



"I was wrong!"

It's not the easiest thing to admit. Sometimes it's even harder to say. Most of the time the person who really needs to hear it, never does.

Do you have as much trouble as the rest of us in admitting when you're wrong?

This last month, after the marathon (notice how it's taking on ominous, definite proportions: "the"?") I've been trying to dissect and analyze my feelings about the run. I kept thinking, "Why aren't I as excited as other people who finish their first marathon?" "Why didn't I break down in tears or even get emotional over the accomplishment after all those months of training?" "Why wasn't this the life-changing experience it is for so many others?"

I couldn't figure it out. It wasn't about the fainting. It wasn't even about how hard it was for me. I'm still not positive that I have an answer, but when I was participating in the Prayer Summit with other pastors and leaders last month, a new thought came to mind. I trust it was from the Holy Spirit: In Christ, I've experienced the joy of the Lord with the people of God.

That might just be it!

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
Ephesians 2:19-22

I've experienced such joy as a member of the body of Christ serving with you & others and praying with other brothers & sisters. Experiencing the joy of transformation in my own life and being a part of Christ's work in others, this is overwhelming! Hearing

from God through His word and through others by the Holy Spirit—that's glory! Seeing God answer prayer as we cry out to Him—that qualifies for "awesome"! Experiencing fellowship and reconciliation with Turkish pastors and leaders—that's life-changing!

It's not that finishing the marathon wasn't really great; I can't wait for the next one because it's going to be with a brother in Christ! But being a child of God and a part of the body of Christ makes that accomplishment pale in comparison. Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever worked really hard for something, accomplish it and wonder why it seems lacking?

It may be the same for you. You've experienced God's presence and power among His people and nothing else—the most beautiful landscape, beach, mountain, meal, gift, or purchase—can compare!

God's greatest gifts and joys happen among His people. As I anticipate the celebration of the 120th anniversary of our church, I'm struck with deep gratitude for the privilege of being your pastor. At times I'm overwhelmed by the gift of having shared life with so many of you back in the '90's and now to be back at it together seeking to glorify & serve Christ and love each other with so many new people.

I really hope you'll rearrange your schedule so you can celebrate God's faithfulness to us in the past and to anticipate together what He has in store for us in the years to come.

Hmmm, I guess being wrong isn't so bad.

●●●●● Badveli Greg

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



We're so thankful for Cheryl Shamlian's leadership in creatively planning a wonderful Rally Sunday Carnival.



On September 10, FAPC kicked off Sunday School with Rally Sunday. It began with JAM (Jesus and Me, is a worship time), going into their classrooms and getting to know their teachers and classmates, and then topped off with fellowship over all you can eat tacos, dunk tank, photo booth with Jim Tikijian's racing MG, carnival style games, cotton candy, etc.



Silas' Sunday School Spotlight

Student Spotlight #1
Daniel Garo
Age: 6 Grade: 1st

What is your favorite thing about Sunday School?
"I get to learn about God."

What is your favorite Bible story/character/verse?
"Jesus."

What is something we may not know about you?
"I love to play with my toy Batman."

Student Spotlight #2
Carina Tokatian
Age: 16 Grade: 11th

What is your favorite thing about Sunday School?
"I love that it's a community."



What is your favorite Bible story/character/verse?
"Ezekiel 37."

What is something we may not know about you?
"I'm really talkative."

Class Spotlight
2nd/3rd Grades
Teachers: Silva & Tina Esajian & Zaven & Haykuhi Kalebjian

Average # of students each week: 4

What are you studying this month?
"The Greatness of God."

Do you have a theme verse for this month's lesson or year?
"Job 37:5."

What's your favorite thing about this class?
"Seeing the children grow in Christ."



WHAT HAS YOU SPOOKED?

Several weeks ago a member of the church emailed and asked if the topic of fear could be addressed from the pulpit during one of the sermons. I was intrigued by her request because it was something that was on the forefront of my mind as well.



Fear is defined as, an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat. We take all kinds of preventive measures to feel safe or to not be in fear. For example, we install the best security system on the house. We buy a car that has the best safety features because we protect what is dear to us. As I'm writing this article, we're in shock of what's occurred in Las Vegas. Events like this heighten our fear. Oddly, we dedicate a whole day to collecting candy, wearing scary masks, and appreciating the creativity of the houses that looks like scenes from shows like "Walking Dead." There's a lot more that we fear other than the dark, spiders, and snakes. We fear not having enough. We fear not being successful. Recently, I was talking with a colleague who shared that he has a series of doctor appointments coming up, and he expressed a real anxiety and fear of dying young. We have a fear of dying alone. We do a great job of hiding these fears, because we fear being perceived weak or vulnerable.

It's easy with events like Las Vegas to throw blame everywhere, because we need an answer on why events like this happen. We throw blame on the politicians for not having better laws or even allowing certain laws to remain. We can easily blame others for having a view contrary to ours. Honestly, this article will not suffice our anger of why evil gets away with tragedies like this. This article will not appease your political view either. Events like Vegas, Orlando, etc., remind us about the reality of evil, the fragility of life, and the importance of trusting God through it all.

