



Trumpet's Sound

51th year, Australia

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

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Please pray for

- the many refugees in Armenia
- the mourners
- the wounded
- the deprived children
- the widows and the orphans
- the weekly distribution of food and clothing
- all those suffering with the pandemic
- the country to enjoy rest
- the people to find peace
- wisdom for the government

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ACM

Cover photo: Artsakh war, October 2020

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Artsakh

Who can understand my pain?

I walked the streets, spent nights with them, drank their water, and ate their food. I laughed with the youth and cried with the old. I prayed with them and worshipped God with them. I understand what it means to walk away from one's home land, to leave your house behind with every memory that you have created.

This wound is open, it is deep, and the scars are going to be permanent. The people are mourning, crying, protesting that this should not have happened. They are asking if there is anyone who can understand their pain. They hurt day and night; can anyone help? They have lost their hope, lost their joy, and lost their peace. They are angry, hurt, and feel betrayed.

Yet God loves all human beings. He loves you and His tears are for you today. Only He understands, only He cares, only He can wipe your tears away. He will do this if you only go to Him and rest, stay by His side, and let Him hug you and comfort you. Go and tell Him about your hurt, show Him the wounds and He will show you His, and with a calm voice will say to you "I understand".

You know if you do not take care of this wound it will get infected and cause you serious problems. Take everything to the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to heal you and take the hurt away. Only Jesus can do this, only He can comfort and heal the broken hearted, only He can restore and make you well again, physically and spiritually.

The choice is yours, to either keep looking at your wounds and let the pain destroy your day, or to wrap up your troubles and take them to Him. Leave them at His feet and let Him deal with them.

The most beautiful word Jesus spoke to His disciples prior His ascension was "My peace I give unto you". This is the cure you need; it is Jesus in your heart. You need His peace for your wounds to be healed and your heart mended. When you learn to let go of your hurt and

hate, the joy will come in and soon you will sing a new song for the old will have gone and all things will be new.

It was for this that Jesus came. He came so that we may have life and have it to the full. Now get up, go and seek His cleansing. Then we will be victorious because our victory is in Christ.

HK

14,000 km

14,000 km from here, there is a war. Azerbaijan has attacked the Armenian people who live in Artsakh (also known as Nagorno-Karabagh).

In 2006 and 2007, I had the privilege of spending some weeks in this beautiful place, meeting its people, spending time in the villages, playing with the local children and teaching them the Bible and the sure hope of eternal life in Jesus.

Now, with each day, I hear news of the recent conflict. I am devastated for these people, for the children I met all those years ago – many of whom are now at an age where they would be signing up to defend their homes and families and land – land where they have lived for longer than those who seek it by force.

Yesterday, the NSW Legislative Assembly recognised the independence of the Republic of Artsakh, 61:2. The motion also condemned the current attacks by Azerbaijan and Turkey against the indigenous Armenians of Artsakh. I am so thankful to our state government for recognising these injustices.

Yet the conflict continues.

War is a great thief – it takes lives, and leaves us with the memory of the horrors we are capable of. It exposes us to humanity's terrifying capacity for evil and reminds us of the fragility of life, and the heart-ache of death.

I am praying for peace, justice and an end to this war. But there is no promise in this life that those can be achieved. Human wisdom is so flawed and finite that even the very best of minds and hearts cannot bring perfect justice to this terrible situation. Because even if the bombs stop, and the guns are stood down, there is still the dead to bury. And who will give them justice?

There is only one who can. It is He who not only died, but rose again to life. Because it's only the perfect Son of God, Jesus Christ who can bring lasting justice and peace.

It is a justice that is sure and true – that cannot be bought off, or manipulated, or silenced. It is a justice that cuts every soul to its core and exposes each of our hearts for what they are. It's a terrible, perfect justice. It is justice I would not want to face, because I know my heart is a deep well of sin: often selfish, angry and hateful.

And there is a peace too. A peace that surpasses this war, this life and its death. It's a peace with God the Father. And it's a peace available to every man, woman and child in this world – for all who turn to Christ as Lord.

So I pray for God's justice – because it is right. And I pray for God's mercy – because without it, I am as guilty as the next. And I pray for peace – that every man, woman and child on either side of this conflict, would know the lasting peace of God the Father through the mercy he shows us through his Son. Because 2000 years ago, in the greatest war crime this world has ever seen, mankind exposed the depths of our sinful hearts when we turned away from God and killed his Son. And God let it happen – not because He was powerless, but because by this greatest evil, we might know the greatest peace with our eternal God.

