

“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?”

1 Thessalonians 3:9 (TNIV)

What a great question!

How can we thank God enough in return for all the joy we have before Him for particular people He has placed in our lives? As you read this verse, did someone come to mind? Did several people come to mind? How have you thanked the Lord for those people?

Some of us make donations in honor of people or special events in their lives like birthdays or anniversaries. We make memorial gifts “in lieu of flowers” to honor the lives of those we love and who have made an impact on our lives. We name businesses and products after people who have brought joy into our lives.

How do you thank God for people?

Likely, you offer prayers of thanksgiving. Maybe you give thanks to the Lord every time you pray for your children, your spouse, your parents and grandparents. Maybe it’s for your spiritual children, like the Apostle Paul does here, that you praise God. It might even be for the people that have invested in you. Many of you former (and current!) Sunday School teachers, leaders and youth leaders continue throughout your lives to thank God for the privilege of seeing those to whom you’ve taught the Scripture continue to walk in their faith.

That’s what Paul is doing in this letter to the Thessalonians. He writes, *“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Th 1:2-3)* He continues, *“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.” (1 Th 2:13)*

Your lives can be what prompts people to praise and thank God. Imagine how your faithfulness to the Lord, your work, your labor, and your endurance produced, prompted and inspired by His Spirit’s work in your life moves us—moves those who know you—to worship our God and Savior!

Frequently, on Thanksgiving, we focus on the things that God has done for us throughout the year. Even amidst the pandemic and the chaos of 2020, don’t neglect to thank Him for His provision and grace over these last ten months! In addition, however, spend some specific time thanking the Lord for the people in your life that inspire you to worship and praise God. Make a list and thank Him for them by name—do this repeatedly, even daily—as we proceed toward Thanksgiving Day. Be sure to imitate Paul and let them know that you’re thanking the Lord for them!

Go one step further: sacrificially offer a donation to the AMAA or Young Life Armenia or another organization that is serving Armenia and families in Artsakh. Let your prayers of gratitude bring joy to the heart of God *and* your gifts of gratitude provide for the tangible needs for our brothers and sisters in Artsakh and Armenia.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Essentials of Our Faith

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!

2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.

3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.

4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God’s free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.

5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity; where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord.

6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth—personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Rev. 22:20)

7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to “Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.” He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)

Small Groups

Starting the week of Oct. 4th, **Small Groups** resumed meeting. Though two had continued through September, most had taken a 4 week break. As we follow the sermon series on the Essentials of Faith, we have a chance to engage together about the core of what we believe as FAPC and a part of the EPC. We have groups meeting on Mondays thru Thursdays and one group meeting every other Saturday. Attendance overall has decreased by 4-5, we are at around 70 participants and leaders. Most of the groups have stayed with the same members, and so with few new signups we have room to grow. It is not too late to sign up, and 3-4 groups still have room to add to them, so we will continue to invite the congregation to join a small group if they aren't yet involved.

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Children's Ministry

I have enjoyed putting together the children's message each week, whether in person or pre-recorded, and love including the children or youth. As schools start to open in Clovis at the start of the month, we are looking to start having an in person program soon. Right now, Razmig and I are looking to do something to support our families during the Advent season, and praying and planning on what that will look like to be in person in December.

We know that Sunday School and Children's Ministry will look different than it did in Jan. of this year, but are trusting God to guide us into all the new blessings He has for us.

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Youth Group

I am so excited with the turn out for **Youth Group**! With our maximum of 23 students and minimum of 13, we have really been enjoying our time on Sunday afternoons. We have been working through the Gospel of Mark to see who Jesus is and what He said and did here on earth.

Having two and a half hours for lunch, games, study, and time to hang out has really encouraged our students. We helped out with the Fall Carnival on Halloween, and are looking at how we can serve in November.

With school online, I have been bringing lunches to different houses and really enjoying time with the students outside of Sundays. As things start to open up, I am hopeful that we can do something like paintball, a movie, or even a church lock-in sometime soon!

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Sunday Mornings

I have enjoyed putting together the children's message each week, whether in person or pre-recorded, and love including the children or youth. As schools start to open in Clovis at the start of the month, we are looking to start having an in person program soon. Right now, Razmig and I are looking to do something to support our families during the Advent season, and praying and planning on what that will look like to be in person in December.

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●●●●● Stephen Goodale

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DEACON'S CORNER

I have many favorite hymns and one of them is, "when we all get to heaven." Can you imagine what a day that will be? We will go to heaven and we will see Jesus! These days we are living under dark clouds and might be feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, sad, or we just cannot seem to focus on what we are doing. We need to focus our eyes on Jesus, and only Jesus. We need to be reading and memorizing his word and his promises so that we can stay in faith. He is a faithful God and I praise him for the faith that he is put in my heart.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian

Our Condolences:

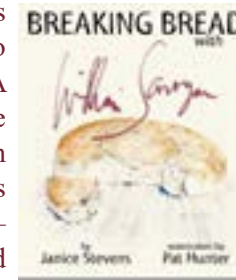


Terril John "Terry" Ashjian, a child of our Church, passed away on October 4, 2020, just 10 days shy of his 80th birthday. He was the eldest child of the beloved FAPC Elder John Martin Ashjian (1911-1955) and Florence (Melikian) Ashjian (1914-2002), three-time President of the Young Women's Society of Fidelis. Terry was also preceded in death by his grandparents, Mardiros and Eva (Kooyoumjan) Ashjian and Aram and Kohar (Dombalian) Melikian. Terry is survived by his wife, Donna Jean; sons Jon Scott, Tere Brooke, Keller King, and Brittan Brea; daughters, Tara Dawn, Romy Nicole, Joree Bryn, and Bramli Bergyn; 20 grandchildren,; four great-grandchildren; and his siblings, James Ashjian, Leland Ashjian, and

Kathy Anderson and their families.

