



Armenian Evangelical Bethel church
Ministry Report 2010

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, Praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. “Psalm 96: 1-3

Calendar

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| June 13 | - Representatives of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments (Awqaf) Visit Rev. Haroutune Selimian |
| June 14 | - Sunday-School and Junior High Group Commencement Ceremony |

June 20	- "Armiss" Recital
July 9	- Commencement Ceremony of the Bethel Armenian Evangelical Secondary School
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August 23	- Minister of Diaspora's Visit to Rev. Selimian
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August 28-29	- Family Kermesse
September 10	- Norwegian Bishop of Oslo Visits Rev. Selimian
September 14	- Smooth Jazz Night
September 21	- Arabic Night
October 24	- Benefit Banquet on Behalf of the Renovation of Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church
November 23 – 26	- The President of the Armenian Parliament, Mr. Hovig Aprahamian's Visit to Syria
November 27- Dec. 2	- Christmas Exhibition
December 26	- Christmas Banquet
December 29	- Christmas Concert

Concert of the Season

Under the Auspices of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, and in Collaboration with the Swiss Consulate in Aleppo, a Concert of the Season was held on the 1st of January, 2010, at the Z. Kaprielian hall of the Grtasirats Cultural Association. The President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, pastors, consuls, clergy and lay-leaders, directors of schools, representatives of cultural centers and foundations and a record number of guests were among those in attendance. The evening started with some words of welcome by the Swiss Consul, Mr. Paul Mougbaraneh. He also thanked the audience for being there and sharing those inspirational moments, season's greetings, blessings and warmth with each other. The program was full of newly arranged and traditional Christmas songs; liven up through new arrangements and the great voices Mrs. Houry Dora Apartian-Friedli and Miss Mary Arabajian. The songs varied from soft and inspirational songs like, "Once in Royal David's City", "O Holy Night", "White Christmas", to rhythmic and joyful songs like, "Joy to the World", "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentle Men".

"Shogh Art" consisted of Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian – *piano and arrangements (Leader)*, George Jebedjian – *soprano sax*, Nanor Mikayelian – *flute*, George Hatsakordzian – *bass*, Houry Dora Apartian – *vocals*, Miss Mary Arabajian- *vocals*, Ardziv Yeretsian – *drums*, Shant Tanielian – *Violin*.

The evening was concluded by Rev. Haroutune Selimian's words of thanks and the Benediction given by His Grace Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian, Head of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Aleppo.



Main Events of 2009

Sunday, 7th of February, 2010, Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Board of Trustees organized a special program for the families of the Bethel Church. The program was held at the church's Soghomonian Hall. At the beginning Rev. Harotune Selimian's said some words of welcome before Mr. Sevag Hajian took the podium to remind us of the main events of 2009 through a power-point presentation focusing on the following subjects: politics, technology, music, economy, sports, movies, games, etc. At the end of the program Rev. Haroutune Selimian expressed his thanks and gratitude for making this event possible.

St. Vartanants Celebration

Another unprecedented event was the 1549th anniversary of St. Vartanants Celebration on 10 February, 2010. The Ceremony started with words of welcome by Rev. Serop Mgrditchian. The audience was also treated to musical pieces performed, on piano by Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian, on first Violin by Mr. Shant Tanielian, on second violin by Mr. Vicken Sarkissian, on Cello by Mr. Harout Kazandjian and the vocal solos were performed by Miss Mary Arabajian, accompanied on piano by Mrs. Shogahat Selimian. There was also a recitation of Armenian popular poems by Mrs. Garine Fermanian. During the celebration, the heads of the three Armenian Communities, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of The Armenian Evangelical Community, Archbishop Bedros Mreyetian, Head of the Armenian Catholic Church of Aleppo and Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian, Head of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Aleppo, all spoke of St. Vartan's unyielding stand for Christianity, and its importance for the Armenian nation. The ceremony ended with the benediction said by the three Heads of the Armenian Communities.



