



*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10 (NIV2011)*

When’s the last time you had a conversation? Not texting, not email, not “SnapChat”, “FaceBook” or “Instagram”, but a spoken, verbal exchange of thoughts, facts and feelings—Zoom & Facetime count!—with someone. It could even have been with a member of your family.

These days, we’re likely more inclined simply to make statements on social media or in a text thread than engage in a vigorous exchange of ideas. We’re less inclined to listen thoughtfully and curiously because we’re are working so hard to prepare our responses, to make sure the other person(s) hear us.

Do you agree or not? Let’s have a conversation! Now let me ask you when the last time you had a “Gospel conversation”? This is conversation (see definition above) in which you ask questions, listen, and share the good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ? It’s embarrassing how long I can go between conversations! And I even have the perfect lead-in when someone asks me what I do! Sigh.

Sometimes we don’t engage in gospel conversations because the other person really doesn’t want to endure a sales pitch and we’re not ready for a conversation that may include us listening. Other times we don’t share the good news because we’re just not sure how to connect with people where they are. How do you talk about eternity when you’re dying for your child’s soccer game to end?

During the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church our focus was on evangelism: turning everyday conversations into Gospel conversations. They introduced a tool, “the 3 Circles”, urging us to mobilize our churches to use it to turn our normal, everyday conversations (speaking and listening) into exchanges that introduce others to the good news of Jesus.

During my sermon on July 17, I introduced the tool and we’ll be talking about it and training ourselves in it over the next several months. Watch & listen to the message if you missed it on <https://www.youtube.com/c/FAPCFresno>. Also, here’s a drawing of the tool.



Again, our goal is to train ourselves to be ready when the Lord would like to extend His love and Gospel through us. In the meantime, get curious with a neighbor, colleague, family member or a perfect/imperfect stranger. Ask them about their lives and listen to see if they reflect the designs of a loving Creator.

More next time.

Because He lives,

 Badveli Greg



**Family Camp at Camp AREV**  
Friday, August 26th - Sunday, August 28th  
1701 Darling Ave,  
Frazier Park, CA 93225

**Rally Sunday!**  
September 11th, 2022  
Starting after church  
at 12 p.m.

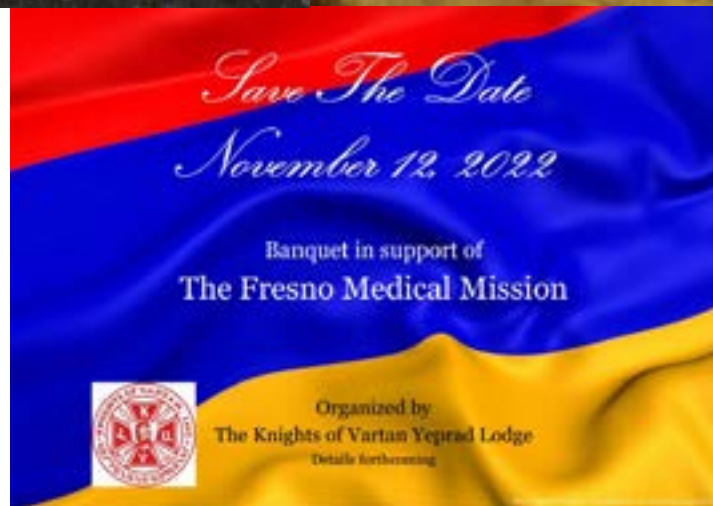
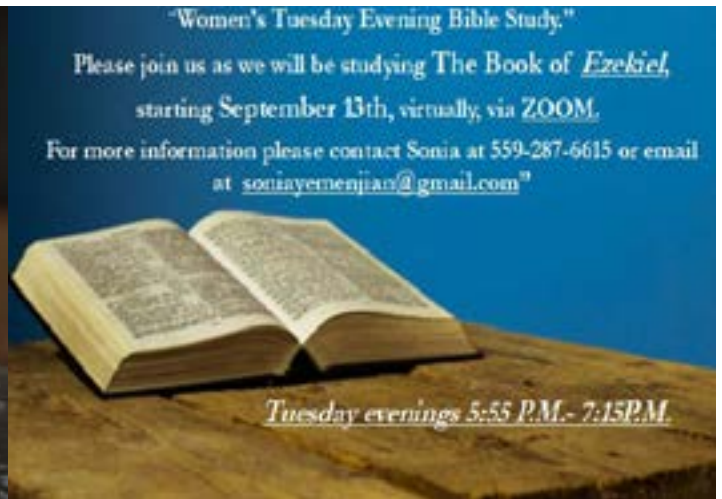
# UPCOMING EVENTS...

