

# Connection



## FROM THE EXEC'S DESK | Maggie Kchoyan

**W**e have just completed four and a half weeks of summer camp, and God has blessed us tremendously. We experienced the joy of meeting new campers, new speakers, and had great fellowship with each other and with the Lord.

The theme of our summer camp was "Got Idols?" The speakers helped the campers realize what idols are in our everyday lives, how we can get rid of them, and how we can daily keep ourselves away from idols. Our speakers, worship teams, volunteers, and staff did a great job in summer camp ministry. May the Lord bless them all!

This year, camp included many fun events. We had "galaxy night" thanks to Jim Burns, who brought up his telescope for junior campers to enjoy looking at the starry expanse, the amazing creation of God. The sleep out was challenging for some of us, but it went well. It is one of the camp's great experiences for all—it's just not camp without a sleep out! We also went to Castaic Lake, and enjoyed healthy competition as teams played various games throughout the week.

*We experienced the joy of meeting new campers.*

### Many thanks are in order for all who helped meet needs in various ways:

- Ready Pac donated vegetables for the whole summer camp.
- National Raisins and Champion Raisins provided fresh fruits, nuts, raisins, and candies.
- Parents voluntarily cooked and served for the Wednesday visitation nights. Others brought cakes and cookies, while others gave financial donations.
- Raffi Kaldjian and his crew cooked for the wonderful kebab dinners.
- Marina Saatjian donated medical and kitchen supplies
- Catherine Koundakjian donated emergency supplies.
- Mrs. Anahis Derian donated wool blankets for our upcoming winter camp.
- Taleen Barsoumian for three double-tube Cereal Dispensers

I also thank every single person who participated this summer to make Camp AREV such a memorable and spiritually uplifting time. Above all, I thank the Lord for His blessings.

## THROUGH THE EYES OF A CO | Alina Melkonian

**T**his summer, I had the privilege of serving as a coordinator for the two High School weeks at Camp AREV. If you know me at all, you wouldn't think that you could place me in such a setting and expect me to be incredibly comfortable in a leadership role with the "outdoors environment." When Nyri Minassian called me about five months before camp and asked me about being a coordinator, I thought to myself, "I can do AEYF retreats but they're normally held in churches or hotel rooms; but camp... I don't know about that." I prayed about it and decided to say yes because I felt that it was a need God had placed in front of me. The first three days were sort of "adjustment" days for me. During the course of those three days, I felt discouraged and frustrated about some things that were going on. Yet, I soon realized that I was there to serve the Lord and not my comfort.

Continued on Pg. 2

## REFLECTIONS | Nora Matossian

**P**resident Franklin D. Roosevelt famously uttered the phrase, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He proceeded to describe such fear as, "unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." However, I am convinced by the Scriptures, that in order to "advance" towards a life free of anxiety and fear, believers **must** fear—fear the Lord. And He is the only thing that we need to be concerned with regarding our fears. How does such fear cause us to actually live a life of comfort and peace in light of such a mighty God?

God's authority over our lives and His sovereign will are indeed powerful aspects of His character to behold. They are overwhelming and incomprehensible. However, they can also end up being the most comforting attributes upon which we depend during the worst times of worry and stress. Isaiah 8:13 tells us, "The Lord of hosts, Him you shall regard as holy; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread." Such fear for the Lord must arise out of a proper knowledge of His holiness and righteousness—this knowledge then leads us to humility. When we meditate upon the fullness of God, His justice, His grace and how perfect and unchangeable His ways are, we can humbly realize that our mundane concerns do not compare to our innate responsibility to serve our Creator.

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*With knowledge and fear of the Lord, we will see His faithfulness to us during those anxious times.*

With knowledge and fear of the Lord, we will see His faithfulness to us during those anxious times. God makes clear His absolute Holiness and His all-powerful rule over creation in Isaiah 57:15, where He is referred to as "the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy." What an awesome God we have whose very name is Holy and who is unbound and actually "inhabits eternity!" I cannot even fathom such greatness; yet, right after the Lord declares His sovereignty, He

continues to assure us that not only does He "dwell in the high and holy place," but also, "with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite." The most comforting thing in this verse is that the Almighty One not only dwells with us, but has deemed it in His will to *revive* us. With God as our Father, we have One who is so mighty that He commands us to make Him our dread, yet, He assures us that He alone will revive us and give us true, lasting peace.



