

CampAREV Connection

No. 2 | JUNE 2004

FROM THE EXEC'S DESK

Melineh Garo

With summer right around the corner, the staff at Camp AREV is working very hard to make summer camp 2004 a great success. The topic, speakers, and theme have been selected, but we've only scratched the surface. There is so much more work to be done. Pray that the Lord would give us wisdom as we prepare His camp for our youth.

As people inquired to be on staff at Camp AREV, they quickly realized that an in-depth application had to be completed and a reference form had to be turned in by their pastors or youth leaders in order to qualify them to apply. The application process was challenging because we needed to make sure that all those interested in serving our youth know the Lord as their Savior and have a desire to serve Him. The Program Committee had a difficult job ahead of them. Who would they select as counselors and would there be enough interest after seeing the in-depth application? We were quickly reminded that the Lord is sovereign over His camp and will make sure that we have the right people and enough people for the positions need. What a test of faith this has been for us to know that as long as we are obedient to His Word and seek to do His will, He will provide us with the leaders that we need. So far many wonderful young men and women have completed the application and have shared with us their desire to serve Camp AREV. We are looking forward to partnering with them this summer.

I would like to encourage all of you to pray for Camp AREV; here are some of our requests:

1. The Lord would be glorified during Summer Camp.
2. Many would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
3. Many would strengthen their relationship with the Lord.
4. The Lord's guidance would be on the speakers as they begin their preparations.
5. The camp program would be a success.
6. The safety of the staff and campers.

I am hoping to see many of your children this summer as they join us for a fun and exciting time at Camp AREV Summer 2004!

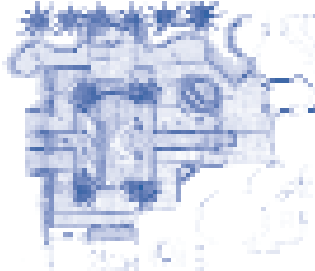
SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Zaven Hanessian

Camp AREV is excited about the Site Development Project to construct a Swimming Pool and Multi-purpose building on the Camp grounds. Many members and friends of Camp AREV have put a lot of time and effort into this project. The Site Development Committee has worked with an Architect to prepare the site plans, and we presented the Design and an Estimate for the construction of the Pool and Multi-purpose building to the AEUNA Board of Directors for their approval.

After receiving AEUNA's approval, the Camp AREV Site Development Committee and the Finance Committee members are working together with the AEUNA Board to jump-start the fundraising and begin the construction of the pool. Now we are asking all of the generous Camp AREV friends to help us, starting with any donation, small or large.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp AREV – God Bless Camp AREV and all of our Camp AREV friends.



CAN CAMP TEACH KEYS TO UNITY?

By Jason Matossian

No. The Apostle Paul never saw the mud pit, nor did he visit "Club Shed". He never counseled the Fresno boys nor did he sing worship songs at the Victory Circle. But I do believe that if the Apostle Paul ever visited Camp Arev, he would agree that the keys to unity could be found at camp.

Camp Arev is pretty amazing because it is the one place that brings together more youth and youth group representation than any other program the AEUNA has to offer. It's always exciting to see people from all sorts of churches and walks of life. The only problem is that with such a diversity of people present living in such close quarters, conflict is bound to arise. So what are the keys to

we need to put others before ourselves

maintaining unity?

The Apostle Paul wrote to a diverse group of Christians at the church in Ephesus. In his letter to the Ephesians, he urged the Ephesians to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Yet he did not just leave it at "unity"—Paul gave the Ephesians the keys to unity. These three keys to unity can be found each day at Camp Arev and my hope is that we take every moment captive for growth in Him.

Paul writes, "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

If we want unity, whether it be at Camp Arev or anywhere in the Church, we need the following:

Humility—we need to put others before ourselves. By esteeming other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

CAMP AREV
summer 2004
"Faithful to the End"

DATES:
Junior: July 25th to July 31st
Junior High: August 1st to August 7th
High School: August 8th to August 14th

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Junior Week:	\$235	Registration deadline June 13th 2004
Junior High Week:	\$245	Registration deadline June 20th 2004
High School Week:	\$255	Registration deadline June 27th 2004
Additional	\$25	for transportation to and from UACC for those living in the LA area.

Late registration information:
No family discount
Additional \$50 per person for late registration no exceptions!

For additional information regarding summer camp go to our website
www.camparev.org or contact Melineh Garo at info@camparev.org
or (818)507-0922.



