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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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“Attitude Is Altitude”

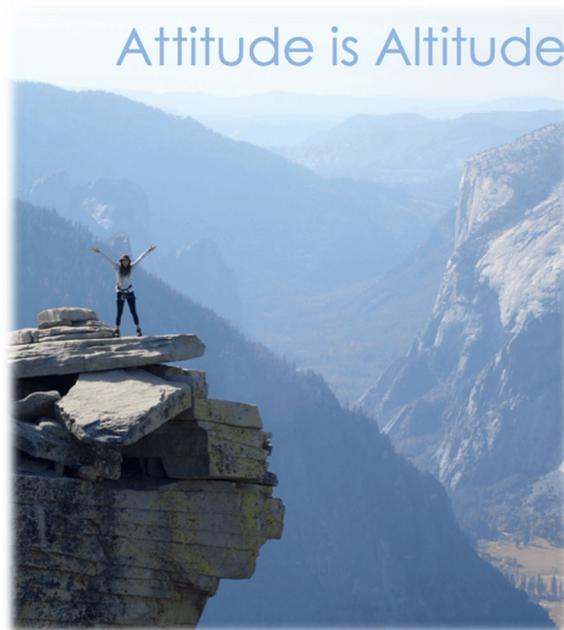
After going through a very challenging and difficult year due to the Corona Virus and its mutated varieties, and while thinking about writing a message for the coming New Year 2022, I decided to share with you some facts about an amazing man, Nick Vujicic, who was born on December 4, 1982, in Melbourne, Australia. His parents were shocked when their first-born baby boy arrived in this world without limbs. Their first thought was, “How could a person survive without hands and legs?” To their credit, they raised him as if he were a normal child who had no handicaps, no limitations and no disadvantages. As he grew up, they encouraged him to attend a regular school and participate in all its academic and athletic activities.

Although Nick had no legs, he had a foot with two toes protruding from his left thigh. He jokingly refers to his tiny foot as “my chicken drumstick.” From an early age, he discovered that he could use his foot to write, type, play, swim and surf. He was determined to overcome his adversity by banishing from his mind all thoughts about what he lacked and focusing instead on making the best use of what he had.

At the tender age of fifteen, Nick decided to surrender his young life to Jesus by placing his trust in the Savior. Although he was bullied at school by some cruel teenagers, he endured all hardships because he firmly believed that the Lord had a grand purpose for his life. He was determined not to allow anyone deter him from using his full potential for creative work.

After completing his High School education, he enrolled at the University of Queensland

where he earned a degree in Accounting and Financial Planning. After becoming self-sufficient financially, the Lord led him to try being a motivational speaker to encourage others, by his example, that they too could realize their dreams if they worked hard and wholeheartedly trusted the Lord. His fame spread like a prairie fire, and he became a sought-after lecturer who traveled to over 60 countries where he motivated millions of people not to despair after having an initial failure, but to persevere in doubling their efforts in the pursuit of their goals. That made him an inspiring evangelist and led him to write a book titled, “Life Without Limbs.”



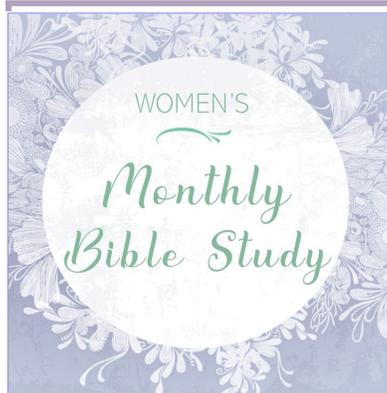
In March of 2002, he moved to Southern California where he combined public speaking with evangelism and philanthropy. In 2006, he founded a not-for-profit ministry that he appropriately named “Attitude is Altitude” to spread the message faith and hope across the world.

In 2011, during a campaign in Dallas, Texas, he met a nurse named Kanae who fell in love with him by admiring his courage, intelligence and deep Christian faith. The couple got married in 2012 and are the proud parents of two boys and 2 identical twin girls.

To this day, Nick encourages people to have big dreams, to adopt positive attitudes and to be guided by Jesus and His Gospel. If we embrace the right attitude, regardless of our adversities, we will gain altitude and like the majestic eagles will soar high above all impediments. May this be our goal and motto for the coming New Year.

George Terian, Senior Pastor
Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church
Downey, CA

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



We had the privilege to have Christine Momjian, Chair of the AEFW East Coast, as our guest speaker for the October Bible Study on Zoom. December, the study was led by Devina Delias with group discussions on Matthew Chapters 1 & 2.

