



Why did You come? What was your purpose, Jesus? What was Your mission? Have you ever thought to ask Him that question?

We've been doing a lot of talking these last months about purpose, mission and vision. "What is the mission of FAPC?" We've been reflecting on the question of what purpose God may have for us. Does God have a "dream" for our congregation? This is what the *God Dreams* process is all about.

Let's get back to Jesus.

What was God's dream for His incarnation, for the thirty-three years He lived on earth? What's amazing is how many times Jesus addresses the very question of His purpose, His mission, why He came to earth and became a human being.

He speaks of coming to fulfill the Father's will, to bring glory to His name. Jesus talks about being a ransom and having come to serve, rather than be served. He came to reconcile human beings with God! After meeting Zacchaeus, He says that He came "to seek and to save the lost." It was the "sick" who needed a "doctor," not the righteous.

Jesus also described Himself as a "witness to the truth," One who came to reveal and do the Father's will. He came to fulfill the Law of God. He did not come to judge the world, but to save it and to be the new and better Adam.

The Apostle Paul also describes Him as the demonstration of humility and of the love of God. The writer of Hebrews says that Jesus needed to become a human being so He could be both a sympathetic high priest, tempted like us, and the sacrifice to secure our forgiveness. Jesus even described His blood as the "blood of the New Covenant, for the forgiveness of sins."

All these point to Jesus' death, resurrection and the salvation He offers to us. Of course, that was His mission and purpose!

But might there be something more? Can we even use language like this?! What could be more than the forgiveness of sins, salvation and eternal life?!

*<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10 (NIV)*

"... to the full," Jesus said He came that we—the targets of the evil one's hatred—may have life to the full. Surely this speaks to life after death, but I believe there's more—"life to the full" here and now! No, not unicorns, rainbows and a smooth, easy life. Jesus offers a life full of "living water," a fountain of His Holy Spirit's presence throughout our lives. He offers an "abundant life" to each person who will trust Him, who will look to Him by faith and who will trust Him as their Shepherd.

Jesus' birth brought "good tidings of great joy for all the people." Are you experiencing this joy now? Are you experiencing "life to the full?" That's why He came! This is a picture of the salvation He offers us. Eternal life is more than just life after this earthly life. It's a quality of life—His life in us—between now and the life to come!

Since Jesus' mission was to bring eternal salvation and abundant life, it makes sense that our *mission*, as a church, would be to *bring the reconciling love of Christ through forgiveness to our families, our community and His world*. What a privilege we have to share in Jesus' mission and purpose!

Merry Christmas!!! Extend Christ's reconciling love through forgiveness to your families and everyone you connect with this Christmas!

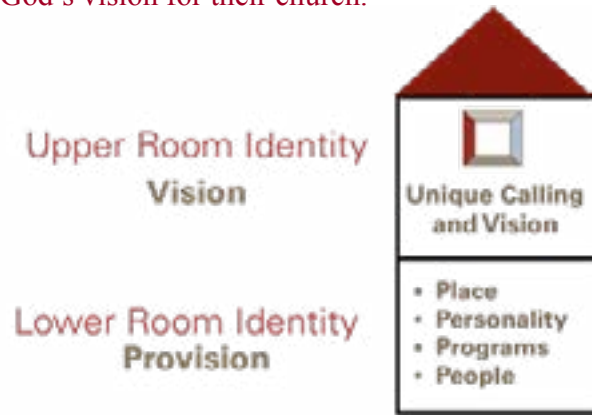
 Badveli Greg

*Why did you come to church this week?  
Why didn't you come?*

When you participate in worship at FAPC on Sunday mornings, what is it that draws you? Is it what the church provides? Traditionally, most people attend their church because of the programs available, the personality of the pastor, the people they meet with and, finally, the place or location is “their church.”

As we consider the marked decline in church participation in the US over the last decade—even in our own church—we ask “why?” It could be the quality of the programs has dropped or are less relevant. Maybe the changes in pastoral leadership or even the departure of certain friends discourages us.

