven't read the book of Jonah I strongly recommend you to do so. You will realize how compassionate and loving our God is. He is the supreme God above all. How much we should learn to be obedient to Him and His ways and teaching.

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22).

Will you obey him today? Salvation will be yours.

HK

## ***Let's not lie to one another***

*"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another"  
(Ephesians 4:25)*

**T**here are two words in this verse that attracted my attention; the first is "truth" and the second "another". This command was written by Paul to the church, that is, people who accepted the Lord Jesus. The believer does not have the right to speak lies, and Paul explains why: because we are members of one another. This is the most important reason not to lie. When we accepted the Lord we became members of the body of Christ, and as the members of the body we are in need of each other's care, protection, and help. The person who states that he does not need anyone has actually not perceived what the church really is.

Christ is the head of the church, the head of the body, and we are His members. It would be very pitiful for the eye to speak lies to other members of the body. Imagine, if the eye does not speak the truth to the leg, when he, being placed on the top of the body, sees the danger



*ahead and does not convey the truth to the leg. What would happen? The leg would slip and be hurt. We need to emphasise that the chance that the eye would also be injured is high. The same thing happens when we lie to one another. We harm our brothers or sisters, but we also harm ourselves.*

*It would be a calamity if the hand tried to cheat the mouth. What a pitiful scene if the hand holds the spoon, and the mouth opens wide to receive the food, but at the last moment the hand withdraws! Sometimes we see this kind of scene in churches when we deceive each other, or at least don't tell the whole truth to each other. When we lie to one another, in reality we do not realise that besides hurting ourselves or the member lied to, we are damaging the entire body as well. This is why Paul attaches a reason to the command not to lie: because we are members of one another.*

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). For lying is surely a work of darkness, but we have been called out of darkness.*

*We are members of one body, and also soldiers serving in one army, and Christ is our chief commander. How terrible it would be when soldiers or officers deceive each other on the battlefield. Victory is a long way off for such armies.*

*Lying is not only shameful to us, but also a stumbling block to unbelievers and a danger to Christ's body.*

*In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira were severely punished for lying. Was the punishment so severe, because they lied to the apostle Peter? Is it all right to lie to ordinary believers? Is it a great sin if we lie to pastors and spiritual leaders, but not as great when we lie to other believers? No, dear friend, the command is crystal clear and so is the reason.*

*This brings us to our last point. How shameful it is to hear unbelievers point out that this or that brother or sister is a liar. If this command forbids lying to believers, does it permit lying to unbelievers? Of course*

*not. Let us remember the words of the Lord Jesus, when He said "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil" (Matthew 5:37).*

*Lying is the work of the flesh and the character of the people who don't know God. "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). So let us live in the light and be worthy of the calling with which God calls us.*

*Vartan Sarkissian*

*"Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment." (Proverbs 12:19)*

*"These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace." (Zechariah 8:16)*

*"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight." (Proverbs 12:22)*

*"For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light." (Luke 8:17)*

*"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12)*

*"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." (Colossians 3:9-10)*

## ***How to be a godly leader***

**I**n many countries there is a planned sequence of things to do when assisting a person suffering a sudden illness or injury. This is needed when giving assistance to a person suffering a sudden illness or injury. The first thing to do is to ensure that the area is safe for yourself, others and the patient. Make sure you don't put yourself in danger when going to assist another person. We need to protect ourselves from danger, so we can help the patient. This principle also applies to Christian (or church) leadership. Leaders need to cultivate and protect their spiritual lives, so they can lead others.

### ***Watch yourself***

In the context of false teachers, Paul told the elders of the church at Ephesus, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers" (Acts 20:28 NIV). They were to be mindful of their own spiritual condition. Unless they were living in fellowship with the Lord, they could not expect to be spiritual guides in the church. For example, their minds had to be fixed firmly on Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:1-3).

And Paul told Timothy, "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers (from false teachings)" (1 Timothy 4:16). Timothy had to have his own spiritual life in order before he could help those who were being influenced by false teachers. He was to be a godly example to others as he preached and taught from the Bible (1 Timothy 4:7, 12-13). An example of such godly behaviour is Paul's self-control (1 Corinthians 10:24-27).