*David Jon Christensen's Photography Exhibition  
The Scarab Creative Arts Gallery  
Thursday, September 1st, from, 5 to 8 p.m.*

Our church family is invited to the opening reception of David Jon Christensen's photography in the Scarab Creative Arts Gallery on Thursday, September 1st from 5 to 8 p.m. The reception will be held in conjunction with Fresno's Downtown ArtHop event held each first Thursday of the month. Scarab is located at 729 East Divisadero, at the corner of Broadway and Divisadero.

David Jon is an internationally known and sought after photographer. A recent addition to his list of impressive accolades was his work photographing a celebrity wedding featured in Vogue Magazine. Scarab Creative Arts is a new shared studio space, gift shop, art gallery, and arts education center that was launched by Maggie Boyajian Courtis in 2021. Classes in a variety of media are available for adults and children. Artist members include Arpi Keledjian and Grace Chavoor.

For more information you can find David on Instagram at: [@davidjonphotography](https://www.instagram.com/davidjonphotography)  
Scarab at: [www.ScarabGallery.com](http://www.ScarabGallery.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS...

## PAST EVENTS...



ReCharge (Acts 1:8) was the theme of the 42nd Annual General Assembly of our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The General Assembly took place June 21-24, 2022 at Ward Church in Northville, Michigan, approximately 30 miles northeast of Detroit. Rosemary Lukens, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, was installed as Moderator on June 22. The four-day convocation featured sessions on Church Health and Planting, Evangelism, World Outreach, and a Leadership Institute. Speakers included Reverend Andrew Brunson, the pastor who was imprisoned in Turkey from 2016-2018, and Erick Schenkel, Executive Director of The Jesus Film Project. Senior Pastor Gregory Haroutunian represented FAPC at the General Assembly.



Vanna In, Executive Director of Hope Now For Youth, delivered the English Message at the FAPC Independence Weekend Worship Service on July 3. Using Galatians 5:1 as his text, Vanna spoke of the American Revolution, Patrick Henry, the colonial Presbyterian Pastor Samuel Davies, and the Gospel of Liberty. Vanna, a onetime incarcerated felon, went on to explain that "the Bible gave me all that I needed" during his imprisonment and that liberty in Christ has made us all free from sin. He added, "We are eternally grateful for the blood that was shed on the Cross." The ministry of Hope Now for Youth, founded by Reverend Roger A.D. Minassian, will mark its 30th Anniversary in 2023.



Stephen Goodale, FAPC Director of Ministries for the past three years, concluded his tenure with the Congregation on June 30. At the June 12 Youth Sunday Worship Service, Stephen delivered the English Message, a meditation on 1 Timothy 4. In sharing the lessons he learned, Stephen said his initial goal was to focus on the community of the youth group. "What you win them with is what you win them to. . . . I wanted the community of encouraging one another, of trusting [Jesus] and reading the Scripture together to be the first priority. The way we've grown as a youth group as a community has been through invitation. . . . Before having fun, right after reading Scripture and pursuing God together, is inviting others to do that same thing. [Until Jesus comes back, we must be] devoting ourselves to Scripture, to preaching, to teaching, to having this community. Set an example in speech, conduct, life, faith and purity. . . . Just as I tried to lead the youth group in community first, I've seen that is how we follow Christ—when we are surrounded by others. We need others to encourage us to follow Christ together. . . . I want to encourage you that just as it's all about community—which makes it that much harder to say goodbye—that God in His Plan . . . has more for you, more for us. [God] promises to be with us, to care for us, to encourage us, and to help us get through." The Session and Congregation thank Stephen, Claire, and Oliver for their service at FAPC; my God's Guiding Hand be upon them in all the times to come.





## Armenian Turkish Peace Initiative



### **Disclaimer:**

This article is in no way meant to minimize the pain and sorrow we have and are still all going through, but rather to be an example of the BOLD LOVE Jesus commands of his followers. It is the experience of some in our churches.

A movement is growing out of the ashes of Armenian Turkish relationships. What was once thought impossible, through the grace of God, is actually happening. Turkish Christians on their own initiative, are admitting to the Genocide and asking for forgiveness; in turn, Armenians are following Jesus' supreme commandment to love our enemies and are forgiving Turks. How can this be? Through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Vision of ATPI:**

Developing Armenian & Turkish relationships, through forgiveness in Christ, partnering together to strengthen the churches in Armenia & Turkey.

### **History of ATPI:**

In 2014, a group of Turkish & Armenian pastors met together in Pasadena, CA to discuss both the history that divides and the faith that can bring us together. That led to the first large ATPI gathering, with nearly four hundred Armenians who, for the first time, were meeting Turkish believers, who asked for their forgiveness. We have since met in NJ, and Istanbul.

