



Trumpet's Sound

53rd 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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Cover photo: Armenian village scenery,
ACM, April 2019



- Praise the Lord for what He has done in the past year and be thankful for His care in the new
- Thank the Lord for His protection and guidance to our co-workers on the field
- Please pray for all the children who have been exposed to the gospel during Christmas and New Year programs
- Pray for peace in Armenia
- Pray for the many needy families in our care
- Pray for the youth and the students in our care
- Pray for our container 24 being shipped to Armenia
- We are praying for the lord to help ACM purchase a suitable building for our ministry in Yerevan.

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who donate out of the generosity of their hearts.*

Only He can mak me new

We all love something new. As we face 2022, we look at it with great anticipation. Somehow the word “new” tickles our ears – new house, new car, new shoes – but what about me? What about myself, my thoughts, and my deeds. Who can change me and make me new?

In Psalm 23, King David talks about how God refreshes, restores, and makes new. “He refreshes my soul” (verses 3-5). Our Armenian translation reads “He makes my soul new”.

At times life brings us to where we think we are unable to continue the way we are. We carry so much guilt for our deeds. Sometimes we hate the way we are – our selfishness, greed, and pride. This fills us with so much hatred. Who can help, who will change me, who can mend me and make me new?

The Bible talks about the potter and his hands. Perhaps you have tried your best, you gave everything you have, but all in vain. Our pottery did not turn out right. Have you given it all to the Potter? Have you given it to Jesus to say, “Here I am. Mould me and make me the man or the woman You want me to be”?

David did not just write a poem or a song. He was telling us that only God can restore the broken hearted and make him new.

Now, on the doorsteps of 2022 you too can surrender to Christ. Only He can change you and make you new in Him.

We wish you all a happy and a blessed new year in Christ.

H.K.

"God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

From Egypt to Canaan (3)

God reveals Himself to Moses - part 1

How does God reveal himself? We are not thinking of the way He reveals Himself, but of the content of the revelation. God's revelation to Moses indicates some important principles. First, it is vital to realise that God is a holy God; this means that the place where He is holy. The place where God chooses to reveal Himself to man must be regarded as holy. By having to remove his sandals, Moses was made to realise something of the holiness of the place. From this, he learned the truth of a holy God.

The Lord revealed Himself to Moses as the God of his father, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That God used a singular noun in speaking about "the God of your father" suggests that Amran had been faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

We note the way that God revealed Himself to Moses. First, we read that the Angel of the Lord appeared in a flaming bush. When Moses turned to see the sight, it was the Lord, Yahweh, who spoke. He described Himself as the God, Elohim, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In most cases, if not all, the Angel of the Lord refers to the second person of the Trinity, our Lord Jesus.

God had made a covenant with Abraham and had renewed it with Isaac and Jacob. This was an unconditional promise that the land on which Abraham lived as a pilgrim and a stranger would be given to his offspring.

God revealed that He knew all that was happening in Egypt including the sufferings of the Israelites. He had seen and heard their groaning and knew that their suffering was unjust. The Lord also revealed Himself as a God who remembered his promise to Abraham. The time had almost arrived for Him to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants.

God planned to do this through one man – Moses. When the time

comes for God to begin His work He will have his man ready to do His work. This was true in the time of Nehemiah; it was also true when the Lord chose Paul as the apostle to the Gentiles. The problem with Moses was that he offered every excuse possible to avoid doing what the Lord was calling him to do.

Moses and his excuses

Moses tried four excuses in his attempt to avoid doing what God was calling him to do. He pleaded his inability by asking "Who am I?" He anticipated the Israelites asking what the name of this God was. "Who do I say you are?" He tried to say that no one would believe him. He pleaded his inability as a public speaker. "I am not eloquent."

Finally he came to his real problem and asked the Lord to send someone else. If a person does not want to do the Lord's work, he will find every possible and plausible reason to avoid doing what God has planned for him to do.

The first excuse – who am I?

Moses' first attempt to avoid doing the Lord's work was to ask to ask the question "Who am I?" Asking "Who am I" implied that Moses was a person without ability and was unable to perform the task that has been assigned to him. Now for many of us this may be a good attitude; we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. We do need a true assessment of what we are able to do.

