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FAMILY CAMP

AUGUST 25–27 2023

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FEATURE ARTICLE:

RECONCILIATION: THE FORGOTTEN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Noelle Daoudian Nightingale, M.A. Fresno, CA
Mediator and consultant for Nightingale Resolutions

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SCAN ME



ARMENIA TEAM MISSION 2023

First Armenian Presbyterian Church cultivates a community of disciple-makers that shares the reconciling love of Christ with Armenians, their families, and neighbors.

This year, a team from FAPC answered the Lord’s calling to serve with Armenia Young Life (YL) at Pioneer Camp in Artavaz. Their goal was to help prepare the camp facility for upcoming camps, but also to serve Armenia’s Young Life leaders who meet with students all year long and at the camp facility. The FAPC team was basically “serving those who serve” the youth in Armenia each and every day.

The FAPC team was a multi-generational group of 12 individuals. Kim Haroutunian expressed their desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus (John 13), serving in tangible ways. Their work tasks before the YL leaders arrived at camp included overall cleaning, window washing, and digging holes. Once the teams arrived, they became kitchen staff for 170 people! Our group spent five nights at Pioneer Camp, working closely with Arman and Lilit Asatryan, YL Directors.

At a recent luncheon held in the Fireside Room, some team members shared highlights of the trip. Listed below are a few of their insights and comments.

Bella Thurber’s participation on this trip was uncertain during the two months prior to their departure. As you may know, she had successful brain surgery in April and was told there would be at least six weeks of recuperation time. She departed on this trip exactly six weeks after surgery (to the day)! She shared about her journey through this time and expressed gratitude for the prayers of our church family. God showed her what a treasure it is

to be surrounded by people who were all ready and willing to serve, not only among the YL Armenian team members, but through the unity of the FAPC team as well.

Garo Minassian shared how readily Armenians would share their testimonies within minutes of meeting them. Many of the YL leaders they met had been soldiers (19-20 years of age), and sharing the gospel was discouraged during their service because it was considered a distraction. Garo encouraged us to always share our testimonies.

Maral Afarian (Medz Mama) was instrumental (as was Garo) to this team’s efforts because of her Armenian language skills. She shared how she learned a lot from the younger team members, and they took tender care of her when she was ill for a brief time on the trip. “It was amazing to see the Lord’s hand on our trip.”

Eddy Thurber, who recently studied in Armenia prior to this trip, said he had assumptions that Armenians living in Armenia who were not driven out during the 1915 Genocide had not experienced the same suffering, but they are now going through a genocide today. However, God is using it to help them blossom in their faith. Many years ago, during the Lebanon/Syrian wars, a group of Armenians created worship songs called Nor Yerk (new song). Currently, at YL Club in Armenia, young people were asked to write worship songs in a similar fashion. God is using camp as a place of revival.

Ani Haroutunian has visited Armenia two years in a row. She stressed how God worked through prayer, and the deep relationships that were built on the team because of their commitment to praying over each other.

Julia Adanalian was encouraged that although miles from home, it was evident that God is at work everywhere, transforming hearts! She sees that the Lord has a special plan created for each and every one of us.



Lily Baloian (Spike Ball Extraordinaire) expressed joy in seeing the YL leaders worship and experiencing it alongside them. After visiting the pit where St. Gregory the Illuminator spent 13 years, Jonelle Kazarian posed the question, “What would you do for a nation to know Christ?” God revealed to Lily how she can “suffer” for the sake of non-believers.

Julie Thurber acknowledged our church family as a praying force for Bella and for the team. She stressed the fact that whether at home or on Armenian soil, we worship the same God! She shared Kim’s phrase of working “on-site with insight!” It was also impactful seeing many YL leaders in their 20’s serving the Armenian youth.

Other team members who weren’t able to attend the luncheon include Jonelle and Frank Kazarian and Ella Thurber.

The team expressed gratitude to our congregation for their provision both prayerfully and financially. Everyone expressed interest in returning to serve YL Armenia in the future and would love to see other members of our church family join them.

If you’d like to learn more about Pioneer Camp, visit <https://pioneercamp.younglife.org/>.

Submitted by Elaine Rubio, Missions Committee





Missions





Missions





Missions



Medical Mission April 2023,
Deir Mimas Presbyterian Church
South Lebanon

Missions and serving the Lord can be done in many ways. Some directly serve; others facilitate the primary servants. Our mission trip was more about the latter.