Leaders go ahead of their followers. When I am leading people on a hike in a National Park, I have walked the route before and I walk in front to ensure our safety. This may mean clearing obstacles from the path or choosing the best route or warning of hazards. It would be risky to lead from the rear, because it would mean that others would

*face dangers before the leader! Clearly, leaders should lead and others should follow.*

### **Prayer and Bible reading**

*A biblical example of godly leadership is the twelve apostles who led the early church in Jerusalem by overseeing the spiritual teaching and the care of the needy (Acts 6:1-6). When the care of the needy became more onerous, they delegated it to seven men, so the leaders could concentrate on “prayer and the ministry of the word (Bible)” (Acts 6:4). Their core activities were to be prayer and teaching God’s Word. They were to be men of prayer and God’s Word, just as Jesus was. And they were to put God’s Word into practice in their daily lives.*

*The scout’s motto is “Be prepared”. This means being ready to deal with the events of life. Similarly, godly leaders are prepared for spiritual growth by regular prayer and Bible reading.*

*And there is a minimum daily requirement of vitamins to ensure good health. Similarly, the minimum requirement for godly leadership is a daily prayer calendar (list) and a daily Bible reading.*

*This is an example for Christian (or church) leaders to follow today as well. The leaders (or elders) set the spiritual tone of a church or group. They need to have their lives in order by being people of prayer and God’s Word. These are core aspects of our spiritual life. That’s where they receive power and guidance. They must faithfully participate in daily prayer and Bible reading. These are the basic resources for shepherding people by feeding, correcting, encouraging and counselling them. And the Bible is the final authority for decision making.*

### **Lessons for us**

*There are many types of leaders today. Some are good, and some have deficiencies. Let’s use the key resources which God has given us (prayer and His message in the Bible) to be godly leaders. Godly leaders pray regularly. And godly leaders read the Bible regularly.*

### **A godly leader is worth following**

*These core characteristics are necessary, but not sufficient for godly*



leadership. The other desirable characteristics for godly leadership are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. These relate to a person's temperament, interpersonal relationships, reputation, spiritual life, family life, and personal habits.

George Hawke  
([www.georgesjournal.net](http://www.georgesjournal.net))



## ***We are created for His pleasure (2)***

***Ephesians 2:10***

**W**e saw in the previous article that the Bible is very clear about the purpose of God's creation. God created all that He did for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11). God takes pleasure in His creation, yes, even in nature. Psalm 19 says that the heavens declare God's glory. So, God takes pleasure in His creation because it, nature, declares His glory. We also saw that God created man for His pleasure.

Although, man was created for God's pleasure, man sinned and fell short of His glory (Romans 3:23). God does not take pleasure in the sinful and fallen state of man. For that reason, Jesus said to Nicodemus that he needed to be born again (John 3:3) meaning that man, at present in a fallen state, must be created anew through Jesus. God must create a new person in fallen man who, because of sin, has been destroyed spiritually, has fallen short of God's glory, and no longer gives pleasure to God.

This new creation in a man, the new birth, can only be done through Jesus Christ when a person acknowledges his or her sinfulness and believes in Christ for salvation. At that time, the person will be created anew in Christ Jesus not only for God's pleasure, but also to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).

Notice that the verse says we are created in Christ Jesus! Remember that all things were created through Jesus and for Him (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16). Clearly, the creation was through Jesus, the Word of God (Genesis 1:3, 6).

However, there is a more specific purpose for someone who is born again and created anew for salvation because of the person and work of Jesus Christ. When we believe in Jesus and know who He is, the Bible states there is a specific purpose for which we are created, namely for good works.

Let's be very clear. We are not saved through good works, but we are saved to do good works. Therefore, the person who is created anew in Christ Jesus (born again, which means saved) will do good works.

First, we must realise that we are not doing good works in our own strength. In fact, God is not pleased with our works, because even the best we do is not pleasing to Him (Isaiah 64:6). Rather, we are created to walk in the path of good works that God has planned. In other words, when God created us anew in Christ Jesus, He also put us on the path He has planned for us. Therefore, we need to obey and walk in the path of good works that He has prepared for us. As we continue walking the path of good works (obeying the Bible) for which we were created, God will ensure that we complete the pathway (Philippians 1:6).