Young Couple's Meeting

On the 14th of February, 2010, the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's young Couples' Committee organized a special meeting for the married couples of the Church. The evening included a time of fellowship, renewal, prayer and worship. The meeting convened with the opening and welcoming words of the Church Pastor, Rev. Haroutune Selimian. After the worship, the pastor presented a lecture on the following subject: "The Origin of Valentine's Day". After that Rev. Selimian emphasized the importance of love and respect between couples. The climax of the evening was when Mrs. Sosi Bakhchejian led the couples in a variety of games. The meeting ended with

some words of thanks by Mr. Samuel Mncherian and the benediction said by Rev. Haroutune Selimian.



Special Meeting with Governor of Aleppo, Mr. Ali Ahmed Mansoura

On Thursday, 4th of March, 2010, Mr. Ali Ahmed Mansoura, Governor of Aleppo, warmly welcomed the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, Rev. Haroutune Selimian. Rev. Selimian praised the Governor for all the good work he has already accomplished in helping Aleppo to adapt to the contemporary demands of the world of today. Together they also discussed the main issues that always keep the country in progress. During the meeting Rev. Selimian emphasized the hard work and many achievements of the Armenian community in Aleppo, specially, in the spheres of education, culture, economy and society as a whole. At the end of the meeting Rev. Selimian passed on his warm congratulations to the President of Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Bashar Al- Asad, on the occasion of the Revolution of March 8. The meeting ended with cordial wishes of ongoing successful new achievements.



World Day of Prayer

On the 5th of March, 2010, a very special worship service was held for the Armenian Evangelical, Orthodox and Catholic Communities. More than three hundred women gathered for worship, prayer, fellowship, as well as to share God's joy, love, mercy,

power and beauty with each other. The program started with a video presentation by the Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, who gave brief information about the country of Paraguay. The worship service was led by Mrs. Suzan Apartian, who in turn gave brief information about the country of Cameroon. The program also included Scripture readings, spiritual songs and prayers. The keynote speaker for the day was Father Mashdots Arabatlian. His chosen theme was based on the Scripture passage “Psalm 150.6”, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!” The service ended with a prayer said by the Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria. After the worship service the ladies experienced a time of warm fellowship on the campus of the church.



Children's' World Day of Prayer

One of the most satisfying and blessed services that takes place at the campus of the church is Sunday-School services. The Sunday-School consists of 80 children, aged 4 to 12. They gather once a week, for worship, Bible study and fellowship. Together they experience God’s love, His mercy, power and His joy while seeing His promises being fulfilled in their lives. They also enjoy programs with games, competitions and visits to well-known factories.

On Sunday, 21th of March, under the patronage of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Sunday School teachers, a worship service was held for the Sunday-School children at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. The program included Scripture readings, spiritual songs, prayers, testimonies, a drama and a slide show of a Cameroun city. The Worship service ended with the Lord's Prayer. After that the children had a time of fellowship on the campus of the Church.



The President of the Republic of Armenia Mr. Serj Sarkissian's visit to Syria

Upon the invitation of the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Bashar Al Asad, the President of the Republic of Armenia Mr. Serj Sarkissian paid a three days formal visit to Syria, 22-24 March, 2010. The president was accompanied by the first Lady Mrs. Rita Sarkissian, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministers of Diaspora and Culture. He was also accompanied by Mr. Arshag Poladian, the Ambassador of Armenia in Damascus. On the 22nd of March, 2010, he held a formal meeting with the President Bashar Al Asad at the palace 'Kasr Al Shaab' in Damascus. A plenary session for the delegates was held to discuss the relationship between Syria and Armenia, a signing of ten new agreements, and to study the international political developments. On Tuesday, 23rd of March, 2010, the President visited the City of Aleppo, and had a meeting with the Governor of Aleppo, and the Heads of the Armenian Churches at the Armenian Consulate. After that he joined a formal dinner, at "Ani" restaurant at the Aram Manougian House of Culture. The last day, the President attended to the opening Ceremony of the New Armenian Consulate in the city of Der Zor. The meetings were attended by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, president of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria and the Heads of the Armenian Communities.



Dr. Aram Simonian's Visit to Aleppo

On Tuesday, 6th of April, 2010, Dr. Aram Simonian, the President of the University of Yerevan, met with the president of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, at the office of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. The President was accompanied by Mr. Ashod Manougian, the Consul of Aleppo. During the meeting, they discussed the most important issues of the Faculty of Armenology at the University and how it can reach a higher standard.