# A CAMPER'S EXPERIENCE

| Masis Torosyan

**J**r. High '06 summer camp was a time I will not forget. From the mud pit to Bible studies, everything was great! The speaker sessions in particular were fascinating. Even though some things were hard to do, like waking up really early just to get breakfast, I still had tons of fun. Some things like the night games and the mud pit are the kinds of thing that you just can't ignore. It's pretty crazy when you're wandering out at night finding COs and trying to get away from counselors. Even though we did a lot of fun things, I think the free time soccer games were the absolute best.

I would like to appreciate the COs and the counselors for their constant work and patience. It took a lot of creativity with the games and the tournaments such as volleyball and ping pong; and yes I was on the team of the

champion volleyball team, which was a great experience. I also want to thank Maggie for her work and patience. I had a fabulous time and hopefully I will enjoy many more years at Camp AREV for both the summer and winter.

I thank the Lord for giving so many youth a chance to come and many more that will come. I want to pray also that the new Camp AREV buildings that they are planning will come quickly and will help Camp to expand in size and in spirit.

*I will enjoy many more years at Camp AREV*

## THROUGH THE EYES OF A CO

Continued from Pg. 1

The first three days were very difficult to keep my focus on Christ because there was so much going on and your day as a coordinator is pretty much run by being on schedule to the minute and being on top of things. However, I must say that as soon as I realized that I had to keep my focus on the purpose of my being there, those frustrations seemed so minute compared to the incredible ministry that camp was offering. It was amazing! It was truly a remarkable experience for me. I found myself to the point of not wanting to leave camp when it was all over. I don't know if it was because I was incredibly tired, but I really felt sad to leave the grounds (and this had never happened to me before). I wouldn't trade my two week experience at Camp AREV with anything else. It was truly an honor to meet and spend time with the high schoolers and get to know them and see how God was speaking through the speakers to them. I thank God for giving me this opportunity and I will pray that Camp AREV becomes an even stronger ministry within our union.

## MEN'S RETREAT 2006

| Shant Abadjian

**E**very year Camp AREV is visited by hundreds of children and young adults, but on October 13-15, this mold was broken. Instead of hearing the usual laughter of children during free time, the clinking of Tavloo chips on wooden boards, and deep mature laughter filled the dinner hall. For three days, 32 Armenian men, ranging from 21-80 years of age, joined together for a wonderful time of worship and fellowship.



Dr. Setrag Khoshafian was the main speaker for the event while several men from local Armenian churches also shared how they came to know Christ. Dr. Khoshofian spoke on the 7 Steps of Success, emphasizing to the men that success is not measured by worldly gain, but upon the degree to which one is living his life in service of the kingdom. Dr. Khoshofian's messages were always followed by wonderful times of fellowship where Armenian men discussed how they could integrate the principles that they had learned in their home, workplace and church. All in all, the men's retreat was a time of fun, growth, and relaxation, and we look forward to having it again next year.

## CHURCH PROFILE

### ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF ORANGE COUNTY

| Vana Derohanessian

**T**he Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County was founded in 1987 using the facilities of the Fairview Community Church in Costa Mesa. Church services are held at 1:30 in English, with both scripture reading and songs in English and Armenian. Pastor Doctor Don Sunukjian, who is the Professor of Teaching at Biola University, has been leading the church for over a year. There is Sunday school for infants through junior high, while high school students join the adults in the church services. Though there are around 40 to 50 members, 80 to 90 are in attendance every Sunday. Every other Friday night at 7:30, high school and college students gather for "The Search", where worship is lead by their own youth band. Each month they have a featured guest speaker, and afterwards they hang out. Soon there will be a College and Career Bible Study starting up mid-week. There is also an Adult Bible study once a month. They also have a monthly Men's Breakfast and a bi-monthly Women's Luncheon. Their youth leader Daniel Goglianian, has spoken before at Camp Arev and the church sends 7 to 10 students every summer. It is important to note that this young church is the only Armenian Evangelical church in Orange County, where I am sure there are more than 80 to 90 Armenians in need of worship as well as fellowship. Please call (949)223-6447 for more information about the Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County. "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare it you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with the Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:1-3)