However, in Moses' case, this was not a reason for not doing what God asked him to do, but an excuse. God knew that Moses lacked ability and gave him the one assurance that was necessary: God would be with him. God knew all about Moses' lack of ability and patiently assured him that He would be with him. What more could a person ask for than the assurance of God's presence?

In all this, Moses had to act in faith. God gave Moses a sign of His presence with him. The Lord's sign was that when Moses had completed his initial task of leading the Israelites out of Egypt, they would worship the Lord in that place. That should have been sufficient for Moses to go forward in obedience to the Lord.

How do we respond to God's promise to be with us? It is important that we remember that if God makes a promise, He will keep it. Not one thing that He has promised has ever failed or will ever fail.

The second excuse – who is sending me?

Moses' second excuse was based on his supposed fear that the Israelites did not know the name of their God. How could he possibly go to his people and say that the God of their fathers had spoken to him? Had Israel forgotten the God of Abraham?

This may well be evidence that the Israelites had been infected to some degree by surrounding idolatry. It was commonly thought that the gods that a nation worshipped were powerful in their own country, but that in neighbouring countries, other gods held sway. That idolatry was a problem with the people became very evident at Mt Sinai when the people asked Aaron to make gods for them because they had no idea what had happened to Moses.

God graciously answered Moses and revealed His name, telling Moses that He was I AM WHO I AM. This is the name of the eternal covenant keeping God. It is a name that emphasises God's eternal nature; He is the ever present one. He was, and is, and is to come. As the I AM, God is the ever-present one.

God also called Himself the "God of your fathers". He is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. This was no temporary name for the Almighty; it was God's name forever and is the name by which He will be remembered from generation to generation. This can only mean that God will always be known as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob and therefore He will be the God of His people to all generations. He is the unchanging and eternal covenant keeping God.

God added information to His message to Moses, detailing aspects of the covenant that He had made with Abraham about inheriting the land on which he was living as a pilgrim and a stranger. God's message can only mean that He had every intention of continuing to care for the Israelites as His own special people. He had entered into

a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the time had come when the promise to give the land to Abraham's descendants would become fulfilled.

At this point God revealed to Moses the work He intended to do. Moses had to go to the elders of the people with the message that the God of their fathers knew exactly what was happening to His people and that He was going to set them free from the bondage that were suffering and take them back to the land of the Canaanites. They were to go to Pharaoh with a request that they be allowed to take a three days' journey into the wilderness to be able to sacrifice to the Lord their God.

Now God knew that Pharaoh would not willingly allow the people to leave his country, and this is probably the reason for the request that the people take a three days' journey into the wilderness. Because Pharaoh had no intention of releasing the people, God announced that He would perform His wonders in Egypt and after that the Pharaoh would let the people go. These wonders would prove beyond all doubt that Yahweh was the one and only true God.

When the people left Egypt, they would not go empty-handed. They would ask – and be given – articles of gold and clothing.

Don Storer
(To be continued)

The duties God requires of us are not in proportion to the strength we possess in ourselves. Rather, they are proportional to the resources available to us in Christ. We do not have the ability in ourselves to accomplish the least of God's tasks. This is the law of grace. When we recognise it is impossible for us to perform a duty in our own strength, we will discover the secret of its accomplishment.

— John Owen



I find no fault in Him

Pilate was in no mood to pander to the Jewish rulers. He had to come out to them because they would not “defile themselves” by entering the Praetorium! It was early morning and he resented being used by them.

They had probably sent a late-night delegation to his private living quarters to inform him of the plan to arrest Jesus and to get his agreement for a speedy crucifixion. They expected him to cooperate.

"What accusation do you bring against this man?" he demanded.

Impatient and annoyed, they answered, "If he were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered him up to you."

Pilate stood his ground. "You take him and judge him according to your law."

With thinly veiled anger, the Jewish leaders responded, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."

Pilate wheeled around and entered the Praetorium again, and Jesus was brought before him. His first question was as strange as the situation in which he found himself.