The Women's Spiritual Fellowship
2022 dates:

January 22
February 19
March 19
April 23
May 21

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**WEEKLY ZOOM
BIBLE STUDY**

EVERY THURSDAY, 7 PM - 8 PM

REV. GEORGE TERIAN

Join Us

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately following worship service.
We highly encourage attendance.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

Heads of committees should submit annual reports to the church office
no later than **Sunday, January 9, 2022**

Annual report packets will be available on Sunday, January 16th in the narthex.

90th/91st ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church's 90/91st Anniversary Banquet celebration was observed on Sunday afternoon, October 10, 2021, at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello, California. After several re-schedules dates due to Covid shutdowns, we were finally able to have our afternoon celebration.

The afternoon began at 1:00pm after Sunday services with a social hour and mezze in the Sunset Room of the Quiet Cannon. Patti Parrish, Banquet Chair, welcomed everyone, thankful we were able to finally celebrate together. Everyone then sang our national anthem. Rev. Berdji Djambazian gave the invocation. Then the afternoon was turned over to Mistress of Ceremonies, Barbara Gasparian. Dinner was served and guests enjoyed a delicious meal served by the Quiet Cannon, with Anniversary cake for dessert that was cut by long time church member, Vartkes Ketenjian. He was born March 6, 1930, in Beirut, Lebanon. He married Berjouhi in Chicago in 1957, moved to California in 1962 and immediately started attending IACC on Washington Blvd with their two young children, Ruth and Hagop. Their last child Samuel was born in California in 1965. Vartkes and Berjouhi faithfully brought their children to Immanuel and taught them to love and serve the Lord. Vartkes has modeled commitment to the Lord and to the church through his many years of consistent attendance, serving as Immanuel's AMAA treasurer, as well as continuing to serve as the church's Sunday greeter. God has given him 91 years of life which he

continues to enjoy with his siblings, his children, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren and, of course, his church family at Immanuel.

Following dinner Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Interim Minister to the Union, AEUNA greeted everyone, thanking Immanuel for its continued support and commitment for 90 years to the church. Alice Terian prepared a video presentation of all that has 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 played out on the screen.

We were treated to a vocal and musical presentation by the very talented Ketenjian family of both Armenian and English beautiful tunes, with an original song.

Our guest speaker for the afternoon was to be Dr. Roger V. Ohanesian, Founder of Armenian Eye Care Project. Due to the rescheduling of our Banquet, he was unable to attend, as he was in Armenia, with a team of doctors. He sent us a video explaining the project and the work they were doing in Armenia. These doctors, at their own expense and time, travel to perform eye surgeries on children and victims of the war to restore their sight. You can visit their website at, www.eyecareproject.com, to see the work they are doing.

To complete the afternoon, guests were again treated to the musical performances of Ketenjian family as we all joined in by singing All Hail The Power, the Armenian National Anthem and ending with Hayr Mer. All agreed the afternoon was a great success. Council Moderator

Rosemary Saatjian closed with thanking all for coming and Badveli Terian gave the benediction.

I would especially like to thank the **Banquet Committee** – Rev. George Terian, Souzi Baghdikian, Jean Beeson, Levon Baroutjian, Marie Birebirian, Debbie Fermanian, Barbara Gasparian, Jo Ann Ohanesian, Rosemary Saatjian, Alice Terian and Anahid Terjimanian for helping to make the afternoon such a success!

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Parrish, Banquet Chair



90th/91st ANNIVERSARY BANQUET



THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

GOBBLE, GOBBLE By Rosemary Saatjian

After nearly a two year hiatus due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church was once again able to celebrate its gratefulness by way of a Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 21. The sanctuary and social hall were packed with appreciative hearts and hungry appetites. Souzi Baghdikian and I co-chaired this event with the constant and able assistance of our church Administrator, Debbie Fermanian, who, in addition to her work with taking reservations and fielding inquiries, also roasted one of the turkeys. Souzi also prepared and printed the luncheon program, designing the cover and layout.

Gayle Samarin and Janeen Dinkel lead my gratitude list by whipping into shape arranging and setting the social hall tables, decorations and then turned their attention on both Souzi and I with immeasurable help in the kitchen. The ladies of our church who worked at home preparing recipes of the mashed potatoes are Anoush Birebirian, Dicky Dodd, Betty Katanjian, Jo Ann Ohanesian and Patti Parrish. Special gratitude to Patti Parrish and Barbara Gasparian for each providing a turkey. Once again we were privileged to call on Master Carver George Ekmekjian who expertly sliced all four turkeys and church friend Pat O'Neill who managed the kitchen on Sunday.

