

Reports

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This page contains detailed reports of major operations conducted in the USA and the nations. Such reporting is based upon the pattern for apostolic journeys recorded in the book of Acts (4:23; 11:22; 12:17; 14:27; 21:19).

Armenia Operational Report

August 8-30, 2006



House church in Vanadzor

Overview

This was the 4th operation we have conducted in Armenia and it was one of the most important. Armenia is a nation that is overlooked by many in the world and yet it is one of the key nations for the advance of God's kingdom. This is spiritually seen in Jeremiah 51:27ff where God uses the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz (Armenian kingdoms) to perform every purpose of the Lord against Babylon. Armenia has a history of extreme persecution because Satan knows that the saints of Armenia have also been chosen today to be on the frontlines of the battle in rendering God's judgment upon the spirit of Babylon. The capital city of Yerevan contains around 1.2 million people with the second largest city of Vanadzor containing only approximately 110 thousand. This means that about 60% of the nation's people dwell in the capital. The economy of Yerevan appears to be growing while the rest of the nation struggles as more and more men leave to find work in Yerevan, Moscow (Russia), or even Istanbul (Turkey). It is not uncommon for some to establish new families in Russia leaving their Armenian families behind. The Pentecostal and Charismatic churches of Armenia consist of several unions with leaders joining and withdrawing from one or another over a span of time. This is particularly the case as the Church finds itself between revivals and looking back at the major revivals that swept through the nation in the 90's and in 2001. Out of the midst of this are new living churches and a new generation of leaders and believers desiring new spiritual fire and a new move of God for their nation and beyond. Among the primary purposes of this operation was to strengthen the apostolic foundation among the next generation and to release the apostolic and prophetic call to rise up in the zeal (burning fire) of Lord and be the new living church whether they meet in a church building or in a house.

Highlights

August 11-12: Following a day of spiritual preparation, we joined with other regional leaders for a 2-day Youth Fire Anointing Conference held at Burning Bush Church in Vanadzor. Michael welcomed the people with a brief word that "the zeal of the Lord of hosts" will perform His will in our lives. Karo Nerkararyan, pastor of Burning Bush Church of Stepanavan, preached the first message of the conference declaring from Luke 6:46-49 that it is not enough just to believe. "You must take His will into your life. He is not your Lord if you do not do what He says. Let His will be done in your life! Dig more deeply to build the right foundation." Raphael, pastor of Calvary Church of Vanadzor, preached the evening message on the principles of the fire anointing. He addressed how God wants the "roots of sin to be burned" in our lives. He declared that the fire demands our sacrifice and makes the light of Christ bright "when we are broken and nothing before God." He concluded that the "most beautiful things are birthed in close relationship with God." Afterwards, Michael and a young man named, Edgar, went to a home to pray for a father and mother who were sick. We believed healing power went forth and there were some changes as the man was able to sleep during the night for the first time and the diabetic woman's eye that had been affected by her disease was opened. Michael, Jose, and Arman then proceeded after prayer to another home where a mother and daughter had been held in bondage to fear and witchcraft for at least eight years. The demons wanted to amaze us at first through the woman with detailed stories of strange and unexplainable acts. We stopped this from progressing any further and boldly cast the demons out in the name of Jesus. The mother and daughter fully embraced Jesus as both Savior and Lord marveling at the change in them and in the house for we went praying from room to room. A book of horoscopes and a book of karma were uncovered beneath a cushion. These were taken and burned in the fire. The family was set free through the power of Jesus Christ. The next day Jose preached from Jeremiah 23:28-29 encouraging all "not to hold back from speaking forth the Word of the Lord." Hearts were touched as he shared about the two men walking to Emmaus who "felt fire burning within them" as Jesus talked with them. Michael immediately followed with a message from Acts 7:44-50 exposing how the spirit of Babylon has infiltrated local churches today in the form of competition among local pastors to build the biggest church and building, much like the tower of Babel. This was contrasted with the burning fire like an explosive bomb in the hearts of the next generation to move in a new direction with new fire from heaven. Those 30 years old and younger came forward to respond to the call to action for Christ. Many received a new vision for doing His will. Vachagan's wife, Lucia, shared with us how she had received a word from the Lord a month earlier regarding the "cutting away of Babylon from within us." Her son, Arman, spoke of a recent prophecy that four new churches would be planted and agreed with us that the university students should start a new house church in Yerevan. Vachagan expressed his desire to take back what the enemy has stolen and for the spiritual fire to return like before. He exhorted us to continue the messages for the next generation, to teach them what to do, and how to do the house churches.