# Rev UP

## IS THIS ALL YOU CAN GIVE ME LORD?

| By Searan Salibian

**H**ave you ever questioned why the Lord has placed you in challenging and difficult situations that don't seem to fit in to your schedule called "life?" At times you may want to challenge God, asking Him if He is "aware" of the circumstances in your life and wonder when He will "wake up and smell the roses." You may ask, "Don't you see what I'm going through?" or "Why aren't you answering my prayers?" or "I thought you were God, do something!" or "Is this all you can give me Lord?" Whether the challenge involves schooling, parents, relationships, friends, athletics, church, or whatever the circumstance, we wonder if there is a purpose to what we're going through and anticipate the next step in our lives. In the book of Ecclesiastes, God teaches us that there is a time and place for everything. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecc. 3:1). As we are living pursuing our own agenda and earthly desires, we may get side-tracked, not remembering that the God we serve has a great plan for our lives; He who is Sovereign and Almighty is completely aware of the current season in our lives. Following verse 1, Solomon, the author of Ecclesiastes, goes through a list of situations we encounter; how God has a plan for times of laughing, embracing, loving, dancing, healing and times of mourning, war, loss, being broken, weeping, and even death. As we pursue our time with God through prayer, time in the Word, surrounding ourselves with godly believers and keeping one another accountable, and making Him our one true Lord rather than earthly desires and distractions, we will come to find how great His timing and direction really is. It is a comfort to think the Creator of the heavens and the earth has a great plan for each and every one of our lives and works through each season! There is a reason for this season and not just the next one. If this season is the way in which the Lord chooses to work in our lives right now, we should be content, understanding that things are in His hands. We should be able to say, "Lord, if this is all You want to give me right now, I thank you!"

## MOVIE REVIEW AKEELAH AND THE BEE

| Amy Eleazarian

**Y**es, this movie is about a national spelling bee for jr. high kids who are nerdy beyond all reason; nevertheless, it's a fabulous film! *Akeelah and the Bee*, produced by Starbucks entertainment group, is an uplifting, fun movie appropriate for people of all ages.

The story follows an eleven-year old girl, Akeelah, who came from an impoverished family in L.A. After her father's death, Akeelah's family struggles to get by and Akeelah stops applying herself in school. As punishment for missing her classes, her principal forces her to compete in the school spelling bee, which she wins. There, a friend of the principal and former national spelling bee champion, discovers that Akeelah has talent and convinces her to compete in the regional spelling bee and ultimately, the national spelling bee. Akeelah must compete against other students who not only are far more privileged than she is but who treat her with prejudice and contempt. Yet in the face of adversity, Akeelah continuously shows kindness and compassion to those who treat her poorly and brings hope to a community without any.

The movie is your typical underdog arising out of difficulty to win-type, yet its still quite touching. Devon, one of Akeelah's opponents, is quite rude to her throughout the entirety of the movie. At one point in the film though, Akeelah watches Devon's father tell him that he will never amount to anything unless he wins the spelling bee. Moved with compassion, Akeelah attempts to lose

purposely so that Devon wouldn't disappoint his father. The kind of compassion that Akeelah showed reminded me of how we ought to act towards others that may treat us poorly. Jesus was constantly maltreated and yet he always looked deep into the hearts of those he was around and had compassion on them.

It may sound rather dull but *Akeelah and the Bee* has its funny moments and it lifts the spirit! I highly recommend it!



## FUN FACTS WITH NORA

| Nora Matossian

- More people in China speak English than in the United States.
- Another name for the card game "Solitaire" is "Patience".
- Pigs can run a mile in 7 1/2 minutes.
- If you toss a penny 10000 times, it will not be "heads" 5000 times, but more like 4950. The "heads" picture weighs more, so it ends up on the bottom.
- Male hospital patients fall out of bed twice as often as female hospital patients.
- The name for Oz in the "Wizard of Oz" was thought up when the creator, Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N, and O-Z, hence "Oz."

