

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



3673 North First Street | Fresno, California 93726-6870 | p 559-229-2915 | f 559-229-6431 | pilgrimchurch.com

August 2018

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NERSES BALABANIAN

What Good Is It?

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:14-17 ESV)

What good is it to say that one has faith, when that faith is not manifested? David Roper says: "**Faith cannot exist apart from holiness.**" I agree with him. Faith should be expressed in daily life. Having faith in our Lord Jesus Christ will bring about a new life, a changed life.

The process of transformation into this new life is called **sanctification**. No doubt that by works, good works, we cannot be saved. Salvation from our sinful nature is through faith, through believing in our Lord Jesus. Our justification is done on the cross by our Lord and King. However, having faith in Jesus should be expressed. What good is it if a person claims to have faith but shows no deeds?

Genuine, real faith regenerates. Real faith **transforms us** into Christ-like people. Faith must manifest itself in a holy life. Otherwise it is dead, not genuine.

Paul stressed salvation by faith alone. *Sola fide*. Did Paul disagree with James?

Of course not. Paul too confirms that saving faith will always manifest itself in loving deeds.

Let me give some examples:

"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints..." (Ephesians 1:15ESV).

"...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love," (Ephesians 3:17ESV)



"...since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, (Colossians 1:4ESV)

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6ESV)

Do you see in these verses that every time Paul mentions FAITH, it is attached to the word LOVE?

Yet some say, "My faith is personal. Why are you asking me to move out of my comfort zone?"

Our faith is personal; but it should be expressed to others.

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (James 2:15-16 ESV)

Have you ever been in need of something and your friend, teacher, relative... or someone you know or you don't said: "Go in peace, be warmed and filled"; Go in peace? What peace? Where is peace?

Peace or Shalom means total well-being in someone's life, in someone's economic situation, in someone's relationships...

Have you noticed our church mission teams? One went to Houston to minister to the victims of Hurricane Harvey and the other went to Armenia with the AMAA medical mission team. Both team members came back changed. They went to serve and love people. They came back transformed. Faith was expressed in action.

And we, as the PACC large family, are part of these teams because we prayed, we supported them, and we sent them.

Enjoy your summer and see if you can express your faith in Jesus Christ in a practical way.

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY... to these individuals who have a birthday in August:
 Spencer Bright 8/2
 Lila Dalesandro 8/11
 Harper Dalesandro 8/24
 Jonnie Mosesian 8/27



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

– Romans 15:13

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SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR SUMMER 2018

We will not be having Sunday school during the summer this year but rather will be worshipping in church as a Church Family. Nursery Care will continue to be provided throughout the summer for our little ones under the age of 5.

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WANTED!

Do you enjoy working with children, sharing God's word and having fun at the same time? THEN we need you to join our team as a Sunday School Teacher!



Please see Cathy Cholakian or call her at 285-5780 if interested!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – 2018 SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONS PROJECT

Shoebboxes and instructions for packing a shoe box will be available after church **every Sunday in August**. Elementary Sunday School would like to donate **125 shoebboxes** to Operation Christmas Child **from PACC this year** and would appreciate the support of the congregation in meeting this goal.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

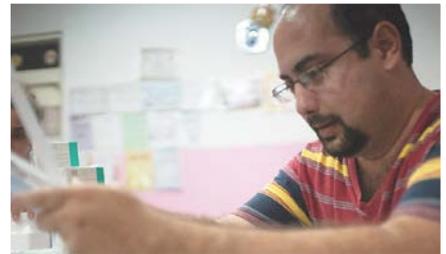




by Tiffany Tufenkjian
Hi Pilgrim Family!

This June I had the opportunity to be a part of the AMAA Medical Mission Trip in Armenia. This trip seemed like the perfect opportunity to get a real look into medicine (the field I'm looking on entering) and to serve the Armenian people. During the mission, we were able address the needs of the those who came to the clinic at a tangible and a spiritual level. For our first day, we gathered as a team in Vanadzor and then for the next four days we split into two groups and set up clinics in Stepanavan and Sisian. I along with the rest of the Pilgrim group traveled south to Sisian, which is located in southern Armenia. I had the chance to try a wide array of jobs in the clinic, from taking blood pressure to performing EKGs, in addition to scribing for a doctor and testing urine samples. As a physiology major, I was excited to have this unique hands-on medical experience. After meeting with patients, we had the opportunity to pray with them, because a prescription does not bring spiritual healing.