Souzi performed an excellent job as Mistress of Ceremonies for our Program which began with a historical presentation of the First Thanksgiving by Janeen Dinkel. Badveli and Alice Terian's daughter Sylvia Terian Elias, and her 4 children: Linnea, Sadie, JJ and Daisy Elias provided beautiful musical selections for our entertainment, participation and enjoyment. Sylvia accompanied her children on the piano as they sang, "Thanksgiving Every Day". Sadie and her mother, Sylvia, played a duet with Sadie on the Flute and Sylvia on the Piano. Kayla Fermanian composed and performed a poignant song depicting grandmother devotion and her love and appreciation for that gift in her life. Her song was titled

"Unconditional Love". The program concluded with the singing of "Park Yev Badeev" with Ani Abadjian accompanying the congregation on the piano. Badveli George Terian delivered the closing prayer and benediction.

Without our very generous sponsors, these celebrations couldn't be possible. Gratitude to our Treasurer Levon Baroutjian; and to the beautiful faces that attended our buffet: Janeen Dinkel, Debbie Fermanian, Rosanna Moreland, Gayle Samarin, and Anoush Tchakalian.

We continue to give God the glory for our blessings – which includes each of you.



Christmas Party Sing-a-Long



On Sunday afternoon, December 12, 2021, we held our annual Christmas Potluck Sing A-Long in the church social hall. Church members and friends enjoyed the festivities which began with a delicious variety of foods. Following lunch, Christmas carols were sung that were led by Alice Terian and Kayla Fermanian. Christmas Bingo was played and we had several happy winners!. The end of the party concluded with a gift exchange. Thank you to Souzi Baghdikian, Debbie Fermanian, Rosemary Saatjian, Alice Terian, and Kayla Fermanian and for all whose hands made this event possible. A great time was had by all!



BIRTHDAYS



SEPTEMBER

Haik Martirosyan, Debbie Fermanian



OCTOBER

Marie Birebirian, Rev. George Terian,
Anoush Birebirian

Not pictured: Marlen Kumjian



NOVEMBER

Melik Kumjian, Barbara Gasparian,
Melanie Vetrano, Levon Baroutjian

Not pictured:
Armen Fermanian, Chris Ashkarian



DECEMBER

Peter Vetrano, Dicky Dodd



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE



On December 7, Souzi Baghdikian, Rosemary Saatjian and Alice Terian volunteered for 4 hours at the “Samaritan Purse” Distribution Center in Yorba Linda and helped with the operation of “The Shoe Box” ministry. There are 9 such centers. That one day, 8,000 shoe Boxes were processed. Madagascar is the country where the shoe boxes processed in this center will go this year. Each year, 8 Million from the United States and 11 million from around the world are sent to various countries.

Souzi spearheaded the “Shoe Box” ministry for the Immanuel Church and with the assistance of Rosemary, shopped for the items.



By donations received from a few church members, 13 shoe boxes were prepared and donated by our church.



On December 18, 2021, the **Women's Spiritual Fellowship** ladies returned to the church social hall for a breakfast and Bible Study. The study was led by guest speaker, Devina Delias, on the topic of, “*The Unexpected King*” based on Matthew, Chapters 1 & 2. It was a lovely morning as the women gathered around one table, and had fellowship. Thank you Devina!

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.
- ◆ Paint the exterior of the church buildings - bids range from \$14,000—\$20,000.
- ◆ 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.

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. Recently, a new roof was installed along with new insulated ducting and our 30-year-old air conditioning equipment was replaced in the Sanctuary. We now face the prospect of replacing aging air conditioning equipment that services the social hall and kitchen and bids are currently being received. The entire Social Hall, Narthex and Kitchen received new flooring and paint. Our social hall east wall facing the courtyard continues to have water pool against the building due to erosion and ground settling causing run-off of rain water to penetrate the outer wall. A proposed solution is to install a drain in the concrete, running parallel to the building, similar to a deck drain at a swimming pool. We have obtained Council's approval to proceed with this project with the proviso that its installation be completed prior to painting the exterior of the church building to eliminate damage being done to a newly painted surface. 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 con-

tinued 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

FOR ARAXIE

We prayed and we prayed and we
prayed for The Lord's
healing power
To raise you from that hospital bed
and return home to your so faithful
daughter and husband,
And family and friends...We want
you to sing for us again.
But, I suppose, that was not part of
the Lord's plan.
Araxie in heaven now
in the Lord's hands...
Please help us
The Lord's will to understand.

