



Summer 2015

LIGHTHOUSE PAROS



www.wayofhope.am

GOD'S PROTECTIVE CARE Testimony by Gohar Hovhannisyan

I want to say thank you to all my HOPE friends. It's hard to believe that my dream is fulfilled, that the day has finally come when I am able to come up three flights of stairs to be with you. I'd been wishing there was an elevator that would lift me up to HOPE office, but tonight I made it without an elevator. The Lord has heard my prayers.

After the accident last September, I thought I'd never be able to walk again. My knee was crushed and required immediate surgery. During my struggle I've really needed your prayer. I was with all of you in spirit, because there's so much warmth in our HOPE family here.

It's hard to imagine how in just a few seconds our lives can turn around completely. On the day of the accident, my husband was in the taxi with me. But he got out before me for a different appointment. We kept driving, and in just a few seconds, the car crashed. All I remember is that I landed on the ground, and I couldn't even understand what had happened because the whole event was so upsetting.

Since that day, many people have asked me, "Why did the Lord allow this to happen?" My response has been steady: "I am sure He loves us and that He can allow certain things in our lives or not; but our lives are in His hands and we trust Him fully."

My son Tigran called several pastors and asked for their prayer for the upcoming surgery. You can't imagine what a deep feeling comes when a group of believers pray for you and you really feel the Lord's presence. When they carried me on the stretcher to surgery, Syuzi (my daughter-in-law's mother) was crying, but I wasn't crying at all because my spirit was filled with God's peace and joy.

For most people, the first priorities in such cases are a good doctor and advanced medical equipment. But my



priority was the Lord and asking for His mercy. Before surgery, I asked the doctor to let me pray. While praying, the operating room filled with unnatural calm. I was filled with the Lord's love and warmth. The doctor noticed my peace and joy and asked me, "Have you been tranquilized by some high dosage of medicine?" I answered that I hadn't been injected at all. Of course I had physical pain, but I was so embraced with the Lord's light that my spiritual peace overtook the pain.

After surgery I was taken to the intensive therapy ward. I noticed a man who was speaking loudly. "I have to talk with this lady," he said, pointing at me. The doctor was surprised and said that before my surgery, he wasn't speaking at all. But now people were asking him, "What are you talking about?" His response was, "I am praying for that lady," again pointing to me. I believe that God put the desire in this man's heart to pray for me. His prayer was sincere and coming deeply from his heart.

Next I was moved to another ward where Pastor Markos visited me. Again our prayer time was very meaningful. All this made me realize how precious the Lord's presence is in our lives. When we ask for His protection, we also put our trust in His perfect will.

My story is like throwing a stone into the water, with the rippling effect being multiplied many times over. All my relatives and friends have been affected by this event in my life. One day after the accident, my older son leaned toward me and said, "Mom, we are all learning from you and your response of faith even in this situation." This affected and pleased me deeply.

In the end, I was grateful that my husband left that the taxi before me. He generally does not use seat belts, and it could have been very tragic for him. Even this the Lord did not allow. The taxi driver did have multiple fractures in his body. Later when he came to visit me he said, "God must love you, because when I was trying to avoid the big truck that was running toward you, we hit the car. But it could have been worse and we could all have died, so it's a miracle that we escaped." So I think the Lord was indeed in control and allowed only a small tragedy with my knee fracture, not an even greater one.

HOPE FAMILY NEWS



New little girl Elia
born November 6, 2014
to Edward & Anna



New little boy Shant
born December 5, 2014
to Sevak & Lilit

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Outside Armenia HOPE Armenia Ministries

P.O. Box 4009
San Dimas, CA 91773 USA

Board Chairman

Hugh Woodward, Ohio USA

NE Prayer & Support Group

Sharon Combs

Debbie & Dave Shipman

Massachusetts USA

In Armenia Way of HOPE

P. O. Box 41

0010 Yerevan, ARMENIA

Tel: +(37410) 275978

E-mail: staff@wayofhope.am

Website: www.wayofhope.am

General Director

Dr. Kaarina Ham

Administrator/Ministries

Tatevik Ghazaryan

Computer Technician/Media

Tigran Apikyan

Ministry Assistant/Events

Mher Nahapetyan

Perspectives on HOPE

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

HOPE Armenia Ministries has just celebrated the tenth anniversary of its registration in the USA! In February 2016, we’ll celebrate ten years in Yerevan, to correspond with registration in the Republic of Armenia.