Rev. Selimian thanked the minister of Education, Mr. Sbardag Seyranian, for the newly created Faculty of Armenian Studies at the University of and called for the immediate action to enlarge the program and clarify administrative details. After that the delegation, accompanied by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, went to the University of Aleppo to have a meeting with the President of the University, Dr. Nidal Shahade. The meeting focused on the formal agreement of both universities (Aleppo-Yerevan), in which there will be an exchange programme between Syria and Armenia. The two sides concluded that the mutual relationship between the two universities will carry on between all their scientific branches and by July, 2010 the general teaching plans and timetables will have been scheduled. These will then be followed by Armenian language, history and culture teaching plans being scheduled by 1st of September, 2010, in the Aleppo University Faculty of Languages. This development between the

two universities will reinforce the relation between the two republics. Finally, we can proudly say that the Faculty of Armenology in the University of Aleppo is getting momentum.



Presidential Counselor Dr. Iskender Louqa, Meets the Head of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Rev. Haroutune Selimian

On the 23rd of April, 2010, the Rev. Haroutune Selimian welcomed Dr. Iskandar Louqa, the Counselor of the President of Syrian Arab Republic, who expressed his sincere feelings of condolence concerning the Armenian Genocide and congratulated the Armenian people for their brave past, great present and progressive spirit. During the meeting, the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, Rev. Haroutune Selimian expressed his gratitude to the honored President of Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Bashar Al Assad for the warm and sincere hospitality of the Syrian people, specifically during the Armenian Genocide. The Rev. Haroutune Selimian also thanked Dr. Iskandar Louqa for his attendance at the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Aleppo. This proves the Syrian Arab Republic's cooperation with the talented and constructive Armenian people, especially in Aleppo. Rev. Selimian, on behalf of the three Armenian Church Heads and the Syrian Armenians, thanked the President for his brave and human contribution to support people who suffer from persecution and his attempt at regaining their rights, mentioning the Palestinian people and the recovery of the occupied lands in Golan. At the end of the meeting with the Counselor Dr. Iskandar Louqa, the two sides wished each other mutual success and expressed their desire to meet again.



Armenian Evangelical Churches of Aleppo Commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Under the auspices of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, on the 25th of April, 2010, a commemoration service was held dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The ceremony started with welcoming words, scripture readings and a prayer offered by Rev. Serop Mgrdiichian. The day's sermon was delivered by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Pastor of Armenian Evangelical Martyr's Church. The theme of the day was "The Losses of the Armenian Evangelical Church in 1915". The audience also listened to spiritual songs performed by Verjina Ayvazian, accompanied on piano by Mrs. Shoghahat Apartian-Selimian, a recitation of Armenian popular poems by Arda Kerbabian, as well as a musical piece performed, on piano, by Arda Kerbabian. After the worship, the public went to the martyr's monument to remember the victims.



The Armenian Evangelical Churches' Women's Councils' Seminar

Monday, 3rd of May, 2010, The Armenian Evangelical Women's Council was delighted to welcome three guest speakers; Mrs. Betty Hatem, Mrs. Seta Kessablian and Mrs. Silva Mncherian. They had come to give training to dedicated women from all the Armenian Evangelical Churches, letting them realize how women can serve in the church. The main subjects were:

1. Women's Silence in the Church or What?
2. Violence against Women
3. Christian Counseling

After the lectures the ladies had an opportunity to get close to each other, share moments of discoveries together and receive spiritual nourishment. The training session was ended with some words of thanks and a prayer said by Mrs. Houry Mousa Oghli.



Evangelism Joint Services

Under the auspices of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, very blessed and joyous worship services were held at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church during the period of May 3-5, 2010. The keynote speaker of these services was Rev. Berdj Jambazian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale. Mrs. Salpi Keleshian, Mrs. Anahid Bedrossian and the "Real Life Team" had joined him from the United States. More than 800 people were gathering every day to attend the services. The musicians accompanying the singers from abroad were Ardziv Yeretsian on percussion, Nazo Hadidian on Bass Guitar, and Mrs. Shoghagat Abartian-Selimian on piano. We are grateful to the Lord for yesterday's promises, today's strength and endurance and tomorrow's vision. May He remain in us and we, the Armenian Evangelical Church, remain His faithful ambassadors of wisdom, knowledge and light in this world!