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus had been up all night, mocked and beaten in the Jewish court, but his answer was calm and genuine. "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning me?"

Pilate was unnerved by so clear, direct and personal a question. Did he really want to know who Jesus was, or was this just legal questioning?

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate shot back. "Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you to me. What have you done?"

"My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews;

but now my kingdom is not from here."

Pilate heard what he said. "So you are a king?"

"You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice."

Truth! Pilate was a soldier and a politician. Truth? Everyone he knew lied. No one cared about truth, only what was good for them. Truth? Was there such a thing?

He asked, perhaps bitterly, "What is truth?" and without waiting for a reply he returned to the anxious Jewish rulers.

He announced his verdict. "I find no fault in him at all."

Dear reader, do you find any fault in Him?

Pilate declared the Lord Jesus to be innocent four times, and then handed Him over to be flogged and crucified. That one cowardly decision has made Pilate's name justly infamous.

Have you done the same? You find no fault in Him, but do you turn your back and walk away? Do you say, "I am innocent of the blood of this just man"?

Look more closely. Jesus' death was much more than an innocent man betrayed. It was the one great sacrifice for sin, your sin and mine, and it is the only road to eternal life.

There was indeed no fault in Him. He was willing to die for our sake. It was our sin that took Him to that cross. You cannot wash your hands and say you are not involved. You are involved, and you must either turn back, bow before the Lord and accept His gift of forgiveness, or else you must face God's judgment, in your sin and alone.

You sinners, seek His grace

Whose wrath you cannot bear

Fly to the shelter to His cross

And find salvation there.

Neil Buckman

When God seems unfair

Acts 12

Some years ago, two young families in the same church were each blessed with the birth of a beautiful baby. The babies were born within a few weeks of each another, but strangely, both babies were born with major health problems. The parents of one baby were gently told by the doctors at Palmerston North Hospital, that no child born at the Hospital had ever survived the problem this little baby had. The parents of that baby agonised and prayed but the doctor finally had to turn off the life support machine. However that baby continued to live. The doctors could not believe it and told parents there was no medical explanation for this recovery. They described it as miraculous. I know this story is true because that child was mine.

But what about the other sick little baby in our church? The parents and many others equally agonised and prayed but that little baby died. As you can imagine there was lots of hard thinking going on in our church at that time. Why does God allow these things to happen? If He could answer prayer for one, why not the prayer for the other as well. Was it too much to ask?

In Acts 12 we read a similar kind of story with similar issues. Two good men are imprisoned by the same evil King Herod. James is beheaded, and his close friend Peter is miraculously rescued by an angel. Now the life of James had been snuffed out in a moment at the political whim of the tyrant King Herod. The death of James did not seem to achieve a great witness in a battle for the Gospel as Stephan's had. His life was simply used to buy a few political points in Herod's effort to find favour with the Jews

Sometimes death seems pointless to us.

Is God Really Good?

Think about the story of Dr Paul Carlson. Dr. Carlson served as a medical missionary in what was then known as the Belgian Congo. What he saw there changed his life. When he returned home to Cali-

fornia, he could not forget the hopelessness of the people he had been serving. He returned to Africa and set up a medical clinic, taking his family with him. Two years later, Dr Carlson was caught in a bloody battle in the Congo. He was held as a prisoner with a small group of other Americans. They had one chance to escape. If they could scale a wall and drop to the other side they may reach safety. Dr Carlson reached the top of the wall and was a split second from freedom when bullet fire broke out. Bullets tore through his body, and he was killed. It was a killing that seemed to make no sense at all. Why Lord? Why couldn't you have distracted that mindless gunner for another instant? Even a fly on his nose would have been enough to change the outcome. No such distraction occurred. And so ended the earthly days of a good man who left a loving wife and two children behind. He had wanted nothing but to help the sick in Africa.

Sometimes God just doesn't seem fair. How do you handle these things? One person is cured and another dies. One person seems to live a charmed life while another experiences trial after trial.