LOST AND FOUND

By George Hagopian

It was the summer of 1996 and I was asked by my cousin to go with her to a week long camp because she didn't want to go by herself. I really didn't know what to expect. I had never been to a summer camp. I was going into the 8th grade that year, which means that I was about 13 years old. This also means that I was going through a little phase in life we like to call...puberty. This was great! I was going to be without my parents for an entire week, I was going to be able to do whatever I wanted to, and on top of that, I was going to meet girls! Boy was I wrong.

As I got to Camp AREV, I began to think to myself, "Man, this place looks nothing like the summer camps in the movies." It was a small little log cabin resting in front of an enormous mansion in the distance. It was an odd feeling to say the least. I had heard about these "Armenian" camps. I had heard that the counselors beat up on the kids. I had heard that the children are made to do slave work. I had also heard about kids crying and asking their parents to come pick them up. Although this was true about other camps, I realized that there was something different about this place. Something that led me to wonder what was actually going on.

After I got myself situated and introduced to my "roommates" for the week, we were asked to go into the main room and sit down. After all the rules that were explained to us, something strange happened. Someone got up in the front, picked up a guitar, and began playing. Then I noticed that these kids were singing along to the songs. I had never heard any of these songs. What was this? After reading the words of the songs we were singing, I began to realize that these were "Jesus songs." I also realized that these kids were voluntarily singing; they weren't forced to sing. They were having fun singing "Jesus songs." I didn't understand. I had gone to private Catholic schools my entire life, yet I had never seen people my age singing songs to God, and actually having fun. This was the beginning of Camp AREV being used by God to help me get closer to Him.

I left that year in somewhat of a trance. Nothing changed in my life. The only thing different was the fact that I had met new friends. I left thinking to myself, "this was fun and all, but I don't think I will be back." Boy was I wrong again!

For some reason, I kept going back. By the time summer would come the year after, I found myself starving for camp. Now I know that most of this was due to the fact that it is a very fun place to be, but there was a greater purpose. A purpose I didn't even come close to understanding. By my sophomore year in High School, I began going to camp with a critical mind. I still loved all of the activities and the friends, but when it came to the speakers or the songs, I was starting to wonder: What is this Jesus we are singing to? Why am I even singing? Why am I here? I started to think to myself that I don't agree with any of this. I began to question this thing called God. I stopped listening to the speakers and I kept my mouth shut during the songs. I just waited until it was done so we can go and "have fun." I became a hard kid to handle for some of the counselors, but they still showed me love. I tested their buttons, and they didn't budge. I questioned, and they answered.

In between camps, God continued to mold me and soften my heart. He continued to work through others in order for me to understand Him. I began to listen. By my senior year, I had given up on testing Jesus. I failed. The Bible was able to answer all the "smart" questions that I had. I had nowhere to go, but Him. I gave my life to Christ my senior year of High School. I was by myself, in my cabin, at Camp AREV. God brought me there for a reason.

God definitely used Camp AREV to show me the road to His kingdom. It was there that I was introduced to having a relationship with Him. Through the counselors, speakers, songs, and even games, I saw the love of Christ. Something I couldn't experience anywhere else. I didn't know "how to be a Christian." I had never gone to church before...willingly. God broke me at Camp AREV. He showed me that I needed Him. My life has not been the same ever since.

CAMP AREV NEEDS YOUR HELP TO BUILD A SWIMMING POOL

By Arsine Phillips

Everyone loves Camp Arev, but as its programs have expanded, new and additional facilities are needed to accomplish its important mission. With great enthusiasm and excitement, Camp Arev's newly formed Finance Committee has therefore begun a capital campaign to raise funds to build a much needed swimming pool and multi-purpose room.

The dedicated members of the finance committee are Maylene Glidewell, Diana Jamgotchian, Sandra Kalemkarian, Debbie Levonian, Arsine Phillips, Dina Phillips, Sue Phillips, Karen Sarian, Lisa Wolfe, and Melineh Garo, the executive director of the camp. Each member is committed to this project and determined to have this campaign succeed.

Camp Arev needs everyone's generous support and prayers to accomplish these goals.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

By Vana Derohanessian

In the first issue of the Camp AREV Newsletter back in March, we asked all of you for suggestions for a new title, and the response was more than adequate. The new title selected by the Newsletter staff is "Camp AREV Connection," contributed by Annette Apelian, from the UACC church in Los Angeles. We also selected the title "Rev Up," contributed by Joy Ganimian-Aller from Fresno's PACC, for the youth section.