Celebration on Mother's Day

A special celebration on Mother's Day was held on Thursday 5th of May 2010, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. All the ladies of the Armenian community were invited to this meeting. The celebration was dedicated to our dear and much appreciated mothers. More than three hundred women attended the service, which included a time of worship and praise led by Mrs. Susan Krajian and a song performed by Mrs. Sevan Arslanian accompanied on piano by Mrs. Betty Hatem as well as Armenian popular poems recited by Mrs. Diroug Garabedian. The keynote speaker at the worship service was Mrs. Sona Galian. She presented a lecture on the subject "Armenian Mothers' Devotion and Faith". At the end of the program Mrs. Sona Galian was invited to the podium and was honored with a symbolic gift by Mrs. Suzan Apartian. The program ended with the Lord's Prayer. After the program those gathered had an hour of fellowship together on the campus of the church.



Musical Concert

Under the auspices of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Protestant Community in Syria, and in collaboration with the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Board of Trustees a musical concert was held on the 5th of May, 2010, at Kevork Yessayan Hall. Attending the musical concert were the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, pastors, clergy and lay-leaders, directors of schools, representatives of cultural centers and foundations, as well as a record number of other guests. The concert began with Verjina Ayvazian's welcoming words. After a short introduction the guests of the evening, Rev. Berdj Jambazian, Mrs. Salpi Keleshian, Mrs. Anahid Bedrosian and "Real Life Team" gave a splendid performance of inspirational songs. They also presented the audience with a vibrant message about the love and mercy of God. At the end of the Concert Rev. Selimian took the opportunity to thank the "Real Life Team" members, the talented musicians and finally the director of the team. At the end of the program Rev. Selimian honored the speaker by handing him a symbolic gift on behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Board of Trustees.



Mothers' Day Celebration

On the 9th of May, 2010, the Junior High Group (badani-asbedner) Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel church invited the families of the church to an excellent program and worship service, dedicated to our dear and much appreciated mothers. More than one hundred-and- fifty people attended the program. The program included welcoming words by Miss Nazani Mncherian, and a drama called "The Ideal Family", presented by the Junior High group. Mothers' day poems were recited by Megheti Tatoyan and Antranig Youmourtajian and Mothers' Day songs performed by Verjina Ayvazian, accompanied on piano by Mrs. Shoghat Apartian-Selimian. After the artistic section, Mr. Asadour Mncherian presented the Junior High Group activities through slides. During this section Miss Sevan Keleshian gave brief information about the Junior High Group Sunday lessons. The program continued with Maria Agishian telling a story on Mother's Day, Garo Bourounsouzian reading Bible Verses from the Book of Proverbs and Rita Arakelian presenting the virtues of the ideal mother. At the end of the program special letters were given to the audience containing the secrets of "The Ideal Family". The program ended with a word of thanksgiving and the benediction said by Rev. Haroutune Selimian.



Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's Women's Auxiliary meeting on Ascension Day

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Women's Council organized a midday program for the Church ladies on the 13th of May, 2010. The program started with welcoming words by Mrs. Suzan Apartian. Afterwards she presented a spiritual meditation on the meaning of "Christ's Ascension". The program continued with a lecture presented by Mrs. Shoghagat Selimian on the subject: "Nutrition and Parenting". After the lecture, Rev. Selimian expressed his heartfelt reactions to the lecture and offered a prayer. The program was followed by lunch. We were then entertained through some games led by Mrs. Silva Mncherian. After that the ladies enjoyed a drama directed by Miss Azniv Yacoubian and presented by some members of the women's group. The program ended with a benediction said by Rev. H. Selimian. Finally, we thank the Women's auxiliary for making this activity possible.



KG Graduation Ceremony

The End-of-the-Year Program and Graduation Ceremony of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel High School Kindergarten class was held on June the 7th 2010 at the School's Poladian Hall. The students entertained the parents and the guests with music, recitations, dramas and Armenian folk dances. In attendance were the Educational Council of the Armenian Evangelical Community, pastors, parents, and guests. At the end of the program the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, Rev. Haroutune Selimian was invited to the podium to present the diplomas to the Kindergarten graduates. The ceremony ended with the closing words and blessing by Rev. Haroutune Selimian.