On April 12, 2023, Sue and I departed on a multilegged mission trip with the first stop being Beirut, Lebanon. One purpose to visit Lebanon was to provide and deliver medical resources for Dr. Asaad Skoury, M.D. who leads the medical outreach at the Deir Mimas Evangelical Presbyterian Church in south Lebanon. I first met Dr. Skoury the previous year in April of 2022 when I spent a day at the American University of Beirut (AUB) observing in the emergency department. He is one of the medical faculty and is part of the medical training program at AUB.



Figure 1: Map of the region.
South Lebanon with is indicated
with a red circle.

I soon learned that he is a devout Christian and that he grew up in the Nabatiye region of South Lebanon (near Merjayoun) in the small village of Deir Mimas. His family worshipped at the Deir Mimas Evangelical Presbyterian Church, founded in 1861. It is located two miles from the Israeli border in a primarily agriculture area with numerous olive orchards.

Southern Lebanon is overwhelmingly Muslim today. The need for medical care is great especially since the Lebanese banking system failed four years ago causing the ensuing economic collapse. The Presbyterian church provides Sunday services but the church facility also becomes a primary health care facility to the surrounding community. The church clinic is administered by Mr. Chucuri Hourani, MBA. A primary care visit costs two dollars (which preserves dignity) and other services/procedures are also provided for very discounted prices. It is important to understand that Lebanon does not have a lack of capable medical professionals as their doctors are well trained. They have a problem with resources and finances due to the financial collapse. The Lebanese Ministry of Health provides various common medications like antibiotics and vaccines. Unfortunately, many medications are not available or affordable. Dr. Skoury travels weekly on Sunday to Deir Mimas to lead worship services and then he serves with other medical providers on his days off from AUB.

Dr. Skoury and I kept in touch during the past year. He communicated that he was in need of medications and wondered if there was any way we could provide some items on their wish list. God then provided the following people and organizations who donated money, time, supplies and equipment to support the mission for the Deir Mimas Presbyterian Church medical clinic.

1. **First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno**--Sending organization provided love and invaluable prayer support.
2. **Medical Ministries International (MMI)**: www.medministries.org is located in Fresno, CA and for over 25 years has labored with its many volunteer servants to collect, repair and send very useful medical equipment to vetted organizations around the world. They provided hand held diagnostic equipment for this mission.
3. **MAP International** www.map.org is a Christian organizations that provide medications and supplies to vetted licensed physicians. They make the job of securing needed medications simple and affordable. They provided invaluable medications and sutures for this mission.
4. **Crosslink Memphis** <https://www.crosslinkmemphis.org> Is another amazing Christian missions organization who provided invaluable medications, supplies and sutures.
5. **Pulse Biomedical** in Fresno is a privately owned biomedical repair business. Mr. Dave Majeno and his team quietly donate equipment, money and precious technical time in support of this mission and MMI.

Everyone who has been involved with medical mission work knows that you need to have a legal plan to bring medical supplies into a country. One of the airport customs officers is a lieutenant from Deir Mimas and it was arranged that our five suitcases would be escorted out of the airport. We arrived on time and were kindly greeted by several smiling Lebanese customs agents. Unfortunately, our five suitcases did not arrive with us to Beirut. The next day our five bags arrived and we returned to the airport where we were reunited with three of our five bags. Two of the bags, with thousands of dollars of medications, were being held somewhere else. I was invited and escorted by an airport agent who only spoke Arabic. I left my wife behind as I went on a 45-minute adventure. Initially, I passed through two security points next to the airport. Eventually, we entered the office of a very well-built man in military fatigues who never gave me eye contact. He signed some paper and then we retraced our steps back through security to the outer airport. Then I was escorted back into the internal airport security where I was united with the final two bags. I then, had to go through the



Figure 2: Sue and I with Mount Hermon in
the background.



usual airport customs. I was stopped and questioned. The bags were x-rayed. The Arabic speaking customs guard then stated “Please wait a minute”. I handed him a paper from “The Supreme Council of the Evangelical Community in Syria and Lebanon signed by Rev. Joseph Kassab. For the next 20 minutes the customs agent kept saying every few minutes, “Please, just one more minute”. Finally, a middle-aged military looking officer came who spoke English well. He reviewed the document and he was already aware that I was going to the Presbyterian Church in Deir Mimas. He asked, “So, you are not taking these medications to Syria”? I said, “No. These are for Deir Mimas.” He then asked, “For the Presbyterian Church”? “Yes,” I replied, “these are all donated to serve the people in Deir Mimas”. He looked at me, smiled and said, “Thank you so much for serving our people”. He then released me. I smiled knowing God had arranged passage of precious medications and supplies. We returned to the hotel to drop off the baggage, take a long overdue shower and change our clothes. Later that week, we dropped off the suitcases with Dr. Skoury and he gave us a mini half day tour of Beirut, Antelias, and Bikfaiya.

