



# IMMANUEL

ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
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APR MAY JUNE 2022

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 2

*Quarterly Newsletter*

## MISSION STATEMENT

“The Mission of IACC is to unite together believers in Jesus Christ for worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, service and evangelism for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The Church shall make the will of God, as revealed through the Holy Scriptures, preeminent in the lives of men individually and collectively.”

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY MORNINGS IN PERSON**  
**AND**  
**LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK**  
**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN SERVICE**

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## Hope for the Hurting

Bum Phillips, the former coach of the Houston Oilers, once made the following comment: "There are two types of coaches in the NFL (The National Football league): them that have been fired, and them that are gonna be fired." This statement is true because there are two types of people in the world: those who have been hurt, and those who will be hurt. The truth of the matter is that we can neither escape, nor avoid pain and suffering. At some point or another, all of us will get hurt. When we make a commitment to follow Christ, we don't receive an exemption from getting hurt.

Even though all of us will experience pain and suffering in this life, we do not have to lose hope because Jesus offers relief and hope to the hurting. The narrative in Luke 13:10-17, tells us, "There was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for 18 years and was bent over and could not straighten up herself." While Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, He noticed this infirm woman and He immediately healed her. This Scriptural passage gives us encouragement even if we currently are enduring a seemingly hopeless situation.

Luke the evangelist informs us that the woman we meet here was crippled, bent over, and could not straighten up herself at all, and that she had been in this miserable condition for 18 long years. Medically, this disease is known as "Strumpell Disease" which is a fusion of the spinal bones. During the early stages of the disease, sufferers often find that the pain is somewhat relieved when they lean forward. So, they go through their daily tasks by slightly leaning forward, and gradually their spine begins to fuse. The more they lean forward to lessen their pain, the greater the angle of bending becomes, until their back is doubly bent. This accurately describes the medical condition of the anonymous woman in our Gospel story.

Admittedly, this was a terrible disease that adversely affected every aspect of the poor woman's life. It hurt her physically, emotionally and spiritually. Her infirmity is symbolic of all our hurts and needs. The way Jesus reacted to her condition is the way we can expect Him to respond to hurting people today. Jesus first notices and then cares for hurting people by alleviating their suffering.

I want you to observe that Jesus was not indifferent to that woman's plight, pain, suffering and despair. She did not go unnoticed by our compassionate Savior even though there is no record that she ever approached Him or sought His help. Jesus reached out to her because He is deeply concerned with the pain and suffering of all His people.

We should never think that Jesus is not aware of our pain or that He is unmoved by our tears. Jesus never ignores our pain. Some people have adopted an erroneous idea that God is not interested in our problems because He has more important things to do. This idea is not true. Jesus Christ, who is the most perfect image of His Father's character, showed great concern for the welfare of lepers, tax collectors, widows and orphans who were the most oppressed, ignored, abused and hopeless people.

We may not understand many things that happen in our world today, but we must be confident that Jesus notices us and that He cares for the heavily burdened, and desires to



lighten their load. He actually invites such people to come to Him for relief and salvation.

I also want to point out that this biblical story teaches that Jesus expects us to have the same attitude of compassion toward the hurting people as He does. Jesus sternly rebuked the synagogue leader who was more interested in the observance of rules and regulations than in caring for the oppressed.

Six young men were slated to compete against one another in Seattle. The event was the 100-yard dash. The men lined up, waited for the starting gun and took off in a sprint. About halfway down the track, the leading athlete, who was ahead of all the other runners, stumbled and fell, skinning his hands and knees. The other five men stopped and helped him up. After they cleaned and bandaged his wounds, they decided to finish the race together, holding one another's hands. None of the judges could tell who won the blue ribbon; none of them could see through their tears. No one in the stands that day would ever forget this amazing demonstration of genuine compassion. As the race ended, the crowd cheered for 10 minutes. These young men were competing in the Special Olympics, and they showed that they cared more for the injured and the hurting than for winning the race.

Today, Armenians all over the world, are in pain that was inflicted upon them by their

perennial enemies, the Turks, who in September of last year, launched a massive attack on the peaceful residents of Artsakh and Armenia, using guided missiles, drones, cluster bombs and napalm on civilian targets, like hospitals, schools and residential buildings. Not a single nation in the civilized world offered any tangible help. No one demanded the withdrawal of the aggressors from the ancestral lands of the Armenians.