In this era of extreme violence throughout the world, creating anxiety in our societies at all levels; these age-old promises through the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah are amazingly reassuring. God intends to prosper us as we follow on His path, not to harm us. God intends to give us hope and a future.

As a mission moving forward into a new phase of ministry to teenagers, young adults, and adults, we hold firmly to these promises for all the HOPE Family. May God be pleased with all our service in His Name in the days ahead, whether in the USA or in Armenia.

One particular aspect for which our hope in Him is in full swing is **Project PAROS**. In Armenian, *paros* means *lighthouse*. This is the name used for our short-term summer mission opportunity, planned next for **June 25 to July 8, 2016**.

For a few years now, several people have put participation in this project on the back burner, thinking that someday they would consider coming on a two-week trip to Armenia to help with village summer camps, and offer hands-on help at our LIGHTHOUSE training center near Lake Sevan.

It is our sincere hope that this idea will turn quickly into front-burner planning, so that they will actually make sure passports are ready, hearts are turned toward contributing spiritually to young people’s lives, and excitement toward what God is doing will become a reality! Thanks for fervently praying and hoping with us to this end.

In the eternal hope of Jesus,

Kaarina

Kaarina A. Ham, Ph.D
General Director

HOPE 10th ANNIVERSARY

Celebration & Annual Meeting

10:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ April 25, 2015
People’s Evangelical Congregational Church
South Ashburnham, Massachusetts USA



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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 2015 Annual Meeting participants | 6 enjoying Armenian cuisine |
| 2 2015 HOPE Board members | 7 enjoying Armenian cuisine |
| 3 Mane & Tatevik ~ Armenian lesson | 8 John, Allan, Kaarina, David, Paul Ham |
| 4 HOPE Board presentation | 9 Tatevik & Dr. Kaarina |
| 5 Angela Ham ~ Scripture reading | 10 Voila! |

Many thanks to all who helped make this a fine day of celebration, fellowship, and prayer:

- planning & organization – Sharon, Debbie, Heather, Tatevik, Kaarina
- coffee fellowship – Kay, Sharon, Pauline, Berkeley, Diane, Donna
- Anniversary celebration – Angela, Paul, Pastor Dan, Pastor Ed
- Armenian cuisine – Kate, Linda, Sharon, Marcia, Elizabeth, Tatevik
- technicians – Dave, Duncan, Chuck, Phil, Tigran
- SKYPE – Tigran, Mher, Suren, Gagik, K.Tigran, Anushik
- special presentations – Olivia, Kaylee, Sadie, Mane, Tatevik, Suren
- photos – Jessica, Angela, Dave
- 10th Anniversary cake – Andy, Maureen, Sage, Arden

Please pray for God’s blessing as we trust and obey through the next ten years!

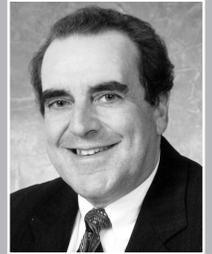
HOPE Governing Board



David Dunbar
Georgia, USA

Our thanks to David Dunbar for serving on HOPE board for the past six years---the most recent three years as chairman. We are thankful for the professional expertise and spiritual commitment he has brought to our planning and decision-making. **God Bless You** and Betty in your new phase of (semi-?) retirement.

We are thankful that Hugh Woodward has come to our board, serving first as Vice Chairman for three years, and now recently elected to serve for the next three years as Chairman. **God Bless You** and Linda in all the ways you dedicate your professional expertise in helping to build His Kingdom both at home and abroad.



Hugh Woodward
Ohio, USA



Heather Thrall
California, USA

Heather has served as a HOPE board member and also as Financial Secretary since our inauguration in 2006! We are grateful for the late-night hours of effort she puts into accounting, correspondence, and helping to spread the word about what God is doing in Armenia. We are grateful that she could attend the recent 10th celebration in Massachusetts to meet many friends of HOPE whose names were already familiar. **God Bless You** and Phil and your family as you walk with Him and serve in many ways through your church and in HOPE.

Sharon comes to us with valuable experience in management and hands-on ministry, serving both as Board Secretary, and as NE Prayer Support Group leader, together with Debbie and Dave Shipman. **God Bless You** as you juggle many vocational, church, and mission challenges and responsibilities---especially Jr. High youth ministry!