We reconnected on our last day in Lebanon (Monday) and travelled to south Lebanon along the coast through Sidon and then south-east. We had to pass one Hezbollah check point before reaching the village of Deir Mimas. The clinic was closed as we arrived on Monday which was the official Orthodox Easter holiday. The day prior, the church had a Sunday worship service led by Dr. Skoury. The clinic is typically open Sunday afternoons through Thursdays. What an example of “loving thy neighbor”.

Below is a series of pictures of the church, the clinic and some of the people who labor to “Love thy neighbor”. This part of the world once had a significant Christian presence. From a worldly viewpoint, there is little hope that these majority Muslims will come to Christ. Yet, we pray and see God’s hand and Spirit moving. The people of the region know that Christians love and care for them. Many Muslims have visions and are seeking. We see and know of Muslims coming to Christ in Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria.



Figure 3: Sign on road.

We also know that the evil one comes to “Steal, Kill and Destroy”. Christ came that we could have abundant life. In our life pursuits, we must listen to Christ and literally love (Agape) one another as Christ did and just as important, we must “Be Holy” as Christ was Holy. In these pursuits we serve in love and seek to grow and unify the church as God/Christ leads us.

Finally, I want to draw attention to the logistics of how this mission worked so you can better understand and support the Church’s mandate to go into the world and make disciples that obey Jesus. I mentioned above that some people/organizations are called to organize and directly go and serve. It is best that such people have a home sending church or supporting parachurch group. This relationship grounds the person (or team) with a clear mission plan, accountability and transparency. This supporting body must also support the mission in prayer which undergirds and provides for fulfillment of God’s plan.

All mission activities must include a well thought out financial plan. The human facilitation of this medical mission was fulfilled by the several organizations listed earlier.

1. **Medical Ministries International (MMI) is located in Fresno. They have volunteer days and other opportunities to serve. Learn more at www.medministries.org**
2. **MAP International www.map.org and Crosslink Memphis <https://www.crosslinkmemphis.org>** are Christian organizations that provide medications and supplies to vetted licensed physicians at a tremendous discount. They make the job of securing needed medications simple and affordable.
3. **Pulse Biomedical** in Fresno is a privately owned biomedical repair business managed by Mr. Dave Majeno. I have known Dave for over 5 years and he and his team have quietly donated equipment, and precious technical time in support of such medical mission projects.

I am very grateful for the servants and organizations that supported this mission. They give of themselves and resources and serve people they will never meet. They are part of God’s team that facilitated the medical professionals in Deir Mimas who directly “love and serve their neighbors” and desire to see God’s Kingdom grow as they cultivate God’s reconciling love.

In Christ’s Love, Jay and Sue Khushigian



Figure 4: Deir Mimas Presbyterian Church sanctuary and altar. Dr. Skoury, Mohamed his friend and me.



Figure 5: Deir Mimas Presbyterian Church back of sanctuary With Dr. Skoury, M.D. smiling and Sue looking at various Christian bibles and books.



Figure 6: Mr. Chucri Hourani, MBA, Executive Director, Deir Mimas Presbyterian Clinic.



Figure 7: South-West View from Church Balcony.



Figure 8: North West View from Church Balcony. Note the Litani River, the longest river in Lebanon, is found in the gorge below the mountain. This red arrow reveals the location where the south flowing river turns west to the Mediterranean Sea.



Figure 9: (Left) Ms. Skoury, Mother of Dr. Asaad Skoury, M.D. (Right).



Figure 10: A view of the pharmacy area.



Figure 11: Endoscopy equipment Dr. Skoury also trained as a gastroenterologist.

Some interesting background information:

Since 2019, Lebanon became the poorest county overnight when the complete Lebanese banking system collapsed. Soon after, the money devalued and inflation increased 7500% over the past four years. Even worse, the Lebanese banks froze all money so no one can withdraw their personal funds. People who used to live



Missions

comfortable on 1200 (USD) dollars a month are now forced to live on the equivalent of 50 (USD) dollars a month. A choice must be made between food, gas, healthcare or medicines. To make life more challenging the government supplied utility power is on only 2-4 hours a day. Secondary neighborhood power generating businesses have risen to fill the gap. To make life even more difficult, the Corona virus pandemic and port explosion of August 8, 2020.

