

PERSPECTIVES ON HOPE



I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NLT

Confident Hope! is what we've focused on all through these 20 years, ever since the founding of **HOPE Armenia Ministries** in the USA in 2005, and **Way of HOPE** in Armenia in 2006.

Confident Hope! through the heart-wrenching, bloody years of loss, triggered by geo-political realities of territorial expansionism by Azerbaijan and Turkey against Armenian Artsakh / Nagorno-Karabakh; that God would give wisdom, courage, and reassurance to His people.

Confident Hope! through mystifying and ever-fluctuating post-Soviet legal realities, worsened by dominant oligarch-led governmental restrictions, that God would protect our registered NGO entity, even after a serious attempt in 2011 to shut it down.

Confident Hope! through the mystifying realities and divisions within the unique Republic of Armenia - Armenian Apostolic Orthodox (state) Church relationship, that God would continue to open new doors for our ministries, and keep them open.

It's been quite a carousel---at times confusing, anxious, even scary---this *Walking by Faith* with our team in this small, strategically situated Republic within the South Caucasus, surrounded (perennially squeezed!) by Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran.

It is with **Confident Hope!** that we move forward into a new semester, new year, new decade of privileged opportunities to walk with the Lord and serve Him, trusting in the enabling power of the Holy Spirit as we **SHARE FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS, THROUGH THE TEACHING OF HIS WORD.**

Kaarina

Kaarina A. Ham, Ph.D.
Executive Director

20th

Anniversary Picnic North Ashburnham, Massachusetts

2025
Wednesday
September 3

Many thanks to long-time friend Ann Kozma for hosting our informal picnic celebration at her lake house, where for ten days Tatevik, Mane, and Kaarina enjoyed fantastic early morning sunrises coming up over the lake, in clear view of Mt. Watatic! Here are photos of several of our HOPE VIPs in attendance.



North Ashburnham "Paradise"



Lake House Hostess Ann Kozma



Tatevik and Mane



HOPE Board Members
Lene, Frank, Sharon, Bookkeeper Bonni



Celebratory Group

20th

NE Annual Meeting People's Evangelical Congregational Church South Ashburnham, Massachusetts

2025
Saturday
September 6

The 20th Annual NE Prayer & Support Group Meeting at People's Church was an important time for Kaarina and Tatevik to share details of the challenges and ministry opportunities of the past two decades. It was also an important time for HOPE board members Sharon, Chuck, Lene, Frank, together with our bookkeeper Bonni, to emphasize vital aspects of our mission: overall ministry objectives; strength of HOPE finances in 3rd Quarter 2025; strength of US\$ vs. Armenia dram; Special 2025-2026 Project "Henry VI" (newer ministry van); Special Project PAROS July 3 – 20, 2026 Way of HOPE 20th Anniversary Team.

*... be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

I Corinthians 15:58



20th HOPE Celebrants



Ministry Partners
Tatevik and Kaarina

HOPE Board Members



Bonni Holmes,
bookkeeper



Sharon Combs



Chuck Newman



Lene Guertin



Frank Joyner



Anniversary Celebration Concert

People's Evangelical Congregational Church
South Ashburnham, Massachusetts

2025
Saturday
September 6



Special performance links:

Mane Khankaldyan – Guitar

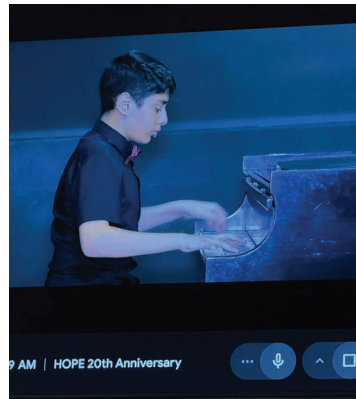
Milonga by Juan Buscaglia

<https://youtu.be/GvcWOuBfuKk>

Avetis Khankaldyan – Piano

Upswing by Schumann

<https://youtu.be/fbMO-n8h8-A>



***Many Thanks!** to two of our finest Way of HOPE teens for their fine performances during our 20th Anniversary Celebration on the USA side! Our prayer is that God will be with them in the days ahead, giving wisdom with their studies and ongoing musical and sport pursuits; blessings with family, friends, and HOPE involvements; and great futures as they follow on His path!*

HOPE Armenia Ministries Project PAROS



Summer Mission in Armenia

Tentative Dates **July 3 - 20, 2026**

Projected Cost **US \$ 2,500**

Information kaarinaham@gmail.com

(978) 549-9797

Application Process 2026

- January 15 last date applications will be received (current passport required)
- January 31 \$1,300 full flight payment due (approximate)
- February 28 short-term mission schedule
- March 30 what to bring
- April 30 team preparations
- June 18 \$100 travel insurance (approximate)
- July 4 \$1,100 accommodations + expenses in Armenia

*Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."
I Samuel 7:12*

Special HOPE Project 2025-2026

20th Anniversary Years

NEWER MINISTRY VAN

US \$ 20,000



Current total
\$ 8,490



2024 - Autumn Kids' Planet Programs



**Byuravan Village School
Ararat Region**

**Haykashen Village School
Armarvir Region**



**Masis Village School
Ararat Region**

**Yerevan Kids' Planet Thanksgiving
Follow-Up Program (introducing s'mores!)**



**14th Christmas Outreach
Two Families in Need
Masis & Azatavan Villages, Ararat Region**



2025 - Winter-Spring Kids' Planet Programs

**Byuravan Village School
Ararat Region**



**Haykashen Village School
Armavir Region**

**Masis Village School
Ararat Region**



**14th Easter Outreach - Refugee Family
from Artsakh / Nagorno-Karabakh
Dzoraghbyur Village, Kotayk Region**



**Special Easter Children's Program
Dashtavan Village, Ararat Region**



Outreach Team



September 2024 - July 2025

Monday Adult "Core Group" Bible Study, HOPE Office



Bible Lesson: Fr. Stepanos



Bible Lesson: Bishop Vahan



Bible Lesson: Dr. Kaarina



Bible Lesson: Fr. Markos



Way of HOPE 19th Anniversary



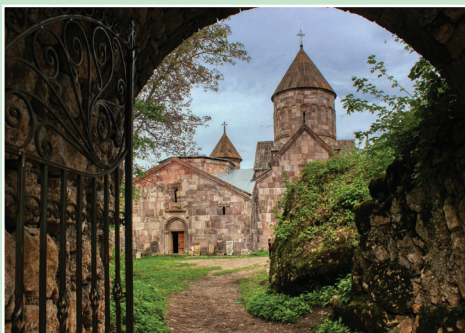
Bible Lesson: Fr. Abraham



Staff Celebration
HOPE Office
Friday, June 27

18th HOPE Family Annual Excursion

Makaravank Church (13th Century), Tavush region



Summer 2025 Ministries

CAMP #1 - HAYKASHEN Village School, Armavir Region July 4, 5, 6



CAMP #2 - ZOVABER Village School, Sevan Region July 11, 12, 13



1st TEENAGER Retreat - Lighthouse Center Saturday, July 26



ARMENIAN QUEENS: Guardians of a Nation's Soul



Throughout Armenian history, queens were much more than royal spouses—they were builders, leaders, and cultural icons. Over 150 women held the title “*Queen of Armenia*,” many of them Armenian by birth; while others came from powerful neighboring realms such as Greece, Persia, Georgia, Rome, and even France. Some Armenian princesses became queens of foreign lands, including 10 Byzantine

empresses. Yet the title “*Queen of Armenia*” belongs to those who ruled beside Armenian kings. Among the most remarkable examples are the queens of **Syunik**, a medieval Armenian kingdom (987–1170) in the southeastern tier. These queens left a deep legacy through their political influence, faith, and generosity.

Notable Queens of Syunik

Shahandukht I - Wife of King Smbat I (r. 987–998), Shahandukht I was a noblewoman from Caucasian Albania. She donated lands to Tatev Monastery and built the Vorotnavank Monastery, where she was later buried.

Hranush - The wife of King Smbat II (r. 1040–1051), Hranush was a Bagratuni princess. She supported church building in Sanahin and is buried in Vahanavank alongside the kings of Syunik.

Shahandukht II - Perhaps the most influential, Shahandukht II was the wife of King Grigor I (r. 1051–1072) who later served as regent after his death. She helped maintain the kingdom's stability and, in 1086, built a church at Vahanavank with her sister. She was revered for her faith and wisdom, and remembered as a “saintly queen” upon her death in 1116.

Queen Maman - The last queen of Syunik, Maman, was the wife of King Hasan of Khachen. After the fall of the kingdom in 1170, she and her husband retired to Dadivank Monastery, where he became a monk and she became a nun.

Legacy - These queens shaped Armenia's spiritual and political life for centuries. Their names live on in stone inscriptions, monasteries, and Armenian memory—as symbols of strength, devotion, and nationhood.



Editor's note: These maps show the province of *Syunik* in ancient times, and today in its much-reduced modern form. Wasn't the *Greater Armenian Empire* once truly graphically great, in comparison with its current borders, having fallen prey---and still seriously under threat---to the ravages of time and conquering foes! In addition to the seizure of Armenian provinces by Azerbaijan over recent years, hangs the ominous threat of the aggressive seizure by Azerbaijan and Turkey of a *Turkic Corridor* straight through historic Armenian territory.

Project PAROS July 3 - 20, 2026

Special Way of HOPE 20th Anniversary Celebration Team

Return this portion with your gift

Please consider prayerfully a gift in support of our mission in Armenia

Monthly pledge:	\$ 25	Name _____	
20th Anniversary	\$ 50	Address _____	
	\$ 100	_____	
20th Anniversary	\$ other amount	Telephone / Cell _____	
		E-mail _____	

Designated gift:

New monthly pledge:	\$ _____	Checks payable to:	
Summer youth day camps:	\$ _____	HOPE Armenia, Inc.	
Team travel in Armenia:	\$ _____	Mail to:	
Staff flights Armenia / USA:	\$ _____	HOPE Armenia Ministries	
Other gift (please specify):	\$ _____	P.O. Box 94	
		N. Brookfield MA 01535 USA	

Thank you for Giving

Donate

Special Gift - 2025-2026 Project: \$ _____

20th HOPE Anniversary Years

NEWER MINISTRY VAN US \$ 20,000

Visit our website
wayofhope.am

Follow us on Facebook
HOPE Armenia Ministries

Watch our videos
<https://bit.ly/2xHgZCl>