## FUN CHRISTMAS RECIPE!!!!

Since Christmas is right around the corner, we thought we'd put in a fun recipe that the whole family can make together! Not only will you have a yummy treat, but it will be a great way to for you to spend time with your parents! (Plus, since you're going to need to use an oven, an adult needs to be around).

## GINGERBREAD MEN!

*Prep Time: 25 minutes*

*Cook Time: 12 minutes*

*Ready In: 1 hour 40 minutes*

*Servings: 30*

*You need a man shaped cookie cutter for this recipe*

### Ingredients

- 1 (3.5 oz) package "cook and serve" butterscotch pudding mix
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Directions

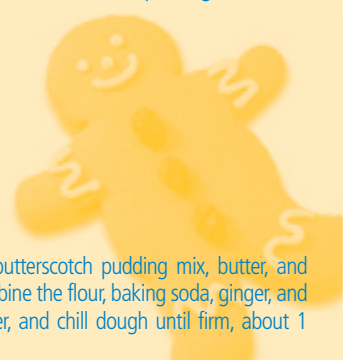
In a medium bowl, cream together the dry butterscotch pudding mix, butter, and brown sugar until smooth. Stir in the egg. Combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, and cinnamon; stir into the pudding mixture. Cover, and chill dough until firm, about 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease baking sheets. On a floured board, roll dough out to about 1/8 inch thickness, and cut into man shapes using a cookie cutter. Place cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, until cookies are golden at the edges. Cool on wire racks.

If you want to decorate, you can get some white frosting and put eyes and mouth, and maybe two dots for "buttons." Or create your own design!

**Nutritional information:** *Servings per recipe:30; Amount per serving: 1 cookie; Calories: 78, Total Fat: 3.3g; Total Carbs:11.5g; Protein: <1g.*



# WINTER CAMP 2007

**DATES TO BE  
ANNOUNCED!!  
PLEASE  
KEEP CHECKING  
THE WEBSITE  
FOR UPDATES!**

## CAMP AREV NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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### 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**.

## FROM THE CAMP AREV COMMITTEE

| Hagop Ketenjian

**T**he response of the community to Camp AREV is encouraging and appreciated! The Camp AREV committee is working with the Director, the AEUNA, and the Armenian Evangelical Community to make Camp AREV a better place. An ongoing effort to research the needs of the camp and provide the best solutions is a top priority for the committee. As with any great endeavor, the challenges are abundant and obstacles abound. Camp AREV is experiencing growth in all areas. Camp registrations continue to climb as the Winter and Summer Camp sessions gain popularity. Facility rentals by other groups and churches are on the rise as well. These are the factors that are moving the committee in its expansion plans.

The purpose of Camp AREV, "Introducing people to Jesus Christ and helping them to grow in their walk with Him" is the motivation behind all that is being done. This can never be disconnected from the decision making process.

The capital campaign update article gives the current status of the Building Project funding. The critical time of decision making is **Now**. Plans are being drafted and bids and proposals are being requested, allowing finalization of plans. The Camp Committee needs your prayers. Wisdom from God and His guidance in this process is crucial to its success. Please keep Camp AREV faithfully in your prayers.

Keeping the community up to date on the progress of the camp is vital. Those who have been to the camp site know that the facility is aging. The Committee, in conjunction with the Director and Facility Manager, is doing its best to repair and maintain all aspects of the facility. As the camp ministry grows and expands, the facility will be improved to accommodate the ministry.

This is God's work and He has given us the privilege of partnering in His ministry. The support of the Community in prayer and donations will bring glory to Him!

PARTICIPATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CAMP AREV IN WHATEVER WAY YOU CAN.

For the committee,  
**Hagop Ketenjian**

*The Camp Committee  
needs your prayers*

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

| Arsine Phillips

**T**he Camp AREV Finance Committee wants to thank all of those who have responded to fundraising campaign for the new Chapel/Dining building in Frazier Park. The current sleeping capacity outnumbers the dining and meeting room capacity for campers. The proposed building will include a new kitchen and ample meeting space.