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Breaking Bread with William Saroyan Features Fresno's Bitlis Tutoo Recipe

For the late Queenie Dardarian's authentic recipe for Bitlis Tutoo that was originally published in *A Hundred Years and Still Cooking*, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno (FAPC) Fidelis Women's Society Centennial recipe collection – and that is featured in *Breaking Bread with William Saroyan* by Fresno's Janice Stevens and Pat Hunter, please see Christine Vartanian Datian's article at: <https://mirrorspectator.com/2020/06/18/recipe-corner-bitlis-tutoo-from-breaking-bread-with-william-saroyan/>



In *Breaking Bread with William Saroyan*, Janice Stevens captures the essence of William Saroyan's love for his Armenian culture through excerpts of his written word and carefully selected authentic Armenian recipes. Dennis Elia writes, "Saroyan appreciated the Bitlis penchant for all things related to the cabbage. Whether in the form of a hot or cold cabbage broth, sumptuous ground lamb cabbage rolls or boiled lambs-head soup, these authentic ethnic recipes are re-created for you to read and try." Recipes from famed Armenian chef, author, restaurateur and philanthropist George Mardikian's 1942 book, *Dinner at Omar Khayyam's* and many other Armenian recipes are featured. "This book is an intimate portrayal of Armenian foods and culture, celebrating the literary great, William Saroyan. Sure to become a classic."

To purchase *Breaking Bread with William Saroyan*, call or contact:

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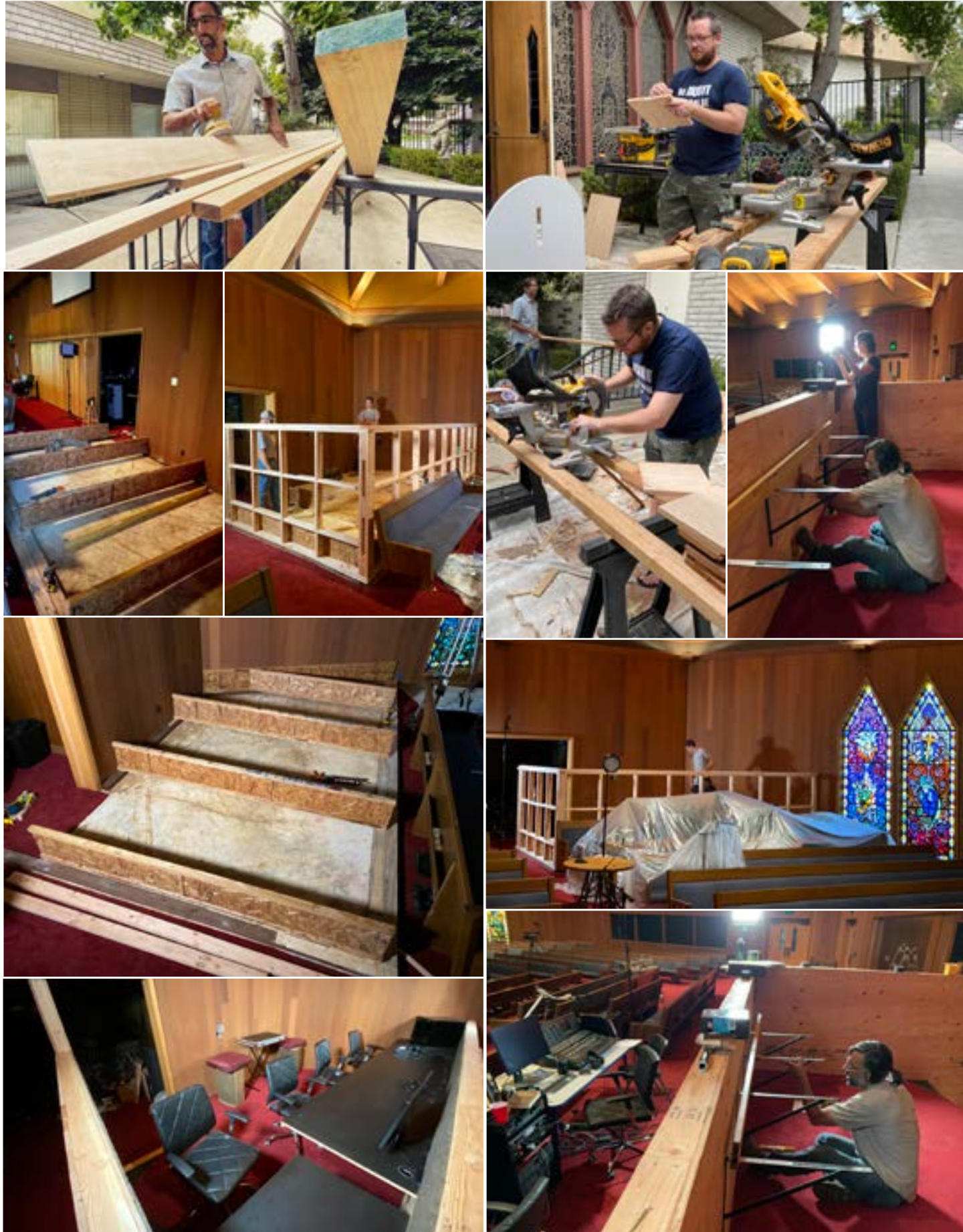
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Donations for Armenia



Thank you to everyone who contributed!

●●●●● Media Expansion Plan 2020 ●●●●●

Thank you to Kalem, Brandon, David, Jesse, and the team for our new and improved Sanctuary!



●●●●● Media Expansion Plan 2020 ●●●●●





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