French Investigation of Port Explosion https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s54_MF2XPk
 Blast in real time and slow motion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkIYjNGiaoA>
 Blast from different directions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93tV6-0Ugwk>

Check out <https://www.the961.com/deir-mimas-lebanon/> for some details of Deir Mimas.



Figure 12 Green circle is the area of Deir Mimas and the yellow oval is over the Mt. Hermon area. The white shading is South Lebanon and yellow shading is Israel. The western water shed from Mt. Hermon flows into the southern Bekka (Valley) and the Merjayoun region and eventually feeds the Jordan River. See Psalm 133 and “the dew”.

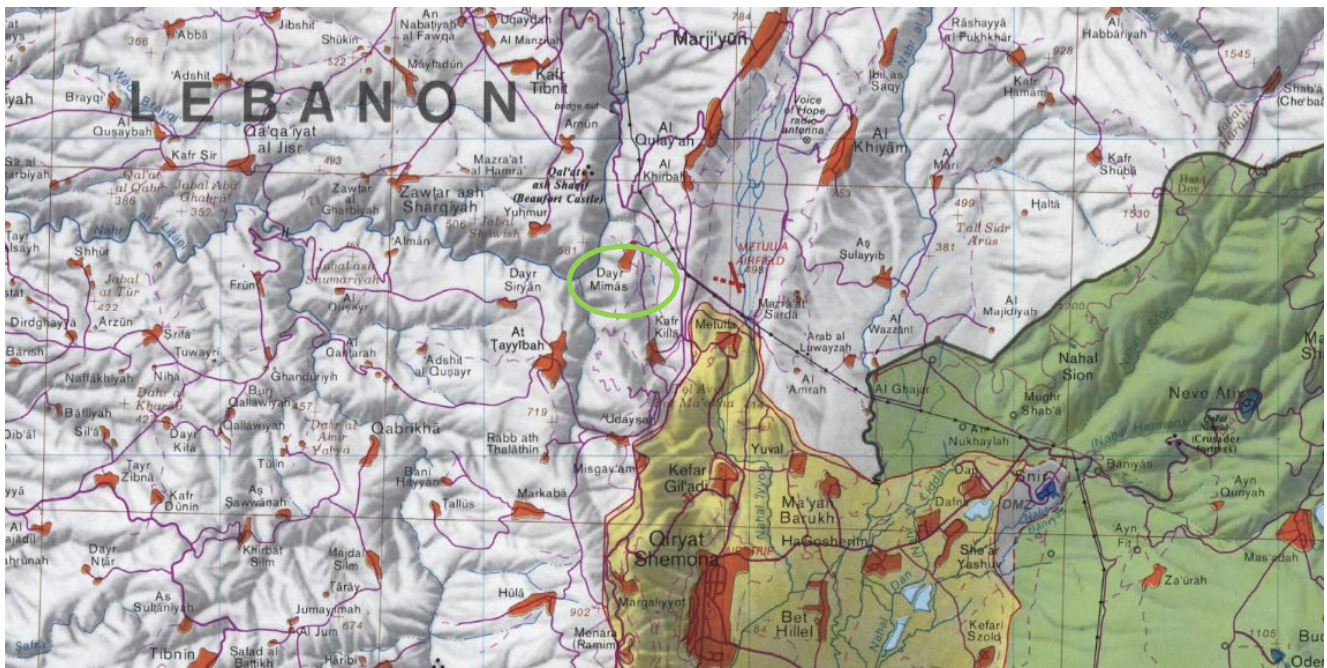


Figure 13: The blow up of this map reveals Deir (Dayr) Mimas which is two miles from the Israeli city of Metulla. This region is part of Northern Galilee. The western water shed from Mt. Hermon and springs provide water to the Jordan River and the valley of Southern Galilee. This is very fertile soil. Mt Hermon and this region are mentioned many times in the Holy Bible.





Figure 14: Blue shaded circle is the location of Deir Mimas. Note the locations of Damascus, Sidon and Tyre.

Missions



Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international, direction des Archives (pôle géographique) © Septembre 2016
 Figure 15: Another map showing the regions of Lebanon in French and English.