August 13: This marked the 5th Anniversary Service for Burning Bush Church and it was celebrated with drama and singing presentations. Jose shared Psalms 91 with the people and Michael delivered a message from 2 Chronicles 20:14-22 on the divine placement of the church in the 21st century. There were four salvations, a long line for people receiving prayer for healing, and many young people seeking all of God. There was a very strong move of the Spirit at this service.

August 14-16: We traveled first to a Russian village called, Lermontova, for a meeting with a house church. As we drove through the dirt road of the village, a 78 year old man named, Ivan, motioned for us to come to his house. We entered believing the Holy Spirit had guided us there. This was confirmed when the old man began to weep over our visit even speaking that we might be angels sent from God. Ivan opened his heart to Jesus Christ as we knelt beside him praying. He declared that he "felt the presence of Jesus inside." We also prayed for his wife and his grandson's wife and they all renewed their faith in Christ. We broke simple bread together over tea and the presence of Christ

was strong. We arrived late at the house church, but Jose preached a strong message on the river of life from Ezekiel 47 declaring that "we cannot have ankle deep Christianity today." We prayed for two young women to break bondages in their lives. Although there was a word of knowledge regarding one of them and their marriage, there was not a sign of breaking until Arman stepped forward and symbolically threw water upon them for cleansing and then for the Spirit to flow in them. Upon leaving, one of the women revealed that a curse of witchcraft common to the villages was upon her. We prayed and Arman saw the demon snarl when we rebuked it and broke it from the girl in Jesus' name. She said she felt the burden leave. The next day we proceeded to two more villages. The first involved a visit to a family who made honey. Michael shared about the house of Cornelius (Acts 10) while breaking bread together with the family. Four renewed their faith in Christ. We went to Margahovit village later in the day where Jose shared an opening message about the Great Commission and Michael followed with preaching on the home as the center of Jesus' ministry using Mark 1:29-34 and 6:7-13. Did Jesus intend this to be a ministry model for us today? An older woman shared how she used to go house to house ministering to others and now she was going to do this again! We prayed for the people breaking strongholds over households and releasing them to become centers of Jesus' activities. That night we stayed in the village in the home of Vachagan's 80 year old mother. In the morning we went to the house of the local pastor's mother, who was in a diabetic coma with a blood-sugar count of 28. After prayer, her count dropped and she whispered she was okay. We returned to Vanadzor where we addressed a section of Burning Bush Church. Jose preached on true Christianity and we involved all that had willing hearts to pray for those who needed physical healing. This taught the people how to pray for the sick, work together, and demonstrated the priesthood of all believers.

