

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL BETHEL CHURCH MINISTRY REPORT 2005

Calendar

January-	Yerakhdik Christmas Jan 4
February-	Week of prayer for the Christian Unity 2005
March-	World Day of Prayer
May-	Leadership Training Seminar for youth and Junior High Group 5 May Armenian Evangelical Churches' Women's Seminary 6 May Training seminar for Pastors and Lay leaders 6 May Armenian Evangelical Churches young couples Seminary 7 May Celebration on Mothers Day 12 May
July-	DVBS 4-30 July Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's annual retreat 14-18 July
August-	The Dibasar Exhibition
November- December	Women's Auxiliary Christmas Exhibition 26 November – 1 December

Yerakhdik Christmas Concert

Under the patronage of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, a Christmas concert was held on the eve of the 4th of January, 2005, performed by “Yerakhdik” Choir accompanied by 5 talented musicians and directed by Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian. The Church was full of public, as well as honorable guests’ presence. The program was full of newly arranged and traditional Christmas songs. The guest musicians, whom brought their beautiful share of melodic solos in most of the songs, were Nanor Mikaelian on flute, Nanor Jamakordzian on Violin, George Jebejian on soprano sax, Kevork Manougian on Clarinet, and the vocal solos were presented by Houry-Dora Apartian. This very fulfilling and refreshing semi-candle-light service was blessed by the ever-encouraging words of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, and finally by the heartfelt prayers of Rev. Serop Mgrditchian.

Week of prayer for the Christian Unity

On the 6th of February, 2005, a worship service was held for the Christian Unity, at the Arab Maronite Mar Ilias Church. The Church was full of archbishops, pastors, clergy and lay-leaders and Christian public. The theme of the year was “*Jesus Christ, the Foundation upon whom we are all called to Build*” based on I Corinthians 3:1-23, delivered by the Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria.

World Day of Prayer

On the 4th of March, 2005, a worship service was held at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. More than two Hundred women attended the service. They gathered for worship, prayer, fellowship, as well as to share God’s Joy, love, mercy, power and beauty with each others. The program was contained Scripture readings, spiritual songs and prayers. The day’s lecture was presented by the Archbishop Shahan Sarkisian; Head of the Armenian Orthodox Community in Aleppo, the subject was “... *Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven*” (Matthew 5:16). The Service ended with a blessing prayer of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria.



Leadership Training seminar for youth and Junior high group leaders

On the 5th of May, 2005, a One-Day Leadership Training Seminar was held for youth and junior high group leaders. More than 30 leaders participated coming from Armenian Evangelical Churches in Syria. The topic of the day was “*Shaped for Serving God*”. The Lecture was delivered by Mrs. Maral Deirmenjian, Head Nurse and Junior high group leader at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh, Beirut-Lebanon.



Armenian Evangelical Churches' Women's Seminary

Friday, 6th of May 2005, Leadership training sessions were held for the leaders of the women's auxiliaries of Armenian Evangelical Churches of Aleppo, Syria. Forty Women participated in this one day training. Mrs. Maral Deirmenjian, presented two much appreciated lectures, the topics were about “*Made for a mission- Created to become like Christ*”. These were followed by a guided discussion.

Leadership training Seminar for pastors and lay leaders

On the 6th of May, 2005, a leadership training Seminar was held for the Pastors and lay leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Churches about the topic “*Living with Purpose*”. Twenty people participated in this one-day seminar which was led by Mrs. Maral Deirmenjian.



Armenian Evangelical Churches' young Couples Seminary

Saturday, 7th of May another leadership training seminar was held, this time taking into consideration young couples from Armenian Evangelical churches. We were delighted to welcome 40 active young couples. Mrs. Maral Deirmenjian presented a very fundamental subject “Couples’ Psychological Needs”. The session was followed by a question-answer period.



Celebration on Mother's Day

The women's Council of the Armenian Evangelical Churches initiated a very highly qualified program and worship service, dedicated to our dear and most valuable mothers, which was held on the 12th of May, 2005, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. More than one Hundred and fifty women participated to this very especial event. The Program contained an artistic section; a choir which was directed by Mrs. Suzan Apartian: Vocal solos were presented by Houry-Dora Apartian, and a medley of Armenian popular poems recited by Mrs. Marijan Melkonian. Mrs. Ani Boymouskian was invited as a speaker from Kessab-Syria. She exposed the topic “How could be a Wife of Noble Character” based on psalm 34:1-3: The program ended with the Lord's Prayer.



Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, DVBS

One of the satisfying services during this summer was the Daily Vacation Bible School for Children during the period of 4th to 30th of July, 2005. Seventy five 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. Mrs. Betty Yepremian Principle of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School took the both responsibilities of the management and organization work of Daily Vacation Bible School. The daily program included morning worship enriched with music, Bible lessons based on “*The Ten Commandments*” (Exodus 20:1-17), 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.



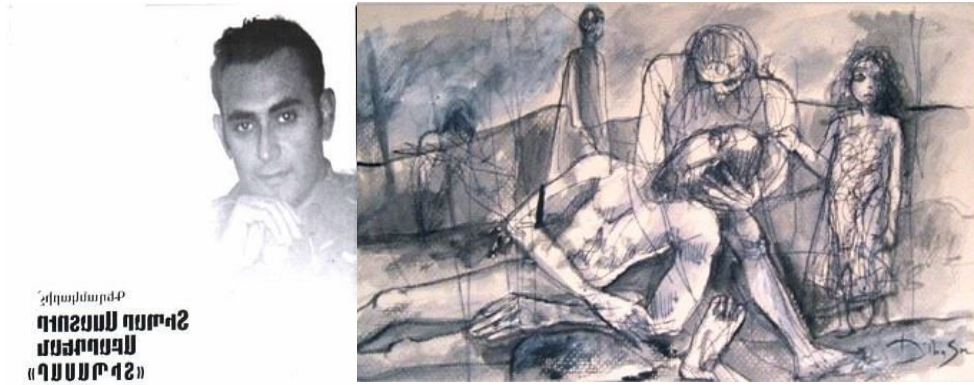
Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church’s Annual Retreat in Kchag, Kessab

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church’s families had their annual retreat from 14th of July – 18th July, 2005, in the Christian Endeavor Summer Camp, Kchag-Kessab. The chief director of the camp was Rev. Haroutune Selimian. The daily program included morning worship service, singing, Bible study, topic presentation, group discussion, workshops, lectures, social events, consulting and praying times, sharing and fellowship and outdoor activities. During four days of the retreat, the Church pastor Rev. Haroutune Selimian presented three topics concerning the theme of “*Praise to God for His Grace and Salvation*” based on (1 Peter 1-2): 1. Praise to God for a living Hope 2. “Be Holy, because I am holy...” 3. We are called to have sincere love for our brothers, from the heart. The summer camps were one of the vital activities to strengthen the spiritual and the national identities of the church members.

The “Dibasari” Exhibition

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church initiated an exhibition dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The church for the second time in its history has proudly welcomed the expressive art and paintings of the Armenian-Aleppine artist; Dibar Asadour Apartian, who has been practicing and evolving his God-given-talent and tool of expression in Paris for the last nine years. At the opening night of the 25th of August 2005, a huge and valuable crowd was present taste the fresh and deep meanings of those philosophically and especially theologically rich pieces of art. The evening was very unique and decorated with its prestigious guests varying from pastors to laymen, from sculptures to painters, from doctors to politicians, writers, musicians, businessmen, directors of schools, presentations of cultural centers. It was very obvious that Dibar’s world was filled with Christian faith and dedication, Armenian spirit and history, Human’s life, blessings and pain, life’s just and unjust faces, a man’s beginning and experiences, and especially

God's divine, merciful, loyal, uniting and eternal presence almost through all the paintings, all of which can speak a lot about Dibar's character, background passion and love.



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Women's Auxiliary Christmas Exhibition

It has been a beautiful tradition for the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church to organize an exhibition each year on the Christmas Eve, sharing their talents with the public by preparing and offering to people original handicrafts, handmade Christmas materials, art works and great foods prepared by the many of talented church women. This year the exhibition was held on Saturday, 26th of November, 2005. In this very especial and unique evening were present pastors, representatives of Armenian cultural centers and foundations, directors of schools, doctors and politicians and a record number of guests. The exhibition inaugurated by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, in which he greeted the presents then he expressed his appreciation, gratitude and thanks to the women's auxiliary active members and to each member that served faithfully and approximately for the success of this initiation, also he mentioned that the exhibition funds will be used for the mission of the church. During this six-day exhibition the church families had very blessed fellowship with each other.



We praise God for blessing us with the vision to serve our people in this region of the world. We ask you to continue to pray for us as we serve our God by obeying and trusting Him.