A month ago, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the whole world sent arms, ammunition and logistical supplies to help the Ukrainians defend themselves. The same violations of human rights and international law that the Russian invading army committed in Ukraine, the Turks had committed against the Armenians. The parallels between the wars in Artsakh and Ukraine are striking indeed. The nations of the world let the Armenians fight alone for 44 days against the Turkish armies and the Islamic mercenaries that they had brought from northern Syria, and Pakistan. This was a David versus Goliath contest.

The Armenians today are feeling intense grief because they now realize, more than ever before, that the international community let them down because Armenia is a small and poor land-locked country that has no oil. The Armenians feel, and rightly so, that once again they have been abandoned.

In Jeremiah 17:5, God says, "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere mortals, who rely on their human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord." This is not the time to deny our Christian faith and turn away from our Lord who alone can heal our deep wounds and bring about conditions that will be conducive for our revival. If we remain faithful to our Lord, He will in His good time, transform our tragedy into triumph.

Remember, when Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, He looked like a completely defeated person; however, on the morning of Resurrection Sunday, He burst triumphantly from the tomb and scored a glorious victory over the powers of evil and wickedness. The theme of the New Testament is Triumph through Suffering. Jesus and His Apostles were tortured, imprisoned, persecuted and put to death, but eventually they came out victorious from all their battles.

Jesus told His followers, "In the world you will have troubles" but He promised to place at their disposal all the resources that were necessary to enable them to surmount every obstacle and defeat every formidable foe. In Matthew 24:13, Jesus says, "He who endures to the end, the same shall be saved." Let us not quit because we are disillusioned but persevere in our spiritual journey with the resurrected Jesus who will ultimately lead us to victory.

# 92nd ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church's 92nd Anniversary Banquet celebration was observed on Sunday afternoon, March 27, 2022, in our Fellowship Hall following the Sunday Worship Service. Our theme for the event, "Guide Us in Your Truth." Patti Parrish, Banquet Chair, welcomed everyone. This year a Silent Auction was held by the Ladies Aid, and the funds that were raised will go towards the educational sponsorship for the children in Armenia. The items on display were bid on during the lunch hour with bidding closing after lunch. The silent auction was a success and a total of \$445.00 was raised to help the children.

After the National Anthems, led by Baghdo Khokhjian, Badveli Terian gave the blessing, and guests were able to enjoy mezza and lunch provided by Hye Cuisine catering of Montebello. Patti then turned the afternoon over to Mistress of Ceremonies, Betty Katanjian. Alice Terian had prepared a video presentation of all that had occurred at Immanuel from 1930 to the present day. Everyone enjoyed seeing family members again and all that has happened over the years with its activities set to music.

The anniversary cake was cut by Lucy Deyan, who has attended IACC for the past twenty years. She regularly attends our church services with her son, Pierre and grandson,

Julian. As a former caterer, she is frequently cooking up something special in our kitchen, making meals that are always novel and delicious. As a beloved member of IACC and for her selfless heart she is being honored to cut the anniversary cake celebrating our church's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.



*"Guide Us In Your Truth"*

After lunch, Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Interim Minister to the AEUNA greeted everyone, thanking Immanuel for its continued support and commitment for 92 years.

Our guest speaker for the afternoon was Dr. Marshall Zakaroff. Marshall and Marsha (Arzoian) Zakaroff were members of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church for many years until they moved in 2000 to San Diego. Marshall's professional career began as a chiropractor, then he transitioned into

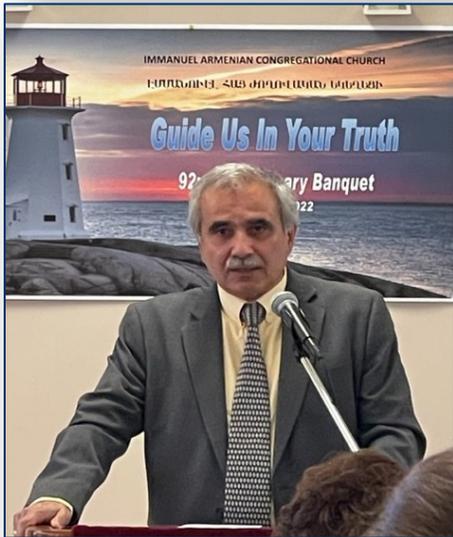
healthcare management and in 2003 he retired. He began teaching high school social studies and then officially retired in 2015. Currently, Marshall is very active at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church where he is Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. Marshall talked about how God guides us with His word, and mentioned how if we Read it, Believe it and Follow it, we can glorify and obey Him as He guides us.