One interesting discovery is that growing churches, particularly those who involve new families, are especially welcoming *and* are very clear on their purpose and God’s vision for their church.



The illustration above uses the language of “Upper Room” & “Lower Room” to distinguish the primary reasons people get involved and stay involved in a church. The “Lower Room Identity” focuses on what the church offers or provides. In this “room”, the congregation are **consumers** who come to church to get and receive. In the “Upper Room,” the focus is on participating in the ministries and activities of the church; they’re **contributors**. Time, resources and skills are shared so that others also experience the gifts, power and presence of God. In the absence of clear vision, churches tend to focus exclusively and increasingly on making sure those “lower room” provisions don’t change. Familiarity becomes the highest value.

When we gathered on Sunday evening, October 6, to discuss the mission and values of our church, one question surfaced several times: *why are we even talking about this?* We’re talking because we want first, to fulfill Christ’s dream for our church and second, to clarify how each of us can participate in His mission.

We’ll be continuing the conversation at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8th. Please plan on staying after church! Let’s keep talking!

●●●●● Badveli Greg



Once again our church’s mission outreach project was the **Samaritan’s Purse Operation Child**. This was our second consecutive year participating in this ministry. Our goal this year was to pack 300 shoe boxes. We fulfilled 100% of this goal. The shoe boxes will be delivered to several villages around the world by volunteers at churches and schools to children ages 2-14.

This outreach ministry is not just receiving the gift, but recipients will go through a “Greatest Journey” class, a 12-lesson series where their local churches teach them Bible stories and memory verses. The children will also receive an opportunity to know Christ as their personal Savior as well as obtain Bibles in their own languages. At the end of the class, each student will be presented with a diploma for completing the lesson series. Through this ministry, many children and their families will come to know Jesus. God has used and will continue to use many of the graduates as His disciples to change the world around them. Let us never underestimate how God can use a child to convert others to Christ. What an impact a child can make through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help accomplish this because of your generosity in helping with this ministry.



Please remember to pray that God uses Operation Christmas Child to strengthen churches, to bring millions of children to faith in Christ, and to make them bold witnesses for Him wherever they live.

Thank you again, for your support and generosity.  
God’s Blessings,

●●●●● Karen Daoudian, Carol Hagopian,  
and Lisa Tokatian  
Operation Christmas Child Coordinators

**“Merry Christmas” is Not Enough**

A person’s credibility matters. Ph.D., M.D., colonel, lawyer, engineer, entrepreneur – you name it. These are some of the most eminent professionals in society. Even gifted artists, musicians, actors, and writers have earned their share of prestige. Typically, these experts are society’s celebrities. As media and communication specialist Arthur Asa Berger observed, we live in a society of “celebritocracy,” a community composed of strong influential figures or celebrities. And no matter how educated or shallow these “stars of society” may be, they all manage to influence. They are the figures we look up to, the people we trust the most.

And yet humanly speaking, Jesus’ debut on earth indicated that he was, well... a nobody. Now, obviously, as Christians, we recognize this statement to be blasphemous. However, my point is that there was no “pomp and circumstance” when Jesus arrived on earth. (Yes, there was an army of angels, but that’s for another time.) He arrived with no worldly credentials, no special licensing, no obvious talents, no sinewy muscles, no wealth, not even the wisdom of old age. Instead, He entered earth feeble and helpless as a baby. That’s our Savior! It is no great wonder why the Pharisees and Sadducees doubted His competence.

But there is another layer of credibility, apart from expertise, which we often neglect. It is empathy, the ability to understand others’ ideas, feelings, or struggles because one has been there before. This type of reputation requires nothing but experience, and Jesus was experienced the moment He was born. A good leader is not someone who from the start overwhelms their peers with their magnificence or superiority. A good leader is one who can relate to one’s followers, someone who has empathy. The more diverse one’s experiences are, the more credible one is in this area. And Jesus experienced it all – sometimes humility as a baby and sometimes glory after performing a miracle. His experiences give Him the license to lead because He fully understands His people, whether a person is a wise man or shepherd.