Though both ladies generously donated the gift certificates they were entitled back to Camp AREV, we want to further extend our appreciation to them through this particular article by adding a little insight to their backgrounds. Annette Apelian first came to know of Camp

AREV through UACC and has volunteered for years at the annual Camp AREV picnic. She has devotionally donated her time and, as of this issue, a brilliant name for the newsletter. Joy Ganimian-Aller was also very active at Camp AREV as a former camper and counselor and believes that the newsletter is a very good way of keeping everyone excited about camp year round. It seems those who participate in Camp AREV in any way feel that it's a blessing and want to give more, and we thank God for that. We are very grateful for all those who participated and sent in their recommendations. And, as always, look out for the next issue of the Camp AREV Connection coming out in September!

CALVARY ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

By Gregory Asdourian

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church (or C.A.C.C.) was founded on March 19, 1926. For a long time, C.A.C.C. was the area's only Armenian Church. It serves the Bay Area's Armenian community with its weekly services and various other programs. The Church currently resides at 725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco CA.

C.A.C.C. is currently under the leadership of our interning pastor Alen Adamian. He regularly delivers both the Armenian and English sermons every week. He also leads the weekly discussions for the College & Career group every Wednesday night.

The ministries for the youth are equally blessed with great men and women of God. The Sunday school classes are divided by age going from nursery to 5th grade. Numerous dedicated members of the congregation teach the classes every week. Every third Sunday of the month, the Sunday school students join us for a special children's ministry in the sanctuary. For those members of the congregation who are in grades 6th through 8th, there is the Jr. High School ministry led by Joe Barsoian. They meet every week at 11:00am for a time of worship and fellowship.

Unfortunately, C.A.C.C.'s longtime High School Group leader, Hagop Afarian, has left to start his medical residency in Fresno. "We're really going to miss him," said High School Group member Daniel Asdourian. "We did a lot of really cool stuff this year with Hagop." The High School Group was very active indeed. The group spent a great deal of time going on trips as well as doing many other activities that ranged from bowling to swimming pool parties to Bible studies. Despite the current lack of a fulltime youth leader, the High School group isn't without leadership investing in the group's spiritual growth. Various members of the congregation have been leading the Group in its weekly Bible Studies.

There are also various other ministry opportunities at C.A.C.C. The Home Builders Family ministry meets for a Bible study and prayer. It is a group focusing on couples to strengthen their relationships with Christ as a family. There are also various women's ministries that are divided regionally. One of the newest is Coffee Time with God led by Vanoosh Adamian. This group of women meets once a week to study God's word, fellowship, and edify one another through prayer. There is also the weekly dinner and a Bible Study. This ministry meets every Wednesday night at 7:00pm in the Church's Halajian Hall. For the East Bay members, there is prayer and fellowship meeting every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.

The Calvary Armenian Congregational Church is not only a place of worship but it is also a place where the Armenian community comes and fellowships with one another. The Church puts on many annual events that reach out to the larger Armenian community. The largest is probably the annual Bazaar held in the C.A.C.C.'s Halajian Hall. If you would like more information about our church or would like to attend or be involved in any way, please call the church office at (415) 586-2000 or check out our website at www.cacc-sf.org.

Rev UP

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

Sarene Kushdilian

As I was driving home from a frustrating day at work, I heard a new song on the radio. The lyrics were pretty simple and the one line that kept repeating was: “Be still and know that He is God.” How amazing, I thought, that whatever rough times I go through, I can be confident in the fact that God is always in control.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding,” claims Proverbs 3:5. Sadly, I do not always keep this in mind. Too often, I do lean on my own understanding and try to have everything under my control. I stray from God’s Word, and think to myself that I can make things right by my own actions. On the contrary, Proverbs 3:6 goes on to say, “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Clearly, it is always God who directs our paths. Thus, we must learn to trust God in every aspect of our lives.

A story that comes to mind is Mark 4:35-41. In this account, Jesus and His disciples are out at sea, when suddenly a great windstorm arises. The disciples become afraid and ask Jesus, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Jesus then stops the storm and asks His disciples, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” The disciples’ reaction was not something out of the ordinary. There are times when we feel overwhelmed by certain things in our lives and ask God the same question-- “God, don’t you see what I am going through? Don’t you know that I am suffering?” Jesus’ response was simple and should set an example for us all. We should not be afraid because we can trust that God is always in control. Believing in God should immediately result in trusting Him.