To complete the afternoon, guests were treated to the musical performance from Harry Bagramian, Jr. while he sang and played the piano. Harry is the great grandson of Barbara Gasparian.

All agreed the afternoon was a great success. Council Moderator Rosemary Saatjian introduced and thanked Al Makasjian who was a vital resource in our construction projects. Rev. Terian closed with thanking all for coming and Rev. Terian gave the benediction. I would especially like to thank the **Banquet Committee** Rev. George Terian, Souzi Baghdikian, Levon Baroutjian, Jean Beeson, Marie Birebirian, Janeen Dinkel, Debbie Fermanian, Barbara Gasparian, Betty Katanjian, Jo Ann Ohanesian, Rosemary Saatjian, and Alice Terian for helping to make the afternoon such a success!

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Parrish, Banquet Chair

# 92nd ANNIVERSARY BANQUET



# 92nd ANNIVERSARY BANQUET



# UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

## PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 10, 2022  
Worship Service, 11 am

LADIES AID BAKE SALE  
following Worship Service

proceeds will go toward child  
education sponsorships in Armenia

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Do this in remembrance of me!

April 14, 2022, 6 pm, IACC social hall

*Service and communion.*

*A lenten dinner will be served.*



We invite you to join us for

## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

in person at 11:00 a.m.

*Jesus Is Alive*



IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
9516 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90240



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## Women's & Spiritual Fellowship



On Saturday, February 19, Lisa Khojikian led this study on, "Blessed to be a Blessing". Many women shared how they have been blessed by someone and how they have been a blessing to others.

The March 19th Bible Study was led by Alice Terian on the topic of "God's Will, My Will, Free Will, Whose Will is it after all?"

10 am breakfast, 11 am Study

April 23 - Speaker: Cynthia Ketenjian

May 21 - tbd

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

**IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**WEEKLY ZOOM  
BIBLE STUDY**

**EVERY THURSDAY, 7 PM - 8 PM**

*Join Us*

**REV. GEORGE TERIAN**

*Live streamed on Facebook, "Immanuel Church Downey"*  
*Posted on Youtube, "Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church"*

Contact the church office at 562.862.7012, email:office@immanuelacc.org

IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*After 3 years, we are back!*

We invite you to join us at our annual themed

*Mother's Day*  
**LUNCHEON**

**SATURDAY**

*May 7, 2022*

**AT 11:30 AM**

**Food, Fellowship, Raffle, Games & Fun!**

*This luncheon is dedicated to Araxie Marderosian who started the themed luncheons. Her memory lives on!*

**ADULTS: \$35, CHILDREN 12 & YOUNGER: \$20**

**\$100 SPONSOR (INCLUDES 2 TICKETS & 10 RAFFLE TICKETS)**

## Wedding NEWS



On, Saturday, February 12, 2022, **Michael Zakaroff and Anne Nagengast**, exchanged wedding vows at the King County Superior Courtroom, in Seattle, Washington. Judge Patrick Oishi, presided over the ceremony.

Michael is the son of George and Marsha Zakaroff, Grandson of George and Nelly Zakaroff, and Carl and Mary Arzoian. Anne is the daughter of Bern and Carol Nagengast, from Ohio.

It was a small intimate affair with just immediate family and a few friends attending. The couple currently reside in Bremer-ton, Washington, but will soon be relocating to Hawaii, where Mike will continue with his Navy Medical Career.

God bless and congratulations to the happy couple and to their families.

## BIRTHDAYS



### JANUARY

Katherine Marcarian, Pierre Deyan

Not pictured:  
Baghdo Khojikian, Violet Fermanian,  
Vahe Ashkarian, Astrid Ashkarian



### FEBRUARY

Lucy Deyan



### MARCH

Vartkes Ketenjian

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We will continue with our efforts to keep IACC's buildings and grounds looking their best. Our Lord and our congregation deserve it as do our visitors who come and praise Him with joy. Please keep an eye on your surroundings and contact the church office to let them know if you see any needed repairs.