Therefore, we worship Jesus not because He came to be worshiped but because He is worthy of our worship; He earned it. As John 3:17 states, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save it” (NIV). If Jesus had come to earth in some flamboyant fashion as to attract His followers,

He would give off a condescending vibe. He would essentially be gifted and would thereby have a difficult time understanding how others could not be gifted as well. He would feel superior. I mean, He is superior, but not because of His talents. It is because He loved, He still loves the people of the world so much that He died so we could live.

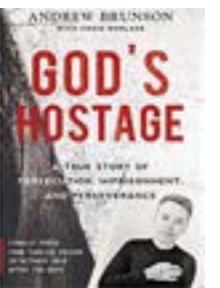


So, as we edge closer to Christmas, we must ask ourselves, “What is the greatest gift we can give someone else this Christmas?” Is it a cliché greeting card with our accomplishments and vacation photos plastered all over it? Is it a commercialized toy or product with an expensive price tag attached? Is it a holiday tree, holiday cookie, or holiday song that we seek to “bless” others with? Or is it empathy, genuine concern and care for another? Is it sharing the love and gospel of Christ? The things I mentioned before are not necessarily wrong, but it is simply not enough to bless someone with the words, “Merry Christmas.” For Jesus’ credibility and worthiness should not be perceived lightly. He is coming back, and we have a gift we must deliver to others before it’s too late.

●●●●● Carina Tokatian



We prayed for **Rev. Andrew Brunson** for more than a year when we learned that the Turkish government had imprisoned him, charging him with being a spy. Pastor Andrew is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church Teaching Elder who had served the Turkish Church for two decades. He became a pawn in a political game between Turkey and the USA. We have copies of his newly published autobiography, God’s Hostage. You’ll definitely want to read it! They’re available in the church office, or on Sunday’s after church in the narthex for \$20.



If you shop on Amazon, don’t forget to link FAPC with AmazonSmile, so that the church will receive a donation from Amazon, at no extra cost to you.

Happy shopping! [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

# FAPC's 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Merchants' Lunch & Country Store

More than 1,000 people shared in the food, fun, and fellowship of *FAPC's 122nd Annual Merchants' Lunch and Country Store*. The annual harvest season community gathering took place at the Church Campus on Thursday, November 7.

The Country Store opened at 10 a.m. for early shopping and lunch service began at 11 a.m. Guests enjoyed seasoned beef filet and chicken kebab with a host of accompaniments. They also received complimentary copies of Margaret Garabedian Setrakian's "Kabob Delight" recipe. A gifted cook, baker, and early-day FAPC member, Margaret demonstrated her specialty main dish, also known as "The Hobo Pack," on the September 14, 1953 broadcast of "Fresno Cook Book" (KMJ-TV Channel 24). The recipe is considered one of the first ethnic dishes to be demonstrated on California broadcast television.



The well-stocked Country Store was open an extra hour for holiday shopping and featured such delicacies as choreg, souberag, paklava, yalanchi, grape leaves, gutah, tourshee, and rojik. The abundant produce of the San Joaquin Valley and a host of homemade breads, jellies, pastries, and specialty items rounded out the comestibles in the Store pantry. Special guests at the Merchants' Lunch included precious Senior Members of the Congregation, residents of the California Armenian Home, former Interim Pastor Louis R. Paradise, and former Associate Pastor Theodore D. Lyons II.

Area broadcasters – Kopi Sotiropoulos of KMPH-TV Fox Channel 26, Jocelyn Moran of YourCentralValley.com, and KFSN-TV Channel 30 Action News – covered the autumn event with multiple stories and spots.

The Session extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Merchants' Lunch Co-Chairs Maryvonne Gagliardi, Elaine Rubio, and Steven and Sandra Marashian and to every volunteer who served on the Kitchen, Barbecue, Country Store, Preparation/Service/Cleanup, and Administrative/Finance Teams.