The President of the Fridtjof Nansen Foundation, Mr. Felix Pakhchinian Honors the President of the Armenian Evangelical Churches, Rev. Haroutune Selimian

Friday, 11 June, 2010, the President Mr. Feliks Pakhchinian of the Fridtjof Nansen Foundation gave a formal visit to Rev. Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church office. The basic reason behind the formal visit was to congratulate the President Selimian, on his grandiose endeavors and many achievements, especially, in the public, political, and social spheres, as well as for his support of philanthropical issues and his well-known efforts to make known the facts of the Armenian Genocide.

The President of the Fridtjof Nansen Foundation, Mr. Feliks Pakhchinian, was accompanied by Mr. Arthur Manaserian the Consul of Aleppo and an honorary delegation. In attendance were also the representatives of the UAECNE Central Committee, Armenian Evangelical Community, Armenian Evangelical Educational Council, Aleppo College Board of Trustees and Alumnae Committee, Armenian Evangelical Churches Assembly, pastors and guests.

The Rev. Serop Mgrditchian, Vice President of the Armenian Evangelical Community gave a warm word of welcome. Afterwards, on this special occasion, the President of the Fridtjof Nansen Foundation, Mr. Feliks Pakhchinian, congratulated Rev. Selimian on his zeal, all his merits and marvelous ministries taking place under his auspices and honored him with Fridtjof Nansen's Gold Medal. The President Selimian thankfully accepted the gift and expressed his Gratitude to Mr. Feliks Pakhchinian and the Fridtjof Nansen Foundation in Armenia.

At the end of the meeting the President Selimian presented his distinguished guest with an Armenian handmade tray as a thank you for this unforgettable visit. The meeting was followed by a reception.



The Minister of Awkaf's, Dr. Mahmoud Abd El Houda Houseyni's Formal Visit to Rev. Haroutune Selimian

On 12th June, 2010, the Rev. Haroutune Selimian welcomed Mr. Mahmoud Abd El Houda Houseyni, the Minister of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs in Aleppo, at the office of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. Mr. Mahmoud Abd El Houda Houseyni was accompanied by Rev. Bshara Mousa Oghli. The visit was unique in its kind. The two sides focused on the excellent Islamic – Christian relationships and the cooperation between the two religions. The meeting also emphasized the importance of developing a culture of dialogue between religions and enhancing the concept of religious fraternity and its role in spreading peace, security and stability throughout the world, as " Syria is an example of Islamic-Christian fraternity, co-existence and national unity". Syria has always been an excellent example to the world when it comes to co-existence. Afterwards the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Rev. Haroutune Selimian expressed his congratulations to the newly assigned Minister of Awkaf and on behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Community honored the Minister of Awkaf, Mr. Mahmoud Abd El Houda Houseyni with a symbolic gift. At the end of the meeting with the Minister of Awkaf, the two sides wished each other mutual success.



Sunday school and Junior High Group Commencement Ceremony

On the 13th of June 2010, the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's Sunday school and Junior High Group Commencement Ceremonies were held during the worship service. The program included testimonies of all graduates. A choir directed by Mrs. Shoghagat Selimian also sang a number of songs. After that the Sunday-School yearly report was presented by Sosi Varbedian and Ani Sahagian. The sermon of the day "The Church Calls His Lord" was delivered by Rev. Haroutune Selimian based on Acts 4.23-31. At the end of the ceremony, the graduates received Bibles as a gift. The Worship Service ended with a prayer of blessing from the church pastor.



"ARMISS" Conservatory Recital

The Armenian Evangelical "Armiss" Art School presented its fourth annual recital on Sunday June 20th, 2010, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Poladian Hall. Rev. Haroutune Selimian warmly welcomed the audience and invited the director of the school, Mrs. Shoghagat Selimian, to give a brief introduction about the school and its activities. During the recital, fifty students displayed their talents and musical abilities to the audience by presenting musical pieces on piano, guitar, violin and flute. At the

end of the program Rev. Haroutune Selimian expressed the community's appreciation to the director and her teaching staff for their hard work in making this event a success.



