

SERVING THE LEAST OF THESE

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE JINISHIAN
MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The Rev. Sylvia Casberg Guinn-Ammons, DMin

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL
WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES DIVISION

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PREFACE

The Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) is first of all a witness to what one person was able to accomplish beyond his 96 years: Vartan H. Jinishian used a major planned gift to the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. [PC(USA)] for very specific social purposes among his people, the Armenians. JMP is equally a witness to how the church has successfully woven the legacy of that original gift into its own global mission commitments to stimulate concrete, ecumenically based action on behalf of the poor and needy. Today as in the past, JMP enables Armenians in the Middle East and the Republic of Armenia to strive for self-sufficiency and embrace hope when confronted by poverty and despair.

At this major milestone of 35 years, we remember the many people who have worked to make Jinishian's vision a reality. The program would not exist today were it not for the members of the Board of Directors of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., who in 1966 made the momentous decision to accept Jinishian's bequest.

The commitment, dedication, and wisdom of that group are matched by the members of the JMP United States Advisory Committee created by Jinishian under the terms of his bequest to serve as a vital link to the Armenian perspective and Armenian history. Full of passion and inspiration, these volunteer committee members have provided timely guidance, advice, and counsel for PC(USA)'s elected and appointed administrators.

It is also necessary to give credit to the elected members and staff persons of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation and the General Assembly Council of PC(USA). Some of those members and staff carry the burden of fiduciary responsibility in the investment of the endowment; others are charged with the use of

the resulting income and administration. JMP is privileged to be able to call on both generous financial resources and highly qualified personnel resources to further its vital mission.

We recall with special gratitude those who have served the Jinishian mission on the front lines: the hundreds of local staff persons and volunteers at various international sites, who, in times of war, economic hardship, and turbulence, have chosen to invest their time, experience, and professional excellence in the mission. Note well their names, which are found in this book. They are the dedicated women and men who ensure that the poor are justly identified, encouraged, motivated, and lifted up to embrace their full spiritual and economic potential.

Imagine for a moment, how many countless individuals have benefited from the bequest in the last 35 years. Imagine how many volunteers and staff persons have been directly involved in carrying out the programs and projects established by this unique international relief and development initiative. And imagine what JMP can expect to accomplish in the next 35 years, as it learns from its experiences, sharpens its focus, and expands its reach to fulfill Vartan H. Jinishian's vision of instilling hope and faith among the "little ones" whom Christ Jesus loved.

*David H. Nelson, Coordinator/Executive Director
Jinishian Memorial Program*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) enables Armenians in need to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope — through relief, development, and spiritual uplift.

November 1999

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Our Lord and God, we praise you for each day we are given to live,
for the opportunity of working in the vineyards of your Kingdom,
for the blessings we receive in your service
and through the redeeming power of the poor.

We thank you for the minds and hearts of JMP staff
serving Armenian communities throughout the Middle East,
bringing power to the powerless and hope to the hopeless
through creative programming and genuine respect.

We celebrate the work of volunteers who give of their time,
seeking solutions to ease the plight of the poor,
planning programs to give spiritual uplift to those
who are heavy laden with a history of pain.

Lord God, giver of home to the homeless and comfort to those who mourn,
thank you for the Pentecost of mutual understanding spoken in your service,
for divisions put aside as compassion is quickened to do your will,
bringing justice and release to those captured by despair.

Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, thank you
for touching young and old through the hands of staff and volunteers,
for lifting the spirits of the downcast through the tender mercies of servants
ministering in your name.

Thank you for increasing the gift of Vartan Jinishian,
for multiplying his earthly treasures to help the helpless,
for raising up leadership to fulfill the dreams
of a man who cared for the least of these.

Amen.



The Rev. Haroutune and Catherine Jinishian with five of their six children.
Standing from left to right: Dikranuhi, Vartan, Yevnige, Vahan, and Nevart. Missing: Manuel

1 VARTAN H. JINISHIAN

This is the story of one man and a gift he made to alleviate suffering among his people, the Armenians. This is also the story of hundreds of women and men who have carried out the intent of Vartan Jinishian's will among the poorest of the poor around the world. The year 2001 celebrates 35 years of volunteers and staff who have worked together serving "the least of these" through the Jinishian Memorial Program.

