



Summer 2016

# LIGHTHOUSE PAROS

[www.wayofhope.am](http://www.wayofhope.am)2016 Project PAROS Team  
ՓԱՐՈՍ ծրագրի թիմ

To date, our staff has led youth programs and summer youth day camps in ten villages in the Sevan region. Fr. Stepanos' wife Haykanush has graciously hosted us numerous times in their home, across the street from their newly-constructed church. And in her role as coordinator of high school teachers of religion, she has echoed her husband's invitation for us to lead village school youth programs.

We're pleased to show this fine family in traditional costume, with thankfulness to the Lord for their partnership with us in the Gospel. HOPE participants coming from Yerevan to the LIGHTHOUSE for weekend seminars, retreats, and special events are always happy when they show up, usually in the evening, to have fellowship with us.

We were pleased also to have our special friends join us in Yerevan for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in February, to thank God for what He has been doing in this region. Their sons Vaghan and Van seem to whole-heartedly approve of the new Kids' Korner in the LIGHTHOUSE, since they customarily waste no time trying out new play possibilities with their friends Mane and Avetis (Suren and Tatevik's kids of similar ages).

*I thank my God every time I remember you.  
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy  
because of your partnership in the gospel  
from the first day until now...  
Philippians 1:3-5*



It is our pleasure to introduce you to friends whom God has blessed us with here in the Republic of Armenia! For the past ten years, we've been sending prayer letters, updates, and brochures across the way, telling about the activities of Way of HOPE. These communiques have explained that the Sevan region in the north-central part of the country, surrounding Lake Sevan, has become a main focal point for various HOPE ministries after Yerevan, Armenia's capital city.

Into this scene has entered a fine young couple serving in a church not far from the village of Tsovagyugh, where our LIGHTHOUSE is located. Together with his wife Haykanush, Fr. Stepanos has become a dedicated *kindred spirit* with regard to our desire for young people to study God's Word and grow in Christian Faith.

For the past six years, Fr. Stepanos has gone ahead, helping to pave the way for our youth programs *BASICS of Christian Faith* and *Fruit of the Spirit* follow-up. These programs have in turn opened doors for summer youth day camps. Often he leads the first Bible lesson at youth camps, focusing on John Chapter 8, *JESUS: Light of the World!*

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## Outside Armenia

### HOPE Armenia Ministries

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Board Chairman

**Hugh Woodward**, Ohio USA

NE Prayer & Support Group

**Sharon Combs**

**Debbie & Dave Shipman**  
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## In Armenia

### Way of HOPE

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# 11<sup>th</sup> NE Prayer & Support Group Annual Meeting

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. ~ Saturday, April 16

Bethany Baptist Church - Gardner, Massachusetts USA

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

*With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

**Ephesians 6:18**



## Perspectives on HOPE

Not long ago, as I was travelling over a major bridge not far from our office, I saw a late teenage girl sitting on the bridge fence, just moments away from hurling herself down into the canyon. Suddenly a taxi driver slammed on his brakes and jumped out of his car to pull her back to safety. Several other drivers also rushed to assist him. My heart flew through my stomach as I realized what had just happened.

I've seen this on television and in movies, of course. Such sights portrayed in the media have always invoked a terrible queasiness. But seeing this first-hand gave the desperation of hopeless young people right here in our capital city of Yerevan a very different, profoundly sad feeling. In vain I struggled to understand this girl's near tragedy. Throwing one's life away completely in the late teens! Giving up on all possibilities that life has to offer! Apparently seeing no way out of personal despair, family issues, social struggles, vocational dead-ends!

It was not without much prayerful thought that in 2006 we named our new mission **HOPE Armenia Ministries / Way of HOPE**. Jesus is our HOPE for today! He is our HOPE for all our tomorrows! He is our HOPE for all eternity! Hope in our Lord and Saviour **truly does not disappoint**, precisely because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us (Romans 5:5)**.

This is the message that Tatevik, Suren, Tigran, Mher, K.Tigran and I--along with the program leaders, volunteers, and Bible teachers the Lord has brought to us--are doing our best, by His grace, to share here in the Republic of Armenia. May the **Great Heart-Healer** be merciful in drawing young people to Himself, **whom to know aright is life eternal (John 17:3)**.

