



Summer 2019

LIGHTHOUSE PAROS



www.wayofhope.am

PROJECT PAROS



Project PAROS Team
ՓՈՐՈՍ ծրագրի թիմ

Project PAROS is HOPE Armenia Ministries' summer short-term mission opportunity based in **Yerevan**, capital city of the Republic of Armenia; and in **Tsovagyugh village** near Lake Sevan (highest Alpine lake in the world), one hours' drive north from Yerevan, capital city of the Republic of Armenia. Since the founding of our mission in 2006, visitors from the USA and Western Europe have come to Armenia as members of summer teams 2007, 2009, 2016, and 2018. The next summer opportunity for visiting teams will be from **July 3 – 20, 2020**.

The Eastern Armenian word **paros** means **lighthouse!** This is the name chosen for our special annual project, in keeping with the name given for HOPE LIGHTHOUSE training center near Lake Sevan, which serves as home base for visiting teams and Armenian staff and volunteers during intensive summer programs.

The purpose of Project PAROS is to **share the truth of God's Word** in a number of ways during the warm season, after the village school year is completed, before families' hard work of harvesting begins. We have found that through lively summer youth day camps in the Sevan area, and specially planned summer outreach events in Yerevan City, possibilities increase for staff and volunteers to initiate year-round Kids' Planet Sunday School programs, Youth *BASICS of Christian Faith*, and *Fruit of the Spirit* follow-up youth programs programs in new locales.

An additional objective of Project PAROS is to give the opportunity for churches and individuals that faithfully support HOPE ministries to send representatives to **come and see!** what God is doing to raise up disciples of all ages halfway around the world. Our prayer is that more friends would come to assist and encourage staff and volunteers as they minister in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia, bordered by the former Soviet Republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

1st PROJECT PAROS TEAM REUNION

We were pleased that several participants from four past summer short-term teams gathered on Saturday, March 30 for an afternoon of fellowship and prayer at First Baptist Church in Westminster, Massachusetts USA. Thanks to Karla and Bryant LeBlanc and Debra Comiskey for hosting this first memorable team reunion for our mission. During this special time together, past summer team members enjoyed a slide show with pictures of their time spent in Armenia, including various ministry opportunities offered through summer youth day camps, outreach events, and hands-on help at the LIGHTHOUSE.



A new video of the 3-month **2018 WALL Project** at the LIGHTHOUSE ministry center near Lake Sevan in Northern Armenia was debuted at this reunion. Past participants clearly understood *(continued on page 3)*



2nd Anniversary Kids' Planet

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Perspectives on HOPE



One poignant Old Testament passage concerning the sovereign Lord's **lifting up of his banner** in calling the nations of the world to Himself states profoundly: *Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed. Isaiah 49:23b*

Our mission embarked in January 2019 on a **new ministry chapter** whereby Tatevik Ghazaryan serves full-time in Yerevan as Armenia-based Administrator of Way of HOPE, and I serve full-time as NE-USA-based Executive Director of HOPE Armenia Ministries from my home in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. This important step comes at the 40th year of my missionary service and the 14th anniversary of the registration of HOPE mission in 2005 (in Armenia) and 2006 (in USA).

Once again we are asking the Sovereign Lord to **lift up His banner** in support of the unique purpose He has called us to--namely, sharing the truth of His Word in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia! The excitement sensed at the recent Project PAROS Team Reunion in Westminster, and the 14th NE Annual Meeting in New Salem, brought renewed joy to this calling on both sides of the Atlantic.

We know with assurance that God is the One sustaining current ministries and opening new doors, and that all our steps are ordered by Him and guided by His hand. Thank you for praying with us that His Kingdom will come, His will be done, as we move forward courageously in the days and weeks ahead.

Kaarina

Kaarina A. Ham, Ph.D
NE-USA-based
Executive Director

14th NE Prayer & Support Group Annual Meeting

North Congregational Church - New Salem, Massachusetts USA
Saturday, 6 April 2019



HOPE Armenia Ministries' 14th annual meeting was held on a beautiful Saturday in early spring in the historic North Congregational Church of New Salem, Massachusetts. Leaders in our mission prayed that God would bring to this meeting those with joyful hearts about all that He is doing to raise up disciples and further the teaching of His Word in the Republic of Armenia. This prayer was wonderfully answered as double the number of individuals and churches expected were in attendance, setting members of the local missions committee off in search of additional lunchtime food, to accompany soup offered with a distinctly Armenian flair.

