

Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church
Christian Education Centre
Ministry Report 2002

We thank God for the year 2002! A year of both great blessings and wonderful challenges. For some time the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church has had the vision and plan to establish a Christian Education and Resource Center on our own premises. The main purpose of having such a center would be to serve as a place to offer leadership training and seminars for Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, lay preachers and church board members, as well as, to provide our youth with the opportunity to take language courses and computer training etc... The Year 2001 saw this Christian Education and Resource Center become reality, and it was subsequently put to use during last year. This is certainly something we thank and praise our Lord Jesus Christ for.

Below we present a small summary of the seminars and conferences, which during the year 2002 took place at this Christian Education Center.

- On the 18th and 19th of Feb. 2002, a Seminar was held for the Pastors and lay leaders of the Evangelical and Presbyterian Churches in the region about “How to re-read the Bible in our context”. Twenty people participated in this one-day seminar which was led by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Hiebert, visiting lecturer of Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon.



- On the 22nd of Feb. 2002, A One-Day Leadership Training Seminar was held for youth leaders and more than one hundred young people participated coming from Armenian, Arab and Syriac Evangelical Churches in Syria. The topic of

the day was “The Challenges that Youth Face in the Twenty-First century”. Lectures were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Ikram Lamii, president of The Nile Presbyterian Synod, Egypt.



- On the 26th of Feb.2002, a Seminar was held for the Armenian and Arab Evangelical pastors. Ten pastors participated in this seminar. The subject was “Renewal of Pastoral Commitment and Service”, by Rev. Dr. Ikram Lamii.



- On the 3rd, 4th and 5th of April 2002, a Leadership Training Seminar was held for Sunday School Teachers. Fifty teachers participated in this three-day training where the following topics were taught.

- * The Art of Presenting Biblical Stories.
- * The Art of Presenting Stories by Using Flannelograph.
- * How to Help in the Healing Process of an Unruly Child.
- * How Can You Become the Desirable Teacher?

The above-mentioned topics were presented by Mr. Nabil Bakhit, Field Director of Youth for Christ in Egypt.



- On the 3^d of May 2002, a Leadership Training Seminar was held for the leaders of the women's auxiliaries of Armenian, Arab and Syriac Evangelical Churches of Aleppo, Syria. Mrs. Maral Deirmenjian, Head Nurse and lay-leader at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh, Beirut-Lebanon, gave two much appreciated lectures titled "Facing Challenges - Without Becoming Disappointed in Your Ministry". These were followed by a guided discussion.



- On the 5th and 6th of June 2002, a Leadership Training Seminar was held for youth groups and youth group leaders. Thirty people participated in this two-day training. The following topics were presented by Dr. Varouj Mazmanian, USA.

* Spiritual Discipline.

* Discipline and the Proper Characteristics of a Youth Leader.

- From 1-7 of June 2002, a special seminar was held by the “Mission and Evangelism” Committee of the World Council of Churches. Those who participated in this conference came from Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. The thirty participants, both clergy and lay-leaders, represented the following Churches: The Armenian Apostolic Church, The Syriac Orthodox Church, The Greek Orthodox Church, The Greek Catholic Church, The Roman Catholic Church, The Armenian Catholic Church, The Armenian Evangelical Church and the Arab Protestant Church. The theme of the seminar was “Sharing the Good News in the Middle East”. Dr. Carlos Ham, Cuba, and Dr. Gert Rueppell, Finland, made a great impact in delivering the Bible Studies where they also shared their own experiences, which were filled with God's wisdom.



- **During the period 18th of June - 3rd of September 2002, an English Language Course was held for pre-teens. Ten students participated in this ten-week intensive course. Miss Arda Isgenian, a professional language teacher at Accad Institute in Aleppo, Syria, conducted this course.**



- **A Three-Day Leadership Seminar for Leaders of Women Auxiliaries and Youth Leaders was held during the All Saints' Holiday (October 31 - November 2, 2002). Forty leaders participated and Mrs. Maral Deirmenjian from the Armenian Evangelical Church, Ashrafiye, Beirut presented the following topics.**

- - How to Handle Negative Criticism Levelled at a Godly Leader.**
 - **The Peril of Discouragement and Depression.**
 - **The Peril of Jealousy and Being Indispensable.**
 - **The Peril of Being Misunderstood and Misrepresented.**
 - **The Peril of Being Ignored and Rejected.**
 - **The Peril of Being Filled with Resentment and Desiring Revenge.**
- **Characteristics of a Godly Leader.**
 - **Refusing to Support a Sinful Behaviour.**
 - **Going Beyond the Familiar Patterns.**

- **Doing the Unusual.**
- **Why Leaders Crack Up and What to Do about it?**
 - **Make Teaching Priority.**
 - **Delegate Workload.**
 - **Have a Listening Ear.**

Separate the Essential Tasks from the Important Ones!



- On the 15th of November 2002, the Middle East Council of Churches organized and conducted a Leadership Training Retreat for Leaders of the Youth Groups from different church backgrounds. Eighty people participated and the topic was “Dialogue between Christian and Muslims” presented by Fr. Pierre Masri, from the Greek-Catholic Church.

- On the 9th and 10th of December 2002, a Two-Day Leadership Seminar was held for Sunday School and Day- School Teachers. Twenty-five teachers participated and the following topics were presented by Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian.

- * **Multiple Intelligence.**
- * **Methods of Creative Leading of Worship.**
- * **Methods of Using Drama in Telling a Story.**
- * **Christian Drama (an approach of C.E. for children in worship).**

Some of the above-mentioned sessions included workshops where the participants were given the opportunity to prepare and actively present different kinds of dramas.



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
Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church**

Aleppo-Syria