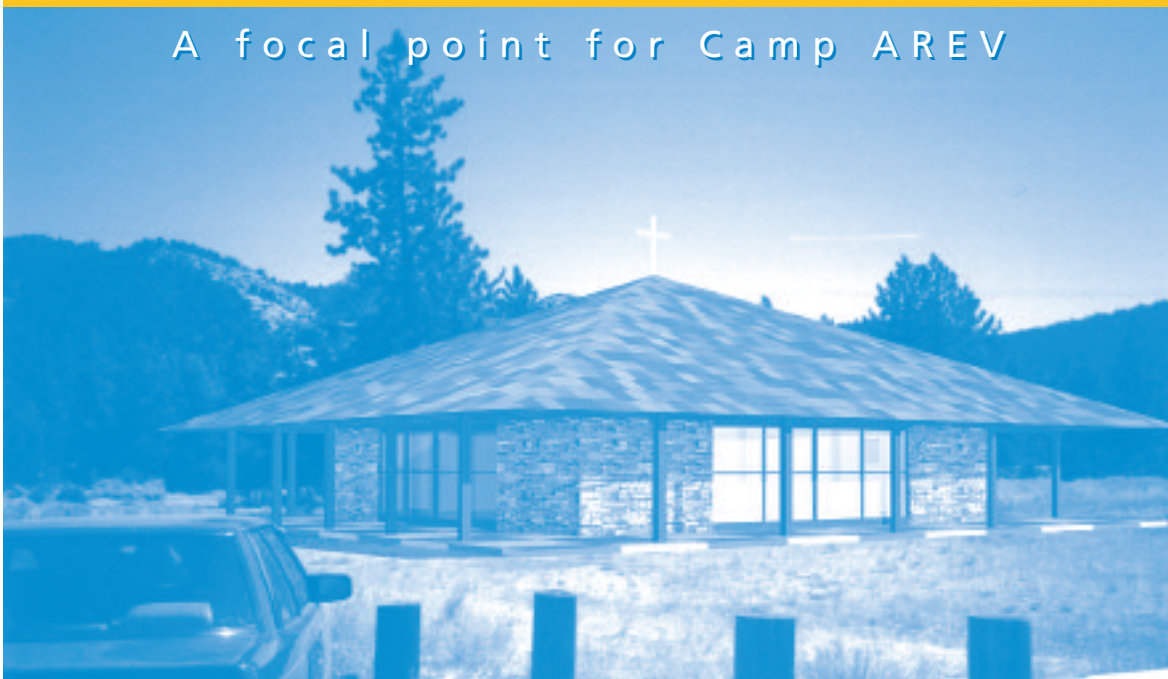
Since our banquet and summer newsletter we have received numerous donations toward this project. We reported in our summer newsletter that the amount raised was at \$180,000. In the past few months, two other significant donations have been made. The first, in excess of \$50,000, was given in loving memory of Betty Missakian and Max & Mary Tangairian to be used to purchase a piano as well as other equipment for the new facility. A second gift, also in excess of \$50,000.00, has been donated by long time supporters and contributors Souren & Alice Kalousdian, members of Cilicia Armenian Congregational Church in Pasadena. Their gift will be used in purchasing kitchen equipment for the new building. These gifts along with your generous responses brings us nearly to \$300,000.00. We are nearer to our goal. Please prayerfully consider making a donation towards this goal of \$350,000.00.

No matter what the amount, every dollar given is a blessing for the work of Christ at Camp AREV. Through your gifts and prayers, we are on our way to making Camp AREV better equipped for our future. Please continue to pray for this expansion project as the camp committee desires to make prudent decisions each step of the way. As Psalm 90:16-17 says "Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and do confirm the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands."

*Through your gifts and  
prayers, we are on our  
way to making Camp  
AREV better equipped  
for our future.*

## CHAPEL/DINING BUILDING

A focal point for Camp AREV



EDWARD J. MANISHAGIAN ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE CENTER

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# EXPANSION OPPORTUNITY PLEASE PARTICIPATE

\$350,000  
(needed)

\$300,000  
(raised)



P.O. BOX 11145, Glendale, CA 91226

Phone (818) 507-0922, Fax (818) 500-8297

Email: info@camparev.org, Website: www.camparev.org

Please tear off and mail in with contribution in enclosed envelope

## ANY DONATION IS HELPFUL AND APPRECIATED

For more information, please call the Camp AREV office at (818) 507-0922

MY PLEDGE OVER THE NEXT YEAR:

\$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_