RECONCILIATION: THE FORGOTTEN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Your relationship with others will directly impact your relationship with God. For Kevin, spiritual disciplines were a significant part of his Christian faith. He would often pray in solitude and in groups, fast regularly, volunteer at church, and study scripture. He was the poster boy of a strong Christian faith and walk. While engaging in these disciplines, he felt the experience was dry and at times boring. These things were not growing his faith, improving his relationships, or producing much fruit in his ministries. Kevin sought out advice as to what he could do. A friend suggested he shift his focus to the people around him.

Kevin had a close friend from his youth. He generally enjoyed the other person’s company, but in the past, there were some ways he let his friend down. He avoided talking to him about these situations because he knew they were sources of pain. He felt anxious when he thought this topic might come up. He occasionally would choose to spend less time with this person and disengage completely if the topic ever came up. Intermittently, he would lose sleep thinking about this relationship. This went on for years. Even though he thought their relationship was mostly “okay,” Kevin knew that there was unresolved conflict. So taking his friend’s advice, he sought to reconcile the relationship and gained unexpected results.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

We regularly hear about the importance of spiritual disciplines, although they may not always be framed in that way. The purpose of spiritual disciplines is to mold us into the likeness of Jesus. As Paul says, “train yourself to be godly” (1 Timothy 4:7b). Dallas Willard gives the example of a star baseball player. You can stand like he does or hold the bat like him, but ultimately, just looking like the baseball player

will not result in you playing like the star baseball player. It, of course, requires discipline in what you eat, a workout regimen, practicing every day, and so on. (1) It is much the same in our walk with the Lord. Spiritual discipline allows us to act in ways that are like Christ in our everyday situations. It is an important part of our faith.

Many theologians and authors have categorized spiritual disciplines into two categories: Personal and Interpersonal. Those that we practice by ourselves and those we practice in community with other people. Our churches have done a good job teaching and expressing the necessity of our personal spiritual disciplines. We know it is important to study the Bible, pray, take time to meditate with God in silence and solitude, and even journaling has become quite popular. However, God is inviting us towards robust, healthy, and reconciled relationships. I have found that when I spend an equal amount of time, energy, and practice directed toward the interpersonal disciplines as with the personal, both sides benefit. Thus, I am inviting you to explore reconciliation as a practice while we move toward holistically practicing spiritual disciplines.

CHRIST AND RECONCILIATION



When we look at the life of Christ, we see that He entered this world with the purpose of bringing reconciliation. We are sinners that have offended and wronged God. Through the cross, Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are made right or righteous before God when we turn in repentance towards Him. The Gospel story we present is where we are separated from God the Father by the chasm of our sin and Christ’s cross becomes the bridge to God the Father. I would like to point out that as Jesus is God, we are also separated from Him as a result of our sin. Yes, Jesus is our mediator as we see in Hebrews 9:15, but He is a mediator involved in making His relationship right with us. This is an important distinction because if we are aiming to be like Christ, then we are to be making our relationships right by engaging in actions that

bring about reconciliation, just as Jesus initiated the process with us. Jesus taught, “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24). God cares very deeply about righteousness and our righteousness before Him and with others. I would like to propose that in addition to the spiritual disciplines we’ve become comfortable with, let us expand our understanding to include reconciliation as another way to mold us into the image of Christ. Reconciliation is at the root of the gospel. Thus, it should be at the root of our relationships with each other.

PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

One of the measures of a spiritual discipline is to see the value being placed on the discipline throughout history. As the church began to form and people gathered in Christ, the Apostle Paul summarized his letter to the church in Corinth “... strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you” (2 Corinthians 13:11). Paul was urging this church to live in peace. Peace is not the absence of conflict but an active presence that knows what to do when conflict or strife appear. Paul also wrote, “Let us, therefore, make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification” (Romans 14:19). Additionally, peace and holiness are coupled in Hebrews: “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness, no one will see the Lord” (12:14). Donald Whitney gives the example, “Joy does not come to you if you are spiritually passive; rather, joy is cultivated, but joy is cultivated by things you do.” (2) Thus, peace must be cultivated by what you do, primarily through the way you treat others with love and respect, and to reconcile when conflict arises instead of passively allow disagreement to persist. Ultimately, when we are in community and relationships with other people, we want the best for them, which includes

the work of edification through reconciliation, and this will lead to peace.

THE COST OF RECONCILIATION

I am a mediator by trade and have seen all types of conflict play out in marriages, families, businesses, and churches. Reconciliation is something we are called to but not something we are often taught about in meaningful ways. Whether we are led by a trained mediator or not, the ingredients to pursuing reconciliation are the same.