God did not save us just to rescue us from hell, but to do good works:

- Because of sin, God's image in us was spoiled. When He brought us back, it was to restore His image in us. Therefore, we ought to reflect His character and goodness to the world (Matthew 5:16; Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:24).
- Also, the Bible teaches that Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches (John 15:5). Therefore, as the Lord works in us, He will produce in us good works, which the Bible also calls the fruit of the spirit (the result of being saved and having the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23).

- *Good works is not a set of things we ought to be doing. I am not minimising the things we often think about with good works, such as praying, attending church, tithing, serving in a ministry, caring for the poor, or loving our neighbour. Doing good works is more than just having a "to do" list; it is not a list, but a lifestyle. Paul is not writing to us to follow a "to do" list, but to follow the lifestyle God plans for us (Romans 12:1).*
- *Finally, the good works God desires us to walk in means a change to a godly lifestyle. This is not the life we lived before we were saved, but one that is rooted in Jesus, and reflects God's image. It is impossible for a saved person not to be changed. God changes people for His purpose, to reflect His character and goodness in the world (James 2:26). Therefore, if a person's life is not changed, and is not continually growing, that person is not grounded in Christ. However, if a person has a changed life and is continually growing, he or she is abiding in Christ, and the growth will be evident (John 15:4; 1 Timothy 4:15).*

*Do you abide in the Vine? Are you grounded in Jesus? Are you saved for good works? If so, there must be a changed lifestyle!*

*Raffi Chaparian*



## **Timeless quotes from Billy Graham**

---

I am not going to Heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I'm going to Heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: "Lord, remember me".

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.

## ***Jesus appears to His disciples***

***(John 20:19-23)***

**T**hat evening ten of the twelve were together when the Lord appeared to them.

Jesus entered the room where they were. His body, a resurrection body, was not subject to the limitations experienced by our human bodies. He could move freely through closed doors. So He stood in their midst and said 'Peace be with you'. This Hebrew greeting meant more than a wish that those being greeted would avoid conflict or not experience stress; it meant well-being in the widest sense. Because the Lord had risen, there could at last be true peace in the hearts of men and women who followed Him.

The Lord then showed the disciples His hands and His side. This was conclusive evidence that He had been raised to life, that the one who stood before them was the same one they had followed from Galilee to Jerusalem. No further evidence was necessary that the Lord had risen. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

But there was work for the disciples to do. They had learned from Him over the previous three years. Now they were to go forth to witness for Him. He sent them as the Father had sent Him. What did the Lord mean? There were aspects of the way in which the Lord was sent that are vastly different from the way in which the disciples were being sent. He was sent to accomplish redemption. He came as the Lamb of God to take away our sin. We can never do that. In any case, that work has been done once; it had been completed for all time.

But there are very definite ways in which we are sent as the Father sent the Son. He was sent to do the will of God. He came and He did the will of God without questioning why He was here. It is also our responsibility to be obedient to the Father. The Lord Jesus came to a world that hated God and therefore He was despised by men. If we are sent as the Son was sent we can also expect to be rejected by a

world that hates God. The Lord said that if the world hated Him it would hate us as well. We are sent to bear reproach for the name of Christ.

Then the Lord breathed on the disciples and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. Some have seen a conflict between these words and the fact that the coming of the Holy Spirit did not occur for another 50 days. Were there two comings of the Holy Spirit? No. It is best to think of the Lord's action here as a preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. This was, in effect, a promise that the Holy Spirit would come and empower them in their service for God.

Theirs was now a task to preach the gospel. But what does it mean when we read that sins are forgiven or sins are retained? What it cannot mean is that any man on earth has the power to forgive sins. That is the prerogative of God alone. Nor can we withhold forgiveness from anyone who truly repents. The loosing from or the binding of sin is the effect of the preaching of the gospel. As we preach, some respond in faith and are loosed from their sins. Others refuse to believe and their sins are retained. Forgiveness or the withholding of forgiveness is the responsibility of God Himself, but we are able to say to the repentant sinner that on the authority of God's Word his sins have been forgiven. We can also say to the unrepentant person that he is still in his sin

### ***Jesus Appears to Thomas: 24-29***

Thomas was missing the first Lord's Day. But he was there on the second occasion.

We are not told a great amount about Thomas. He appears as a pessimistic disciple in chapter 11:16 where his comment on the Lord's decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go that we may die with Him'. He was the one who said in 14:5 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way'.