August 17-20: Karo, the 30 year old pastor of Burning Bush Church in Stepanavan, took us through the mountains to his region near the Georgia border where we ministered in two house churches on the first day. The church has established 13 house churches in the region with a goal of 30. Each house church has its own pastor and there is a tendency to conduct things in a traditional way. Our goal was to involve the entire group in accordance with 1 Corinthians 14:26 and the Acts pattern while encouraging them in the move of Jesus from house to house. Jose preached on the six P's of worship based upon the leper who came worshipping at the feet of Jesus. A young woman burdened with marriage problems began to weep when this was revealed. She felt some lifting after prayer from other women. We returned to the church with several of the leaders where we had strong intercession and praise together. We visited two more house churches on the next day meeting first in a woman's home. Michael read a selection of passages from Acts pertaining to ministry that took place in the houses and Jose shared from Psalms 37:4 asking, "Lord, what is Your delight?" A woman and a boy gave their hearts to Christ and another was healed. Michael asked the people the question: "What do you like best about the house church?" One said, "God's presence." Another said, "We get changed." Another said, "We learn how to behave toward each other." Another, "It's a school for us." The next house church Jose shared from Proverbs 3:5-6 and Michael spoke on 1 Corinthians 14:26 encouraging members to share what God was speaking to their hearts. A young woman named, Angela, shared how she believed God would use her in praise, children's ministry, and in house churches. We prayed fervently over her speaking and birthing in God's timing the planting of a new house church that God had already placed within her. The next day we traveled deep into the canyon where Angela and six others were water baptized in the Dzoraget River. This was followed with swimming and a feast of barbecued goat and vegetables. Later, we ministered in another house church. Jose gave a brief message from Psalms 24 on walking in purity to God's mountain that the King of glory may come in. Michael followed teaching from Acts 2:42 on the single focus of the early believers on teaching, fellowship (in Christ), breaking of bread, and prayer. This was followed with highly anointed praise and worship with dancing. The final day of our ministry in this region involved the gathering of all the people at Burning Bush Church in Stepanavan. Michael spoke an apostolic and prophetic word over the churches: "Rise up! Rise up, new living Church! Rise up and hear the voice of the Lord! Rise up and hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Rise up and obey what I tell you to do in this hour. Rise up in God's power. Rise up in God's fire. Rise up men of God! Rise up women of God! Rise up and be the church of the living God! Rise up! Rise up! Rise up!" Jose preached a very powerful message on the four levels of faith: no faith (Mark 4:35-41); little faith (Matt. 14:21-31); great faith (Matt. 8:10); and perfect faith (Gen. 22). He declared that "faith sees the end result." In the evening we traveled to a house church in the village of Mecavan where there were so many needs that we prayed for the people upon our arrival and throughout the evening. One older woman came to the meeting in physical weakness and left fully healed in the strength of Jesus. Michael shared on boldness from Acts 4:23-31 and we all joined hands in prayer lifting loud voices unto God. Faith arose in our hearts and many testified of a new release of boldness as the team laid hands upon all the people. We broke bread together in fellowship with Christ before beginning our long journey back to Stepanavan and Vanadzor.

August 21-23: We gathered with a house of prayer in Vanadzor where we discovered that many husbands and sons were in Moscow working construction jobs. Some have yet to receive promised wages after months of working and a few even begin new families there and never return leaving wives and children abandoned in Armenia. We prayed with much intensity for these matters. The next day we ministered to about 30 servant leaders of Burning Bush Church. We taught on all the gifts reading 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:3-8, and Ephesians 4:11-16. This was followed with questions and dialogue. The people were very engaged and desired also to have the spiritual gifts discovery test, which was being planned for the Youth Camp at Lake Sevon. It was a breakthrough teaching that Vachagan had requested earlier that day and there was much evidence that the people desired to come to the new place with God. The next evening we ministered in a house church with over 25 people. Jose preached on the potter and the clay from Jeremiah 18:1-7 proclaiming how God does not throw us away. We are still under construction and He is not done with us. He is doing a great work each day in all of us. Afterwards, we went to a home where six young men, ages 16-23, gathered to hear what we had to say. As Michael shared aspects of his testimony, the mother of two of the boys was laughing with some of them. This went on for some time until the Holy Spirit led Michael to rebuke the woman before all. She repented on the spot and after the testimony; four of the young men gave their hearts to Christ. We reported all things to Vachagan and Arman who rejoiced in such a glorious breakthrough.

August 24-25: We traveled to Ijevon, a city of 30,000, where we held an open air evangelistic meeting. This was a difficult place with much dysfunction in the core families. There were around 50 present, mostly children and a number of them were unruly. Jose preached on who is Jesus and everyone raised their hands for receiving Christ. It was difficult to know if many of them were serious or not about this, nevertheless, God's word surely went forth. The next evening we ministered at the youth service in Vanadzor. Michael taught a strong message on how you should walk in life to please God from 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. There was a strong move of God among all to cleanse and purify our lives. God was preparing us for the next move of His Spirit throughout the nation and for the upcoming youth camp, which we decided to call, "The Camp of the New Days."