### **Challenges:**

Is it difficult and painful? Of course.

Is this happening on a national level? No, but small cracks in the wall of hatred and unforgiveness are starting to show.

Has this been made more difficult by the recent war in Artsakh? Of course. But how else can an Armenian follower of Jesus show BOLD LOVE? Isn't this the title of our conference? Can you think of a better example of BOLD LOVE?



## Some fruits:

- Turkish Christians apologizing for the Genocide
- Armenians forgiving Turkish Christians, while not forgetting justice, pain and sorrow
- Turks becoming Christians and are persecuted by Turkish authorities for being “Armenian lovers”
- Armenians experiencing emotional and spiritual healing as they receive freedom from hatred
- Turkish believers being set free from the “blood guilt” of their ancestors
- Armenians taking the Gospel message into Turkey
- Turkish believers remembering April 24th, and even visiting Armenia to show respect at the Memorial
- Armenian and Turkish believers praying together
- Turks reflecting on the power of hearing the Gospel from Armenians
- Armenians supporting Turkish Christians planting churches in Turkey
- Turkish believers condemning current Turkish policie

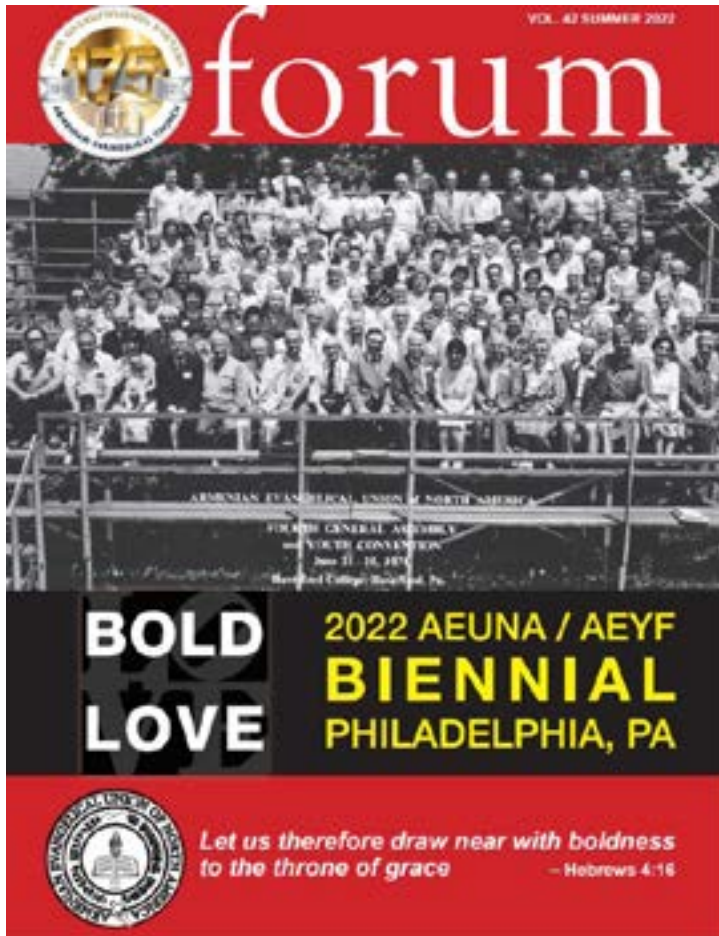
## Quotes:

An Armenian pastor, "I would have never believed that I would have witnessed something like this in my lifetime...in one night we went from hating Turks to praying for God's mercy and blessing over them."

A Turkish Pastor, "What kind of people were we that would cause us to inflict so much horror? Thank you, ATPI, for allow us the opportunity to ask the Armenian people for forgiveness. The Turkish church can't flourish without their blessing."

Impossible? By the power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

Paul Haroutunian, Elder, First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, Delegate to the Biannual



ATPI North America Leadership Team

*“Luke 6:27”*

*Jesus says: “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (NIV)*





# 2022 AEUNA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

## King of Prussia, PA

### June 23-26, 2022



The 26th General Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America was held June 23-26th in King of Prussia, PA. Congregants and delegates from AEUNA member churches gathered in worship and fellowship from all over North America. The keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, challenged the community to embody Christ's ***bold love*** and to engage the world with renewed Christian vision. Thanks and gratitude go to the faithful members of the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church of Havertown, PA as well as the local convention task force committee. Their rich hospitality and warm welcome will not be forgotten.