Brothers and sisters, it is time that we acknowledge God’s holiness and perfection and rejoice in the fact that He has a perfect plan for each one of us. Upon reaching this realization, there is no room for fear or mistrust. “Be still and know that I am God,” proclaims Psalm 46:10, “I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!”

Ask VARDEEG

Jon Khoshafian

Is it bad if I listen to non-Christian music?

I am going to let one verse dictate this entire conversation and it’s I Cor. 6:12. “Everything is permissible for me” – but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me” – but I will not be mastered by anything.” This verse answers a lot of our Christian questions. Let’s take it piece by piece. We find two things here: 1. Things that are not beneficial. 2. Things that will master us. What about non-Christian music, such as Metallica. Is there anywhere in the Bible that says, “Thou shalt not listen to non-Christian music”? No. But we need to ask ourselves, what is the benefit of listening to it? Before you respond to that by saying, “It’s good music,” let us define benefit. Do you think Paul was talking about physical benefit? I highly doubt it. Rather what the spiritual benefit of the action is. You need to ask yourself how it is spiritually affecting your life.

There are two ways things can affect your spiritual life, as I have found in my own life. First, things can stay neutral. For example going to school is not necessarily Christian, but it does not degrade

my spiritual life. Second, non-Christian things can drag you down spiritually. This is what Paul is talking about when he says things that master you. Is that non-Christian music dragging you down spiritually? If it is, then STOP LISTENING TO IT. Many times we are afraid to let go and make excuses about things in order to hold on to them. My favorite excuse to listening to non-Christian music is this: “I don’t listen to the lyrics.” Really? Then how do you know it’s non-Christian? You obviously have listened to the lyrics. Why don’t you go get the instrumental version of the song? Face it we love making excuses in order to not let go. Can you stop listening to non-Christian music? Try it for a week. See if you have incredible impulses to listen to non-Christian music. If you find yourself addicted to listening to non-Christian music, then listening to it is most definitely wrong. For more conversation on this, please e-mail me at askvardeeg@yahoo.com, I would love to discuss this issue with you.

*non-Christian things
can drag you down
spiritually*

Why are you called Vardeeg?

I’ll give you the short and sweet answer to this question. When my parents were waiting for me to be born, they were wondering what to call me. Finally, when I was born, they still could not decide what to call me. They were indecisive for many years. When I was 12 I still didn’t have a name. They would just yell my birthday to get my attention, “November 9, it’s time for dinner.” Or they’d say, “I love you November 9.” Finally, on my thirteenth birthday, they sat me down and told me I could choose a name since they couldn’t think of one for me, even after 13 years. So I thought and thought. I wanted a name that others wouldn’t be able to make fun of. So I thought and thought. Then finally I thought to myself, “I’ll use reverse psychology. What if I give myself a name that is already funny? Then no one would want to make fun of me because it’s already a funny name.” So I decided to name myself Vardeeg, and no one has made fun of the name ever since. Vardeeg: 1 World: 0

TIME TO TAKE A POLL! What types of games do you want to see more of at Camp AREV?

Water Games, Night Games
Trivia Games, Bible Games

Vote now by emailing your response to
newsletter@camparev.org

FUN FACTS WITH NORA

by Nora Chavdarian



- In Kentucky it is illegal to carry ice-cream in your back pocket.
- Leonardo Da Vinci spent 12 years painting the Mona Lisa’s lips.
- An edition of the Bible printed in 1632 has become known as the Adulterous Bible. The word “not” was accidentally left out of the seventh commandment. It reads, “Thou shalt commit adultery.”
- The number 4 is the only number that has the same number of letters in its name as its meaning.
- Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn’t wear pants.
- “Rev Up,” the new title for the youth section stands for “What’s up with Arev? Get it??”

REFLECTIONS: CAMP AREV PRAYER WRAP-UP

by Nora Chavdarian

This past winter at camp, we had the opportunity to learn just how important prayer is in building our relationship with Christ. As Christians, not only has God cleansed us of our sin, but He has blessed us even more by giving us the privilege of prayer and chance to be in constant communication with our Father. Prayer is more than just asking for things, we can use it to praise God for all his perfect qualities, to come before Him confessing our sins, and thank Him for his mercies and grace. We are told to pray without doubting because God will provide us with the wisdom we need—it is such an indescribable source of comfort to know that God knows us along with our weaknesses and will provide for the one who asks. As Phillipians 4:6-7 assures us, prayer provides us the opportunity to, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Knowing this, let us honor and glorify our holy God through a humble and never-ceasing prayer life.