The feel of Acts 12 is of a fairly matter of fact record of two events. We tend to ask, "Why was James beheaded and why did Peter escape?" But the question why is not addressed here. The Christians in this story would have wept at the loss of James and rejoiced in his escape of Peter, but they do not seem to have asked the big questions that we ask about God seeming unfair. I wonder if they saw the issue of suffering in quite a different way to us. In our expectations of life, one of the things we really don't expect is suffering. Our goal is to be happy and feel good. The pursuit of happiness is written into the American constitution as an inalienable right of all people. This means that when suffering comes we assume something has gone dreadfully wrong. That may not be the case at all. It may simply mean that things are running about normal.

When God Seems Unfair

When we see tragic things happen in people's lives in ways that make us complain that God is unfair, there is an underlying assumption: God owes us a good life. We are often inclined to assess God

according to how useful He is in helping us achieve our goals. If our goal is to feel good, God can be useful. He forgives us our sins and promises us a place in heaven. That is wonderful, it makes us feel good and we talk about how good God is. But when something painful or sad come into our life that is when the test comes. God is not helping us toward our goal of being happy, so we complain and become demanding. Our demands are based on two very wrong ideas: that we have a right to understand and that God has an obligation to explain Himself. Job after his suffering never got an explanation. He received a revelation of how great God is. This put all the events of his life into another perspective that made him look at his suffering in quite a different way.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted,” Mt 5:4

Not, *“Blessed are those who mourn for they will receive an explanation.”* Bad things do happen to good people for reasons that are quite beyond us.

Sooner or later in life we come to times of crisis and pain when we cry out, *“If God really loved me how could he allow this to happen?”* In that moment of crisis and pain you have a choice. The choice is either to turn your back on God in anger and disbelief, or you can say, *“Despite all that is going on in my life right now, I believe that God is in control, and that God is really good and acting out of love for me. I will choose to surrender, instead of demanding an explanation. That choice of submission is the key pivotal turning point in your spiritual life. It will eventually bring you into a new and deeper level of relationship with God.”*

Believe in your heart that faith is independent of understanding. If you already have this truth in your heart, before your moment of suffering or crisis, it will make it easier to handle.

Rex Dearlove



Refresh Your Mind For the New Year

At the end of a year we tend to look back and review what is now history. And at the beginning of a new year we often look forward to what lies ahead. Peter wrote his second letter just before his death. He could look back over his lifetime and look forward to helping the next generation (John 21:18-19; 2 Peter 1:14). Let's look at an important reminder that he left for all believers.

Remember And Obey

Peter wrote in the first and last chapters of this letter (2 Peter 1:12; 3:1) that he wanted to rouse his readers by way of a reminder. The two Greek words used in these verses are "diegeiro" – which can mean "to wake" or "to stir up from sleep" but is used metaphorically to mean to rouse their minds – and "hupomnesis" – which means "remembrance that is prompted by another." Peter's objective has also been expressed as to "refresh your memory" and to "stimulate you to wholesome thinking." This is important because our actions and behaviour flow from the attitudes in our mind.

We are forgetful and can easily become preoccupied with aspects of life. Like the battery of a mobile or cell phone, we need to be recharged from time to time. Peter knew this and his goal was to continually recharge and refresh their memories by reminding Christians of that time how they should live (2 Peter 1:12-15). In fact, he wrote this down so that we can be reminded of these things today.

Of course, today we can refresh our memories through reading the Scriptures and putting them into practice. We are to remember what they say and by obey them.

A Message From God

People refresh their minds in many ways: rest, recreation, meditation and holidays. As batteries need to be recharged with electrical energy, Christians need to be recharged and refreshed with God's spiritual "energy." Our minds should be occupied with God's message.

The message of the Bible is like a “light shining in a dark place” – it can illuminate and enlighten our thinking and help to keep us alert. And Peter exhorts us to pay close attention to its message (2 Peter 1:19; 1 Thess. 5:5-6). It can only be understood by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers (1 Corinthians 2:14-16).

We are to pay close attention to this message until the end of the Church age, which is illustrated as the dawning of day (Romans 13:12; Hebrews 10:25). This is until Christ comes to take all believers to be with Him in heaven, which is illustrated by the rising of the morning star – Christ being the morning star (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 22:16).