Melik Kumjian  
Chair, Board of Trustees

## *Current pending church repairs:*

- ◆ ~~Replace old HVAC for social hall & kitchen. (Installed March 2022)~~
- ◆ Paint the interior & exterior of the church buildings
- ◆ Replace extensive damage to wood around windows and facia.
- ◆ ~~Place/replace drain on outdoor concrete to prevent water puddling on east side of the social hall wall. (Installed February 2022)~~



*We will proceed with these projects dependent on funding and final approvals.*

Dear Church Members:

Those of you who have been attending IACC for many years probably remember when the congregation moved from its Los Angeles location to its current location in Downey. It was, I am sure, bittersweet to leave your church home but there is joy in looking to the future, change and anticipation. The majesty of the structure and the memories made, may have paled in comparison to the adventure of creating a new church home. This current structure is the result of changes to the front facade of the original building and an addition of the social hall; trees planted in the medium of the parking lot and then removed due to the damage caused by the tree roots to the cement. Improvements made to better suit our use and to beautify our surroundings.

As with all things, wear and tear give way to much needed repairs and even renovation. It takes careful stewardship to protect Christ's church and the many Councils that have served over the years are all too familiar with the need to repair. We can never lose heart about our church's needs and gratefully, when the time arose for expensive work, the funds in our Building Fund and the support of our congregation have stood tall.

As the fable of the rabbit and the hare teaches us, constant attention to the goal is required to achieve success. Slowly we have been addressing the required repairs. We have installed new air conditioning equipment that services the social hall. The entire Social Hall, Narthex and Kitchen received new flooring and paint. Our social hall east wall facing the courtyard had years of dam-

age which water pool against the building due to erosion and ground settling causing run-off of rain water to penetrate the outer wall. A new drain in the concrete, running parallel to the building was installed. Continuing to maintain our church is our joy and brings the vision of God not to us but through us. We must not waiver from our obligation but always remember that God expects us to take care of the building He has given us to worship and minister in and your continued support in that regard is vital. We appreciate all you do to support IACC and her existence and pray for your continued attention and support. Come back to church!

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Saatjian,  
Moderator

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deep sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts, with thanks:

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JIMMY & HELEN TINDEL,  
LORRAINE TINDEL HANSEN, JOHN &  
ZABEL KAZARIAN, GEORGE & BETTY  
KAZARIAN, ASLAN & PEGGY  
TUROONJIAN, RONNIE TUROONJIAN  
& GEORGE KATANAJIAN**  
Robert & Carolyn Sands

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ARAXIE MARDEROSIAN**  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Raymond & Denise Savoian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
RAYMOND ELMENDORF**  
Shirley Elmendorf

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JACK BIREBIRIAN**  
Todd & Rosanna Birebirian

**CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**  
Steve & Aida Ashkarian

**92ND ANNIVERSARY  
UNDERWRITER**  
Dr. Hrag Marganian

**92ND ANNIVERSARY  
BANQUET PATRONS**  
Lucik Manookian  
Jo Ann Ohanesian  
Patti Parrish  
Rev. George & Alice Terian  
Barbara Gasparian

**92ND ANNIVERSARY  
BANQUET SPONSORS**  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Baroutjian  
Marie Birebirian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian  
Sona Minakian  
Rosemary Saatjian  
Robert & Carolyn Sands

Ray & Denise Savoian  
Paul & Karen Sonefeldt  
Peter & Melanie Vetrano  
Marshall & Marsha Zakaroff

**92ND ANNIVERSARY  
BANQUET DONATIONS**  
Suzie Abajian  
Berdj & Dawn Adrouni  
Rev. Daniel Albarian  
Alan & Karen Arzoian  
John & Alicia Bair  
Garabet & Nadia Bogosian  
Arsham & Sonia Euredjian  
Ron & Goharik Gabriel  
Rev. Vartkes Kassouni  
Sam & Norma Makhanian  
Katherine Marcarian  
Rev. Joseph & Suzie Matossian  
Todd & Rosanna Moreland  
Sam & Ruth Proodian  
Brent & Lavonne Sherman  
Sam & Rosalie Sherman  
Lorraine Sogomian  
Marshall & Marsha Zakaroff