Sharon Combs
Massachusetts, USA



Wendy Gettens
Massachusetts USA

Wendy is one of our newest board members who brings a wealth of management experience, coupled with dedicated Christian service. We look forward to the ways in which God will use her to contribute to HOPE ministries in the days ahead! **God Bless You** and Jim as you faithfully serve His church and mission in the world.

Dave is also one of our newest board members, helping to fill in "tech" gaps in our communications back and forth from the USA to Armenia. **God Bless You** and Debbie as grandparents, giving energy and wisdom for all the ways you are called to serve Him through your home church, various Christian organizations, and now through HOPE mission.



Dave Shipman
Massachusetts USA

NE Prayer & Support Group leadership team: Sharon Combs, Debbie & Dave Shipman
God Bless You for your faithful planning and organization for our annual meetings in April of each year! We are thankful for your commitment to the Lord's mission both in the USA and in the Republic of Armenia. We are thankful too for local churches which open their doors for these important times of prayer and fellowship.

"I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us-- yes, the many good things he has done..."
Isaiah 63:7a



Autumn Ministries 2014



Coffee Evening
presenting autumn ministries
HOPE Office
September 24



1st Autumn HOPE Family Excursion
Morning Prayer
Haghpat Church
Lori region, October 11



Adult Bible Study Retreat
Lessons: *I AM* Passages
Gospel of JOHN
LIGHTHOUSE, Sevan region
November 15-16



Youth Program
BASICS of Christian Faith
Gomadzor village school
Sevan region
October – December

Church Visits



Ashtarak City
Evening Prayer
Aragotsotn region
November 29

Etchmiadzin City
Lesson: *Faith in Jesus*
December 14



Staff-Helper Christmas-New Year Celebration
HOPE Office, December 25



3rd Christmas Outreach
Topic: *Jesus' Birth*
four village families
December 27



Autumn Adult Bible Study
Gospel of JOHN
HOPE Office
September – December

Winter Ministries 2015



4th Welcome Evening ~ Focus on FRANCE
Theme: *God's Love for the Nations*
HOPE Office ~ Saturday, January 10



7th Staff-Helper Retreat
Luke 16:1-15: *Faithful With Little---Given Much*
HOPE Office ~ Saturday, January 24



9th Way of HOPE Anniversary Celebration
Theme: *Praise for God's Protection, Provision, Healing*
HOPE Office ~ Monday, January 26

Spring Ministries 2015



Youth Program
BASICS of Christian Faith
 Sevan City school
 Sevan region, March – May



3rd Easter Outreach
Theme: Jesus' Resurrection
 four village families
 Saturday, April 4



Cleaning Day
 LIGHTHOUSE
 volunteer team
 April 26



Youth Follow-up Program
Fruit of the Spirit
 Gomadzor village school
 Sevan region, March – May



Prayer Evening
100th Commemoration
Armenian Genocide
 Yerevan, April 22



Spring Adult Seminar
Lessons: Resisting Temptation
 LIGHTHOUSE, Sevan region
 May 2-3

Summer Ministries 2015



Youth Program FINALE
 Gomadzor village school
 Sevan region, May 20



Youth Follow-up FINALE
 Sevan City school
 Sevan region, May 27



8th Spring HOPE Family Excursion
Lesson: Prophet Jonah in Ninevah
 Odzoun Church, VIII century
 Lori region, June 21

Summer Youth Day Camps

Sevan region

LESSON 1: *Jesus, Light of the World – John 8*
LESSON 2: *Jesus, Way, Truth, and Life – John 14*

Gomadzor
 village
 school
 July 4-5



Dtmashen village school
 July 8-9



Summer Young Adult Seminar
Lesson: Christianity Today – Challenges
 LIGHTHOUSE, Sevan region
 July 11



Sevan City
 school
 July 6-7



Summer Youth Day Camp TEAM



Summer Adult Bible Study Retreat
Lessons: Symbols in the Gospel of JOHN
 LIGHTHOUSE, Sevan region
 July 25-26



By Tatevik Ghazaryan

It was from 1915 to 1918, under cover of World War I, that the mass banishment and extermination of Armenians in the occupied provinces of Western Armenia, Cilicia (Southern Turkey), and the Ottoman Empire took place.