So, if you pray – pray for peace, justice and an end to this war – that more countries will follow the lead of our NSW parliament and other nations who have also condemned the injustices committed against the people of Artsakh. Pray also for those involved – that they would each know the eternal peace of God in Jesus.

Talar Khatchoyan

The saddest autumn of our generation

September 27, 2020, seemed to be one of the regular days of the year. But... The accompanying peace turned into tragedy, the smile turned into crying, the joy into sadness, the child's carelessness into fear and horror, the anxiety of losing a loved one...

A war that seems endless and unsolvable... Another war started against the Armenian nation, the Armenians of Armenia and Artsakh. Another terrorist act of the enemy with an insidious plan to destroy the Armenian nation and annihilate it from the face of the earth.

The Armenians of Armenia and Artsakh Republic have suffered human, economic and financial losses. The death toll has exceeded 4,000, and many families have lost their homes, their fathers and sons. Most schools and kindergartens have been destroyed, and hospitals and maternity hospitals have been bombed beyond human comprehension. The practice of atheist terrorists.

Armenians from different parts of the world united to do their best. Armenian diaspora, state institutions, organizations, foundations, individuals were gathered around one issue: to support soldiers fighting on the front lines, to take care of displaced mothers, children and the elderly who had taken refuge in Armenia. And most importantly, the Christian brothers and sisters came together to raise their prayers to God.

The Armenian Christian Mission Inc. also extended a helping hand to state institutions and to Armenians of Artsakh who asked for help. To date, more than five thousand Armenian families from Artsakh have applied to us for assistance. We have provided warm clothes for adults and babies, knitted blankets, food, school supplies and other necessary goods. We have donated Bibles and Christian literature to those who wanted them. We have been by their side with the great privilege of sharing the abundance of God's peace, love, mercy, and care.

Many women and mothers, especially in the early stages of the war, needed great psychological support, because they were in a state of

anxiety and uncertainty because of to lack of news from their husbands, sons and brothers. They eagerly and anxiously followed the media to get information about their relatives and apartments. Many people came and said anxiously that they had lost their apartments, their lands. They spoke about the dead brothers and fathers. The children refused to take toys and play, saying that they only wanted to see and hug their fathers. In a group of children, the normal course of physiological-age development was disrupted because of the effects of fear. Many grandparents, unable to bear this great pain, have passed away.

On November 10, 2020, a peace treaty was signed which shocked Armenians all over the world. Surrender the lands occupied by the enemy. Many Artsakhis had to leave their homes, lands and homeland. Many burned their homes with their own hands. Many historical and cultural buildings and churches remained on the Azerbaijani side.

The pain is great, there are many unanswered questions, many Armenians have not been found yet, parents and relatives do not know if they are alive or if they died for the Motherland. The political arena is boiling...

The solution seems impossible. Impossible for man, but not for God. Our God is great, merciful, kind and impartial, there is a great need for continuous prayers. It is necessary to pray a lot, to pray for true peace, for the salvation of souls, to trust in God more than ever. May God be our help.

The Lord has consolation, hope, promise, love, mercy, grace... Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy" (Jeremiah 31:16).

Angela Harutyunyan



From all of us at Trumpet Sound we wish you a Merry and a blessed Christmas, and a Happy, and a prosperous New year.

The People Gathered

Read Nehemiah 8:1-10

This year 2020 is a very significant year for me. Ten years earlier I first set foot in Armenia. Since then, I have been back on several occasions. Our visits included the disputed territory of Artsakh or Nagorno-Karabakh, our destination on several occasions over the last ten years.

Unfortunately, since late September this year, the politically tense situation between Karabakh and neighbouring Azerbaijan erupted into what has become a full-blown war. We were meant to be there at this moment on another of our mission trips. We are all aware of how COVID-19 has affected the whole world. In all this, the Lord has graciously enabled us to continue in fellowship and prayer with our dear ones in Christ through the various platforms easily available to us through the internet.

Nehemiah lamented for his own country and people. He was led to go back and build the wall in Jerusalem. The Lord indeed gave him the desire of his heart. The Lord was with Nehemiah from the very beginning even as his God-given reply to the king touched the heart of the heathen ruler.

Read Nehemiah 2:4-5

Although Nehemiah is successful in building the wall, the purpose of his return is to turn the hearts of the people to their God. In this text, the wall is complete, but the building up of God's people for His glory is the focus and so they, first of all, gather as one.

