



# YETTEM ՄԳՆՍ



Հրատարակուիլիս Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիլս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ  
A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California  
Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

## October 2022

### PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

Beloved compatriots,

The last two days have been devastating for our Motherland Armenia with the sudden military attacks by the Azeris. The strikes included drones and large-caliber firearms fired in the direction of Goris, Sotk, and Jermuk.

As a result of the brutal attacks, dozens of casualties have been registered and peaceful inhabitants have been driven away from their homes. We pray for the souls of young brave soldiers who during recent years have shown acts of bravery in defense of our Motherland.

This is the time when we all are called to show our unconditional support for our fellow brothers and sisters.

We are strong in spirit and always committed to upholding justice despite the fact that the world has mostly adopted a stance of apathy. In these most trying times, it is of high urgency to show our solidarity in unity and respond to the challenge which presently shatters the peaceful lives of our compatriots.

To quote our Vehapar, His Holiness Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, nothing can deter us, for we are dignified people in seeking peace.

Justice shall prevail and the message of truth must be delivered loud and clear. Therefore, it is our expectation that the Diocesan communities take necessary actions in reaching out to governmental officials and ecumenical leaders to stand in defense of Armenia, thus in defense of justice.

For the last 200 years, the journey of our people has been the journey of the Cross. We pray to the Almighty God for His divine guidance, for the peace of the world, and for the prosperity of our Motherland.

May God bless you and May God bless and protect Armenia.

## ***Parish Notes***

### **BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

THIS OCTOBER 2022 BULLETIN  
IS SPONSORED BY  
***JOHN AND JANET GOMES***  
IN MEMORY OF JANET'S PARENTS  
GARABED AND ROSE SIMONIAN

### **CONDOLENCES**

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Arthur Mark Avedian who entered his eternal rest on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Services were held at St. Mary Yetem on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Timothy Aharonian who entered his eternal rest on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry Ananian, Renee and Michelle Ananian on the recent passing of their mother, Stella Ananian who entered her eternal rest on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Services were held at St. Mary Yetem on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS**

September 11<sup>th</sup>

***St. Mary Yetem Ladies Society***

in honor of the

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
and Grandparents' Day

September 17<sup>th</sup>

***Lilit Benjamin***

in remembrance of family members

September 25<sup>th</sup>

***David and Lisa Krause***

in honor of their

29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 25<sup>th</sup>

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

August 28<sup>th</sup>

***Blanche Parton***

two years after her passing,

requested by

The Parton, Kazarian, Nunes, Zakarian,  
and Fernandes families

September 17<sup>th</sup>

***Special prayers were offered for those who were displaced and/or injured during the recent attacks in Armenia and a hokehankist service was conducted for those who perished.***

***Hrant and Quienne Tellalian***

requested by Deacon Randy Tellalian

***Family of Benjamin***

***Family of Karagashyan***

***Family of Hakobyan***

***Family of Gyurjyan***

***Family of Mirijanyan***

requested by Lilit Benjamin

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to Charlie Davidian for providing the sweet basil (rahan) for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross services on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE**

Just a reminder that your Stewardship Pledge is coming due. We will be sending out the Stewardship Pledge this month.

### **PILGRIMAGE**

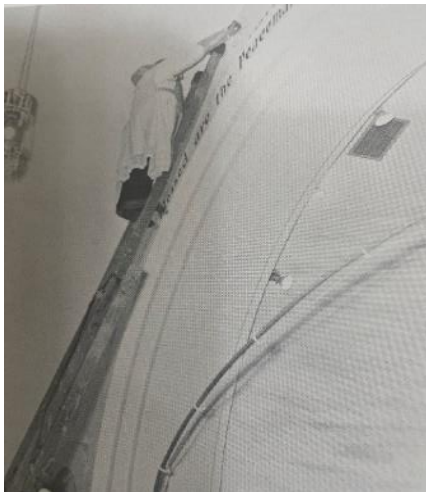
On **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** members from the St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Santa will be making a pilgrimage to Yetem to visit our church. The group will be led by former St. Mary Yetem Priest Rev. Father Zaven Markosyan. A fellowship will be sponsored by the Parish Council, and all are invited to join us.