During the meeting, **Tatevik Ghazaryan**, visiting from Yerevan, was officially (and enthusiastically!) installed as **Way of HOPE Administrator in Armenia**. Tatevik outlined current events following the amazing political reversals of April 2018, as the new Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian and a new slate of national leaders have introduced efforts to chart a more promising course for the nation.

Tatevik also told of new open doors that have opened in Masis region, about 30 minutes' drive southwest from Yerevan, for **Kids' Planet** and youth ministry **BASICS of Christian Faith** programs which staff and helpers have moved quickly to launch during the spring and summer months. She confirmed that a series of 39 DVDs in the Eastern Armenian language, obtained recently through a Christian studio in Yerevan, have already proved to be a great blessing in our children's programs. These well-produced visuals charting Old and New Testament

examples of God's faithfulness to His people down through the generations are leading to meaningful discussions about God's faithfulness in our lives today, and how Jesus is the Savior of those who put their trust in Him.

Dr. Kaarina Ham explained the **new ministry chapter** initiated for our mission in **January 2019**, whereby she continues to work full-time as Executive Director for HOPE Armenia Ministries from her home base in NE-USA. The new chapter calls for Kaarina to visit supporting church fellowships to tell about the Lord's work in the Sevan region of northern Armenia, in the south-eastern region of Masis, and in the capital city of Yerevan; to recruit summer short-term mission teams to participate in Project PAROS; and to begin writing her account of 40 years of cross-cultural mission service in the former Soviet Union 1979-2019. In 2020, Kaarina will spend 3 months of May, June, July in Armenia to continue guiding staff and ministry programs with Tatevik and oversee the summer team.

During the corporate prayer time, family and ministry concerns of **Way of HOPE staff members Tatevik, Suren, Tigran, Mher, and K.Tigran** were presented to the Lord. Gratitude was expressed for special assistance as administrative services for HOPE Armenia Ministries are relocated from San Dimas, California to North Brookfield, Massachusetts. Special thanks goes to Pastor Ted Boren, Brenda Buck, and the mission committee friends who helped make this yet another memorable time of fellowship and prayer.



Tatevik and Dr. Kaarina with board members
(missing from picture: Chuck Newman)



North Congregational Church
missions committee hosts

(continued from page 1) the need for sheep control near our facility! This video followed after a comparable video of the first big outdoor undertaking, the much-needed **2017 WELL Project**. This former 3-month project enabled visitors to the LIGHTHOUSE for seminars and special events to enjoy an ample supply of water, after 11 years of arduous work by our staff in hauling water from Yerevan. To our great pleasure, several neighbor families living adjacent to the property have also benefitted from this welcome supply of water.

In the 2018 WALL Project video, we witnessed Jim Gettens' initiation of this big undertaking as he removed an old stone wall to make room for the next, more formidable stone framework. Then surveying of the property began, followed by the laying of the heavy basalt base extending half a meter into the ground, followed by the addition of 9 layers of pink tuff---volcanic rock from special quarries in North-West Armenia. The final stage was the transporting of a metal gate crafted by the village welder and carried by 8 neighbor men down the street of Tsovagyugh village to its rightful place at the head of our property.

Tatevik Ghazaryan, HOPE Administrator visiting from Armenia, and Dr. Kaarina Ham explained how this beautiful new layered stone framework for the facility will open up new possibilities, as villagers and Yerevan friends alike are invited inside to enjoy a wide range of ministry activities from April through November. This will finally also allow for the planting of trees and flowerbeds, after years of free and extensive lawn-mowing by the ever-faithful local sheep.



2017 WELL Project video
https://youtu.be/2hnKNk_OCMQ



2018 WALL Project video
<https://youtu.be/aJJ-ox-rPxM>

HOW COULD I CONTRIBUTE AS A PROJECT PAROS TEAM MEMBER?

There are a number of ways that you as a visiting team member could assist Armenian staff and volunteers during a summer 2-week stay in Armenia! Let us know your personal faith testimony, spiritual gifts, and natural talents, and we'll do our best to find unique ways to make this a meaningful and memorable time of short-term Christian service.