Are you reading and meditating daily on God’s message in the Bible?

A Renewed Mind

Our mind is controlled by either the sinful nature or the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5-8). Christians have a new attitude in their minds (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23). This renewed mind is linked with eternal life and peace – it thinks according to God’s perspective (Colossians 3:1-2; Romans 8:6). But if Christians do not refresh their memories, they have unfruitful minds (1 Corinthians 14:14). Just as those who spent time with Christ had their minds opened so they could understand the Scriptures, so it is also possible for the minds of those controlled by the Holy Spirit to be opened (Luke 24:45).

On the other hand, the unbeliever has a foolish and depraved mind; and foolish thinking leads to foolish behaviour (Romans 1:21-32). A sinful mind is hostile towards God and cannot please Him (Romans 8:8). It is blinded because it can’t see the light that comes through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). Such a mind is only occupied with earthly things; it is totally sinful and corrupt (Philippians 3:19; Colossians 2:18; 1 Timothy 6:5).

Do You Remember?

As the disciples were to remember the words that Christ spoke to them, we should remember the words that God caused to be written for us (John 15:20; Jude 17). Do you remember “what you have

received and heard” (Revelation 3:3) from the Scriptures? So let’s endeavour to love and serve the Lord with our minds over the year ahead, and continually remind each other of these things (Matthew 22:37; Romans 7:25)

George Hawke

Open doors

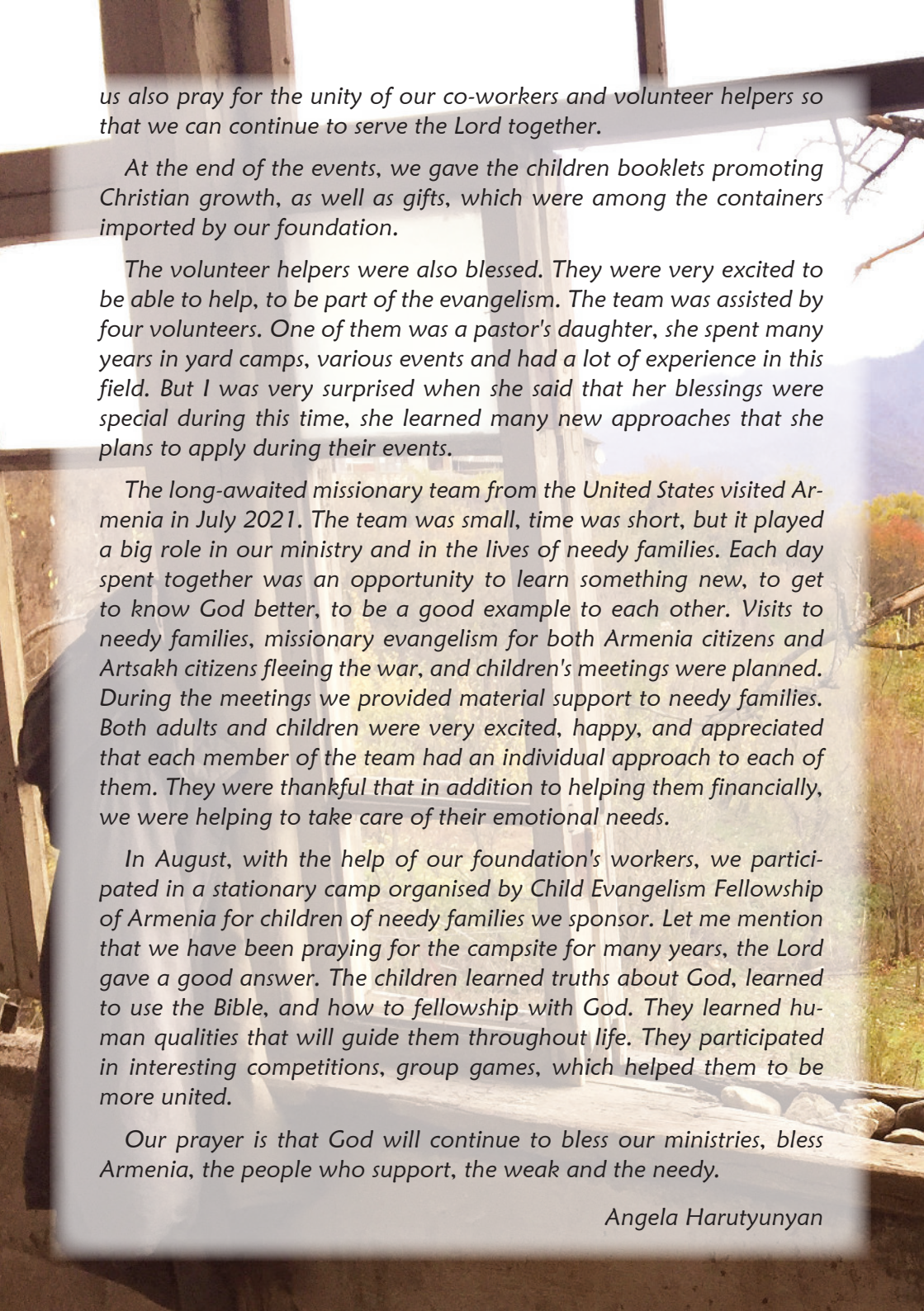
C*orona virus has changed the plans of all people, it has limited humans already limited communication, because of social networks. It has changed people's way of thinking, approaches and beliefs.*