### **ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

The Armenian Food Festival (drive-thru only) will be held on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Visalia Elks Lodge in Visalia. (See flier)

## PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

In November, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the consecration of our current church building that has been our place of worship for 75 years! To mark this time of history, it would be great if we could put together a small booklet or perhaps a short video that would include information about the building of the new sanctuary, pictures of the consecration, the banquet that was held, and personal recollections of the day by current or former parishioners. Others in our community may have memorabilia from that period of our church history that belonged to parents or grandparents that are now in their possession. Just in Tulare County, it seems that there are “new” churches popping up on street corners everywhere we look. Not many have been in continuous use for 75 years serving their respective congregations. We have something unique that we should be proud to celebrate. If you have stories to share, pictures, programs or other items of interest that we might include in this project, please call me at (559) 280-7315 or email [myron@sheklian.com](mailto:myron@sheklian.com).



*Myron Sheklian*  
*Parish Council Chair*

## LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

First of all, we extend condolences to the family of Stella Ananian, who passed away September 27, 2022. Stella married George Ananian in 1958. They had four children, Lisa, Bryan, Renee, and Michelle. To Lisa (David Krause), Bryan (Terry), Renee, and Michelle Ananian, may your memories of your mother bring you comfort at this time of grief.

**Grandparents' Day** September 11 was wonderful. Thanks to Tina Peters and Donna Torosian for heading the event and producing a memorable day as they have done for years. We enjoyed the traditional menu and some surprises too. Margie L. Davidian's bishi went down with some delicious jams and syrup. We had Donna Torosian's egg casserole. Don't forget the basturma and everything on the charcuterie board at each table. Menu and decorations were donated by committee members. Thank you all for such generous contributions. The children warmed our hearts when they stood at the microphone and expressed their love for their grandparents.

**Sister Churches Luncheon** September 17, just a week later. Nearly eighty guests filled our church hall. Everyone, guests and hostesses, left Yetteem that Saturday afternoon with an exceptional good feeling. Linda Farsakian-Wall chaired this successful event. See her write-up elsewhere in this bulletin.

I was looking through some stored materials in the hall the other day. I perused Ladies Society yearly booklets from 2000. Heartbreaking and inspirational at the same time, I saw a generation disappear from the membership. My dear Armenian literature professor, the great poet Vahe Oshagan, said the men fight the battles; the women keep the culture. Who here will read our literature? Who here will sing our songs? Who here will speak and understand our language? Who here will keep our churches alive? Our mothers and grandmothers did their job. They showed us the way. It is up to us now. There is no one else. Our parents and grandparents and their ascendants gave us our basic Armenian nature. We must not let this legacy wither. We must flourish still. In flourishing, we fulfill our debt to antiquity.

Our next meeting was scheduled for October 1. The Babagian-Bonn wedding is October 1, so we decided to move our next Ladies Society meeting to October 8. Also, we switched the annual keshkeg luncheon meeting to the November 5 meeting. Ladies, prepare to join us for some nice lunch menus with extra treats, as well as some short program presentations we hope you will enjoy.

We celebrate five October birthdays: Julie Poochigian, Sandy Kalfayan, Laurie Menendian, Madlien Hebesha, and a very special Der Mashdots Keshishian.

*Mari Louise Menendian*  
*Ladies Society Chair*

## **SISTER CHURCHES LUNCHEON**

St. Mary, Yetem Ladies Society hosted the annual Sister Churches Luncheon on Saturday, September 17. This gathering of the ladies from the Armenian Churches in the Valley, Fresno's Holy Trinity Armenian Church, First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, and St. Paul Armenian Church, Fowler's St. Gregory Armenian Church, and our Yetem church began over 12 years ago. Each year a different church hosts the luncheon. This year was Yetem's turn.

What a joy it was to break bread and enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Ladies from all six churches as well as Fr. Yessai Bedros of St. Paul and Badveli Nerses Balabanian and his wife Sevan of Pilgrim Church attended. Our guests were greeted to an elegant and festive setting, shared in a meal, and were inspired by the message of our guest speakers Adrienne Poochigian and Tracy Valencia. The afternoon was well received by all and lots of compliments to go around.

This event could not have been possible without our Yetem community. Everyone gave of their time graciously and without hesitation. My first-class committee, Janice McWilliams, Janel Zerounian, Julie Poochigian, Judy Skaff, Laurie Menendian, and Mari Louise Menendian made the day shine. I am blessed to work with each of you. Friday night, the hall was a flurry of activity of numerous ladies setting tables and prepping the food. Thank you to all who came Friday night and who helped serve the food on Saturday. Thank you to Janice for decorating the hall and donating the table clothes, napkins, and center pieces, to Janel for all your calligraphy work, fliers, and invitations, to Laurie for making and packaging the khalkha, to Mari Louise for the punch and glasses, to Julie Poochigian and Gina Ananian for collecting the money, to Yn. Maral Khanjian and Debbie Sheklian for buying and preparing the Fattoush salad, to Judy Skaff and Margie L Davidian for buying and preparing the chicken, to Madlien Hebesha and Judy for preparing the beurag, and to Sandra Vartanian for making and donating the shakarleme. We received extra help from our parishioners. Thank to John Kalfayan for making and donating the tourshi and to Daryl Peters for donating the grapes. Thank you to Tracy and Adrienne for agreeing to be our guest speakers. You all made my job easy. More importantly, you made Yetem shine! Thank you all.