Emelia has signed her name on the Mighty Memorizer contract distributed to our Sunday School students. Every week, she's committed to memorizing one verse. The second week's verse was, "Fear God and keep His commandments," (Ecclesiastes 12:13). We try to explain the verses to her, rather than just memorizing something.

She's three and has the shortened version of the verse. But "fearing God," is not alluding to the same definition of fear above. In the scope of Scripture, fearing God is a convergence of awe, reverence, adoration, honor, worship, confidence of who He is. The verse says, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." I love it. King Solomon who had it all, simplified the call placed before us: fear God and keep his commandments.

William D. Eisenhower puts it this way in his article "Fearing God" in Christianity Today:

"Unfortunately, many of us presume that the world is the ultimate threat and that God's function is to offset it. How different this is from the biblical position that God is far scarier than the world When we assume that the world is the ultimate threat, we give it unwarranted power, for in truth, the world's threats are temporary. When we expect God to balance the stress of the world, we reduce him to the world's equal As I walk with the Lord, I discover that God poses an ominous threat to my ego, but not to me. He rescues me from my delusions, so he may reveal the truth that sets me free. He casts me down, only to lift me up again. He sits in judgment of my sin, but forgives me nevertheless. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but love from the Lord is its completion."

As we chase after God, we begin to be in awe, reverence, and want to live a life that is honoring and pleasing Him. I like how Eisenhower says this, "When we assume that the world is the ultimate threat, we give it unwarranted power, for in truth, the world's threats are temporary. When we expect God to balance the stress of the world, we reduce him to the world's equal."

God is above and beyond what we can fathom. Once we begin to minimize His greatness, once we begin to rely on worldly ideas and protection, we begin to trust temporary things. We replace God and His authority with worldly ideas that have no weight. What's got you scared? What fear is driving you to make certain decisions? Are you leading in your relationship with your spouse/family out of fear or with the confidence that God loves you? I would hope just like a child needs to crawl up on their parents lap when something has them spooked, that you too take time and crawl up on our Heavenly Father's lap in reverence and awe of His sovereignty.

If your child plays any musical instrument at any level, we would like to give them the opportunity to perform on stage during the Social Hour of the 120th celebratory dinner on October 21st. This is not a recital, but a fun way for our youth to share their talents. Please contact Lisa Tokatian for details.



Marisa Sue Bagato and Toby Steve Garza were joined in Holy Matrimony on September 8, 2017 here at FAPC followed by the reception at The Falls Event Center led by Pastor Rick Rios. Marisa is the daughter of Tony and Kim Bagato of Clovis. Toby is the son of Lupe and Martha Garza of Selma. Marisa is the FAPC Administrative Assistant and Lead Nursery Attendant. Toby is a high school teacher at Duncan Polytechnical High School. The Session and Congregation extend heartiest congratulations to Marisa and Toby as they begin their new life together!



Men's Fellowship Fall Dinners 2017
Nov 7, 2017

Plan ahead to join us!

Our Condolences:



Violet Lily (Sarian) Jamgochian, longtime FAPC Member passed away on August 30, 2017 at the age of 87. A native of Fresno, Violet was a graduate of Edison High School and a member of the FAPC Fidelis Women's Society for many decades. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Deran; parents Hrant and Rose Sarian; and siblings Azad Sarian, Elizabeth Pazeian, and Virginia Ruby. Violet is survived by her sons, Douglas of Burbank, and Darrell and his wife, Gena, of Fowler.



Thomas R. Cleary, brother-in-law of Richard Esajian, passed away in Fresno on September 16, 2017 at the age of 77. A native of Visalia, Tom was a California High School Basketball Coach of the Year (1972) and inductee of the Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame (2014). Tom was also a tireless volunteer tutor at the Poverello House in Fresno and a frequent attendee at FAPC Men's Fellowship Dinners. Tom is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, the former Marilyn Esajian; daughters Nicole and Michelle; and four grandchildren.

Deacon's Corner

WE APPRECIATE OUR PASTORS

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Our Pastors and their families need our support, love, loyalty and most of all our encouragement. They spend time in the word of God every week to teach us. We need to let our pastors know that we are praying for them and how much their ministry has blessed us. If you feel like saying "AMEN" during the sermons then you should absolutely say "AMEN," don't hold back! This shows our pastors that you are very much touched by their words. Doctors are not the only ones who are on call 24/7, our pastors are as well. They will always be there for us and are involved in many aspects of our lives from baptisms, funerals, wedding and many more events. They are always there to provide comfort, offer wisdom and prayer and to help us through life's difficult predicaments. Most importantly, always reminding us of how much God loves us!

THANK YOU BADVELI GREG, BADVELI MGO,
AND BADVELI PHIL.