FURTHER INFORMATION:

Dr. Kaarina Ham

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visiting teams

- worship, daily devotions, personal testimonies
- practical LIGHTHOUSE + ministry assignments

Armenian staff & volunteers

- practical service together
- Armenian Church, culture, tradition
- visits to nearby historic sites

summer youth day camps

- young children - Bible lessons + crafts
- teenagers - Bible lessons + biblical dramas
- program organization + set-up + snacks
- games + sports + relays

special outreach events

- Kids' Planet Day at LIGHTHOUSE
- young adult program at HOPE Office in Yerevan
- special program at Home for the Elderly

hands-on help at LIGHTHOUSE ministry center

- indoor maintenance, painting, cleaning
- outdoor planting, gardening



WHEN IS THE NEXT SUMMER SHORT-TERM MISSION OPPORTUNITY?

JULY 3 - 20, 2020 Project PAROS

Perhaps God is speaking to you or someone in your fellowship about joining the next Project PAROS summer short-term team? This mission opportunity will last for two weeks in early July 2020, extending from departure on July 3rd from Boston's Logan Airport, to arrival back in Boston on July 20th. It's not too early to take steps to come aboard!



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be found at our website: www.wayofhope.am

- **1 January 2020** passport must be current
- **15 January** last date applications will be received
- **1 February** \$1,500 full flight payment (approximate)
- **1 March** short-term mission schedule
- **1 April** short-term mission personal preparations
- **1 May** short-term mission cultural orientation
- **1 June** \$50 travel insurance payment (approximate)
- **1 July** \$600 accommodations + expenses in Armenia

Autumn 2018 Ministries



Coffee Evening
HOPE Office, 5 October



HOPE Family Excursion - Jermuk Church
Sunday, 7 October



Special Lavash Day Event
Varsar Village School, 17 October



Adult Bible Study
Lesson: *Book of I Corinthians*
HOPE Office, October-December



Early Christmas Event
HOPE Office
14 December



7th Christmas Outreach Team
HOPE Office, 2018 December 29



Kids' Planet Sunday School
autumn hand-crafts



Kids' Planet Christmas Finale
HOPE Office, 16 December



CERTIFICATES OF THANKS

HOPE Summer Youth Day Camps
June-July 2019

- First:** from Nizami village school director
- Second:** from Nizami village mayor
- Third:** from Norashen village school director

Announcing our NEW POSTAL ADDRESS !!!

NEW postal address:
P.O. Box 94
North Brookfield
Massachusetts
01535 USA

NO LONGER using OLD address:
P.O. Box 4009
San Dimas, CA
91773 USA

*Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead.
I Peter 1:3*

Winter - Spring 2019 Ministries



Coffee Evening
HOPE Office, 11 January



10th Staff-Helper Retreat
Lesson: *Science and Faith*
HOPE Office, 26 January



Adult Bible Study:
Characters from the Old Testament
HOPE Office, Monday evenings



Special Seminar: Faith and Spiritual Music
HOPE Office, 23 February



Youth program: BASICS of Christian Faith
Zorak village school, Masis region
March – May



Kids' Planet Sunday School program
Lesson: *Creation*
Nizami village school, Masis region
April – July



Special Seminar: Faith and Fasting
HOPE Office, 12 April



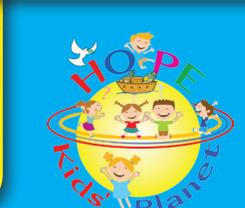
9th Easter Outreach to Families in Need
villages in Etchmiadzin region
Saturday, 20 April



Spring Cleaning Team
LIGHTHOUSE Training Center, 24 May

KIDS' PLANET

Kids' Planet Sunday School program



2nd Anniversary Kids' Planet – Yerevan



Bubble – rama!



Saturday
May 11



2nd Kids' Planet Day – LIGHTHOUSE



Saturday
July 13



Summer 2019 Ministries

Summer Youth Day Camps



1st Summer Youth Day Camp
First day's Bible lesson: Prayer
 Team, pastor, mayor, school director!
 Nizami village school, Masis region
 June 24,25,26



HOPE Family Excursion - Aparan Church
 Sunay, 21 July



2nd Summer Youth Day Camp
Lessons: Relations with God and Commandment: "Don't Lie"
 Zolak village school, Masis region
 June 27,28



Tigran's first teenage wood-carving group!