**TO THE LADIES AID FUNDRAISER  
FOR CHILD EDUCATION  
SPONSORSHIPS IN ARMENIA**  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Baroutjian  
Jean Beeson  
Marie Birebirian  
Lucy Deyan  
Dicky Dodd  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Betty Katanjian  
Ed Kassabian  
Sona Minakian  
Todd & Rosanna Moreland  
Jo Ann Ohanesian  
Patti Parrish  
Rosemary Saatjian  
Marshall & Marsha Zakaroff  
Rev. George & Alice Terian  
Anahid Terjimanian

Ladies Aid would like to thank all the individuals who donated a love gift to our ministry during the month of February. We requested an offering to aid us in the support of three adopted Armenian children through the AMAA. May God Bless You Abundantly for your generosity.

Ladies Aid will be having a bake sale after Church services on Palm Sunday, April 10th.

Thank you for your compassion.

JoAnn Ohanesian  
Ladies Aid President

## I NAILED HIM TO THE TREE

'Grandfather...that wooden hammer on the floor by the side of your bed for years...

It is time to tell us the story.'

"Yes...As the end of my life nears, it is time. Against God, I once committed a great sin..

"

'Grandfather...that cannot be true... Not you'

"It is true but you must not stop me until I have told all."

(There is a great pall in the tiny room.)

"I was a plebe in the Roman legion and I was assigned to the crucifixions. And I once helped to crucify an innocent who was the Son of God, I now believe. I can still hear his loud cries as I nailed him to the tree. I still ill grieve at the thought and have never forgiven myself

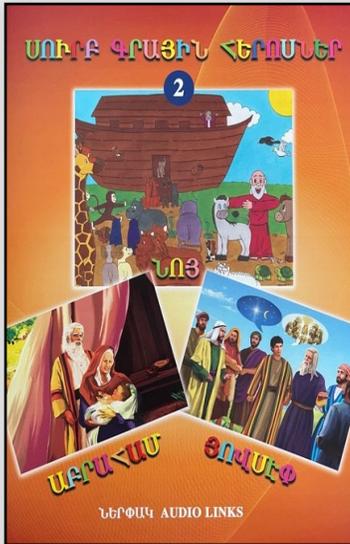
But just before he died, he called me out by name

And said Josephus, I forgive you. At that moment I knew I heard the voice of God...Yes I knew.

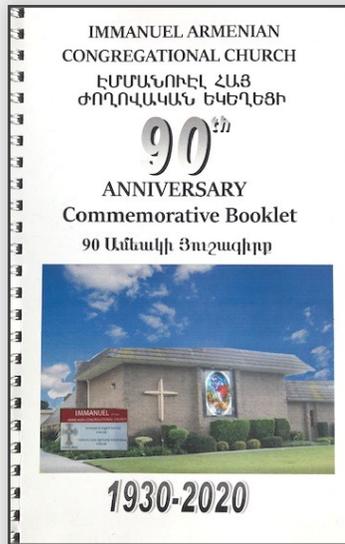
Written by:  
Peter Vetrano

# THIS 'N THAT

## AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



Armenian Children's Bible Story Book in Western Armenian. Published by the AEUNA. \$10 donation. Contact the church office for your copy.



We still have Anniversary Booklets and Rosters available! If you would like to purchase one, please contact the church office. \$20 donation.

## SAVE THE DATE



**AMAA 103<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**  
**"EMPOWERING AMAA'S GLOBAL MISSION"**  
 HONORING  
 AMA CANADA, AMA AUSTRALIA,  
 HOPE FOR ARMENIA – FRANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022 – RECEPTION 6 PM • DINNER 7 PM  
 Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, 07604

The Armenian Missionary Association of America and the 2022 Banquet Co-Chairs, Mr. & Mrs. Vahram & Lucienne Aynilian, invite you to save-the-date and join us in October for the 103rd AMAA Annual Meeting Banquet. Additional details to follow over the coming months. For more information, please email [info@amaa.org](mailto:info@amaa.org).



## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Visit our website at [www.immanuelacc.org](http://www.immanuelacc.org) for up-to-date information. Follow us on Facebook, "Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church", "Immanuel Church Downey"

*The quarterly publication of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church.*

*The 2022 editorial staff includes: Rev. George Terian, Debbie Fermandian and Rosemary Saatjian*

For additional information or article submissions, please write to:

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