

# Connection

## FROM THE EXEC'S DESK | Maggie Kchoyan

**W**inter Camp 2006 is over and I praise God for all the campers, counselors, staff, speakers, worship teams, nurses, and volunteers. We had two themes for this winter camp: for Juniors and Junior High, the theme was "How to Be God's Mighty Soldiers"; for High School and College, the theme was "God's Will in Our Relationships".

The speakers, Mr. & Mrs. Ketenjian for Juniors and Mr. Aren Bahadourian for Junior High, took the campers to God's army field, teaching them how to be God's mighty soldiers by identifying their enemy and fighting with the full armor of God for the "win-win" situation. Kids were excited and many went home with a soldier's spirit.

Rev. Ron Tovmassian and Mr. Daniel Goglanian presented the importance of "God's Will in Our Relationships" to High School and College campers, respectively. They emphasized the value of self, the relationship between self & God, self & others (family & friends), and self & spouse. The message was deep and allowed many to analyze their relationship status with God and with others. We learned that no matter what, we should always be loving in all our relationships.

As we were spiritually fed, Chef LeKeV (Mr. Kevin Kaldjian) and his crew prepared delicious entrees. Throughout all the weeks of Camp, we had sun, wind, rain, and snow. Just like the weather, our circumstances may change in this world; therefore, we need to be ready to fight the good fight during all types of weather with the supplication of the full armor of God and the fellowship that we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Now that winter camp is over, we are preparing for summer camp. Please continue to pray for the Camp and all that are involved. Thank God for Camp AREV and thank you all for your prayers.

## REFLECTIONS | By Nora Matossian

**W**isdom is a quality that all people desire. We all want to gain knowledge that is true and have the ability to apply that knowledge in our lives correctly. The necessity of wisdom is apparent as we wake up each morning and face an endless number of decisions. Parents will ask how to deal with their children. A new graduate wants to know what the best job will be for him. Maybe someone has a troubled friend and needs to know the proper words to comfort that friend with. But where is this wisdom going to come from? Is it something that we can obtain by ourselves or is it a gift from God? What makes the wisdom of a believer different than that of the world?

*Scripture makes it clear that we will never find wisdom in the world*

Scripture makes it clear that we will never find wisdom in the world. Paul says that, "the wisdom of this world is

foolishness in God's sight" (1 Cor. 3:19). All believers know that their purpose in life is to glorify God in all that they do. Yet, if our hearts are seeking worldly things apart from God, then we will use worldly wisdom as our guiding principle, making ourselves fools in front of God. But a heart that wants to please the Lord will rely on Him in order to do just that. True wisdom will not come about through our own efforts but solely through the undeserved grace of our Lord. Wisdom is given to us through the Holy Spirit, and not from within us for, "we have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us" (1 Cor 2:12). All the knowledge that we need, all those answers that we grumble about not having, are

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## WINTER CAMP 2006! | Christopher Terzian

"A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel" (Proverbs 1:5). There is always something new to learn that will help us mature giving us an opportunity to grow and to become wiser. This High School weekend at Camp Arev has proved that this is yet another truth of the Bible. I can truly say I gained some very important truths that I can apply to my life and my relationships with God and fellow brethren in Christ. As our speaker Rev. Ron Tovmassian told us, "To have a good relationship with others, we must first have love for ourselves." This is one critical aspect that I did not pay full attention to until the retreat weekend. Psalms 139:14, states "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." That is the basis for all other relationships because if we can't love ourselves and don't know our value in Jesus Christ, we will not be able to love others. In addition, there are a couple of different levels of intimacy with God ranging from just a surface relationship where it is all about us to a true relationship with God where we are centered on God and the work of Jesus Christ. The worship team, Solafide, was excellent. They lead us in songs of worship ranging from beautiful and powerful hymns to contemporary songs which can break and truly humble us before our Father. But the sessions and worship weren't the only things that were enjoyable. Every morning God blessed us with snow (even though it didn't last very long). At times during the day, we witnessed snow falling, covering the ground. Soon after, the sun began to shine and melted the snow away. But one thing in particular that made me stand in awe of God's care and power was when a close friend of mine pointed out the snowflakes that fell on me. Each and every one of them had an individual, intricate design. Amazing how such a great God would take the time to make something as beautiful as those seemingly insignificant snowflakes. It is reassuring to know that God cares about something that small, so what would keep Him from caring for us? "For He is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." - Psalms 95:7

