



Jinishian JOTTINGS

...from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope

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Easter is just the beginning

Eliza Minasyan

It's exciting to work with the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) and see the incredible difference we make by bringing together all the Armenian Christian communities to come up with the best new ideas to promote the dignity of God's people, even in the hardest places.

Whether JMP is bringing relief in Syria's war zone, lifting up the poor in Lebanon, Jerusalem and Turkey, or revitalizing post-communist Armenia and Georgia, this ministry fills everyone

it touches with hope.

Your gifts and prayers encourage our brave and dedicated team every day. Your active support lets those who struggle most know they are not alone.

That first Easter morning, the risen

Jesus reminded mourners that death is not the end. Easter is just the beginning of God's redeeming work. Through JMP, we get to see these hopes coming true.



2017 Journey to Armenia

JMP invites you to Armenia in early October 2017. Come and experience this beautiful, ancient Christian homeland with a focus on culture, outreach and faith. Take more than a tour—make a connection. Enjoy warm hospitality, visit villages and historic treasures and join our 50th anniversary festivities.

“Go ... and let the people, their faith and the landscapes draw you into their embrace,” says the Rev. Charlie Hammil

of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who was part of the 2015 journey.

Tanya Karimi, another pilgrim from Colorado reflects: “My favorite part was watching Jinishian work in person and interacting with the students and farmers who are succeeding with help from Jinishian's programs. They treated us as honored guests, but we were the ones who were awed and impressed by their ingenuity and dedication.”

Honoring our heroes in Syria

Zabel Yirikian, right, our director of the Damascus office in Syria, is retiring after 37 years. Her passion, wise management and courage have made a tremendous positive impact. We are so proud to honor her and our entire

team in Syria, led by Talin Topalakian, left. Five devastating years of war have left every Armenian family with barely enough to survive. Yet our doors remain open daily with aid and encouragement to thousands in need.



Join JMP for dinner during General Assembly

As one of the largest endowed missions in the PC(USA), the Jinishian Memorial Program has served struggling Armenian communities in the Middle East, quietly impacting millions, for half a century. Celebrate this 50th anniversary milestone by joining in a family-style Armenian meal—Thursday, June 23, 5:30 p.m., at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Contact us or register for the 222nd GA at pcusa.org/ga222.





New hope in an old village

Pokr Vedi village is home to 3,000 souls, Christians nestled in the valley of Noah's Mount Ararat between Turkey, Russia and Iran. Residents of the Armenian village remember ancestors brutally exiled and annihilated by the Ottomans 100 years ago—a horror still unrecognized by Turkey, whose closed border lies just a few miles away. Just 25 years ago these villagers lived under the Soviet state and have struggled to provide for their families ever since.

How does one subsist with no resources to cultivate his land or her business? How does one recover faith after genocide and atheism?

For the last several years, the Jinishian Memorial Program has helped these villagers form an agricultural cooperative to share equipment, technology, marketing tools and the

vision not merely to survive but to move from communism to community. Low-interest loans, vital to their small businesses, were previously impossible to obtain. The Jinishian program fosters economic development through micro-lending to hundreds of farmers throughout Armenia. Participants in the Pokr Vedi cooperative faithfully repay their loans and have begun to flourish. To further encourage the community to invest in its own growth, Jinishian sponsored a grant competition. Pokr Vedi's proposal to repair their kindergarten won the grant.

Residents here trace their faith to the village's ancient Khor Virap monastery, where St. Gregory the Illuminator miraculously survived years of imprisonment and starvation to share Christ with the pagan king around



300 A.D. Today, the Jinishian program helps send thousands of children from Armenian villages to summer camp to encounter this God—who is still freeing and feeding the children he loves—for themselves.



Triple thanks!

In 2015 you helped triple our number of contributors to JMP's ministry! We opened a new cancer detection and prevention program to bring free cancer screenings to women in remote villages. We are keeping pace with the ever-increasing need in Syria. JMP has the experience and effective tools, but we know we need to do more. Our dedicated team is ready to put your gift into action. Keep spreading the word and keep up the great work. Our giving catalog is filled with practical projects your family or church can support. You'll find the catalog at pcusa.org/jinishian.

Teenagers in Beirut face an uphill battle

Unable to focus on their education while they work long shifts for below minimum wage, teenagers in Beirut are vulnerable to abuse, with little hope of escape. Thanks to the Kurkjian family and your ongoing gifts, JMP has created a safe space where teens can study, get counseling and take part in vocational training to work toward their dreams, and grow in the confidence of knowing they are loved by God.



Support the Gulvartian Memorial Fund

In honor of Dr. Vicken Gulvartian, a dear friend of JMP, the Gulvartian Memorial Fund supports youth empowerment and education. His family invites contributions to his beloved cause through JMP, so his legacy of caring for the Armenian community may live on. When you give, please write "Gulvartian Memorial Fund" in the memo.

The new Kurkjian Youth Center hosts a Christmas bazaar.

The Jinishian Memorial Program addresses the needs of the whole person—social, economic and spiritual. Drawing on a half-century of experience, we also adapt and innovate, adjusting priorities according to particular conditions in five countries. Local community development is fueled by over 150 grassroots and international partnerships. As an endowment fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) advised

by Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical board members, we serve struggling Armenian communities through faith-based relief and development programs.

Whether giving by mail or online, please include a note in the memo line to direct your gift to those projects most important to you. We look forward to hearing from you!



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