For more verses on prayer:

Jan 1:5, Mat 5:44, Mat 6:6, 1 Tim 2:8



CONTINUED

Can Camp teach Keys to Unity?

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

people more highly than ourselves, we live selflessly instead of selfishly. By living selflessly and being concerned less with our own interests and more with other peoples' interests, we are living like Christ (see Phil.2). Unity is maintained because conflict is avoided as we are "counting others more significant than ourselves." At Camp, we see this type of behavior in many ways. We see humility in our counselors as they live the entire week concerned more with the well being of their campers than their own. We see this in the kitchen staff whose only concern is that the behind the scenes work gets done. We see this also with our students—many of our students take the Camp week as one in which they can engage in ministry to new students, often neglecting their own "fun" to serve others. Much humility has been taught and learned at Camp.

Gentleness—we must treat each other with great care and be sensitive to each other. By thinking carefully before we speak and by making sure to season our speech with salt, we avoid conflict and maintain unity. If the people around us sense that we are being overly critical or rude, will they listen to us? Paul emphasizes this idea of gentleness throughout his writings. This gentleness is seen at Camp (though not always) in our counselors. Campers mess up, but how do we respond to them? Do we accuse and insult, or do we love and restore? Our counselors are to be gentle, building each other up and their campers. The division that sometimes occurs within the ranks of leadership at camp generally has to do with people not treating each other with gentleness (which could be because being at Camp for a couple weeks can make you cranky!).

we must be willing to deal with each other's shortcomings

Patience—we must be willing to deal with each other's shortcomings. By "giving people a break" sometimes, without demanding perfection, we show ourselves to be like God. Not that we should allow people to live in sin, but be

willing to give opportunities for repentance and change. If we are willing to hold off on "justice" to give people a chance to change, great things generally happen (think God and Ninevah). Also, if we are patient with people, they generally return the favor. Paul says, "bearing with one another in love." This does not mean tolerate sin—it just means be willing to help each other through it. At Camp, after a whole week of being together every second of every day, our patience is tested. Yet, it is amazing how unity is maintained when staff, counselors, and campers display patience. Remember the golden rule—someday you'll be the one who needs patience extended.

Paul gives these three keys to unity. Humility, gentleness, and patience. Yet there is one more truth without which there can be no unity even if the three keys are followed perfectly. Paul talks about the "unity of the Spirit." True unity, at Camp or anywhere, only comes if those involved have the same Holy Spirit of God dwelling in them. If we are not all Spirit-filled followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, there really is no hope for more than superficial unity. That is what makes unity at Camp all the more amazing. Christ is the true bond of our unity—He gives us **humility, gentleness, and patience**—His Spirit works in us.

My prayer for all those involved in Camp, whether as coordinators, counselors, kitchen staff, committee members, Friends of Camp Arev, or prayer warriors for Camp, is that we, as those indwelt by the Spirit, would be humble, gentle, and patient with each other so that there would be unity in the Body of Christ and growth in His church. Amen.

FILLING THE GAPS

Nyri Minassian



Camp is only a month away! Woohoo! As Melineh mentioned, we have only scratched the surface of preparing for camp. We want to make this camp better than ever, but we need funds in order to do that.

Some of the things we need are the following:

- Equipment to provide new and exciting games
- Trash bins to put all over camp to keep camp clean
- Benches
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Kitchen supplies

If you would like to contribute, please write a check to Camp AREV with the words "filling the gaps" in the memo section so that your donation will be allocated to the improvement of our summer camp program. Thanks for all your help and please keep Camp AREV and our ministry in your prayers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Camp AREV Picnic: September 18
Men's Retreat: October 15-17

For more information on any of these events please contact the Camp Arev office.

CAMP AREV NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor

Nyri Minassian

Staff

Greg Asdourian
Nora Chavdarian
Vana Derohanessian
Amy Eleazarian
Jon Khoshafian
Sarene Kushdilian



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested about upcoming camps, seminars, rental of **Camp AREV** facilities, or just learning about our ministry, please feel free to contact Melineh Garo or Taleen Barsoumian at **(818) 507-0922** or **info@camparev.org**. You can also obtain some of this information from our website at **www.camparev.org**.