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PROJECT PAROS JULY 3 - 20, 2026



Question: What is Project PAROS?

Answer: HOPE Armenia Ministries' summer short-term mission opportunity, leaving from Boston, Massachusetts.

Q: What does paros mean?

A: In the Eastern Armenian language, paros means lighthouse. This is the name given in 2006 to our ministry center near Lake Sevan in Northern Armenia -> LIGHTHOUSE / PAROS. This is also the name of this summer brochure reporting on God's work in the Republic of Armenia.

Q: Who can participate in Project PAROS?

A: Friends of our mission willing to Come and See! What God is doing in Armenia; Come and Help! contribute natural talents and spiritual gifts in summer camp and outreach programs; assist with hands-on projects at the LIGHTHOUSE; share personal faith testimonies; and visit several historic sites. An added bonus is Coming to Help Celebrate! Way of HOPE's 20th Anniversary during the first two weeks of July 2026 in Yerevan (Armenia's capital city) and Sevan (near Lake Sevan in Northern Armenia)!

Q: What does Project PAROS cost?

A: Approximately US\$ 2,500 (see page 3). The application is available via HOPE website: www.wayofhope.am

Q: Why is it important to have friends come to Armenia with Project PAROS?

It's good when Project PAROS teams come because...

Tatevik – Teams provide essential support with summer initiatives and contribute helpful and innovative ideas. Tigran - Cultural exchanges are positive---especially those carrying a vital spiritual nature. It's beneficial to interact with Christian friends from other countries, from whom there is always something new to learn. Mher – Spiritual work has been carried out through Way of HOPE for the past 20 years! Members of Project

PAROS teams have come from the USA, Austria, and England in 2007, 2009, 2016, 2018. Their extensive ministry experience with children and adolescents---and most importantly, their personal testimonies of faith in the Lord Jesus---have been very positive. I look forward to having a special 20th Anniversary team come in July 2026!

K.Tigran - The presence of guests is important so they can see what God is doing in Armenia! Personal interactions deepen our trust in each other and demonstrate how deeply we appreciate our friends from abroad who faithfully finance God's work here.

Dr. Kaarina - Over the years, I've seen how staff, volunteers, participants have benefitted from the special interaction, musical and sport prowess, and Walk of Faith which Project PAROS team members exemplify. Even as the political carousel has threatened ever since our mission's founding in 2006, we are pleased when friends from abroad can sense how God has been faithful in enabling steady progress in SHARING FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS, THROUGH THE TEACHING OF HIS WORD! For this, we give thanks and praise.



K. Tigran pinata creator extraordinaire

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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 heartwrenching, 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, 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 A. Ham. Ph.D **Executive Director**

Anniversary Picnic North Ashburnham, Massachusetts

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



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 emphasis 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



Bonni Holmes, bookkeeper



Sharon Combs



HOPE Board Members

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

Tentative Dates July 3 - 20, 2026 **Projected Cost** US \$ 2,500

(1) (978) 549-9797

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

\$100 travel insurance (approximate) **June 18**

\$1,100 accommodations + expenses in Armenia July 4

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



2024 - Autumn Kids' Planet Programs





Byuravan Village School Ararat Region

Haykashen Village School Armavir 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









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

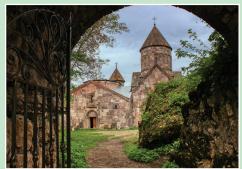


Bible Lesson: Fr. Abraham



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













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 <u>Greater Armenian Empire</u> 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

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E-mail	Donate		
Designated gift: New monthly pledge: Summer youth day camps: Team travel in Armenia: Staff flights Armenia / USA: Other gift (please specify): \$\$ Checks payable to: HOPE Armenia, Inc. Mail to: HOPE Armenia Ministr	Special Gift - 2025-2026 Project: \$ 20th HOPE Anniversary Years NEWER MINISTRY VAN US \$ 20,000		
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