# FAPC's 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Merchants' Lunch & Country Store



● Deacon's Corner ●

The precious word of God is the focus of the FAPC deacon's ministry. We are not just focused to care for the people of our church, but to also share the love and the gift of salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our prayer and goal is to pray for every soul, love everyone and reach out to those who have not yet experienced the sweet aroma of our Lord Jesus. By leaning on God, we can overcome any giants we may be experiencing in our life. Our prayer is to share with others how good our Father in heaven is, who is always by our side, encouraging us through the Holy Spirit.

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian ●●●●●

**"Bold Love"** is the theme of the **2020 Biennial General Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and Convention of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship.** The convocations will be held June 25-28, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The theme of the biennial gathering is drawn from Hebrews 4: 16. For more details, please visit [www.aeuna.org/2020-biennial-assembly](http://www.aeuna.org/2020-biennial-assembly).

**TURKEY MISSION'S REPORT**

On behalf of the **Khushigans and Haroutunians**, thank you again for praying for us as we traveled to Turkey in order to participate in Buluşma Noktası (translated: Meeting Place). The purpose of the conference, which was put on through a partnership between the International Turkey Network and the Association of Evangelical Churches in Turkey, was for the global church and ministry partners to hear from the Turkish church and to discern the next season of ministry in Turkey.

As we listened to Turkish church leaders, it was clear to most that while the Turkish church has been in infancy for the last 30-40 years, through the support and advocacy of ministry partners, mainly from western churches and sending organizations, the church has finally transitioned out of infancy. While they might not be a fully functioning adult church, they are a walking, talking, thinking church that needs to be offered independence and the ability to govern themselves. So, just as our kids will want to scream, "I don't want you, I will do it myself," the Turkish church is saying "we don't need the missions agencies and partnering churches telling us what to do anymore." But also, just as our kids will turn to us and look for guidance on large decisions and help when they can't quite figure out a problem, or even just for comfort during hard times, the Turkish church is also saying—"but we still need you and want you around, we can't do it by ourselves."



The City of Fresno dedicated a Memorial to Veterans on the grounds of City Hall on November 8, 2019. The monument consists of three slabs of black Academy granite bearing the names of 464 military members who died in the service of their country. The honorees include FAPC members SisokH.Darbinian(WorldWarI)and LeRoy Emerzian (World War II). The Veterans Memorial is located on the P Street side of the City Hall complex.

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FAPC Centennial Vocalist Earl R. Meyers, Jr. will present his 30th Anniversary Christmas Concert at 4 pm on Saturday, December 14, 2019. The Concert will take place at the Fresno Westside Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 2750 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in southeast Fresno. Admission is free and the FAPC Family is warmly invited to attend.



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Turkish pastors are asking for ministry partners who will come alongside them and support the vision that the Turkish believers are setting for their own communities. It's really an incredible thing to be able to witness. There are very few older Christians—in fact, I think we might have met some of those who have been Christian for the longest, so many of the church leaders are middle aged persons, still needing guidance and discipleship. And in fact, there are definitely waves of younger leaders who are longing for spiritual parenting as their own families are not followers of Jesus.

We were able to participate in discussions on a variety of topics, including how to be a Christian family in a Muslim community, the formation of Christian schools, how to have healthy working partnerships with ministry groups, and many more. I think I can speak for all of us when I say that the most significant part of our time there was just sitting and listening to the stories (over meals, cups of tea or coffee and snacks) of how people came to faith or how they are growing in their faith.

We look forward to sharing more of these stories with FAPC in weeks and months to come, especially as we work on ways that we can partner with Turkish pastors through the Armenian Turkish Peace Initiative (ATPI) in North America, Armenia, and Turkey.

●●●●● Kim Haroutunian

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT**

In January 2020, our current **Sunday School program** will go through some significant changes. The Children's Ministry Committee, led by Elder Razmig Minassian, has spent considerable time thinking through some concerns and coming up with a plan that will better meet the spiritual needs of our growing Children's Ministry. The number of children attending Sunday School in our current 9:37am time slot has decreased considerably over the past few years and it has become very clear that we are missing a huge opportunity to minister to the children of our congregation by not offering a more comprehensive children's program during the 11am worship hour.