The first step would be to identify the cause of the conflict. Why are you in conflict? What is the root of the disagreement as far as you can ascertain? Spend time thinking and praying for wisdom to understand what the root cause is. Next, you need to choose to take responsibility for your actions and those made known to you by the other person. Finally, you need to commit to striving towards reconciliation, not simply to make your side heard. Once all that work has been done, then you and the other person(s) can come together to have a constructive, honest, and respectful conversation. This conversation should be geared toward recognizing what has happened from each party’s perspective without interruptions, making an agreement about how to make things as right as possible and determining what their relationship will look like moving forward. It takes a lot of work to orchestrate that. It takes time and commitment to stay constructive and respectful. It can also be emotionally depleting and risky for those involved as there is no guarantee of how the other person will react. Really, it can be scary to enter into a conversation or even a room with someone who you’ve been in conflict with for a few days, weeks, months, years, or even decades. I get it, and I feel it deeply as I walk with people through conflict. However, at the same time, the pain, the emotional depletion, and social distancing (not the healthy Covid-19 type) that occur when we think about the conflict and that person we are in conflict with may be scarier to live with and more costly than trying to resolve it face to face.



PRACTICE MAKES PREPARED

One of the main goals of spiritual discipline is to discipline ourselves each day so that when an important decision, circumstance, or action occurs, we are prepared to take it on with the help of the Holy Spirit in a way that would be representative of Christ in us. When Jesus sees sin, he calls it out, but He also offers a way forward through reconciliation. He does not simply dismiss what is happening but confronts in love, to bring about a fuller life that is made right with Himself. It is to our detriment to simply shrug off the “small” offenses we encounter. As we are shrugging and “forgiving” we are not preparing for bigger offenses that will be coming. At some point, something so mighty will come around we will be knocked off our feet, and because of our lack of practice, we will not know how to recover. We will not know how to reconcile. Oswald Chambers says, “If we refuse to practice, it is not God’s grace that fails when a crisis comes, but our own nature. When the crisis comes, we ask God to help us, but He cannot if we have not made our nature our ally.” (3) Reconciliation needs to be part of your daily practice. Even if you are not facing substantial conflict every day, I’m confident you will find conflict, or it might find you. Once you have done the hard work to prepare to meet with someone else, invite the person to a respectful conversation and follow the steps above.

FRUITS OF RECONCILIATION



Once Kevin pursued reconciliation, by being willing to have a conversation with the other person, recognizing the other person’s hurts and emotions, and apologizing for his actions, it strengthened his relationship with that person and with God. His anxiety was gone. He didn’t need to think about ways to avoid that topic or lose sleep about it any longer. He became free.

He now reports knowing God in a new way. Kevin was forgiven for the offense he caused toward the other person. Once he received that forgiveness he said he better understood God’s forgiveness of him. The experience was freeing and lifegiving and

a refreshment of how Kevin knew and understood God. Kevin and his friend began doing more work for God. Their ministry has flourished in their church, their community, and even throughout the world.

A reconciled relationship will be a stronger platform by which God can accomplish His purposes. A severed relationship or a languid one can actually be detrimental to the work of the Lord in our lives and in the lives of those around us. When our relationships are broken we are not exemplifying Christ and His work of reconciliation. Each person is uniquely gifted by God. People in relationships ministering together bring richness to the ministry and can accomplish more for the kingdom than when they do it alone. Thus, if relationships are broken, those gifts will not be exercised to their full capacity, limiting the growth of the ministry.

My challenge to you is to be willing to do the hard work of reconciliation and take opportunities to learn and grow in the discipline. Then when the life-shaking conflict comes up, you will be trained in your practice of reconciliation and strong in your spiritual discipline to handle it well, so that ultimately, you may live in peace.

Noelle Daoudian Nightingale, M.A. Fresno, CA. Mediator and consultant for Nightingale Resolutions.

References

1. Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*, (New York: HarperCollins, 1988), 4.
2. Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014), 6.
3. Oswald Chambers, *The Psychology of Redemption* (CrossReach Publications, 2017), 18.

To more about reconcillation and how to live at peace with others in your life, we highly encourage you attend Christian Peacemaker Training class. Please see ad in our “Community Events” section for registration information. pg18



Our Condolences



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved community member, **Hagop Kerkezian**, on July 6, 2023. He was 96 years old and a cherished, long-time member of First Armenian Presbyterian Church. His presence will be greatly missed.