One man

Read Nehemiah 8:1

Nehemiah means 'Jehovah comforts', a very relevant and timely reminder as we all need the comfort of Jehovah. The emphasis is on unity. The desire of the Lord for His people is clear.

Ephesians 4:3-6 teaches that after the Lord died, rose again, and re-

turned to the presence of the Father, the people were waiting in anticipation for His promise. They did this by uniting their hearts in prayer.

Acts 1:14 says “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication”. The coming together as “one man” continued after Pentecost.

Acts 2:46-47 teach that the disciples continued “daily with one accord in the temple”. One accord implies a unanimous union with one mind and passion. This word which most frequently appears in the book of Acts is a clear reminder that even as our hearts are burdened for our people and nation, we come as Ezra, Nehemiah and the people did; to seek the face and favour of the eternal God. See also Acts 4:24, 31)

One book

Read Nehemiah 8:2-5

The spoken word of God from the beginning now became the written word. It is passed on from Moses to Joshua.

Joshua 1:8 reads “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”. The Lord God has preserved His word. Although the children of Israel strayed from their God and lost sight of the eternal truth, later on after many years, the book of the law is discovered during the reign of Josiah.

2 Kings 22:8-13 records the re-discovery of the book of the law. Ezra has the unique joy to read and proclaim the eternal God from the same book.

One vocation

Nehemiah 8:6 tells us that “Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground”. This is the one high calling and vocation of every

child of God. To worship and serve the eternal God. The desire of the evil one is to draw our attention away from the centrality of the Living God. We see this in the form of anger, frustration, back-biting and even revenge. Unfortunately, in some instances, our attitude and reaction to war, disaster and the pandemic have amounted to rank unbelief!

This is what the devil attempted with the very Son of God. Luke 4:6-8 says "the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." The Lord Jesus uses worship and serve in His reply to the devil and interestingly the word serve also implies worship.

One message

Nehemiah 8:7-8 speaks about those who read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. Ezra read the same book with the same one message and as the word was read, the understanding was given by the Spirit of God through the men of God.

The message is proclaimed from the pulpit (Nehemiah 8:4), a word that is used only once in the Bible, essentially referring to a tower-like structure made of wood, and as this word is spoken, the people would hear and be moved. What an honourable task!

One true God

Nehemiah 8:9-10 speaks about the effect of the Word of God on the people. This was the one message of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This was the God of Moses who revealed Himself as "I AM" (Exodus 3:13-15). He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One hope

The people are summoned not to weep or mourn, but to rejoice in the hope they have in this one true God. Some of the places that we once visited in Artsakh are in ruins.

Our desire to see re-building and restoration may be similar to Nehemiah's desire. However our calling and mandate as the people of God does not change. We are to bear the image of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We have a godly life to live, a message to proclaim, a gospel to preach, a mission denied even to the angels at this moment. As we continue to labour, may the joy of the Lord be our strength!

Let us remember that "whatever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Dr Daniel James

War

Yesterday's news was a hard pill to swallow. It made me ask God questions just as David did. Why? Why did this war end like this? Why do the wicked prosper, while the just suffer?

It was very early in the morning while still in bed when I received the answer to my questions. I do not claim that I heard a voice but I had a whisper in my heart that made me think and review my prayer points.

My prayer was (1) for an end to the war, (2) for peace, and (3) for wisdom from above for our leaders. Further, I prayed that (4) hearts of stone would be crushed and that leaders would not insist on pride, but govern wisely for the people, and (5) His will be done.

I have to say God does answer prayers, and that all the above requests were met by my heavenly Father. The war ended, we have peace, and he has bestowed wisdom on our leaders.

In regard to the 4th and the 5th points, I can imagine most of you will disagree with what I am about to say. At first I thought the same as you do now.

We are a proud nation, and because of our painful history our hearts have become like stone. We are in danger of being more concerned for our pride than our people. But God cares for people. He does not delight in death. What Prime Minister Pashinyan did was the answer to the prayer. He humbled himself and gracefully accepted the terms for the good of the people, and did not follow his pride.

As for the opposition, God is the Judge of all nations, and in time and according to His will, if they keep their hearts of stone, they will face His wrath.

Concerning the last point of my prayer, my will and desire for the outcome of this conflict was to have Artsakh in its entirety. However, my request was that God's will prevail – and it did. He is Sovereign over all His creation, governments, authorities and nations.

Now my prayer point is one item: that we stay united as one, and stop the infighting. During this conflict we, in the diaspora and in the homeland, claimed that our only hope was God. I ask whether this was just a verbal expression or whether it was from the heart. If we claim to be a Christian country, then we need to act like one. If we don't, then the enemy has won. We will decimate ourselves.