Traveling to Armenia was an eye-opener for me in understanding life outside the comfort of the US. The Armenian people were an example of how to live a life for Christ no matter your circumstances. We visited the Armenian Genocide Museum and the Armenian History Museum bringing a better realization of how the Armenian people have faced and overcome challenge after challenge. One thing constant through all their peril is their faith in God. Armenians are a resilient people, and this experience made firm my belief that as long as my foundation is rooted in Christ, I may go where he leads me. Armenia showed me the importance of trusting in God in all moments of your life, good and bad. My circumstances on Earth do not matter because I have found victory in the Lord. Exodus 15:2 says, "The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him – my father's God, and I will exalt him!" I am thankful to have been a part of the medical mission. The mission provided me with a new perspective on my Christian life. I hope to return in future years.





The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America's 24th Biennial Convention was held in Burbank at the end of June. Pilgrim Church was well represented by Badveli Nerses and Sevan and Badveli Kevin along with adult delegates Cristel Tufenkjian, Alex Jaramishian, and Gene Kezirian and youth delegates Christian Tufenkjian and Christa Eritzian. Edward Saliba, Stewardship Committee Chair and Roseann Saliba, Women's Fellowship-Western Region Chair were also in attendance.

The theme for the convention was Revival Through Missions, which was a celebration of 172 years of Armenian Evangelical acts of faith, including the establishment of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, now celebrating its 100th year. We were challenged at the Biennial to reignite the passion that our forefathers had for missions in spreading the Gospel among our people.



You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.... to the ends of the earth. – Acts 1:8

"The Greek word *dunamis* means unlimited strength, exceeding great power, even miraculous power. God used His power for our redemption, and through the Holy Spirit this power preserves us, transforms us from within, and equips us to accomplish His will.

"The Armenian Missionary Association of America's founding, and its work over the decades, has only been possible because of the *dunamis* of the Holy Spirit, revealed through Faith, Prayer, and Unity. As the AEUNA's 24th Biennial Assembly concluded, I prayed that the AMAA – the hands and feet of the Armenian Evangelical Church in evangelical, education, relief, and youth missions – continues in the years and decades to come through the power of the Holy Spirit."

– from Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djambazian

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p style="text-align: center;">CALENDAR OF EVENTS PILGRIM CHURCH AUGUST 2018</p>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
HOLY COMMUNION PANTRY SUNDAY 11:00 am WORSHIP			7:15- 4:30 p.m. FUSD, Social Hall/Overflow Room	7:15- 4:30 p.m. FUSD, Social Hall/Overflow Room	7:15- 4:30 p.m. FUSD, Social Hall/Overflow Room	
Badveli Kevin Kasper is on vacation						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11:00 am WORSHIP	10:00 a.m. Dorcas Guild Executive Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Young Adults, Fellowship Room	6:30 pm CE Committee, Library			
Badveli Kevin Kasper is on vacation						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11:00 am WORSHIP	Pilgrim's Progress Articles Due 6:00 Missions, Overflow Room	6:15 pm Trustees, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Fellowship Room				
Badveli Nerses Balabanian is on vacation						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
11:00am WORSHIP		6:30 pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Young Adults, Fellowship Room			7:30- 4:30 p.m. FUSD	
Badveli Nerses Balabanian is on vacation						
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PILGRIM *Armenian* CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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| 6:30pm | **2018**

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REGISTER TO ATTEND! saroyanhouse.com

FREE ENTRANCE

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MINISTERS

THE CONGREGATION

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor,
Rev Nerses Balabanian
Associate Pastor,
Rev Kevin Kasper

YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Alexander Jaramishian
Jason Davis
Claire Jaramishian

MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music, Oscar Luna
Organist, Faye DeLong

SUPPORT STAFF

Church Secretary,
Houry Sabiljian
Part-Time Custodian,
Joe Fischer
Wedding Planner,
Sandy Avakian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator, Cristel Tufenkjian
Vice Moderator, Ed Saliba
Scribe, Sue Moosolian
Treasurer, Patrice Ruble

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chair, Paula Ganimian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair, Sammy Ganimian

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Co-chair Allison Karahadian
Co-chair Robyn Esraelian

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair, Melinda Eritzian
Sunday School Superintendent,
Cathy Cholakian

DORCAS GUILD

Joyce Kierejczyk

FLC COMMITTEE

Chair, John Tufenkjian

MEN'S FORUM

President, Jerry Janigian

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Doreen Fischer

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair, Carol Forrest

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, *Vacant*