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian

Niko Henry Boyajian was born on Sunday September 17th. His Parents are Jeff and Zayneb Boyajian, and grandparents, Jim and Maggie Curtis and Faiza El Shabib. The parents and grandparents thank God for the blessing of our new son & grandson. We thank out church family for the prayers for a healthy baby and mom. We believe our Lord heard our prayers and answered.

First Armenian Presbyterian Church

Ladies' Gratitude Gathering

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

11:15am

Lunch served at noon

945 E. Windsor Circle, Fresno

We have so much to be grateful for! Join us for lunch and fellowship as we share our thankfulness in all circumstances.

"...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 5:20)

*Please RSVP to Nelda
at 434-6194 by November 12*





PHILOSOPHY & THE GOOD LIFE EVENTS

Date:
Friday, November 3, 2017

Time:
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m

Location:
Clovis Community College
10309 N. Willow Avenue,
Fresno, CA 93730
(cross street is International)
Academic Center Building One,
Room 150

Sponsored by
CCC's Philosophy Club
DIALOGUE. DISCUSS. DISCOVER.

Contact:
Dr. Chad Bogosian
chad.bogosian@cloviscollege.edu

Free Parking
in student stalls only

Might God Not Exist?

Worldwide the vast majority of people have believed (and believe) that God exists. This fact is philosophically interesting, especially in light of the claim by many people that God is, in some important sense, hidden. One way to reconcile widespread belief in God's existence with God's hiddenness is that, at one time God existed, but that God has ceased to exist. But, one might wonder, can God 'simply slip out of existence'? We will explore some reasons for thinking God's existence is impossible, and for thinking his existence is possible. We welcome you to come ready to engage!

Free & Open To The Public



A.A. Howsepian, M.D., Ph.D. is a Staff Psychiatrist and Director of Electroconvulsive Therapy at the VA Central California Health Care System, maintains a private forensic psychiatry practice, is an Assist. Prof. of Psychiatry at the UC, San Francisco - Fresno Medical Education Program, and is a member of the adjunct faculty both in the Counseling Education and Rehabilitation Dpt. at Fresno State and in the Dpt. of Philosophy at Fresno Pacific University. Dr. Howsepian has lectured widely and taught numerous university courses on topics in philosophy and psychiatry. He has approximately 50 publications in Psychiatry, Philosophy, and Neurology journals. His M.D. (1987) is from UC Davis, and his Ph.D. (1999, Philosophy) is from the University of Notre Dame.



Clovis Community College
10309 North Willow Avenue | Fresno, CA 93730 | 559-325-5200
www.cloviscollege.edu

1897 First Armenian Presbyterian Church 2017

Celebrating FAPC's First 120 Years

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Mezza: 5:30-6:30pm & Dinner: 6:30pm
FAPC Fellowship Hall, 430 S. First St., Fresno

Celebrating God's work and our relationships with each other as we connect our past with our future

Tickets: \$25 per adult • \$15 children 4-12 • \$75 max per family
(childcare provided for ages 1-3)

✂ _____

To confirm your reservation, please complete this portion and return with payment to Silva Emerian, 10251 N. Armstrong Avenue, Clovis, CA 93619 (559.916.2339 or hystar77@gmail.com for questions). Reservations must be received NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

Names of all attending: _____

Adults: _____ # Children 4-12: _____ # Children 1-3: _____

Contact name & number: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Checks payable to FAPC with "120th Celebration" in memo line



**First
Armenian
Presbyterian
Church**

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Upcoming Special Events

First Friday Worship & Prayer	Oct 6
120 th Anniversary Celebration Dinner	Oct 21
First Friday Worship & Prayer	Nov 3
Men's Fellowship Dinner	Nov 7
Merchants Lunch	Nov 9
AEYF Fall Retreat at PACC	Nov 10-12
Hunger Project	Nov 18
Congregational Meeting	Dec 10
Christmas Program, 4pm	Dec 17
Christmas Sunday (No Christmas Eve Service)	Dec 24

Church Office:
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
(M - F)
P: 559.237.6638
F: 559.237.9526
E: fapc@fapc.net

Mosaix submissions
are due by the
15th of the month.
Please e-mail
information to
fapc3@fapc.net.

Staff:
Suzy Artemyan, Church Administrator
Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director
Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist
Marisa Garza, Administrative Assistant &
Nursery Attendant
Marine Frznlyan, Nursery Attendant
Susan Ruiz, Custodian

Teaching Elders: Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)
Rev. Mgo Mekredijian, Associate Pastor of Young Families' Ministries (associate@fapc.net)
Rev. Phil Garo, Jr., Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries (pgaro@fapc.net)

Ruling Elders: Hagop Afarian, Kenneth Bedrosian, Ed Esajian, Krikor Kalayjian,
Paul Koligian, Fernando Rubio, Dennis Shamlian, Ron Statler

Deacons: Vera Darakjian, Silva Esajian, Maryvonne Gagliardi, Sela Ghazarian,
Sossy Haroutunian, Keith Harrison, Maria Kalayjian, Kohar Kojayan,
Bob Mangasarian, Anto Sakayan, Rita Shamlian, Varvara Sivas

