

CAMP AREV Connection

300 ATTEND CAMP AREV BANQUET ON MAY 21 AND RAISE ALMOST \$50,000!

Arsine Phillips

What a spectacular night! "Relive the Past...Envision the Future" was the theme of this year's Camp Arev Banquet on May 21 which raised almost \$50,000. You could feel the excitement as 300 guests listened attentively to Zaven Hanessian, the Chair of the Camp Arev Committee, welcome everyone to the 28th Annual Camp Arev Banquet and introduce Dr. Ann Sarafian, the master of ceremonies for the evening. After a wonderful dinner, everyone clapped and sang along as "Dust to Glory" performed a wonderful music selection.



Campers, counselors and camp leaders gave moving testimonials about camp experiences which had a major impact on their lives and on the lives of many who have come to know Christ as their Savior during Camp. In a compelling presentation as to why camp is so important for the youth, Aren Bahadourian shared his observations and experiences about camp. Guests relived the past as they saw their own pictures from the 1970s and 80s and other camp pictures of their children and grand children. Everyone envisioned the future of Camp Arev with enthusiasm as they watched a presentation of the architectural drawings for the pool, the expansion of the multi-purpose room and kitchen, and the addition of another cabin.

On behalf of the Camp AREV Committee, Chairman Zaven Hanessian presented awards to the following most deserving recipients: Kay Zoolalian, Raffi Kaldjian, and the Barkev Kaldjian family (Christine, Kevin and Natalie) for their many years of dedicated service and commitment to Camp Arev. Melineh Garo was also recognized for her hard work and effort as the executive director of the camp.

The focus of this year's banquet was to raise funds for the swimming pool. We are well on the way to building a swimming pool with the following donations: \$50,000 from the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, and \$30,000 from the George Ignatius Foundation, George Phillips, Michael Amerian and Walter Karabian, co trustees. Camp Arev is grateful for these significant contributions.

The banquet was sponsored by Jack and Harlene Chalabian, in loving memory of their daughter, Dr. Jeanine Chalabian. The other grand benefactors for the evening were Dolores and Karl Samuelian who have supported Camp Arev in many

Continued on Page 2

WELCOME, MS. MAGGIE KCHOYAN.

The Camp AREV committee would like to introduce Ms. Maggie Kchoyan as the new Camp AREV Executive Director. Ms. Kchoyan has acquired a BA in Biblical Studies and is serving the church in many ways. Since 1983 she has served at Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church with Rev. Dikran Shanlian and has now joined Camp AREV. She is a Sunday school teacher, youth leader and the church board secretary. She coordinates annual church banquets, picnics, and youth retreats. We gladly welcome Ms. Kchoyan and look forward to working with her in this ministry.

REFLECTIONS: OUR BATTLE AGAINST SIN AND TEMPTATION

Nora Chavdarian

When people come to know Christ as their Savior, they enter into God's family and receive God's generous mercy and grace. The whole basis of this work of salvation lies in the fact that, previous to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we were *entirely* subject to sin and the evil desires that opposed the Lord's will. Only through the righteousness of Christ did we come to life—a life in which we are able to conquer sin, resist temptation, and obey the commandments of our Holy Father. Yet so many times we find ourselves giving in to temptation over and over again, being lured away from a godly path. How does Scripture teach us to combat our sinful desires, something we are promised we can accomplish only after having accepted

Christ as our Savior? What role do we play in furthering the work of sanctification in our lives?

The foundation for fighting our sinfulness lies in having a proper attitude towards all that is evil. We must absolutely possess a mindset that *hates* sin. I often find that when I fall into temptation, it is because I have become numb to sin, possessing an attitude that is not distressed by it, but rather, accepts it, only to fall prey to the false and temporary satisfaction

sin provides. However, the apostle Paul commands us to, "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9). The problem lies in the fact that most of the time, we simply do not hate the things that God hates and love the things that He loves. As believers, we know intellectually what is wrong and what is to be rejected, yet we do not take this knowledge a step further by fleeing from such wickedness. We watch the perverse television shows, listen to the unclean music, and tolerate whatever else surrounds us in the world.

Christ was the only one who perfectly conquered sin, always being found blameless. How could he have remained so true to God's commandments? We find that Christ did not merely tolerate evil or remain neutral. On the contrary, he truly hated it and wanted to flee from it. As he was being tempted by Satan, he did not try to explain himself or justify his reasons for not giving in—he simply told Satan to leave as he adamantly exclaimed, "Away with you, Satan!" (Matthew 4:10). Likewise, we need to do as Christ did and walk away

*We must
absolutely possess
a mindset
that hates sin*

Continued on Page 2





ways through the years. The Camp Arev Committee deeply appreciates the generosity of these families, as well as the other families who sponsored the banquet and helped raise money for this worthy cause.

The Camp AREV committee would like to thank Arsine Phillips, Finance Chair, and her committee for their hard work in making this a successful and enjoyable banquet.