*Kaarina*

Kaarina A. Ham, Ph.D.  
General Director



What a fine group met in Gardner in early spring to enjoy fellowship, hear a message from God's Word, and receive an update about HOPE ministries in Armenia via SKYPE! Our staff is always encouraged to see faithful, dedicated friends who take time to meet together to pray for the Lord's blessing on our work here. We were pleased also to see seven of ten 2016 **Project PAROS** team members coming to Armenia for two weeks in late June as part of the summer short-term mission opportunity, and to witness their dedication to the Lord's service.

Dr. Kaarina related to those gathered in Massachusetts, and to those watching onscreen from Yerevan, something that her first mission leader, Rev. Peter Deyneka, Sr. (Slavic Gospel Association), used to say: **MUCH PRAYER, MUCH POWER! NO PRAYER, NO POWER!** For this reason, we are grateful once again for the concerted prayer offered on our behalf during this annual meeting.

As always, we extend special thanks to Sharon Combs and Debbie and Dave Shipman for their fine leadership, and to Bob Laperriere and the great delegation from Bethany Baptist Church, for hosting this event. We're still praising the Lord for the wonderful offering that day which made it possible to purchase more Armenian Bibles for use in ministry programs; and dining chairs, a new sofa set, and a new carpet for Kids' Korner at the LIGHTHOUSE.

## FAITH in Action

In the season leading up to Easter, I prayed, asking God to show me someone who is in need of Christian care. That day I saw an elderly man near one of our malls asking for money from passers-by. So I gave him some change and went on my way. The next day I saw this same man asking for money, and I gave some change and went on my way.

The third day, I asked this *papik* (grandfather) if there was some other way I could help? He seemed shy and a bit afraid, and said that he would be thankful to have some medicine. "Yes I can get some medicine," I replied. After bringing medicine, I asked him if there was some other way I could help? He said, still with a bit of fear in his voice, that he would be thankful to have some food. "Yes, I can bring some food," I replied.

So after my parents went to sleep, I prepared some soup for my new *papik* friend. He was excited and we put it out of the sun so that it would not spoil before he took it home. Unfortunately, someone also saw this gift. While he was there on the street taking money from passer-bys, the food was stolen. We were both very sad.

More time has passed, and I have successfully been able to prepare food secretly at night in our home (my parents would not understand why I am doing this), and bring it to him. He is very thankful and says that I am his *dushter* (daughter), and

Testimony by Anna Tigranyan



that he has not had home-cooked food like this for ten years! I told him that I am a believer in the Lord Jesus, and that I don't want thanks here on earth, but rather in heaven...

Not long ago, I gave him a cell phone and started calling him each evening, to make sure he is ok. Now he says he can't go to sleep until he hears from me. Little by little I have learned more about his life. My *papik* was for fifty years a doctor in one of our clinics here in Yerevan. He has a daughter living in Moscow, and grandchildren, but they have no interest in him. They have not contacted him for twenty years. For me, this is very sad. I am tempted to try and contact them, but he does not want this.

[Editor's note: Anna is a vibrant young adult volunteer who faithfully attends HOPE ministry programs and has assisted with village school youth programs.]

So instead I am pleased to help care for him and encourage him in our Faith. He is sure that it was not by accident that I walked by him and came back to ask about his needs. He says that before he didn't have much interest in living, especially after his wife passed away. But now he has tasted Christian care and has new reasons to live. I am sure that God truly answers prayer when we ask Him to open doors to share His love wherever we are.



*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*

## 2015 Autumn Ministries



Coffee Evening - HOPE Office  
September 25



Cleaning Day - LIGHTHOUSE  
September 26



Akunk Village  
Kotayk region  
October 17

### CHURCH VISITS



Geghard - Kotayk region  
November 14



Autumn Adult Seminar  
Theme: Forgiveness  
LIGHTHOUSE, Sevan region  
24-25 October



Autumn Adult Bible Study  
*Gospel of JOHN*  
HOPE Office, December 21



Youth Program  
*BASICS of Christian Faith*  
Dtmashen village school  
October – December



Youth Follow-up Program  
*Fruit of the Spirit*  
Sevan City school  
October – December



Christmas-New Year Celebration  
HOPE Office, December 25



4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Outreach  
December 27

February

Way

# H 10 CELEBR



K. Tigran, Greeter Extraordinaire!



Emcees Tatevik and Mher



Full Philharmonic Concert Hall!