*Linda Farsakian-Wall,  
Sister Churches Luncheon Chair*



## **Richard Hagopian Inducted into Local Hall of Fame**

Richard Hagopian was again honored for his amazing musical talent by being inducted into the VALLEY MUSIC HALL OF FAME. The Hall of Fame has been working, since 2017, to memorialize the contributions of those in the Central Valley music scene. Richard's acceptance into the Hall of fame was announced at an event last month and the official presentation ceremony was held on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater in Fresno's Tower District.

Richard was given the title "Oudi" in 1969 by the internationally famous virtuoso Oudi Hrant, a blind master. This is the highest honor an oudist can receive. Additionally, Richard was a National Heritage Fellow in 1989. He is regarded as "one of America's most accomplished folk musicians" (according to a New York Times critic) and one of the most renowned Oud players in the world.

Richard began performing traditional Armenian music somewhere between the ages of 9 and 13 and became a sort of collector and library of Armenian music, learning more than 1,500 traditional folk songs. Not only has Richard passed on this heritage to his sons and grandsons, but he is known for passing on that same heritage as a performer and master-class instructor at places like the Manhattan School of Music and Fresno State, where he served as Artist in Residence.

**Congratulations Richard!**

### WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means next meeting will be via Zoom **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.**

### LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** in the **Majarian Hall** at **11:30 AM.**

### SAVE THE DATE FOR A FAMILY PICNIC

An outdoor Badarak will be conducted on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. After services the **Knights & Daughters of Vartan** will sponsor a **family picnic** here at **St. Mary Yettem**. The entire community is invited! (See flier)

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School is back. Sunday School meets on the **second** and **fourth Sundays** of each month at **11:00 AM** September-June.

### BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor either the weekly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$25 or the monthly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$200, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

### PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org)) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for general donations, yughakins, hokehankists, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered on behalf of the church.

### ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Currently there is **space for 28 additional names** at a **donation of \$200/name**. Contact Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227 or email: [jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net).

### RAFFLE

Our ninth church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) Amy Shuklian

(\$100) Tiffany Wainwright

(\$50) Geraldine Hagopian

Our **tenth raffle drawing** will be held on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church. If you would like tickets, contact Tina at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

### ALTAR FLOWER INCREASE

Effective May 2022 Peter Perkins has increased the price of delivery of altar flowers to our church. The new cost for two altar flowers is \$125. If you choose to supply your own flowers already in vases, they must be here at church before 10:00 AM on Sunday.

### DONATIONS

Our annual church budget is \$182,0000. For a small parish we accomplish much, but your continued support is very necessary. Checks may be mailed to the church office, or you may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org)). You may donate for general donations, yughakins, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered for the church altar. An envelope has been attached for your convenience.

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# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 72 Disciples of Christ
<b>2</b> Pilgrimage from St. Sarkis (Fr. Zaven)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
<b>9</b> Sunday School Children Sermon Knights & Daughters of Vartan Picnic at St. Mary Yettem 10 <sup>th</sup> Raffle drawing	<b>10</b> Indigenous People Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke & John Preparing Yalanchi and Crescents for the Food Festival at 9 AM
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Food Festival at the Visalia Elks lodge Drive thru only 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM 4:30 – 7:00 PM	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Discovery of the Holy Cross Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> St. John Chrysostom Patriarch
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					



**Sunday Schedule:**

Morning Service (Matins) 9:30 AM  
Divine Liturgy 10:15 AM

**Office Hours**

**Tuesday – Friday**  
**9:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

**Father Mashdots can be reached at:**

559-528-6892 – Office  
559-528-6897 – FAX  
818-293-9098 - Cell



Knights and Daughters of Vartan  
Family Picnic in Tulare County

Sunday, October 9, 2022  
on the serene grounds of  
St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem  
(Immediately following Badarak)

The Valley community is invited to spend the day with the  
Knights of Yeprad Tahlij and the Daughters of Alidz Otyag  
in fun and fellowship.