Written by,
Peter Vetrano

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
SAM MATOSSIAN**

Levon Baroutjian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ARAXIE MARDEROSIAN**

Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian

Sona Minakian

Patti Parrish

Jesse & Marcy Sahagian & Family

**IN HONOR OF
DICKY DODD**

Peter & Monique Thorrington

**IN HONOR OF MY SISTER,
ANAHID TERJIMANIAN AND THE MEMORY
OF HER 55TH ANNIVERSARY**

Dicky Dodd

**UNDERWRITER FOR
AMMA SUNDAY LUNCHEON**

Rev. George & Alice Terian

**AMMA SUNDAY LUNCHEON
SPONSORS & DONATIONS**

Ara & Esther Assilian

Levon Baroutjian

Marie Birebirian

Drs. Nazareth & Ani Darakjian

Dicky Dodd

Barbara Gasparian

Sona Khanjian

Melik & Marlen Kumjian

Katherine Makarian

Dr. Hrag Marganian

Stella Meketarian

Sona Minakian

Jo Ann Ohanesian

Mariann Ohanesian

Patti Parrish

Rosemary Saatjian

Jim & Zabel Surmeian

Peter & Melanie Vetrano

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LEVON BIREBIRIAN**

Todd & Rosanna Moreland

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PINKY BABAJIAN**

Anonymous Friend

Sona Minakian

**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF PARENTS,
APKAR & EPRAKCE AVAKIAN AND
MAX & BRENDA ELMENDORF**

Raymond & Shirley Elmendorf

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PARENTS,
BARKEV & ARAXI BAGHDIKIAN**

Steve & Sylva Hekimian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
SAM APELIAN**

Annette Apelian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
EDWARD S. GARAKIAN**

Terry Garakian Garton

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN & JESSIA EOMURIAN AND
EDWARD S. GARAKIAN**

Flora Sakalian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ANN'S GRANDPARENTS,
ZEVART & JOHN KARAGOZIAN**

Ted & Ann Sarafian

**IN CELEBRATION OF
ANOUSH BIREBIRIAN'S
BIRTHDAY**

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian

Armen & Debbie Fermanian

Todd & Rosanna Moreland

**IN CELEBRATION OF
MARIE BIREBIRIAN'S
BIRTHDAY**

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian

Armen & Debbie Fermanian

Todd & Rosanna Moreland

**IN CELEBRATION OF
REV. GEORGE TERIAN'S
BIRTHDAY**

Parkev & Ossana Youssefian

**THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON
DONATIONS**

Armen & Debbie Fermanian

Barbara Gasparian

**THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON
SPONSORS**

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian

Souzi Baghdikian
Levon Baroutjian
Marie Birebirian
Dicky Dodd
Barbara Gasparian
Tom Kazarian
Melik & Marlen Kumjian
Sona Minakian
Jo Ann Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian
Rev. George & Alice Terian
Peter & Melanie Vetrano

DONATIONS

Anonymous
Astrid Ashkarian
Johnny Ashkarian
Souzi Baghdikian
Violet Fermanian
Ron & Goharik Gabriel & Family
Rev. Vartkes Kassouni
Sam & Norma Makhianian

**AMAA CHRISTMAS
JOY BOXES**

Astrid Ashkarian
Levon Baroutjian
Dicky Dodd
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Barbara Gasparian
Sona Minakian
Jo Ann Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
George & Marsha Zakaroff

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Margaret/Suzie Abajian
Armen Aroyan
Vahe & Chris Ashkarian
Levon Baroutjian
Garabet & Nadia Bogosian
Dicky Dodd
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Barbara Gasparian
Melik & Marlen Kumjian
Alyce Mashikian
Sona Minakian
Jo Ann Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Sam & Ruth Proodian
Sirarpi Stepanian
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

THIS 'N THAT

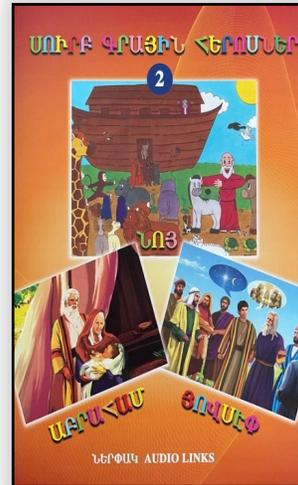
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Visit our website at www.immanuelacc.org for up-to-date information.

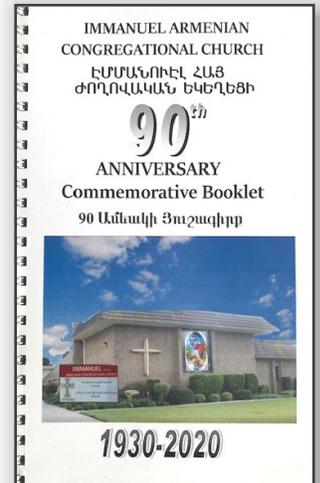
Follow us on Facebook, "Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church", "Immanuel Church Downey" for Live-Stream



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 DATES:

92nd Anniversary Banquet

March 6, 2022, Sunday

Mother's Day Luncheon

May 7, 2022, Saturday

Memorial Day Picnic

May 30, 2022, Monday

The quarterly publication of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church.

The 2022 editorial staff includes:

Rev. George Terian, Debbie Fermanian and Rosemary Saatjian

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