Born in Marash, Turkey, on May 25, 1870, son of an Armenian Evangelical pastor, Vartan Haroutune Jinishian grew up on the edge of religious and political acceptability. During those years, neither the Armenian Apostolic Church nor the Armenian Catholic Church harmonized theologically or socially with Evangelical/Protestant Armenians.

Living in Turkey during the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, Vartan Jinishian and his people were known by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire as "the Armenian problem." Fearing for their lives, many Armenians relocated when Turkish nationalists began to persecute the Turkish-Armenian citizens of the Ottoman Empire. The island of Cyprus and the Middle East were often first stops for emigration to the United States. This was true for the Jinishian family.

Some of Vartan's earliest memories were of his grandfather's vineyard in Maresh, Vartan helped take the grapes to market and watched his grandfather bargain. His father, Haroutune Jinishian, was a deeply spiritual man. He gave his son a deep respect for religion, impressing Vartan with the need for spiritual uplift in the life of every person. When he was 67, Haroutune Jinishian enrolled in Union Theological Seminary, in New York. He completed his three years of theological training by the time he was 70, just 10 years before his death in 1920. Haroutune always dreamed of returning to Turkish Armenia, but laws passed in 1908 would not allow Armenians to return once they had left.

Eleven years younger than her husband, Catherine Jinishian attended school before marrying Haroutune Jinishian. This was unusual for a young woman in her day and place. She married in her late teens, and Vartan was born on her 19th birthday. Catherine was a practical woman, somewhat cynical and suspicious of people, always feeling they wanted something from her. The untimely death of one son, Vahan, and his struggle with mental illness was a great sorrow in her life. Only one of her six children, Yevnige Jinishian Anankian, married. Catherine lived 98 years, a longer life than any of her



Young Vartan in traditional Turkish Armenian dress

children. From his mother, Vartan learned to be accounting of every penny, practical in his professional life, and suspicious of people's motives.

A student at Roberts College in Istanbul from 1886 to 1890, Jinishian received a bachelor of arts degree with a grade point average of 3.7. It was there he met Mihran Karagheusian, the man whose family would hire him as an employee in their rug business in the United States. Jinishian also received a degree from Hriatolia College in Marsovan, Turkey. Dated July 1891, this diploma granted him a second bachelor of arts degree.

After completing his education, Jinishian came to New York and qualified to be an assistant teacher of English in the "common schools" of the state. He did not like teaching. His students played tricks on him, and he had little patience with foolishness.

The Karagheusian family gave Jinishian a job in their rug manufacturing business. Jinishian was soon made a junior partner in the firm of A. and M. Karagheusian, Inc. The factory used classic Persian rug patterns and duplicated them with speed and efficiency. Jinishian became a rug expert and began collecting antiquities. His taste in tapestries and furniture was exceptional. Duval, an art collector and dealer in Paris, was a personal friend. Over his lifetime, Jinishian amassed a fortune in rugs and Manhattan real estate.

Jinishian brought his parents to the United States and bought a home for the three of them in Mount Vernon, New York. He commuted to the city, where he kept an apartment for part of the week. Jinishian traveled regularly to Paris. He owned a charming apartment located near the Arc de Triomphe on the fashionable Place des États Unis, where he lived several months each year. His Paris apartment was beautifully furnished, filled with priceless art and rugs. Jinishian is quoted as saying, "If a rug is worth less than \$50,000, I'm not interested in it."

Jinishian loved the seaside and eventually purchased another home in Atlantic City, New Jersey. But as his wealth grew, he distanced himself from the Armenian community. He felt he was always being solicited to give to "poor and needy Armenians."

Jinishian sold rugs all along the East Coast. The White House in Washington, D.C., became a regular customer. Jinishian was known as a hard-boiled businessman, some-



Vartan H. Jinishian, businessman



Vartan Jinishian in his last years

times to the point of stinginess. In a story that circulated among his acquaintances, Jinishian is said to have once been referred to a well-reputed Parisian physician for a physical complaint. Upon being admitted to the doctor's presence, Jinishian asked at once what the fees would be. When Jinishian heard the amount, he exclaimed: "I'll never pay that much! You must bring down your charge for me, Doctor!" The doctor, unaccustomed to bargaining, simply turned away and shut his door.