Commencement Services of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School

The Commencement Ceremonies of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School was held on July 9, 2010, on the school campus. Among those present were the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, the President of Haigazian University, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, in addition to a number of clergy. There were also representatives from cultural centers and foundations, the educational council of the Armenian Evangelical Community, parents and, of course, fellow students. Following the Syrian and Armenian national anthems, Mrs. Betty Yepremian, the principal of the school, offered the opening speech. The talented students then presented a beautiful program of songs, music, recitals of poems, dramas and dances, which were dedicated to the memory of the Armenian Genocide and native poets Vahan Derian, Hovhannes Shiraz and Vahan Tekeyan. The valedictorians of the Secondary and Middle School graduating class Salam Mousa Oghli, Sirvart Koupelian, George Roumieh and Anjella Daghljan addressed the guests in Armenian and in Arabic. Afterwards the President of Haigazian University presented a speech on the following theme "The Certificates of Life". The principal of the school, Mrs. Betty Yepremian, invited Rev. Haroutune Selimian, the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community to the podium to present the diplomas to the Secondary and Middle School graduates. The ceremony ended with a prayer and benediction said by Rev. Haroutune Selimian. God's endless love and care and the prayers of the beloved students finished off our academic year.



Daily Vacation Bible School

With God's grace, and under the supervision of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, the Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) has been functioning since 2002. Like previous years, it was this year held between 5 July - 6 August, 2010. One hundred children, (aged 5-12) gathered in the church every weekday from 9:00 to 11:00 and participated in a rich daily program, which involves prayers, sports, computer lessons, English lessons, Armenian history, Bible study, national and spiritual songs, general knowledge, games, field trips, swimming, craftwork and painting.

Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian was in charge of the school along with 10 other teachers. At the end of the summer school, the students put together a neat program which was presented for the audience in the Poladian Hall. Attending the ceremony were the head of the Armenian Evangelical community in Syria, Reverend H. Selimian, the management of the Bethel Secondary school, and of course a large number of students and parents.

Rev. Selimian gave a speech, and briefly introduced some information about the modernization of the school, especially the new methods adapted in teaching. He ended it by thanking God for this great opportunity to educate the youth, guide them and improve their interests and orientation skills.



The Minister for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mrs. Hranush Hagopian, Meets the Head of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Rev. Haroutune Selimian

On Monday, August 23rd 2010, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, together with the Armenian Evangelical Educational Council, Central Committee members and Community members, warmly welcomed the Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Mrs. Hranush Hagopian on her visit to Aleppo. She was accompanied by Mr. Ashod Manougian, Armenia's Consul in Aleppo and Near East Premier and Representative Councilor of Diaspora Minister, Mrs. Maral Hallajian. Rev. Haroutune Selimian, on behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Community, formally welcomed the Minister of Diaspora Affairs and her honorable delegation at his office. The Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Mrs. Hranoush Hagopian thanked and expressed her gratitude to all Armenian Evangelicals and she emphasized about the Armenian Evangelical Community as being a very well organized community and a rich intellectual treasure to the whole Armenian Nation. She also took the opportunity to thank the President Selimian, for his great achievements and successful ministry. Throughout the morning there were several friendly discussions concerning ways of cultivating an even better relationship between Armenia and the Diaspora.

At the end of the meeting Rev. Selimian honored the minister of Diaspora with a symbolic gift and the Minister of Diaspora presented Rev. Selimian with the new "Volume of Gomidas Vartabed". The meeting ended with cordial wishes of ongoing successful new achievements.



Jazz Night

One of the most enjoyable activities of the year was the Jazz night that took place on the 27th of August 2010, on the campus of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. Among those present was the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, the Swiss consul to Aleppo, Mr. Paul Mougabaneh, the previous Mayor of Aleppo City, Mr. Ammar Al-Ghazal, in addition to a record number of guests.

The program started with welcoming words of Mrs. Azniv Stepanian-Arabajian in both Arabic and Armenian. The audience had their share of satisfaction concerning good quality jazz and Armenian ethnic music. The evening was lead by the pianist, composer and arranger, Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian-Selimian; she invited the crowd to

share with them the inspirational moments varying from Armenian traditional to American-African swing. The vocal solos were performed by Miss Marie Arabajian. Rev. Haroutune Selimian, the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, welcomed the many honorable guests, and at the end of the evening mentioned that the collected donations would be used for the renovation work of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Building. May the Glory and Honor be ascribed to His Holy Name. Amen.