As a Christian country we need to be a beacon of light in a dark world. We need to bear witness to our testimony.

Like the prodigal son, we as a nation, both in the diaspora and in the homeland, from the President to the least, need to repent and return to God. Let Christ sit on the throne of our lives. Let Him be our King and He will bestow on us a multitude of blessings in Christ. Only then will the enemy be defeated.

Hagob Jack Khatchoyan



Peace

There are so many questions we keep on asking in the turmoil around us. What is peace? Is it simply the absence of active warfare? Does it relate to the situation around us or to our innermost feelings? In many parts of the world there has been no active fighting since the end of the Second World War in 1945. But is this really peace?

We long for peace in this world. For too long we have been at loggerheads with each other. We think of the message of the angels at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus: Peace on earth; goodwill among men. We wonder if it will ever come. It will come. But first deep changes will be necessary. True and lasting peace in this world will only come when the Lord Jesus returns to this world and establishes His millennial reign.

If we think of the world around us we must keep in mind that the Lord Jesus taught that there will be wars and rumours of wars until the end. The heart of man is so wicked that we cannot expect lasting peace until the Lord Jesus is in control. However, the situation around us is not something we must accept in a spirit of hopelessness. Paul told us that we should pray for kings and all who are in high places, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence (1 Timothy 2:2). We pray for our governments and pray for peace so that we can live faithfully before God and continue our witness to other people.

We asked earlier if the end of active fighting is peace. Not really. We instinctively sense that peace is more than the cessation of active hostilities. For much of the time we do not feel at rest and settled. There is an uneasiness in our attitudes and position. This is because peace is an internal thing – our minds and hearts need to be at peace. True peace is an inner calm in our personal lives such that we feel at ease wherever we are. If there is peace we are relaxed and have no sense of danger around us. Peace then becomes a settled calm both within ourselves and in the situation around us.

Peace with God

Although we rightly want to live in this world in peace, what is supremely important is that we have peace with God. Paul wrote that, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). We who are believers know that there was a time when we were at enmity with God. We were sinners in rebellion against Him. But when we came in faith to the Lord Jesus, we were forgiven and immediately had peace with God. And this is an experience we can have here and now. We do not wait until death to find if God has accepted us.

In writing to the church in Philippi, Paul spoke in chapter 4:7 about the peace of God which passes all understanding as something which is guarding our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. The word he uses suggests a garrison or sentinel keeping watch over every aspect of our lives. Being in Him is like being in a fortress where we are kept in safety and holiness.

Just after speaking about the peace of God which passes all understanding, Paul spoke about the God of peace. He reminded his readers that if they did the things he had taught them (and which they had seen in his life) the God of peace would be with them (Philippians 4:9).

Peace with God is possible if we have the peace of God which comes from the God of peace. The inner calm this brings is something we all long for. It is that sense of inner peace which the Spirit of God brings to us. We can know that peace is ours because of the words of the Lord Jesus in John 14:27. "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give to you. Don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful." This is a peace which we find only in Him. "I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Peace on earth? Unbelievers mock the Christmas message of peace on earth and goodwill to man. But one day true peace will come. In the meantime we have the promise found in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). May we be among those who are peacemakers!

Scars of war

Armenia has a daily influx of refugees pouring in from Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh).

Armenian Christian Mission Inc. is registered as a humanitarian organisation in Australia, USA and Armenia, and its accounts are audited by the various Governments. For the past 22 years ACM has been committed to helping the poor and needy in Armenia. Today many refugee families are directed to us for help and support.

It is not an easy task to see the scars of war on grandmothers, mothers and the children who have left their sons, husbands, fathers, and grandfathers behind in the war zone. They return in coffins, or with the loss of various limbs. Many of them today are facing total loss in battle.

We at ACM are not there just to give out aid but to counsel and give spiritual help and hope to people who have lost all their belongings. For some there is nothing to go back to.

With the support of our Australian community, we are able to give them blankets, clothing, and back-to-school kits for the children, toys, and much needed food.

Currently we are working to send a container to Armenia urgently to be distributed among the refugees. You can also help financially by a one-time donation or by

- *sponsoring a refugee family for AU\$150.00 a month or*
- *by helping provide food parcels. AU\$50.00 supplies food for one family for a month*

Your support and help is needed today. You can donate through our web-site www.acmaust.org or by contacting ACM on info@acmaust.org



For mor information on ACM Please visit our updated website www.acmaust.org



"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:34-40