A memorial service officiated by Badveli Greg Haroutunian and Badveli Nerses Balabanian of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church was held on Monday, July 17, 2023 with several family and friends in attendance.

We offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to Badveli Greg and Sossy Haroutounian, their family, and friends on the passing of Sossy's mother **Anahid Tumberian** on July 15, 2023 in Anjar, Lebanon.

Memorial services were held at Nor Marash Armenian Church on July 19, 2023 and she was laid to rest in Anjar Cemetery with several family and friends in attendance. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Haroutounian and Tumberian families. May the Lord bless her soul.



We offer our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of **Eva Shahinian** who went to be with the Lord on July 10.

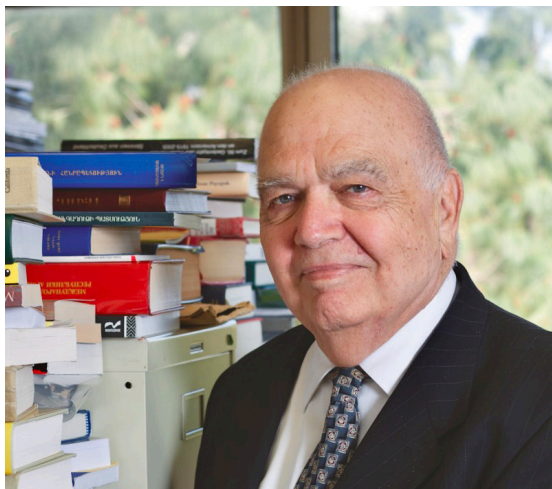
We pray for comfort and peace for Ted and Julie Thurber, their family and friends for the passing of **Ed Thurber** on July 9.

We pray for peace and comfort for the family and friends of **Rima Gevorkyan** who passed away on July 13.

We offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Nelda and Jerry Baker on the sudden and unexpected passing of Jerry's son.



We Mourn With The Global Armenian Community



Professor Richard G. Hovannisian
November 9, 1932 - July 10, 2023

“Jerry and I would love to say thank you to the FAPC Faith Family for all of their love and support during the passing of their [Jerry's] son. Your meals, cards, calls and texts were very much appreciated and eased our pain. We thank our Lord for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Blessings.” - Nelda Baker

Prayer Requests?

Submit your requests online at fapc.net or via ChurchCenter app.

*There will not be Sunday School on
August 27th and September 3rd*

*Sunday School is available in the CE Building
during church services and will continue
throughout the Summer.*

*If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact
the church office at 559-237-6638.*

Seeking

FAPC Sunday School Youth Ministry

Interns for 2023-2024 Term

Applications are available in the Narthex

Important Dates:

Informational Meeting: August 13th at 12:00 PM (Sunday School Building + Lunch Provided)

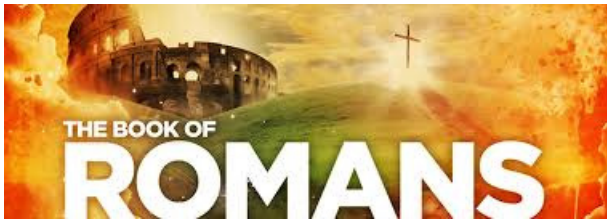
Application Deadline: August 31, 2023

Interviews: September 3, 2023

Interns will receive Mission Service Scholarships at the end of their year of service

All prospective interns over the age of 18 years old to be fingerprinted and pass background check. Contact either Adriana Gulian or Tim Nightingale with questions.

Men's Bible Study



Men of all ages are invited to attend as their schedules permit. Contact Administrator Jacci Rustigan at jacci@fapc.net or call (559) 237-6638 to be added to the Wednesday Bible Study Group e-list.

The Wednesday Men's Bible Study Luncheon will continue through the summer months of 2023. During Badveli Greg Haroutunian's sabbatical, Michael Garabedian will serve as discussion leader for the sixth book in the New Testament. The summer topic is Paul's Letter to the Romans and the group will convene in the Fireside Room from noon to 1 p.m. each Wednesday from May 24 through August 23.

Elder Richard Esajian celebrated his 84th Birthday at the July 19 session of the Men's Bible Study Luncheon. The luncheon group will continue the study of Paul's Letter to the Romans through the month of August 2023. Michael Garabedian is the summer discussion leader. Badveli Greg Haroutunian will return from sabbatical in September to resume the study of the Gospel of Mark. Men of all ages are welcome to attend the Wednesday study for a delicious meal and an in-depth look at God's Holy Word.



