

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Being in the world
without being of
the world | 1

Editing the
translation of the
Pentateuch | 2

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Being in the world without being of the world

Dear friends,

As of the writing of this newsletter, Armenia still struggles with its neighboring foe who is imposing a life-threatening embargo on the civil population of Nagorno-Karabagh by blocking the vital Lachin corridor linking the Republic of Armenia to this landlocked territory inhabited by hundred and twenty thousand ethnic Armenians. Despite diplomatic pressure from abroad, the blockade continues. For these people, living means barely surviving. What kind of hope can there be in such harsh conditions? As Christians we are always brought back to the words of our Lord Jesus-Christ who, while tempted by the devil in the desert after eating nothing for forty days, replied to the latter, (Deut. 8:3) *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.* Applying these words to the situation described above doesn't mean advocating a kind of spiritualized indifference to the urgent and pressing needs of all these men, women, and children. Rather, it is reminding ourselves that there is always hope in the world in which we live, even though we are not of this world.

A letter recently received from a listener reflects on this distinction, following one of our radio programs :

I want to talk about the message “Being in the world without being of the world”.

This is really a paradox that the Bible preaches to us. The first time you hear this, it seems that your mind and intellect are unable to perceive and understand the meaning of this paradox. And so it is very important to listen to the correct interpretation, an explanation that will help you to understand the meaning of this difficult phrase. When you listen to the explanation given in the message, it is as if the eyes of your soul are opened and you begin to understand the meaning and importance of the following words of Jesus Christ in the life of every Christian :

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14-16)

And when you realize that as a Christian you are also obliged to be the light of the world, the salt of the world, you begin to understand your important mission and role in this world.





Let us pray to the Lord every second to have mercy on us, forgive our many sins, and make us worthy to be a ray of light in the world, worthy to inherit His Kingdom in heaven.

Would that all Christians living in great affluence, not wondering what they are going to eat tomorrow, come to the same realization and eagerly crave for the Bread of life every day of their lives...

"We want to stress that in the USA, CFA carries virtually no overhead"

Editing the translation of the Pentateuch

In our previous newsletter we mentioned that a pause in the translation work of the Old Testament was needed to give enough time to edit the now completed Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy). A visit of our Armenian translator to Israel in December yielded good fruit in terms of translation accuracy of difficult passages. A professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a specialist of Old Testament Hebrew, assisted him with several translation issues. They must now be discussed with the editorial team in Armenia, so that the most appropriate rendering in modern Eastern Armenian can be found.

Please pray for the good continuation of this vital project. We also ask you to pray that the committee of *Christians for Armenia* will manage to solve some very challenging issues concerning the transfer of funds to Armenia. Understandably, our mission also depends on such practicalities. We are confronted both with a drastic decrease of the US dollar in the local currency, and with a severe hike in Armenian taxes levied on wages paid to fellow workers. We want to stress that in the USA, CFA carries virtually no overhead. Almost the entire sum of donations we receive go to Armenia for the carrying out of our various outreaches.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself up for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, guard and protect each one of you, as together we look forward to celebrate the gift of His person at Calvary, that we may continue not being of the world, while still being in the world.

Warmly in Christ,

Rev Eric Kayayan

On behalf of the committee of Christians for Armenia



A young Armenian soldier in Nagorno-Karabagh holds a copy of the New Testament & Psalms



Radio Hay broadcasts our programs from Erevan (104.1 FM) and throughout Armenia via twenty one radio relays

Please send your donations to the following address :

**REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE Christians for Armenia
P.O. Box 8208 Kentwood, MI 49508**

**You can also visit our website : www.christiansforarmenia.org
to transfer your donation to our Pay Pal account.**

We are a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code, registered in Michigan.