Because Jinishian was a private person, no one knew the essence of the man. Even his family, with the exception of his mother, knew little of his personal life or feelings. Jinishian's relationship with his mother was one of deep devotion. Family members and associates describe him as humorous, cynical, stingy, stubborn, fashion conscious, single-minded, lukewarm toward his sisters, exceedingly generous with his parents, and generally suspicious of people. He felt everybody wanted him for his money, especially the Armenian community in the United States. He had his secretary keep Armenian solicitors waiting for hours, day after day, until they eventually gave up and went away.

Jinishian was a spiritual man by his own description, but had little interest in organized religion. Occasionally, he attended Presbyterian worship in New York. Some records mention Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church; others, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

After his retirement in the mid-1940s, Jinishian remained a close friend of his former business partners, always keeping himself informed of Miran Karagheusian's charitable ventures in Aleppo, Syria, after World War II. Jinishian gave \$10,000 to the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation in New York to be applied to the relief of Armenian families he knew in that city. It is believed he also may have had some relatives still living in Aleppo. He did not wish to be personally involved in the implementation of his charitable work nor to be pestered with requests. Shunning publicity, he always kept himself incognito and assumed the designation of "Anonymous Donor."

Jinishian was viewed as "somewhat formidable" by his niece. She learned never to disturb him when he was listening to boxing on the radio. A man of kaleidoscopic interests, he loved the theater, art, and anything French. He was

completely uninterested in the United States west of New York. “One town looks like another, and the cities in the West are ugly and have no culture.”

Among Jinishian’s belongings, there is an old leather journal. In it are recorded those things that caught his eclectic interests. Handwritten, there are poetry and prose, “In Flanders Fields” and the “Gettysburg Address,” notes on how to clean ink stains, articles from the *London Times*, descriptions of St. Paul’s Cathedral, and names of wines. Jinishian recorded biblical quotes, obituaries that caught his eye, how to change centigrade to Fahrenheit, how many francs he spent at Lourdes, political reflections on the partnership of Great Britain and France, street-smart modern proverbs, reflections on Scripture, and how U.S. battleships are named. There are Chinese love poems and philosophical reflections on time. The journal, written in French and English, records lyrics of popular songs; “Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus”; notes on sermons; and quotes by Franklin, Rockefeller, Goebbels, and Churchill.

The first entry is: “Did it ever occur to you that a man’s life is full of temptations and is spent in one continuous round of contraries and misunderstandings? He comes into the world without his consent and goes out against his will, and the trip between is exceedingly rocky.” His last entry is dated December 1944.

Two entries are related to money and giving: “The thing that goes the farthest toward making life worthwhile, that costs the least and does the most, is just a pleasant smile.” And this definition: “A cheerful giver is one who gives 50 percent with a smile rather than 100 percent with a frown.” In the end, Jinishian gave all he had. Since 1966, three generations of Armenians have been recipients of Jinishian’s 100 percent.

Being an unmarried man and having no children, Jinishian was concerned about the disposal of his fortune. He wished it to be applied entirely to charity, but the question remained as to who should administer it.

After the death of his parents, Jinishian lived alone until the last few years of his life. Then, well into his 90s, he went to live in a Pleasantville, New Jersey, nursing home. He needed personal care, often felt distressed, and trusted only his nurse. He cried easily at stories of the



William Saroyan monument in Armenia

needy and felt sorry for people who had hard lives, but he still questioned those who came to see him: “Have you come to ask me for money?”

While Jinishian was in the nursing home, an inner voice spoke to him about those who needed his help. He had a change of heart, an 11th-hour turnaround, and began to prepare his will to help the desperately poor, the least of these, his Armenian brothers and sisters around the world.

Vartan Haroutune Jinishian died on July 30, 1966. He is buried with his parents and five siblings at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York. Jinishian left this earthly life having finished building his storehouses in heaven.