FAPC Events

SEPTEMBER 10
2023
RALLY
SUNDAY
NOON TO 2PM

First Armenian Presbyterian Church

JOIN THE FUN!
DUNK TANK • CRAFTS
FOOD • BOUNCE HOUSE
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH SERVICE



Please join us for an afternoon of faith, friends & fellowship at our..

Sister Churches Luncheon

Hosted by
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Ladies' Guild

Saturday, September 16, 2023
Holy Trinity Social Hall
537 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721
11:30 AM \$35 per guest

Guest Speaker
Julianne Williams, MPH
International Best Selling Author, Certified Grief Educator, Health Care Consultant

Paid reservations should be sent to your church representative by September 9th.
Please make your check payable to your organization.

Contact Madeline at (559)246-7701 or Linda at (559)779-3803 with any questions

Sister Church Luncheon

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my \$ _____ check for _____ reservation(s)

SEPTEMBER 22-23

CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TRAINING

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

LEARN TOOLS TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE

Seminar is taught by Tim and Noelle Nightingale both with their Master's in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies

First Armenian Presbyterian Church
430 S. First Street, Fresno 93702

\$25 per person, includes lunch

Friday 6PM-9PM
Saturday 8:30AM- 2:30PM

Please register:



SCAN ME

Dear First Armenian Presbyterian Church,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

We are delighted to announce that the Ironman Games are back! The AEYF West Executive Committee has decided that the biennial tournament will be held in Fresno, CA, from

September 15-17, 2023. We formally invite you and your Church family to join us for this exciting event.

Whether you're an amateur enthusiast or a seasoned athlete, the tournament caters to participants of all skill levels. With heart-racing basketball matches, intense soccer showdowns, and thrilling volleyball games, this tournament guarantees an unforgettable experience for all participants.

Our primary goal is to create a celebration of sportsmanship and fellowship among the AEUNA churches that will leave a lasting impact on everyone involved. Regardless of whether you're cheering on the sidelines or actively participating in the games, we invite you to join us with the rest of the AEUNA Churches and enjoy the fantastic atmosphere that this tournament will offer.

Please spread the word about this tournament among your Church family and its athletes. Together, let's make this event an unparalleled display of unity and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us via email at info.aeyfwest@gmail.com or reach out to George Megerditchian at 559-572-5501 for any inquiries or further information.

We eagerly anticipate your presence at Ironman Games 2023. Let us come together in the spirit of Jesus Christ, showcasing our talents and strengthening the bonds of our faith community. May God bless you abundantly as you prepare for this event.

Sincerely,
AEYF West Executive Committee





First Armenian Presbyterian Church

430 S. 1st St. Fresno, CA 93702

Return Service Requested

Teaching Elder: Rev. Greg Haroutunian; Badveli@fapc.net
 Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Paul David Bedrosian, Rev. Paul Haroutunian, Kalem Kazarian and Rev. Razmig Minassian
 Deacons: Noelle Nightingale, Sandra Marashian, Maral Afarian, Richard Bittikofer, Rita Barsamian, Ara & Sosie Catchatoorian, Edward & Silva Esajian, Simon Kalebjian, Janik & Mariam Oganesyanyan, Ando & Kinsey Sivas
 Staff Team: Church Administrator: Jacci Rustigan, Jacci@fapc.net; Financial Assistant: Araz Ghazarian, Araz@fapc.net; Marketing, Ara Catchatoorian, Ara@fapc.net; Custodian: Susan Ruiz; Music Director: Rev. Razmig Minassian, Razmig@camparev.org; Youth Director: Eddy Thurber, Media Director: Frank Kazarian; Media Technician: Brandon Petrie; Nursery Attendants: Anna Arakelian and Marine Frnzlyan

August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2 Men's Bible Study 12pm Fireside	3	4	5
6 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Communion Worship Service 10:30 A Summer Camp AREV	7	8	9 Men's Bible Study 12pm Fireside	10	11	12
13 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Worship Service 10:30 A	14	15	16 Men's Bible Study 12pm Fireside	17 24/7 Prayer 1PM Fireside	18	19
20 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Communion Worship Service 10:30 A	21	22	23 Men's Bible Study 12pm Fireside	24	25 Family Camp at Camp Arev	26 Family Camp at Camp Arev Badveli Greg Returns from Sabbatical
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

*Unsolicited submissions are welcome. All submissions are subject to editorial revisions. Please email to Jacci@fapc.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. PHONE: (559) 237-6638 FAX: (559) 237-9526