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# The ACC Bulletin

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A New Year often brings with it resolutions. Resolutions are good things. They're even biblical: *"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfill every good resolve and work of faith by his power so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Thessalonians 1:11-12) And I think developing New Year's resolutions is a very good idea. A year is a defined timeframe long enough to make progress on difficult things and short enough to provide some incentive to keep moving.

A resolve is not a vague intention, like "one of these days I'm going to get that garage cleaned" or "I'm going to read the Bible through this year," but without any clear plan to do it. Resolves are intentions with strategies attached to them. You don't just hope something is going to happen; you are planning to make it happen. To be resolved is to be determined. But resolves can either be rooted in our selfish ambitions or in the love of God. We must think them through carefully. So as we make our resolutions for a new year, God wants them to all serve this one great end: Exalt Christ!

Why would "Christ-exalting" make a great New Year's resolution for you? First, the Bible teaches us that the great aim of life and death is to exalt Christ. In Philippians 1:20, Paul confirms that this is the aim of all we do. Giving us an example for how to live, Paul describes his greatest aim in life: "My eager expectation and hope is that . . . Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." In other words, his chief aim is to live a Christ-exalting life, and die a Christ-exalting death. So one reason for this New Year's resolution is that God teaches us in his word that the great aim of life and death is to exalt Christ.

How can we apply our Christ-Exalting Resolution to our everyday life? Let's apply it to our prayer life. You might ask if unbelievers even pray at all. They do. Muslims pray. Hindus pray. Jewish people pray. Animists pray. Members of cults, even Satanists, pray. Secularists pray in their most desperate moments. And millions of nominal church-goers pray who are not born again and do not trust Christ. They ask God for a hundred things that you and I ask for: Daily bread. Protection. Health. Joy. Healthy Marriage. Obedient children. A good job. The breaking of bad habits. Forgiveness for bad deeds. Unbelievers want all these things. And they pray for them. You don't need the transforming work of the Holy Spirit to want any of these things.

What then is the difference between your prayers for these things, and theirs? One of the key differences is that your deepest desire, that pervades all other desires, is that Christ be exalted. You love Christ. You treasure him supremely. You have tasted and seen the all-satisfying glory of Christ. Christ is not your butler. And prayers are not your bell-ringing for him to bring you what you want. He is what you want. And you want him exalted, honored, glorified in everything. Listen as people pray. You will find out what they treasure most of all. By having this Christ-Exalting resolution apply to our Prayers it actually modifies everything we pray for, and it will show where our treasure is. It will set our prayers apart from the prayers of unbelievers. So let us resolve in this New Year to have Christ-Exalting prayer, Christ-Exalting love, and Christ-Exalting lives.

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone),  
 Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

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### ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations for Christmas Missions

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 Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian  
 Edward and Asdghig Tutelian  
 Dr. Thomas Varbedian  
 Varsnie Walsh  
 Diran and Joyce Yazejian  
 Leo and Judith Yesayian

### Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Luncheon

We celebrated Christmas during the worship service on Sunday, December 20th. Following the Morning Worship Service, our adorable and talented Sunday School students treated us to a special Christmas presentation filled with songs and Bible verses about the birth of our Lord. The presentation was highlighted with special musical presentations by Nicole Tini and Rachel Keteyian accompanied by Mrs. April Tini on piano.

Like every year, we had a complimentary luncheon which was sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of his late wife Mary. We enjoyed great food prepared by many talented culinary experts from our church and had a wonderful time of fellowship. Special thanks to Leslie Banerian and Ann Bayleran for organizing the Christmas Pageant and Luncheon.

### Valentines Family Night Sponsored by ACC Women's Christian Fellowship

Plan now to attend a special evening on Friday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m. A delicious Italian dinner, fun and fellowship is being planned for our church family and friends. Adults \$12.00, children 5-12 \$6.00. No charge for children under five. Please make your reservations today on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



### Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian's 38th Book is Released From Press

-- Rev. George Kevork Terian

In the first week of the New Year 2016, the Armenian Heritage Committee of Greater Detroit released the 38th book of Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian entitled *Observances and Observations/Doner Yev Nshmarnar*. This hard cover bilingual volume consists of 158 pages and is comprised of 26 English and 15 Armenian articles and essays dealing with religious, social, theological and Armenian subjects. The author has dedicated this book to the church of his birthplace, Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church of Ekiz-Olouk, Kessab (Syria), where he received his early Christian education.

In this book, the author tackles tough questions that relate to our existence and does not shy away from giving Biblical answers to the problems that we encounter. He deals with the "why" type of questions that people with inquisitive minds often raise, such as: Why do we commemorate certain religious, national and ethnic holy days and holidays? (pp. 14-40); Why do people pay "lip service" to their Creator and to their fellow creatures rather than paying "heart service"? (pp. 48-51); Why are some people, especially professionals, jealous of one another, and how do they cure this deadly sin? (pp. 58-60); Why do people drift with the crowd? (p. 61); Why do people make some unimportant matters seem important? (p.75); Why is the Armenian culture so vital for the Armenians? (pp.128-130). The author analyses these and similar questions and provides answers from a Christian perspective.

What I particularly like about the book "*Observances and Observations*" is its immense depth. Every paragraph contains words of wisdom, and every sentence needs to be read carefully to be fully comprehended.

What makes this volume valuable is its candid discussions about society, about life, about those things that are deep within us that cause us to groan and laugh, reflect and ponder, and most of all, never to give up hope. It is well written and reflects the author's empathy with our dilemmas and aspirations.

I highly recommend the reading of this book to all those who, in an age of uncertainty, are looking for a firm foundation for their lives; for those who, in a time of confusion, want to retain clarity of mind; and for those who, in a period of doubt, want to cling to the enduring truths of the Gospel.

This hard-cover bilingual book may be obtained for \$30.00 from the Armenian Heritage Committee, 3922 Yorba Linda Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48973-6455.

### AMAA Scholarship

The AMAA Scholarship Application forms for the 2016-2017 academic year are available for full-time undergraduate students of Armenian descent who wish to apply for AMAA Scholarship aid. If you know of a student interested in applying for a scholarship, they should personally request the form by calling 201-265-2607 or by email [sponsorship@amaa.org](mailto:sponsorship@amaa.org). All completed application forms must reach the AMAA Headquarters no later than May 1, 2016.

### ACC Annual Meeting Sunday, February 7, 2016

This announcement constitutes an official call to the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 7, immediately following the Morning Worship Service. All boards, committees, and organizations of the church are requested to submit their written reports on that day.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now to plan to attend the Women's Christian Fellowship Lenten Luncheon scheduled for Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming in next month's bulletin.