Family Kermesse

One of the greatest activities of this summer was the "family Kermesse" that took place on the 28th and 29th of August, 2010, at the Church Campus. The evenings were organized by the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Junior High Group. In attendance were the church's youth group leaders, junior group, Sunday-School children, Armenian Evangelical Churches of Aleppo and guests. The programs included special indoor games, slide show of video clips and food prepared by our Youth Group, who were just as great as the items on sale. During these activities the Armenian Evangelical church families had a great and blessed fellowship with each other. We thank God for this great opportunity.



Norwegian Bishop of Oslo's Visit to Rev. Selimian

Friday, on 10 September, 2010, Rev. Haroutune Selimian met with the Norwegian Bishop of Oslo at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church office, in the presence of Mr. Bassel NasrAllah, the Counselor of the Grand Mufti. The consultation was mainly focused on the relationship between religions. The Bishop of Oslo underscored that others have to learn from Syria regarding co-existence among the religions. Syria has always been an excellent example to the world when it comes to co-existence. The meeting ended with some words of thanksgiving by the Bishop of Oslo.



Benefit Concert for the Renovation of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church

On September 14, 2010, a concert was held to benefit the renovation of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. The event was attended by over 100 people including Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, the principle and the teachers of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School, doctors and a large audience. The evening started with the welcoming words of the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, Rev. Haroutune Selimian. The event was highlighted by beautiful recital of smooth jazz music, performed by Mrs. Shoghag Apartian-Selimian (Pianist) and Houry Dora Apartian –Friedli (vocals). The benefit concert was followed by a reception. It was a great occasion that will live deep within the hearts of all who attended.



Arabic Night

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church hosted 25 Doctorate Students from United States of America (School of Theology), at the Church's Campus, on the 21st of September, 2010. The program was attended by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University of Beirut, Armenian University Graduates' Association of Aleppo and guests. Rev. Haroutune Selimian began the evening with some welcoming words and gave a little bit of the history of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The program included a dance presentation of Armenian and Arabic Folk dances, performed by the "Sartarabad" dance group. The artistic section continued with a fashion show of the Arabic cultural dresses which was presented by the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School students. The evening was concluded by Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian's words of thanks and the benediction said by Rev. Haroutune Selimian. The evening was followed by dinner. The same group had a special meeting with Rev. Selimian, on Wednesday, 22nd of September, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church office. During the meeting, the President Selimian presented a speech on the following subject "The Educational Mission of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Church of the Near East and times of Evangelism Armenian Evangelical Church". The meeting was followed by a social hour on the campus of the Church. As an Armenian Evangelical Church we were blessed to have this group visit us from USA. May God continue encouraging them on their journey in Syria and other countries.



Annual Meetings of Armenian Evangelical World Council and AMAA

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical World Council held its biannual meeting on Friday, October 15, 2010, at the headquarters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Paramus, New Jersey, U.S.A. During the meeting, reports from various committees, chapters, mission committees, and affiliate organizations were received with appreciation.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America held its annual meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2010, at its headquarters in Paramus, New Jersey, U.S.A. Over 100 delegates, members, and friends from around the world gathered in New Jersey to participate in the meeting and related activities. It was rewarding to hear the reports of all the AMAA Committees, and Armenian Evangelical Churches and organizations worldwide.

These meetings and the related activities were a great occasion to thank God for His life and care, and to review, renew and plan future activities all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Benefit Banquet for the Renovation of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church

The Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church women's auxiliary hosted its benefit banquet on Sunday, October, 24, 2010, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School's Poladian Hall. Over 150 Armenian Evangelical families of the Bethel Church enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by the Women's Auxiliary Committee of the Church. The program was planned to raise funds to benefit the renovation work of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. The program began with opening words of welcome by Mrs. Suzan Apartian. She stated that the event would not have been a success without the generosity of all the families of the church. Before the banquet started Rev. Haroutune Selimian, pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, offered a prayer.

The program was enriched by a wonderful musical Program. Mr. Georgig Chirishian entertained the guests with musical selections (patriotic songs as well as Armenian folklore). Adding to the excitement, throughout the luncheon guests were kept busy participating in an auction. Bidding was very competitive when it was about a special gift of Christmas twin trees. The banquet was altogether a successful event. The program ended with a benediction said by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church.