3rd Summer Youth Day Camp
Lesson: Spiritual food
 Norashen village school,
 Sevan region
 July 5,6,7



Norashen team



Youth Leader Training seminar
Leaders: Pastor Abraham, Tatevi, Mher
 LIGHTHOUSE, Sevan
 30,31 July + 1 August

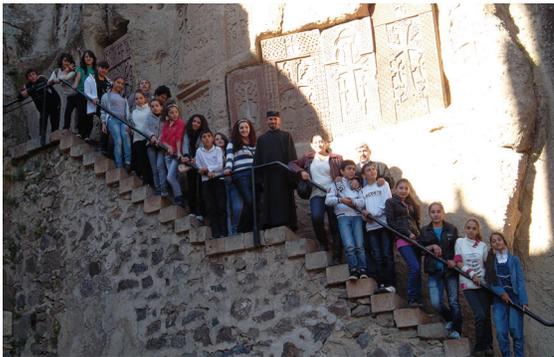


By Tatevik Ghazaryan

An important aspect of Armenian Church history is **Geghardavank (Geghard Church)**, located in the village of Garni, Kotayk region, about 40 kilometers (30 miles) east from the capital city of Yerevan.

According to tradition, this famous monastery-church was founded by well-known evangelist **Gregory the Illuminator** at the beginning of the 4th century, on the site of a pagan temple. This was the time when Armenia gave up its pagan origins by becoming the first official Christian nation in 301 A.D. Geghardavank was originally called **Ayrivank**, due to its many cave-like structures.

In the initial period, pious monks of the monastery lived there for years at a time, using nearby caves as solitary cells for living. It is supposed that Gregory the Illuminator lived for a time in one of these tiny caves which are still visible high-up on surrounding ledges.



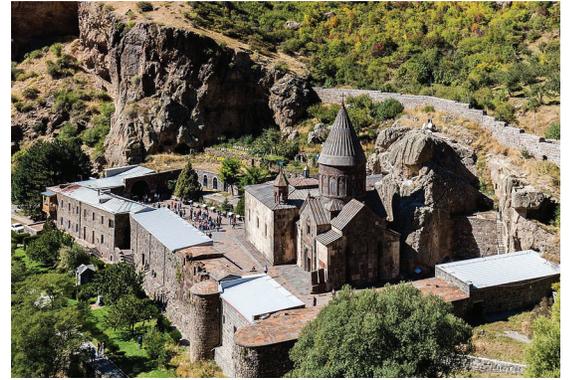
During the dynasty of Bagratuni (885-1045), Geghard Monastery was robbed by Nasri, Commander -in-Chief of Arab troops when Armenia was invaded (during the 920s). Although the monastery was later repaired, many priceless biblical manuscripts were irretrievably lost.

Later the monastery was exposed to the Mongol invasion, and after that to the Lenk Temur (Tamerlane) invasion. It was partially destroyed by the earthquakes of 1127, 1679, and 1840, then rebuilt and restored over following centuries.

Historical sources indicate that the primary complex (except for the cells of the hermits) consisted of several churches, residential buildings, and other support structures. The monastery had a music academy and was known as an important historic writing center. It was a major focus of the ruling families and one of the most visited pilgrimage sites. It also served as summer residence for successive Catholicos leaders (patriarchs) of the Armenian Church.

An important additional feature is **The St. Geghard (Spear)** that was for centuries housed at Geghardavank---the spear with which the Roman soldier pierced the rib of our crucified Lord Jesus Christ. This is why Ayrivank is also called Geghard Monastery. According to Christian tradition, The St. Geghard (Spear) was brought to Armenia by the Apostle Thaddeus. It can be viewed at the Treasury Museum in the Holy See of Etchmiadzin.

The current complex of Ayrivank is a 13th century building, and is protected as a UNESCO world heritage site. Thousands of pilgrims visit each year to enjoy Sunday services and *sharakhan* (ancient *a cappella* worship songs) beautifully presented by its famous choir. As you can see from the picture on the left, we have occasionally taken groups of young people on special excursions at the end of semester ministry programs to visit this prominent historic site.



ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. 2nd anniversary Kids' Planet
2. 3 summer youth day camps
3. summer camp team of 9
4. July youth leader training seminar
5. Satenik - gradual healing after accident
6. safety on Sevan + Masis roads

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. sharing the Good News in new regions
2. August respite for HOPE staff
3. autumn Adult Bible Study – HOPE Office
4. autumn kids' and youth programs
5. HOPE book-keeper and board
6. sharing about God's work in NE-USA

WE WANT YOU!

To join us
**July 3 - 20
2020**

for Project PAROS **Summer**
Short-term Mission in ARMENIA

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

Return this portion with your gift

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

Monthly pledge \$ _____
Other gift (please specify) \$ _____
Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Go to our website link:



Make checks payable to:
HOPE Armenia Ministries



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