LOST AND FOUND

Mary Balian

"I don't want to go to Camp Arev and sing church songs all day; I'd rather go to AYW camp!" That was my initial reaction when a close friend, Vicki Topdjian, invited me to go to Camp Arev in the 11th grade. Even though I applied to go to AYW camp, I never got to go because there was no space for me the week I wanted to go. It seemed that God had other plans for me: Camp Arev had an opening that same week AYW camp didn't. I ended up at a camp that changed me for the rest of my life.

My father passed away when I was in the 9th grade from a heart attack. I was only 15 years old at the time; my entire life just fell apart as I saw my father fall to the ground and breathe his last breath of life. I had no idea where to go or who to turn to. During the years that followed, I tried to focus on doing well in school in order to suppress the pain. I would pray to God but I didn't really know Him, nor did I realize I could be in a relationship with Him. When I had the opportunity to go to Camp Arev, I didn't want to go because I felt I was fine where I was; I thought I was a good enough Christian and didn't need to know more about God. Well I got a lot more than what I expected at Camp Arev. I met someone who changed my life forever... I met Jesus Christ.

It was through my counselor, Julie Haroutunian, that I understood who Christ really was and most importantly, what it meant to show others unconditional love. The counselors at Camp Arev were all so loving, so encouraging, and were filled with so much joy. I wanted what they had. That week, I prayed with Julie and I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I look back and think, "I was never supposed to go to Camp Arev." I can now see how God was working in my life all along. At a time when I didn't deserve His love, He revealed Himself to me; at a time of complete brokenness and hopelessness, He opened up a door for me to experience His love. I was right about one thing: we did sing a lot of Christian songs at camp, but I never realized that one day, my entire life's purpose and passion would be to sing Christian songs, to worship Him, and lead others to Him.

Nine years have passed since I first attended Camp Arev and my life has never been the same. I have been blessed with the opportunity to know God, to love God, and to serve Him, especially as a Camp Arev counselor. Camp Arev continues to be a blessing in my life today. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to attend Camp Arev and to have met my Christian brothers and sisters who continue to encourage me everyday.

from temptation. We can only do this if we actively and vigorously pursue all that is good.

When I read the verse in Romans 12 where Paul is exhorting believers to, "Cling to what is good," I imagine just how tightly I would grasp a lifesaving device if I was about to drown in the middle of the ocean. That same vigor and strength should be used to grasp and cling to all that is honorable as we, "Fight the good fight of faith" and "lay hold on eternal life"(1 Timothy 6:11). An unwavering pursuit of righteousness will truly lead us from drowning in our own ocean of sin, while lifting us into eternal life with the Lord.

Sin and temptation are struggles that every Christian faces. Scripture teaches just how to deal with this battle as we observe Christ's own struggle with Satan as well as the various commandments to walk away from all evil. We are given full assurance that, "God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear"(1 Corinthians 10:13). Knowing this, Paul goes on to say that, "But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." My prayer is that we take advantage of "the way out" and escape when temptation comes our way—let us not remain in the path of our evil desires but rather run with full perseverance towards all that is righteous and good before our God.

*we need to do as
Christ did and
walk away
from temptation*

CHURCH PROFILE: ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL BRETHERN CHURCH Vana Derohanessian

Formerly known as the Armenian Gospel Mission, the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church (AEBEC) in Los Angeles, California has been in existence for the past 80 years, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Armenian Community. The original members of this church began meeting diligently in private homes in the mid-1920s. Now they are able to gather and worship in a beautiful church on the corner of London Street and Silverlake Blvd., built specifically for and by the members of the church.

Reverend Dikran Shanlian holds AEBEC Sunday sermons in Armenian just like the founders of the church held them with occasional English sermons as well. The church has about 120 members with an active youth group and a Sunday school program

*As the church has grown
through the years, it has made many
programs available to its members.*

which has been going strong since 1986. In 1987, AEBEC began publishing its newsletter "Pari Lour" (Good News), which is now distributed not only in the United States, but internationally as well. As the church has grown through the years, it has made many programs available to its members. The youth group meets every Friday at 8:00pm and has an annual retreat at Camp Arev every summer. Mid-week Bible studies are held on Tuesday nights with a guest speaker once a month. One ministry that has been flourishing is the college/career group under the leadership of Aren Balabanian. Besides a challenging Bible Study, this group enjoys worship in a more contemporary style with a band that includes keyboard, bass, guitar, and drums, led by David Ter-Matevosyan. AEBEC will be celebrating their 80th anniversary on November 5th, 2005. The banquet will be held at the Deukmejian Grand Ballroom in Mission Hills, CA. Information about the banquet and various ministries, the newsletter, calendar of church events, and sermons, are all available at www.aebcm.org.