The President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Hovig Aprahamian's Visit to Syria

Upon the invitation of the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Bashar Al Asad, the National Assembly President of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Hovig Aprahamian paid a four-day formal visit to Syria, 23-26 November, 2010. The president was accompanied by a Parliamentarian delegation of the Republic of Armenia. He had formal meetings with the President of Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Bashar Al Asad, the Prime Minister, Dr. Naji Al-Outri, the Speaker of the Parliament, Mahmoud Al Abrash, and the Armenian colonies of Aleppo and Damascus. On the 23rd of November, 2010, upon the invitation by the Ambassador of Armenia in Damascus, Mr. Arshag Poladian, Rev. Selimian attended the meetings in Damascus starting with a meeting at Saint Sarkis Apostolic Church in Damascus, in which they placed bouquets on the Memorial of the Martyrs as a show of respect, which was followed by a formal lunch. During the lunch, they discussed the various aid- and developments projects inside Armenia. In connection with this Rev. Selimian specifically mentioned the difficulties and obstacles facing the Armenian Evangelical Church in the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia. In this meeting Rev. Selimian also made a speech on behalf of the Heads of the Armenian Churches of Syria. Afterwards, the delegation attended a formal Dinner at "Nadi Al-Shark" restaurant. The dinner was attended by the President of the Syrian Parliament, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Abrash. On the 24th of November, a formal reception was held in Aleppo, at the Armenian Apostolic Church. During the reception, the Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian, Head of the Apostolic Community, expressed his satisfaction at receiving President Aprahamian and thanked him for visiting Syria, and especially the Armenian community. After that he honored the President with a symbolic gift on this very special occasion. After the reception the delegation visited the Armenian Orphanage of Aleppo.



Christmas Exhibition 27 November – 2 December

Every year it's a beautiful tradition of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church to just before the Christmas season organize an exhibition, showing their talents to the public by preparing and offering to people original handicrafts, handmade Christmas artifacts, art works and great kinds of food. Who could be behind all this except our talented church ladies? This year the exhibition was inaugurated on Saturday, 27th of November, 2010. Pastors, representatives of the Armenian cultural centers and foundations, directors of schools and a large number of guests attended the opening ceremony of this special and unique exhibition. The evening began with words of welcome by Rev. Haroutune Selimian and it was concluded by Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian expressing her thanks to God for his abundant grace and love. During this six-day exhibition the church families also had a great and blessed fellowship with each other.



Christmas Banquet 26th of December

On Sunday noon, 26th of December, 2010, the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church once more experienced the Joy of Christmas by holding a Christmas Banquet. The banquet was held at "Al Fardous" restaurant. The program included welcoming words by Mr. Samuel Mncherian, prayer and a short message by Rev. Haroutune

Selimian. After lunch, the members of the church enjoyed a musical program performed by George Sarkissian and his band presenting Armenian patriotic and folk songs. For the children the best part of the banquet was when Santa Claus arrived and distributed Christmas gifts.

At the end of the program, the pastor of the church expressed his gratitude to everybody and specially thanked all those who had served faithfully throughout the banquet.



Christmas Concert

Under the auspices of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Protestant Community in Syria and in collaboration with “Aram Khatchadourian Conservatory” a Musical concert was held on the eve of the 29th of December, 2010, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church. Attending the musical concert were the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, pastors, clergy and lay-leaders, directors of schools, representatives of cultural centers and foundations, as well as many other guests. The A.G.B.U.’s Gomidas Chamber Orchestra, made up of 40 young people, presented Christmas music and songs based on the Marc Antoine Charpentier’s, Johann Pachelbel’s, Antonio Vivaldi’s, George Philipp Telemann’s, Alessandro Stradella’s and Franz Gruber’s Musical arrangements, conducted by Mr. Hovhannes Moubayed, and accompanied by Mrs. Lousnag Samuelian-Yazedjian on the piano. At the end of the Concert Rev. Selimian took the opportunity to thank the members of the Orchestra, its conductor and its pianist. After that he expressed his heartfelt thanks and the church’s appreciation to the A.G.B.U. for their hard work in making this event a success. The evening ended with a prayer and benediction said by Rev. Haroutune Selimian.



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 witness and make it more effective. We ask you to continue to pray for us as we serve our God by obeying and trusting Him.