The action he now took has labelled him since then as doubting Thomas. We may ask why he was not with the other disciples on the first Lord's Day. Was he afraid of being killed by the religious leaders?



*What had happened to the man who said 'Let us also go that we may die with Him'? Was he more despondent than any of the others? We do not know; they were also despondent and perplexed. The two who walked to Emmaus were deeply troubled but that had not stopped them being in the company of other disciples on the resurrection day. Whatever the reason, Thomas was not there when the Lord appeared to the other disciples and therefore he remained in his dilemma of unbelief an extra week.*

*At some stage during that week the other disciples met Thomas with the joyful news. 'We have seen the Lord!' His response was unbelief. Surely he had heard, as the two travellers to Emmaus had heard, that some of the women claimed to have seen the Lord. But Thomas needed concrete evidence. Unless he could see the nail marks in the Lord's hands and put his finger where the nails had been driven, he would not believe. He also insisted that he needed to put his hand into the Lord's side in order to believe. In fact, Thomas' negative was very strong; I will never believe.*

*Thomas was with the other disciples the next Lord's Day. Again the Lord entered the locked room and greeted His disciples. Then He turned to Thomas, knowing exactly what he had said during the week and invited Thomas to do exactly what he had said would be necessary for him to believe. In this the Lord showed His deity. No one had seen the Lord during the week to report what Thomas had said. He knew without having to be told.*

*We are not told that Thomas accepted the Lord's invitation to touch His wounds, but it is very unlikely that Thomas would have behaved so crassly. The Lord knew the thoughts of his heart and was willing for him to touch His wounds. That was enough for Thomas; he believed.*

*Thomas recognised the Lord Jesus for who He was. His exclamation, my Lord and my God, showed that he believed that Jesus was God. Both titles were used by the Jews in their worship of God. Any doubts that Thomas had had now were past forever. He had seen the Lord and was convinced of His deity and that He was alive.*

*When Simon Peter uttered his great confession of faith, "You are*

the Christ, the Son of the living God", the Lord had said "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven:" No such statement was made to Thomas, though there can be no doubt that he was blessed as he confessed that Jesus was his Lord and God. Rather, there is a blessing for those who, unlike Thomas, have not seen the risen Lord physically but who believe that He is the Son of God, that He is my Lord and my God.

What do we learn from this incident in the life of Thomas? The Christian life is a life of faith. We begin the Christian life by faith and we continue in the same way. Hebrews 11 tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. We are to continually exercise faith; we trust in God at all times.

Don Stormer

## **News from the office**

**A**rmenian Christian Mission Incorporated (ACM Inc.) is celebrating 20 years of taking the Gospel to the poorest of the poor in Armenia. As we move into our 21st year we rejoice in what God has done, and are blessed to see His mighty work.

ACM had a humble beginning with no plans or visions of any kind, but soon the Lord took control and led us into the future. It all started with one visit, but the Lord had other things in mind. We are blessed to be His instruments. We have been encouraged by the support and prayers of the many organisations, churches and believers around the world, who support us in prayer and financially, and by visiting to see the work first hand. Mission is God at work, and we are eye witnesses of this unique ministry. Here is a brief picture of our journey.

ACM today is registered as a humanitarian organisation in Australia, Armenia and the USA. In total we have 13 directors.

Our first calling was to support and help to establish Child Evan-

gelism Fellowship (CEF) in Armenia. After that we started a family support project with people sponsoring needy families each month. Medical assistance became an important need and winter heat was one of the major needs. With so many families in our care, children and youth were looked after next. Today we run two youth meetings and children's activities in different villages.

We also distribute Bibles and print and publish Christian literature and the Trumpet Sound Magazine to 58 churches in Armenia and world-wide in three languages.

Sending containers with aid is also important – this year we are sending Container 18. Donated goods from Australia help the poorest of the poor in Armenia, together with the influx of refugees from Syria.

The Lord has also given us a school property that needs a major upgrading and a small chapel in Gyumri to be used for His glory.

Please join us with your prayers as we come to thank the Lord for the wonderful work He is doing in Armenia. Yes your prayers and support is much needed as our ministry is growing in Him.

ACM Board



ACM and CEF co-workers with their families outside our new chapel in Gyumri, 2017.