This was organized within the framework of the Turkish government by so-called "Young Turks." The Kemalist government continued what the Young Turks had started.

This new policy was decided in a secret meeting in 1911 in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece. It went like this: **Muslims living in the territory of the Turkish Empire must forcibly become Turkish; and Christians are to be massacred.** Leaders of this horrific program were Tailat Pasha, Minister of Internal Affairs; Enver Pasha, Minister of Military Affairs; Jemal Pasha and Shaqir Bey, members of the Central Committee of Young Turks; and others.

The motivation to eradicate Armenians came from the desire to be rid of the "Armenian Question." If they eradicated all Armenians, they wouldn't have to give back Armenian territories. According to this vision, **Mets Turan** (Great Turkish Empire) would spread from the Bosphorus in Turkey

all the way to the Altai in Siberia.

In February 1915, Enver Pasha, Minister of Military Affairs, commanded the massacre of all Armenian soldiers serving in the Turkish Army. This began on April 24 in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul). Eight hundred Armenian priests, intellectuals, journalists, physicians, and Armenian deputies in the Turkish Parliament were arrested and banished to the depths of Anatolia (Turkey). From May to June 1915, mass executions and banishments of Armenians of all ages began in other regions of Western Armenia.

While the unspeakable butchery by Turkish soldiers continued, Armenians worked courageously in a number of regions such as Shapin Garahisar, Mush, Sasun, and Shatak to build up national self-defense. But the Turkish onslaught was too strong. Western Armenia was deprived of most of its population. In the end, over 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered during what is known by Armenians as **Mets Yeghern** (Great Crime), and throughout the world as **Genocide Against the Armenian People**, the first genocide of the 20th century.

Henry Morgenthau, US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, recognized this massacre as a new form of extermination: "The real purpose of the deportation was robbery and destruction;

it really represented a new method of massacre. When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race..." (Ambassador Morgenthau's Story, p. 309).

People in many nations have condemned this horrific Turkish crime against the Armenian people. Yet Turkey for 100 years has denied its guilt against its near neighbor. 2015 marks the Centennial of this terrible event, which continues as an open wound in the hearts of all Armenians, both in the homeland, and in Diaspora communities that became scattered throughout the world. We pray and wait for the day when Turkey will admit its guilt and true historic reconciliation will take place.



Tatevik, an M.A. graduate of Yerevan State Philological Institute and former high school history teacher, has served 10 years as HOPE administrator and ministry coordinator. She and her husband Suren have a 6-year-old daughter, Mane ("Maneh") and a 3½ year-old son Avetis, whose name means Evangel / Good News.

Website

HOPE Armenia Ministries 230 Likes
Huso Chanaparth Hk 386 Friends

- ANSWERS TO PRAYER**
1. fine youth programs & camps in 3 village schools, Sevan region
 2. monthly Christian movie nights, appealing to new students
 3. Gospel of JOHN adult Bible study Monday evenings, HOPE Office
 4. two vehicles are helping tremendously
 5. LIGHTHOUSE-all three levels are in use
 6. wonderful HOPE 10th Anniversary celebration on April 25, 2015 with Tatevik and her daughter Mane

- PRAYER CONCERNS**
1. safe travel for ministry teams to Sevan
 2. health needs- HOPE Family
 3. new board chairman Hugh Woodward
 4. new governing board members Wendy Gettens & Dave Shipman
 5. NE Prayer & Support Group leaders Sharon Combs, Debbie & Dave Shipman
 6. water situation-Tsovagyugh village
 7. stable monthly finances for ministries
 8. 2015 priority needs
 9. Dr. Kaarina's USA travels & updates

LIGHTHOUSE first floor completed

Khazak & Anahit's wedding April 9, 2015

NEW DATES!
Project PAROS
 short-term summer mission in Armenia
June 25 - July 8, 2016
 Further information:
wayofhope.am/eng/3/Project-PAROS.html

"Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12

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Please consider prayerfully a gift in support of our mission in Armenia			
Monthly pledge	\$ _____	Name	_____
Extra gift (please specify)	\$ _____	Address	_____
2015 Priority Needs		Telephone / Cell	_____
power point projector	\$ _____	E-mail	_____
print-worthy camera	\$ _____		
LIGHTHOUSE chairs	\$ _____		
Total amount enclosed	\$ _____	Go to our website link:	
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