

Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Ministry Report 2006

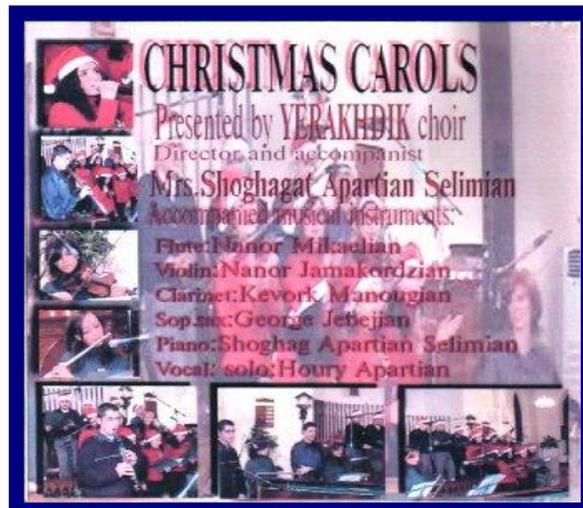
Calendar

January-	Yerakhdik Christmas Jan 6 Week of prayer for the Christian Unity 2006
March-	World Day of Prayer
May-	Celebration on Mother's Day, 10 May
June -July	DVBS 5 June-7 July Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's Sunday School Commencement Ceremony, 25 June 160 th anniversary Celebration of the Armenian Evangelical Church, 1 July Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's annual retreat 20-24 July
October	The opening of the Armenian Evangelical "Armis" Art School
November	Women's Auxiliary Christmas Exhibition 25 – 30 November
December	Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's Christmas Banquet

Yerakhdik Christmas

The Year 2005 has ended with beauty and showers of wonder from up above, yet a group of young faithful music appreciators moved and encouraged by their director's invitation; Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian, decided to come together on the 6th of January, 2006, to share once again the celebration and tribute to God's only begotten son, the Prince of Peace; Jesus Christ. It was an evening when The Armenian Bethel Church was full of public, as well as honorable guests' presence, but mostly God's spirit's presence. Each carol was arranged, composed and interpreted with powerful yet soft definition and redescription of that holy night, when the world received its undeserved Savior and King. The guest musicians, whom brought their beautiful share of melodic solos in most of the songs, were Nanor Mikaelian on flute, Shant Tanielian and George Moubayed on Violin, Kevork Manougian on Alto Sax, 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. The Concert ended with the praying words of Rev. Haroutune Selimian.

May the Lord of our ancestors and our descendants keep His mighty hands and radiant face shining upon us from generation to generation through the birth of His son in our hearts and lives.



Week of prayer for the Christian Unity

The week of prayer for Christian unity is one of the unique events that Christians experience and lives in Aleppo-Syria. 11 Christian Communities gather together in one church to have special prayer service for the Christian Unity. This year the prayer service was held on the 27th of January, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. The Church was full of archbishops, pastors, clergy and lay-leaders and Christian public. The theme of the year was “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” based on Matthew 18:20, delivered by the Archbishop Yousef Anis Abi Ad, President of the Arab Maronite Church in Aleppo.

World Day of Prayer

Every year on the first week of March is held a Day of Prayer for worship, prayer, fellowship, as well as to share God’s Joy, love, mercy, power and beauty with each other. This year the worship service was held on the 3rd of March, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. More than two Hundred women attended the service. The program contained Scripture readings, spiritual songs and prayers. The day’s lecture was presented by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Martyr’s Church in Aleppo. Rev. Ekmekjian in his message reminded that God often speaks to each of us in different ways, we should always show our obedience to Him. The Service ended with the blessing prayer of Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian.



Celebration on Mothers' 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 10th of May, 2006, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. More than one Hundred and fifty women participated to this very especial event. The Program included an artistic section; a choir which was directed by Mrs. Suzan Apartian and performed by the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School students. A medley of Armenian popular poems recited by Mrs. Meline Apkarian. The keynote speaker of the day was Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian. In her message, she invited those present to grow in the wisdom of God’s Virtues. The program ended with the Lord’s Prayer.



Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, DVBS, 5 June-7 July

Daily Vacation Bible school program is designed to share the love of Jesus with children aged between 4 to 12 in very practical ways by playing, learning, enhancing their talents, socializing, meeting new friends and being nourished in a Christian atmosphere of tender loving care. Mrs. Shoghag Selimian assumed 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 “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2), 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 Sunday School Commencement Ceremony

On the 25th of June, 2006, the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church’s Sunday school Commencement ceremony was held during the worship service. The program included testimonies of the graduates, a musical piece was performed, on Piano, by Noushig Toutounjian, two dramas were performed by the Sunday school children. The titles of dramas were “The Parable of the Tenants” Luke 20:9-19, “The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector” Luke 18:9-14, The Children’s Choir was directed by Mrs. Shoghagat Selimian. The sermon of the day was delivered by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, “The Disciples greatest lesson”, based on Matthew 14.13-21. At the end of the ceremony, the graduates

received Bibles as a gift. The Worship service was ended by the blessing prayer of the church pastor.

160th anniversary celebration of the Armenian Evangelical Church

Under the auspices of the Central Committee of U.A.E.C.N.E., the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Aleppo celebrated the 160th anniversary of its establishment, which was held on the 1st of July, 2006, at the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church. The evening was very unique and decorated with its prestigious guests varying from archbishops and pastors to laymen, from doctors to politicians, writers, musicians, businessmen, directors of schools, presentations of cultural centers, and valuable crowd. The worship service was led by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian. Pastor Sevag Trashian invited the present to read the Armenian Evangelical Church's creed. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria. Rev. Selimian exposed a fundamental subject: "The Armenian Evangelical Church's Spiritual and Educational Missions". The public was also enriched by an artistic conclusion of the event; vocal solos were presented by Miss Houry Apartian. The evening ended with the blessing prayer of the President. Following the celebration a reception was held at the President's office.

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

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's families had their annual retreat from 20th of July – 24th July, 2006, 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 "Unity in the body of Christ" based on (Ephesians 4-6): 1. Living as Children of Light 2. Living a life of love 3. Living a life of victory. The summer camps were one of the vital activities to strengthen the spiritual and the national identities of the church members.

The opening of the Armenian Evangelical "Armiss" Art School

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church has had the vision to establish an Armenian Evangelical "art School" in Aleppo-Syria, for all Armenian Students. The main purpose of establishing this center is to help children to discover and enlarge their musical talents. The School was named "Armiss". (Armenian Evangelical "Armiss" art School). The principle of the school is Mrs. Shoghagat Selimian. The art school includes two sections Conservatory and Children choir. The conservatory started on the 29th of October, 2006, with thirty students. The Choir which participated fifty students are already preparing Christmas concert, which will take place on the Christmas Eve, 6th of January, 2007, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. We pray that God uses this School for the Glory of His name.

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, 25th of November, 2006. 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 was 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.



Christmas Banquet

On Sunday noon, 24th of December, 2006, the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church experienced once again the Joy of Christmas with its families. The present once again lived the warmth atmosphere of communication with each other. The banquet was held at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School's Poladian Hall. The program included welcoming words by Mr. Adour Bosnoyian, Prayer and greeting words By Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. After lunch, the present enjoyed a drama and choir presented by the Sunday school Children; Vocal solos were presented by Shant Kerbabian, accompanied on Piano by Mrs. Shoghagat Selimian. The banquet was much abounded when Santa Claus came to the hall and distributed gifts and Christmas joy packages to all of Children, then sang and danced together. At the end of the program, the pastor of the Church expressed his gratitude to all of the families and also thanked all those who served faithfully through their involvement, and made this activity possible.

We praise God for blessing us with the vision to serve our people in this region of the world. The above mentioned events and activities are a great occasion to thank God for His Love and care, also an opportunity to review, renew and plan future activities all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask you to continue to pray for us as we serve our God by obeying and trusting Him.