## CHURCH PROFILE: ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Vana Derohanessian

**O**n July 17th, 2005, the Armenian Evangelical Church Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly known as the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Las Vegas, held its first official church service with 57 chartered members. A relatively small group of Armenians who wanted to worship the Lord were meeting once a month in various people's homes in Las Vegas in 2003. They grew to need a bigger space and they needed a leader. Utilizing the locale of the Christ Lutheran Church of Las Vegas, Dr. Kegham Tashjian leads church service every Sunday. Now, anywhere from 65 to 100 people are in attendance for the services conducted equally in both Armenian and English. The attendees range from new immigrants to the United States to 1st or 2nd generation Armenian-Americans. Sunday School is available even though at the present, they are only few. On Thursday nights, there is Adult Bible Study and there is a growing opportunity for ministry in the college, career and young adults age groups. With the estimate of Armenians residing in Las Vegas at a surprisingly high 20,000-30,000, this fledgling church is doing its best to increase its outreach. With around 300 people on their mailing list, they are well on their way to becoming a dynamic spiritual part of the Armenian community there. Dr. Tashjian, though not classically trained in theology, has

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## FILLING THE GAPS

Winter camp has just ended and summer camp plans are already in motion. Every effort is being made to better our programming. The largest number of youth attends during the summer, many of whom are not Christians. The Camp continues to have a tremendous opportunity to reach these kids for Christ.

The camp needs are great. There are many things that require replacing and updating. This camp needs your prayers and financial support. We are asking that each person prayerfully consider giving toward the General operations to further the valuable work of Camp AREV.

### The Gaps ARE Being Filled

Thank you to the people/organizations below for contributing to the needs of Camp AREV.

**Fenya Barseghian - one folding bed**

**Taleen Barsoumian - pancake mixer**

**Anahis Derian - 4 hammocks for children**

**Dr. & Mrs. Hrair Gulesserian - Fax machine for Camp office**

**Marina Saatjian - First Aid products, coffee maker, coffee grinder, coffee**

**Michael Bedrosian - donation of trail-mix, candy, and raisins**

If you would like to contribute to Camp AREV operations, please mail a check to the Camp AREV office with "Filling the Gaps" written in the memo section. Thank you.

## LOST AND FOUND

Lucy Abadjian

Having heard all about Camp Arev and weekend retreats, I was looking forward to a long holiday weekend with my friends. They always seemed so energetic and excited after they came back from camp. I always thought it just had to do with the fact that they had a couple days off--a couple days away from it all. I wasn't raised in a Christian home; my family went to church about twice a year for Christmas and Easter, and the occasional wedding or baptism. I always believed in God, and knew He was out there. I thought that my knowledge of that, combined with me being a good person in general was what it meant to be a Christian. The necessity of Christ's sacrifice for my sins was beyond me; I knew nothing of what it meant to have a thirst for God and His Word or what it meant to be among a body of believers. I went to camp because it was something to do for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend--it was a way to spend more time with my friends and, who knew, maybe make some new friends. But God's plan for me was something totally different.

The weekend was incredible. Not only did the beauty of nature surround us when we were outside, but the topics being discussed and taught were deep and insightful; I couldn't stop taking notes; I wanted to take in everything that was being said. During small group discussions, I was amazed at how open and honest everyone was. It wasn't like a class setting where people were forced to answer questions. They wanted to respond and contribute to the conversations, but more than anything, it was visible that there was a singular passion that was driving their thoughts and responses. It didn't quite make sense at the time, but I knew something different was driving what was being said.

Late in the evening on Sunday, a few of us girls went into our room during free time to comfort a friend who was going through a difficult time. One of the girls started to pray for her. As I closed my eyes and listened to this prayer asking for the Lord's will to be done and for an understanding of that will, I suddenly started to cry... tears of pain, sorrow, and shame streamed down my face. All I could say was, "I am sorry Lord, I am So Sorry." At that moment, something changed in my life. My tears of shame quickly turned into tears of joy as if this huge weight had been lifted. I couldn't stop smiling; I couldn't stop gushing and giggling. At that exact moment, at 8:30pm on January 20th of 2002, I was reborn! I died to all of my sins and everything of this world--I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior.

To this day, I am thankful for the opportunity to have gone to Camp Arev that holiday weekend. I may have gone for my own personal reasons, but God's will prevailed--and now I am His and His alone.

## CONTINUED

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placed plainly before us through the blessings of the Holy Spirit as He illuminates the word of God to us. Our only task is to trust in His knowledge and make it a cherished gift that we cling to.