August 26-27: The team went to Good Samaritan Church in Yerevan where Michael preached a strong message on the Lord of the Harvest from Matthew 9:35-38 highlighting how Jesus is moving today in Africa, India, and His plans to move in Armenia and beyond. Afterwards, a Christian businessman asked what he could do for India. God moved upon his heart to give \$10,000 on behalf of Armenia to reach Hindu villages for Jesus. We lifted our hands together giving thanks to Jesus, the Lord of the Harvest. The next day was a very important day for the operation. We heard from the Holy Spirit that Jesus was saving the best (new wine) for the last like at the wedding of Cana. The day began with Michael preaching at Calvary Church in Vanadzor. He proclaimed from 1 Corinthians 12:12-28 how God is setting His church in order and moving us to a new and supernatural place under the headship of Jesus Christ. The message ended with an apostolic word and prophetic action for Vachagan and Raphael to walk as one in the Spirit under the headship of Christ. A very special prayer blanket from Nehemiah Prayer Mountain in Northeast India was placed over them as prayer went forth. The people applauded this action. Jose preached the evening service at Burning Bush Church. It was a powerful message from Luke 5:36-39 on the new wine encouraging the people to step away from old traditions into the new. Five young people received Christ and one young man fell with a strong reaction as an unclean spirit departed. He was then filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues.

August 28-30: We arrived at Lake Sevon with 44 youth, including young married couples. All were given the spiritual gifts discovery test and one girl exclaimed, "I have gifts!" We daily taught on the gifts and there operation and each evening was reserved for praise, worship, and ministry. Michael shared about the spirit of adoption from Romans 8:15 and there was a strong move of the Spirit upon every heart as we embraced each young person and couple in fervent prayer. Many of the young men and women wept greatly as they received assurance of the Father's love and calling upon their lives. Afterwards each person ran to the lake to throw away the sins they had written upon a piece of paper. This was followed by a time of praise and dancing. It was a new day for everyone.

Lessons Learned

1. There is a true unity in Christ that will impact a city; however, the ecumenical unity among local churches is often superficial in many ways.
2. Spiritual leaders and churches have a tendency to look back at past revivals longing for the spiritual fire and blessings of these former times when the Holy Spirit calls us to a new place of new mercies, new power, new anointing, new fire, and new days.
3. Discovery and training in spiritual gifts and their operation is essential for the growth and maturing of the church.
4. The next generation must concentrate upon establishing house churches in every place with or without the help of local traditional churches.
5. House churches that display the spiritual dynamics evidenced in the early church and are planted in stable Christian homes will influence many households for Christ.

Conclusion

This was a remarkable operation in many ways. There was a clear apostolic message for the new living churches of Armenia to rise up and position them for the next move of God. There was also the call to the next generation to move forward in their walk with God and in their callings. The following description reveals that the zeal of the Lord of hosts has already begun a new work in the hearts and lives of the next generation of saints in Armenia.

"I know that I went through new days and I feel the freedom in my spirit and the peace of the Lord. The whole operation was wonderful. God really did a great work in us, especially in the camp at Lake Sevon . From the first day I felt God's presence upon all that area. On first evening at the service time, I felt that God began to touch many dry lives and hurts began to open before God. As a sign of it, I saw after we finished the ministry a group of young joined to the worship team and sang songs more and more for about two hours. I believe that the subjects of the teachings were from God. They were so happy to recognize their gifts. They begin to understand that they are valuable for God, especially when you preached about adoption. It was a message full of God's love to bring much healing to sons and daughters. There were a group of young boys who attended the church a few years, but still they lived in sins, without the fire of God. In the past a few of them served God, but by some reason they felt down, and they lose the hope and joy of the salvation. But praise God that He met them again, spoke to them and called them by a new name. hen we came back I made a list for testimonies from everybody in the youth service. I gave them and asked them to write what God has done in the camp of NEW DAYS. On Sunday morning I was surprised. Even the boys wrote their testimonies. I reserved 18 wonderful testimonies. Each of them was so special. When I read them I began to cry. I read some before I preached. Dear brother, I ask you to pray for us because I don't want to lose this. As a leader of the youth I need to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit to help them to grow in their faith and callings."

Arman Davtyan, Youth & Worship Leader, Burning Bush Church of Vanadzor



Young leaders at Lake Sevon



Water baptism in Stepanavan

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