So beginning Jan 12, 2020, Sunday School for Pre-school through 5th grade will be during the 11am, worship hour. Children will worship together with their parents for the first few songs and then be released to their classes. Children of all ages are still welcome in the worship service if families want to stay together, but we know that many of our church families will be excited to have their children participate in a program that will help them deepen their personal understanding of our faith. A few other changes will be happening at this time as well:

1. Our current Kids Quest program will now be offered at 9:45am for those involved in Music Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Adult Sunday School or small groups, or any other adults who might be on campus and would like their children to receive extra care and instruction (such as Sunday School teachers preparing for their classes).
2. Children will need to "check-in" each Sunday when they arrive. A simple check-in process will be introduced throughout the month of December. With the increased number of children participating, we need to be able to keep track of who is expected to be in class as the kids transition from the sanctuary to the CE building.
3. Children will be excused through the south set of doors closest to the CE building to lessen the time they need to be outside as they transition to their classes.
4. We will need to at least double our current Sunday School teacher numbers, as we will have teachers rotating so as to still be able to participate in the Worship Service on a regular basis. Please pray with us as well recruit these teachers! Maybe you are going to be one of them, or you know someone who will be one of them! Training and support will be provided for ALL teachers, new or experienced!

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●●●●● Kim Haroutunian

**FAPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Serving together we can make a difference!  
Small ways. Big ways. All are important.

Where would you like to connect in ministry?

Help in a classroom.
  Make events happen.
  Work behind the scenes.

**Count me in!** Please contact me so I can learn how to make a difference!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact me \_\_\_\_\_

Best time/day to contact me \_\_\_\_\_



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## *Upcoming Special Events*

### **Congregational Meeting**

*The Gathering*, Family Christmas  
Session, 6:45 pm  
Children's Christmas Program, 5:00 pm  
Church-wide Living Nativity  
Christmas Eve Service, 3:30 pm  
Armenian Christmas Sunday  
Camp Arev Winter Camp 2020, *High School Juniors*  
*The Gathering*, Armenian Cooking w/ Kohar  
Camp Arev Winter Camp 2020, *Junior High College*  
Men's Retreat  
*The Gathering*, Women's Embrace Conference

**Dec 8**  
Dec 14  
Dec 17  
Dec 21  
Dec 22  
Dec 24  
Jan 5  
Jan 17-19  
Jan 24-26  
Jan 25  
Jan 31-Feb 2  
Feb 7-9  
Feb 21-23  
Feb 28-29

Teaching Elder: Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)

Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Sevag Afarian, Ed Esajian,  
Rev. Razmig Minassian, Dr. Dennis Shamlan, Ron Statler

Deacons: Silva Esajian, Kim Garo, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison,  
Maria Kalayjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian,  
Sandra Marashian, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlan, Varvara Sivas

**Church Office:**  
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
(M - F)  
P: 559.237.6638  
F: 559.237.9526  
E: fapc3@fapc.net

### **Staff:**

**Anna Arakelian**, Nursery Attendant  
**Suzy Artemyan**, Church Administrator  
(administration@fapc.net)  
**Vera Darakjian**, Armenian Ministries Pianist  
**Jesse Dunbar**, Interim Music Ministry Director  
(music@fapc.net)  
**Marine Frnzlyan**, Administrator Assistant,  
Nursery Attendant (fapc3@fapc.net)  
**Stephen Goodale**, Director of Youth Ministries  
(youthdirector@fapc.net)  
**Brandon Petrie**, Media Technician  
(Brandonpetrie@gmail.com)  
**Susan Ruiz**, Custodian

**Mosaix submissions  
are due by the  
15<sup>th</sup> of every month.  
Please e-mail  
information to  
fapc3@fapc.net**