Rev UP

A STRIVE FOR HOLINESS

Sarene Kushdilian

Some people are so holy—so set apart for God—that it is impossible to go unnoticed. Daniel is one of those people. The book of Daniel, found in the Old Testament, talks about Daniel's response to the sinful and ungodly situations placed upon him. Having been forced out of his own land into a new one, Daniel faces many difficult situations. One of the first challenges Daniel faces takes place when King Nebuchadnezzar assigns him and his friends a daily amount of food. When Daniel and his three friends saw that this food was not proper according to God's law, they refused to eat it. "...Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way," (Daniel 1:8). Overcoming several of these types of incidences, it became apparent to many—especially the King—how holy Daniel was.

Daniel did not compromise his faith for anything or anyone

Reading through Daniel's encounters often convicts me of the way I handle similar situations. Daniel refused to eat the King's food! He did not compromise his faith for anything or anyone. He could easily have tried

to justify himself by saying that it would be rude to refuse the King, or that he could eat the food just this one time. However, Daniel didn't sit there and think of all the possible courses of action he could take. To him, there was only one thing to do: remain loyal to God and no one else. Do we have the same attitude? When the world offers us its riches, do we remain loyal to God? Sometimes it is easier to come up with creative excuses and explanations rather than doing what is right and holy. My hope and prayer is that we, as followers of Christ, put God's desires above our own.

IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?

Jon Khoshafian

Is all temptation bad?

Before answering this question we need to define temptation. I think the best definition of temptation I have heard is that temptation is a solicitation to sin. In other words temptation sells sin to a person. I'm sure many of us have noticed signs at businesses or homes that say, "No Solicitation." They're basically telling salesmen to not sell or present them anything. I also see temptation as the prerequisite to all sin. This would mean that every time we sin, there is a temptation to commit that sin before we actually commit it. So to answer the above question, all temptation would be bad because it is setting us up for sin. But sometimes salesmen make really good deals-like on infomercials where they try so hard to make a deal with you that it's almost impossible to say no; or when a salesman imposes himself so hard on you that it is impossible to resist him. This is where God's mercy shines through. I Corinthians 10:13 says that God will not allow us to be tempted in such a way that we can't resist. So we never have the excuse of, "Oh, I just couldn't say no." How we deal with the temptation is dependent on us. Paul in his closing remarks in Philippians (4:8) states that we should think about things that are true, pure, right, etc. By doing this we block the entering of temptation into our minds. So, yes, all temptation is bad, but we can have an active part in reducing the effect of temptation by keeping our minds pure and relying on God's mercy and deliverance. And yes, that is my final answer.

MOVIE REVIEW:

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

Amy Eleazarian

And why wouldn't you make a movie about a manic depressed robot and the demolition of earth for a superhighway?

The story begins on an ordinary day in the life of Arthur Dent. Things take a bad turn when he discovers that his house is about to be bulldozed. Little does he know that earth is about to be destroyed to make way for an intergalactic hyperspace freeway. Luckily for Arthur, his friend, Ford Prefect, who happens to be an alien, knows that earth is going to be destroyed and saves Arthur by hitchhiking on the ship that destroys earth. While traveling, a confused Arthur is given *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*: a talking book which answers any questions he may have regarding the universe.

...the movie made me appreciate my God and His active role in our lives.

Throughout their hitchhiking travels, Ford and Arthur encounter another earthling, Trillian, as well as the pretty-

boy president of the Galaxy, Zaphod Beeblebrox. Zaphod decides it would be a good idea to boost his approval ratings by finding the ultimate question about life, the universe, and everything since the answer was already known. So Ford, Arthur, Zaphod, Trillian and Marvin, (Zaphod's clinically depressed robot) set out on a quest to find this question.

This movie may seem weird because...it is. However, it is very entertaining and original. What other movie would have fly swatters pop up from the ground and hit you in the head every time you had an idea?

In terms of spiritual value, the movie did have a few questionable parts. For example: the actual Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy in the movie referred to a book entitled *Where God Went Wrong* that stated "In the beginning the universe was created." This has made a lot of people very angry and has been widely regarded as a bad movie. Yet I never got the impression that the movie was trying to belittle God's creation. It does portray God as a clock-maker who sets things in motion and then leaves the universe to fend for itself. But in the midst of its silliness the movie made me appreciate my God and His active role in our lives.

FUN FACTS WITH NORA

Nora Chavdarian

- Almonds are members of the peach family.
- Certain frogs can be frozen solid, then thawed, and still remain alive after all that.
- The average French citizen eats 500 snails a year.
- When nobody else is around, 47% of people drink straight from the carton. (hmmm....could this be you?)
- Coconuts kill more people in the world than sharks do. Approximately 150 people are killed each year by coconuts.



CAMP AREV PICNIC!!!!

September 10, 2005

Please call the Camp AREV office
for more information or to reserve tickets.

WE'RE RAISING MONEY FOR THE POOL!!!!

Purchase a "brick" to help raise money to
build a pool! You can buy a \$5, \$10, \$25,
or \$50 brick! If you would like to
participate, please send a check to
Camp AREV with "brick for pool"
written in the memo section.

CAMP AREV NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor

Nyri Minassian

Staff

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 us at **(818) 507-0922** or

info@camparev.org. You can also obtain some of this
information from our website at **www.camparev.org**.