\$20.00/Adults and \$15.00 Kids 12 and under  
Shredded Beef, BBQ Chicken, Bughlar Pilaf and dessert

RSVP by October 3, 2022 to St. Mary Yettem  
559-528-6892 or [lunch@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:lunch@stmaryyettem.org)

For information contact:  
Gerard Garoian - 967-1905 or [gkgro@comcast.net](mailto:gkgro@comcast.net)  
Tom Babagian - 967-4601 or [tsbabagian@yahoo.com](mailto:tsbabagian@yahoo.com)

By the request of Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian a Hokeehandkist  
(Requiem Service) for all Knights and Daughters of Vartan will be  
held at the conclusion of the Badarak. All Knights and Daughters  
Altar Servers, Choir members, and parishioners are invited to  
attend and participate.



St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetttem  
Ways and Means Committee

Mark your Calendars

# ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Visalia Elks Lodge

(3100 W. Main—just East of County Center Dr.)

## • Menu •

### Choice of Two Entrée Plates

Lulu Kebab -or- Chicken Kebab

Pilaf, Salad, Peda Bread and Bourma

Donation~\$20 per person

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

### Bake Sale

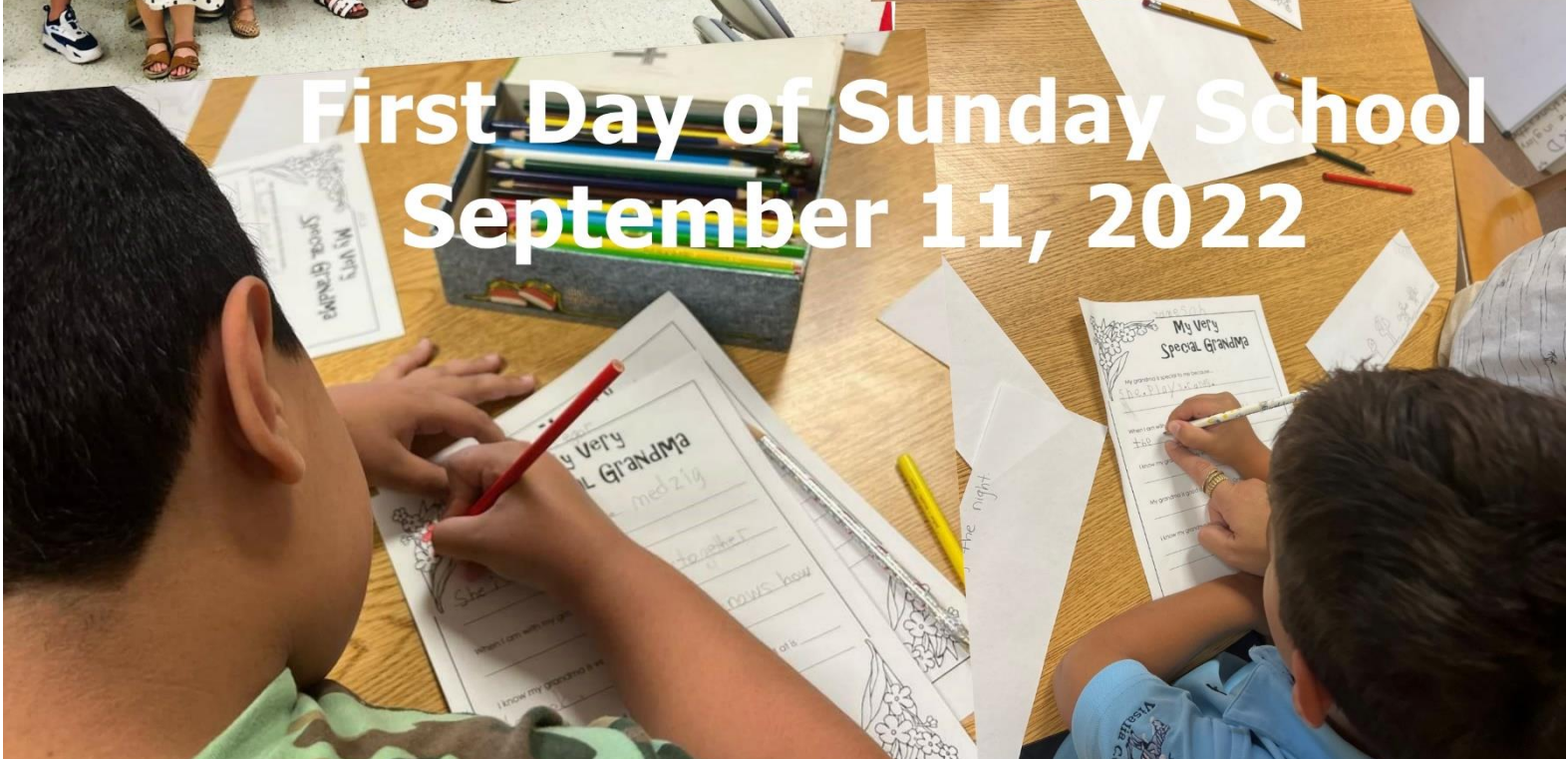
Grape Leaves • Crescent Cookies • Nazook

