



ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL BETHEL CHURCH

MINISTER: REV. HAROUTUNE SELIMIAN

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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
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Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Renovated Church's Rededication Service

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God” Psalm 84:1-2

At the end of the First World War the so-called civilized world treated what was left of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, as the winner, despite the terrible genocide that it had carried out against the Armenian people mostly living in Cilicia, but now a part of that country. Finally, after having survived the death-camps many of the Armenians ended up in Aleppo where they created a new ‘Armenia’. Some areas in Aleppo became the new home for these suffering people and in spite of their tragic and desperate condition it wasn’t long before they started joining one another in churches and creating schools to cater to their most immediate needs. This was the way the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church came about in 1923, and it has been offering spiritual and social services to the new survived Armenians.

Unfortunately, all our Armenian Evangelical Churches came under attack during the long civil war in Syria. The Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church went through a very difficult time during the war. It’s been targeted and hit several times and on Sunday, January 17, 2016, after the morning service, a mortar shell hit the roof of the Church causing serious material damages. With the generous support we received from AMAA, GAW, UEEAF, UAECNE and other generous donors and organizations, we were able to keep our promise to rebuild this House of God.

The renovation process of the church began over a year ago, and the physical project started in mid-June. On December 2, 2018 we were happy to rededicate this church for many more years of service to the Lord.



The service was attended by the leadership of the UAECNE, high ranking religious, community and official leaders and more than hundreds of worshipers and guests.

Rev. Simon Der Sahagian led the service as everybody joined in reading the creed of the Armenian Evangelical churches. This was followed by the Dedication of the Holy Bible led by Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian. Afterwards, the choir of the Armenian Evangelical Community of Aleppo presented two hymns, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Betty Hatem. The present also got to enjoy a hymn sung by Mr. Aram Khatchadourian, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Jack Bozyakalian.

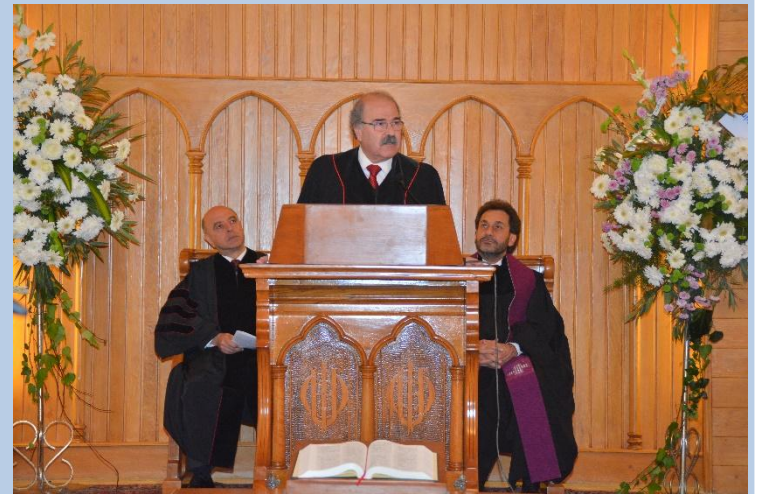
Rev. Soghomon Kilaghbian read the scripture passage based on Matthew 16:13-20, and the President of UAECNE, Rev. Mgrditch Karageozian delivered the sermon. He focused on the reality that the church symbolizes the faith of the believers in its visible situations. He said, “The Emmanuel Church is a wonderful inheritance to you dear Emmanuel Church members. Therefore, you should use your heavenly gifts in such a perfect way that the coming generation will follow your example to live a true Christian life”.

After the sermon, the attendees read the dedication prayer, and Pastor Jirayr Ghazarian read a letter of congratulation from Mr. Zaven Khanjian, the CEO-Executive Director of AMAA.

On behalf of the Central Committee of UAECNE, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian thanked God for his provision and the Emmanuel church community for the courage and commitment to stay. Dr. Haidostian highly valued Rev. Selimian’s leadership efforts in the renovation process of the church. He also thanked the Church members and the donors for their hope and trust.

At the end of the service, on behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Rev. H. Selimian presented a talk. He said, “In fact, the church is beyond these stones and the building. The church is the unshakable will of our people. Today, the rededication service of the church is a reaffirmation of our people’s increased faith in the Syrian Arab Republic. Therefore, we will consider this celebration as a declaration of the renewal of our people’s covenant with God”.

After Rev. Selimian’s talk, on behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church, Mr. Hovig Kerbabian highly appreciated Rev. Selimian’s selfless services



rendered to the community and especially his great efforts in the renovation process of the Emmanuel Church and honored him with a present.

During the service, Miss Aline Panoyan showed a video describing the history and current activities of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church. After the video, representatives of three generations from Emmanuel Church offered thanksgiving prayers.

The service ended with the Lord's prayer and a benediction offered by Rev. Mgrdichth Karageozian, UAECNE President.

The service was followed by a reception at the Emmanuel Church Hall.

On this occasion, we express our appreciation to many local and global donors and supporters for their moral and financial input. It is our prayer that the Emmanuel Church will continue to serve and be a blessing to its congregants and the greater community of Aleppo.

