

Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church

Ministry Report 2003

The year 2003 was another bright page added to the book of records of our Christian Education Centre. For those who know and follow closely the news of this Centre would certainly testify about all the Blessings that we have been experiencing the whole year through. Here are some of the highlighted events and activities varying between conferences, seminars and lectures.

-On the 5th of February a one-day leadership training seminar was convened by Dr. Perry Shaw, professor at the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon. Among the thirty participants were teachers representing the Armenian, Arab and Syriac Evangelical Churches in Syria.

* The following topics were treated vastly:

- Educational Cycle of formative teaching.
- The impact of the educational cycle on curriculum developments.
- Essential elements needed for effective lessons.



-On the 14th of March an evening was tribute to the 80th anniversary of the Arm.Evang. Bethel Church. Inaugurated by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, the Minister of the Church, the evening was homaged by Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, the President of Haigazian University of Beirut, who exposed a fundamental subject: “Armenian Christian or Christian Armenian”.



The public was also enriched by an artistic conclusion of the event; “The Regenerated Nation” a musical piece composed, arranged and performed, on piano, by Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian, and a medley of Armenian popular poems recited by Miss Salpi Darakjian .



-On the 11th of April, the celebration concerning the 80th anniversary of Arm. Evangelical. Bethel Church has continued by a second public lecture, organized and initiated by Rev. Haroutune Selimian; the minister of the church, who fervently welcomed the guest speaker of the evening; Mrs. Najla Kassab, M.D., Director of Christian Education Office of Synod Evangelical Church of Lebanon and Syria. Mrs. Kassab has enlightened us with the following subject: “Moving Towards Fertile Service “(Stretching, reaching, extending).



-One of the satisfying services during this summer was the Daily Vacation Bible School for Children during the period of 2nd to 30th of July, 2003. Eighty children aged between 4 to 12 years, attended the four-week program that included cultural, social and spiritual lessons prepared and presented by a highly qualified teaching staff, who often participated in the seminars and workshops taking place in the Christian Education Centre of the church, and also are dedicated volunteers both in the Sunday School and Youth Group.



Bible lessons were provided and delivered by Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian; Leader of Bethel Church’s Sunday School. The daily program included morning worship enriched with music, Bible lessons, English and Armenian language lessons, Computer lessons, General knowledge, gymnastics as well as artistic activities including crafts, the art of drawing, outdoor and indoor games and organized outings. It is our prayer that the Holy word we sow and water today will grow tomorrow in our children’s minds and hearts by God’s perfect touch.

-On the 28th and the 29th of July, the Middle East Council of Churches successfully organized a two-day leadership training retreat particularly designed for Youth Group leaders coming from different churches and backgrounds. Thirty two people were present to enjoy Mr. Fadi Abi Allam’s (Beirut) engaging topic; “Reconciliation Service”, or “The Service of Reconciliation”.



-On the 24th and 25th of August another two-day leadership training seminar was held, this time taking into consideration Sunday School teachers as well as Youth Group leaders from different churches. We were delighted to welcome twenty five motivated young participants who could dig into the following topic through the helpful guidance of the professional Egyptian Group “Friend of the Child”.

- Teaching and introducing the Bible by the use of Puppets.**
- The art of Presenting Bible stories.**
- How to deal properly with children.**



-On the 1st of November 2003, the Armenian Evangelical Bethel church was amplified by “Nayiri Choir”’s angelic voices of 34 talented kids and juniors, accompanied by the young pianist; Mara Palazian and her dedicated mother, the conductor and leader of the choir; Mrs. Negdar Palazian, as well another young musician; Nayiri Makhoulia, on violin. The Pastor of the church thanked the crowd and the guests coming from other denominations, and invited them to enjoy a list of spiritual, patriotic and popular inspirational songs, a program that was highly appreciated by the audience. The evening was concluded by the blessing of Pastor Raffi Meserlian, the spiritual leader and responsible of the choir, who accompanied the group on their way from Ainjar, Lebanon, where they live. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and guidance.



-During the weekend of the 14th, 15th and 16th of November, by the invitation and sponsorship of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, the Armenian Evangelical Torossian School's (Beirut Lebanon) secondary grades' students (21 actresses and actors, 5 assistants), along with their principal; Mrs. Seta Kargeusian, and their artistic and technical director, Mr. Robert Arakelian visited Aleppo city's Armenian societies and its children, and left their trace behind them through their musical play; "the intelligent man" derived from Hovanness Toumanian's "The foolish man". The play was full of rhythmic and joyful music, arranged by Rev. Nerses Balabanian, as well as, the creative choreography of Mr. Harout Karadjain. The events took place in the *Armenian Cultural Z. Carnelian Hall*, accepting 750 attentive children in the morning and over 600 adults in the evening.



-One of the latest successes of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel church's 80th Anniversary Committee was the evening of the 6th of December 2003, the Armenian, as well as, the Arab audience (over 500 people) have had their share of satisfaction concerning good quality jazz and Armenian ethnic music, in the enceinte of the Armenian Cultural "Z. Kaprielian" Hall, of Aleppo, Syria.

That night "Shoghag & Friends" lead by the group's pianist, composer and arranger, Mrs. Shoghag Apartian-Selimian, invited the crowd to share with them the inspirational moments varying from Armenian traditional to American-African swing, from French romance to Latin lively rhythms.

"Shoghag & Friends" consisted of: Shoghag Apartian-Selimian – *piano and arrangements* ,George Jebedjian – *soprano sax*, Hrag Karageusian – *electric guitar* , George Hatsakordzian – *bass* , Houry Dora Apartian – *vocals*, Ardziv Yeretsian – *drums*, Eddy Toprakdjian – *Latin percussions*.

The initiation, as well as, the conclusion of the evening, full of exhortation, thanksgiving and challenge, were brought by Rev. Haroutune Selimian; The pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, who welcomed many honorable guests including the general Counsel of the Republic of Armenia, Ministers and Clergy of sister denominations and representatives of cultural, educational and benevolent unions. He also mentioned the presence of the Almighty Lord, His blessings and promises for His people and church throughout the last eighty years of service, in addition, its faithful, spiritual and financial supporters. May the Glory and the Honor be ascribed to His Holy name. Amen:

We thank God for blessing us with the vision to serve our people in this region of the world. Our aim is to improve our Christian testimony and make it more effective. We ask you to continue to pray for us as we serve our God by obeying and trusting Him.

Respectfully
Rev. Haroutune Selimian
Pastor
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