Kurabia • Simit • Choreg

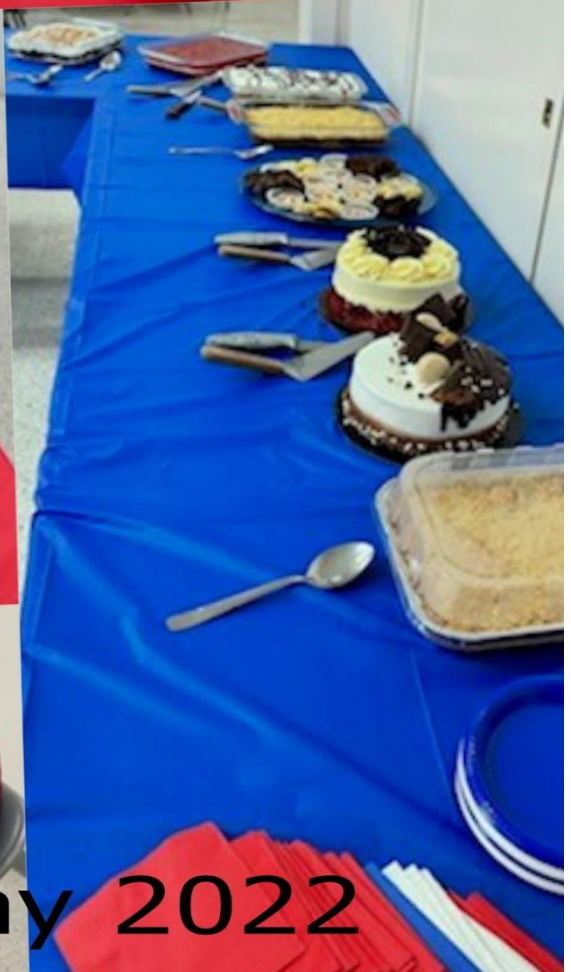
## DRIVE THRU ONLY

If you are not already on the list to receive tickets in advance  
Contact Tina—(559) 967-2593 or [hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net](mailto:hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net)





# First Day of Sunday School September 11, 2022



# Grandparents Day 2022



# Sister Churches Luncheon - September 17, 2022



## **WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THOSE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?**

You may have heard this question put this way: "What about the person living in the jungle somewhere who's never heard the good news about Jesus Christ? Are you Christians saying that a person won't go to heaven based solely on where he lives?"

No, we're not saying that. The Bible tells us that God doesn't work that way. We understand that God is perfect in his love and perfect in his holiness and he's perfectly just and fair. Therefore, it's against God's nature to be unfair. It's against God's nature to hide the ball on salvation or to condemn somebody who's ignorant of his truth. In fact, the Bible declares that God is loving and patient and not willing that anybody should perish. He wants everybody to come to repentance and to come to know him.

If God is a perfectly loving and righteous God, then he will figure out ways to help people understand him. He somehow reveals the simple truth of the gospel to people throughout the world. You know, I've talked to people who were missionaries in Africa who've told me that Jesus has revealed himself through nature. When you look at nature you learn that God is organized, that God is creative, that God likes variety. But it's when we look at Jesus Christ, we realize that God is loving.

And as Christians we are called to tell the good news to other people. It's God's decision to decide what happens to people who haven't heard about him. But it is our decision to take that news to as many people as possible. And the Bible says we will be held more responsible because we have heard and we have known that God is love, that God wants a relationship to us and that God will forgive us if we give our lives to Jesus Christ.

So, what do we do about those who haven't heard? We tell them. First, we accept God's good news and then we tell people about it. Then, we leave the result in the hands of a fair, loving, and just God.

The Life Project  
RICK WARREN

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