Mher, Tatevik, Tigran  
Co-workers for 10 years

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

*Psalm 126:3*



Spendiaryan Art School Bell Choir



Jr



Susanna and Susanna  
Two of our talented mothers



TV Interview: Tatevik



Fait

4, 2016

Y of  
0<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
PE  
ATION



iran, Dr. Kaarina  
or ten years!



vezh Church Choir



ful HOPE celebrants



Narrator Lilit



Actresses Karine and Satenik



Singers  
Vahagn, Anna, Yeva



Masunk National Troupe

*... ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.”*

*Zechariah 4:6*



Lighthouse painting  
presented by Aregnaz

## 2016 Spring - Summer Ministries



Cleaning Day  
Lighthouse  
April 16



8th Staff-Helper Retreat  
Christian Teamwork  
HOPE Office ~ Saturday, March 19



4<sup>th</sup> Easter Outreach  
four village families  
Saturday, March 4



Church Visit, Hrazdan  
Kotayk region  
May 7



Spring Adult Bible Study  
Gospel of JOHN  
HOPE Office



Youth program Excursion FINALE  
BASICS of Christian Faith  
village school, Sevan region  
Wednesday, May 18

2<sup>nd</sup> Young Family Day  
Saturday, May 14  
Lighthouse



10<sup>th</sup> Spring HOPE Family Excursion  
Haghartsin Church, XIII century  
Tavush region, June 12



Adult Bible Study Retreat  
Theme: Letters of St. Paul  
Lighthouse, July 23-24



## 2016 Project PAROS ~ June 25 - July 10



**1<sup>st</sup> Summer Youth Camp**  
Sevan City School #4  
June 27-28

### Summer Youth Day Camps Sevan region



**2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Youth Day Camp**  
Zovaber Village School  
June 29-30



**3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Youth Day Camp**  
Sevan City School #2  
July 1-2



USA-UK-Armenia team



4th of July Party, USA team



Hiking Day near Lake Sevan



### TALENT EVENING



Sarah & Pam, violin and piano



Satenik & Karine, drama



Melush, drama



Home for the Elderly, Vanadzor



Mane & Avetis, song



**2<sup>nd</sup> floor**  
new seminar room sofa set



**2<sup>nd</sup> floor**  
64 new bright orange dining chairs



**1<sup>st</sup> floor**  
Kids' Korner continues to take shape!

### LIGHTHOUSE Progress

## ARMENIAN CHURCH HISTORY



The famous medieval capital of Armenia named Ani is located on the right bank of the River Akhuryan. Armenian historiography by Yeghishe and Kh. Parpetsi from the 5<sup>th</sup> century define Ani as an impregnable fortress belonging to Kamsarakans masters, an historic Armenian dynasty within the Western Shirak and Arsharunik provinces. Historian Vardan saw in the name "Ani" the following words: "to work, to do". Historian and linguist Nicholas Marr linked the biblical name Japheth to the name Ani, with reference to the word "God" or to the name of a tribe living in that area.

In the beginning of the 9th century, Ashot Bagratuni, governor of Armenia, bought Arsharunik and Shirak provinces from the Kamsarakans masters, including the castle Ani.

In 961 Ashot III relocated the throne from the Kars City to Ani and proclaimed it to be Armenian motherland. The Bagratunis, *a royal family within Armenia*, put much effort into improving and establishing the new created motherland by building palaces, churches and inns. In 964 Ashot III built a strong fence from the fortress to the north, which was called by his name "Ashotashen".

Ani consisted of three parts: the Acropolis, the city, and the suburb. Ani was known the **City of 1,001 Churches**, of which the most famous was Catholicos Cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church's Mother See.

Tatevik, an M.A. graduate of Yerevan State Philological Institute and former high school history teacher, has served for 10 years as HOPE administrator and ministry coordinator. She and her husband Suren have a 7-year-old daughter, Mane ("Maneh") and a 4½ year-old son Avetis, whose name means Evangel / Good News.



### Website



HOPE Armenia Ministries 279 Likes  
Huso Chanaparh Hk 497 Friends



Replica of the Ancient City of Ani

### ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. Way of HOPE 10th Anniversary
2. 11th NE-USA Annual Meeting  
Sharon, Debbie, Dave, Pastor Ed & Roberta
3. Project PAROS teams, volunteers, programs
4. safe travel to Armenia and in Armenia

### PRAYER CONCERNS

1. participants' spiritual growth
2. health needs-HOPE Family
3. new office location-September
4. open doors for autumn ministries
5. potential young adult program

*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*



Hawaiian Luau fun!

Return this portion with your gift

Please consider prayerfully a gift in support of our mission in Armenia

Monthly pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
LIGHTHOUSE Piano Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Go to our website link:



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