It's very difficult sometimes to stay on track by avoiding the easy road of relying on ourselves for knowledge. But the reality is that we can't ask for a better source of wisdom. What is better than having a God who calls us His children, who sees us as a treasured possession to be cared for? Even better, He is not just a heavenly Father to us, but He is also perfect and Paul goes so far as to say that "[His] foolishness... is wiser than man's wisdom" (1 Cor 2:5). We are truly blessed by freely receiving unlimited wisdom from a perfect Counselor without having to work for it ourselves. We can embrace this blessing and employ it in all our struggles and decisions for His glory alone.

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been actively preaching and speaking for 40 years. Just as Dr. Tashjian had retired and moved to Las Vegas, the church had regrettably turned down its second candidate for pastor. When finally asked to lead the church, Dr. Tashjian accepted. With ample prayer and support from sister churches, this young church can assume its full potential and hopefully even send some of its own children to Camp Arev sometime soon. In the words of the apostle Paul, "I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love." Ephesians 3:14-17. To contact the Armenian Evangelical Church Las Vegas Nevada, please call (702)257-2335.

# Save the Date

## Camp AREV Annual Banquet

### May 20, 2006

### UACC Social Hall

We request your presence  
on this very special evening.  
More details to follow.

# Rev UP

## IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?

Jon Khoshafian

### What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

**W**hat does it mean to be spiritually dead? Last year, I had a class called the Sociology of Death. The professor basically taught the class the myths behind how people view death and how to deal and cope with death; it was very depressing. For a field trip, we visited a mortuary. At the mortuary the "tour guides" talked about those who had passed away as customers, as they showed us the different types of coffins. To them, death was not a big deal. In fact, death was their moneymaker. Often times, we view spiritual death in this fashion. We do not treat it with the intensity that the Bible portrays. The Bible makes it very clear that man, at the fall, became spiritually dead. "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12. Christians call this the fall of mankind; but the word "fall" does not do justice to the event unless one interprets the fall as falling out of God's favor. Falling implies getting back up, without referring to any condition the man might be in. When Adam sinned, man did not fall, man died. Spiritual death is the complete and absolute separation from spiritual life which can only be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The

*Falling implies getting back up*

Bible describes the state of man in spiritual death in several passages. A spiritually dead man is "hostile to God" (Romans 8:7), a "slave to sin" (Romans 6:20). "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers" (2 Cor. 4:4). Man is simply "dead in [his] sins" (Col 2:13). Since man is completely separated from God, because *God is life*, there must be some sort of agent to bring us to life. This agent is nothing but the grace of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our Savior. If you do not know Christ as your personal Lord and Savior then you are in a state of spiritual death. Ask Christ to come into your life so that you might begin your spiritual life, today.

And yes, that is my final answer!

## FUN FACTS WITH NORA

Nora Matossian

- Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!
- "Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- Studies show that if a cat falls off the seventh floor of a building, it has about thirty percent less chance of surviving than a cat that falls off the twentieth floor. It supposedly takes about eight floors for the cat to realize what is occurring, relax, and correct itself.
- Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class.



## "RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE"

Sarene Kushdilian

**T**hroughout Scripture, God makes clear His love for us. Even when we were sinning against Him, God loved us. In response to this, the author of Hebrews rightfully asks, "What is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you care for him?" (Hebrews 2:6). We are all sinners "and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). And yet, knowing this, God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for our sins. The Bible makes it clear that if we believe, we "are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

How, then, should we respond to this knowledge? Is this something to be taken lightly? Upon understanding God's holiness and love for His children, our lives must change! Being identified as a "Christian" makes you a follower of Christ. Therefore, our actions should reflect His. Our lives should reflect His. We must keep in mind that we are examples of Jesus. To some people, we are the only examples of Christ they see. Ultimately, the purpose of our lives is to honor and glorify Him in everything.

How awesome it is to know that our God is one who loves and cares for us. It is my hope and prayer that we live our lives dedicated to His service and to the glory of His Kingdom.

*We must keep in mind that we are examples of Jesus*

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Don Adams (1917-1998)

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I WAS RECENTLY CONVERTED INTO PAUL AND MY SAUL I.E. IS NO LONGER VALID ... IS THERE A FORM FOR THAT?

# SUMMER CAMP 2006 DATES!

## JUNIORS

July 16-22

## JR. HIGH

July 23-29

## HIGH SCHOOL 1

July 30-Aug 5

## HIGH SCHOOL 2

August 6-12

## COLLEGE

August 17-20 (Thurs-Sun)

For more information,  
please contact the Camp AREV office.

## CAMP AREV NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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If you are interesting in upcoming camps, seminars, rental of camp 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**.