Since March 2020, our spiritual ministries have also been limited to a large extent. There was a break in Christian education classes, youth and Bible study meetings, events and guests' visit to Armenia. However, thank God that He listens to prayers, He is a Lord who listens and answers prayers, who knows the right time and day to make us happy, to open new doors.

Summer 2021 was full of new experiences. In June, with God's help and wisdom, we were able to organise and hold 3-day summer camps for children in Khoronk and Merdzavan villages. In July we held 1-day events in Hovk village of Tavush region, in Vanadzor and in Yerevan. The number of children and teenagers participating in the events was 245.

A woman whose husband is a minister of the Apostolic Church took part in the summer event in the village of Khoronk. We learned of this on the last day, when she picked up the microphone and addressed a heartfelt message to our foundation staff, thanking them for the event, especially emphasising the truthfulness of God's Word. Because it was a great joy for her to hear the truth from her children about the Word of God, about how to treat one another righteously.

May God help each participating child to live a changed life, to boldly tell about God's love, to grow in His grace and knowledge. Let



us also pray for the unity of our co-workers and volunteer helpers so that we can continue to serve the Lord together.

At the end of the events, we gave the children booklets promoting Christian growth, as well as gifts, which were among the containers imported by our foundation.

The volunteer helpers were also blessed. They were very excited to be able to help, to be part of the evangelism. The team was assisted by four volunteers. One of them was a pastor's daughter, she spent many years in yard camps, various events and had a lot of experience in this field. But I was very surprised when she said that her blessings were special during this time, she learned many new approaches that she plans to apply during their events.

The long-awaited missionary team from the United States visited Armenia in July 2021. The team was small, time was short, but it played a big role in our ministry and in the lives of needy families. Each day spent together was an opportunity to learn something new, to get to know God better, to be a good example to each other. Visits to needy families, missionary evangelism for both Armenia citizens and Artsakh citizens fleeing the war, and children's meetings were planned. During the meetings we provided material support to needy families. Both adults and children were very excited, happy, and appreciated that each member of the team had an individual approach to each of them. They were thankful that in addition to helping them financially, we were helping to take care of their emotional needs.

In August, with the help of our foundation's workers, we participated in a stationary camp organised by Child Evangelism Fellowship of Armenia for children of needy families we sponsor. Let me mention that we have been praying for the campsite for many years, the Lord gave a good answer. The children learned truths about God, learned to use the Bible, and how to fellowship with God. They learned human qualities that will guide them throughout life. They participated in interesting competitions, group games, which helped them to be more united.

Our prayer is that God will continue to bless our ministries, bless Armenia, the people who support, the weak and the needy.

Angela Harutyunyan