*Please take a few minutes and watch!*

“Rebuild: A Vision Film for the Armenian Evangelical Community”

<https://youtu.be/kr2J1COwZ3E>



## Our Condolences...

Philip Charles Garo, Sr., lifelong ambassador for Jesus Christ, passed away at home on June 17, 2022 at the age of 86. The son of Armenian Genocide survivors, Phil grew up on North Safford Avenue and was a member of the Fresno High School Class of 1953. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree and teaching credential at then-Fresno State College. His vocational life included tenures as a cabinet maker, manager of the legendary Carriage House Restaurant, elementary school educator, representative of the New York Life Insurance Company, and master maintenance mechanic at Lion Raisins, Inc., retiring at the age of 82 with almost 40 years of faithful service. At FAPC, Phil was a member of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Sunday School teacher, Chancel Choir member for more than four decades, Ruling Elder, Deacon, and Delegate to multiple General Assemblies of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. In 1985, the Congregation saluted Phil as a Silent Servant of the Congregation. A hot rod aficionado since his youth, Phil was a faithful student of the Holy Bible, a longtime member of Bible Study Fellowship, and a true grill master. Phil was preceded in death by his parents, John and Grace (Arakelian) Garo; his beloved daughter, Judith Elaine Garo; and his brother-in-law, Ronald Frank Karabian, CLU. He is survived by his precious wife of more than 60 years, Elaine (Karabian) Garo; his children, Kimberly (James Malkasian); Philip, Jr. (Melineh); Jonelle (Kalem); seven grandchildren, Judi, Peter, and Frank Kazarian, and Micah, John, Daniel, and Nina Garo; his sisters, Dolores Halajian and Patricia Rallis; and many dear nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Janice Mae (McKechnie) Stevens, chronicler of FAPC and its people, passed away on January 4, 2022 at the age of 77. A native of North Dakota, Janice relocated with her family to Santa Cruz in 1948, met her husband Jim at the Twin Lakes Baptist Church, and settled in Fresno to raise their family. Janice earned multiple degrees in English at California State University, Fresno and went on to teach at the campuses of the State Center Community College District and Clovis Adult School. For 15 years, she taught memoir writing to military veterans at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District and compiled their biographies in two volumes entitled "Stores of Service." Janice and her best friend, artist Pat Hunter, opened Gallery II and collaborated on nine volumes of California and San Joaquin Valley history, including "William Saroyan: Places in Time (2008)" and "Breaking Bread with William Saroyan (2016)." For many years, Janice and Pat attended the FAPC Merchants' Lunch and shared their works with members of the Congregation and community. Janice is survived by her husband, Jim Stevens; three daughters; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her collaborator, Pat Hunter.



Richard Sam Elia, dear brother in Christ, passed away on July 17, 2022 at the age of 78. A native of Fresno, Richard spent his early years in Armenian Town and then relocated to North Fresno after his parents collected signatures on a petition to permit their move in the face of ethnic discrimination. Richard attended Longfellow and Hamilton Junior High Schools and graduated in the Fresno High School Class of 1961. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves and was stationed at Fort Polk, a 100,000-acre training post in Vernon Parish, Louisiana. After completing his initial training, Richard returned to Fresno and excelled at sales at the Devoe Paint Company and Harry Mazgedian's furniture store at Fulton and Calaveras Streets. In the mid-1960s, Ronald F. Karabian approached Richard about a career in insurance and Richard served as a representative of the New York Life Insurance Company from 1966 until his passing. He was a longtime member and Ruling Elder of FAPC and actively advised the Committees on Budget and Finance and Endowments. Richard was involved in his children's sporting events, the Boy Scouts of America, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling the globe. He was a Life Underwriter, Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table, longtime member of the Reedley Duck Club, and Can-Am off-roading enthusiast. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, John and Victoria (Shekoyan) Elia. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Delphia (Southworth) Elia; son Richard K. Elia, M.D., daughter Brandyce A. Elia, M.D. J.D. of Oceanside; brother Kenneth J. Elia; sister-in-law Greta Elia; and many dear cousins and extended family members.





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## *Upcoming Special Events*

August 17th - 24/7 Prayer Day

August 26th - 28th - Family Camp @Camp AREV

August 28th - Sunday Worship Service @Camp AREV

September 11th - Rally Sunday

September 13th - Leadership Conference



If you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact the church office at 559-237-6638.

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Unsolicited submissions are welcome.

All submissions are subject to editorial revisions.

Please email to [Jacci@fapc.net](mailto:Jacci@fapc.net)

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(Interim hours)

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**Ruling Elders:** Dr. Hagop Afarian, Paul Bedrosian, Paul Haroutunian, Kalem Kazarian, Rev. Razmig Minassian

**Deacons:** Sandra Marashian, Noelle Nightingale, Maral Afarian, Steven Baker, Rita Barsamian, Grace Chavoor, Simon Kalebjian, Karine Martirosyan, Ando Sivas, Kinsey Sivas