A HISTORICAL SETTING

Armenians, an ancient people tracing their heritage back to one of the Aryan (INDO-EUROPEAN) tribes from the north, settled in a region occupied by the Urartians who lived on the Anatolian plateau in 1300 B.C. The first mention of the name *Armenian* appears in the Behistun inscription of the sixth century (521 B.C.). Behistun lands stretched from the Euphrates River in the west to regions near the Caspian Sea in the east, Lake Urmia in the south, and the Caucasus region in the north. According to Genesis 8:4, repopulation of the earth began when Noah’s ark came to rest on Mount Ararat in historical Armenia. Considered by many to be the cradle of civilization, Armenia today makes up less than 10 percent of its historical territory.

Through centuries of occupation and invasion, Armenians have preserved their identity through deep devotion to the Armenian church and the Armenian alphabet and language. Armenia is the oldest Christian nation. St. Gregory the Illuminator converted King Trdat III in 301 A.D. and baptized the populace en masse, proclaiming Christianity the faith of the state 10 years before Rome did the same. The year 2001 celebrates 1700 years of Christianity in Armenia. Today there are three major Armenian denominations: the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, the Armenian Evangelical, and the Armenian Catholic.

April 24 is a day of mourning for all Armenians. On this day in 1915, more than 200 Armenian leaders were arrested in Constantinople (now Istanbul), taken to the interior of Turkey,

and murdered. Thus began the systematic elimination of 1.5 million – 2 million Armenians who were citizens of the Ottoman Turkish State. Armenians were shot, hung, drowned, deported, and left to starve in the desert, but the world heard little of these atrocities. Nor was that the first time Armenians had been singled out for persecution. Earlier massacres had occurred in 1885 and 1886 in eastern Anatolia, where 100,000 perished, and again in 1909 in the district of Adana, claiming the lives of more than 50,000.

U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau, acting on instructions from Secretaries of State William Jennings Bryan and Robert Lansing, organized and led protests. Representatives from other nations voiced their concerns, but the significance of the Armenian genocide was masked by the clouds of World War I gathering over Europe.

The Armenian diaspora of more than 5 million is scattered around the world. The largest communities are in the United States, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Canada, France, Russia, Argentina, and Australia, with smaller communities in Iraq, Bulgaria, Greece, Uruguay, Brazil, Turkey, and Cyprus. The dispersion extends into the rest of the world as well.

All Armenians remember what is often referred to as “the forgotten genocide of the 20th century,” and their memories shape the way they recount their genealogy and the way they count their blessings. Vartan Jinishian remembered too.

Tacked to a bulletin board in the JMP Beirut office is this short paragraph written by William Saroyan, Armenian-American author:

I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose wars have all been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, literature is unread, music is unheard, and prayers are no more answered. Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if you can do it. Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia.

THE GENESIS OF THE JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM



Staff and volunteers attending preconsultation activities in Yerevan, Armenia

Vartan Jinishian's decision to help Armenians was not made without context. Jinishian had been making donations through the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation (HKCC) as the "Anonymous Donor" since the mid-1940s. In 1970 a chronicle of the 20 years' activity of the Anonymous Donor Program was prepared by the HKCC Aleppo director and published in Armenian. This project worked with mothers in the Aleppo Armenian community, instructing them to bring their children to a clinic run by HKCC for medical care. After Jinishian heard reports of this project, his interest was aroused and he was moved to increase his allocation.

In Kamishly, a city in the far northeast of Syria at the Turkish and Iraqi border, some 60 widowed families were helped through the Anonymous Donor Program beginning in 1946. The help consisted mainly of essential food provisions and clothes for the children. The Anonymous Donor Program also funded services in Damascus through the HKCC until 1980.

From the mid 1940s to the early 1960s, Jinishian remained low-profile, supporting projects in the Middle East through the Anonymous Donor Program. He avoided making commitments to the Armenian Mission Association in America (AMAA) and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

In the late 1950s, a young businessman named Edward Janjigian was introduced to Vartan Jinishian. Janjigian had business contacts in the Middle East and offered to bring Jinishian information on the projects Jinishian had been funding in Lebanon and Syria. When Jinishian learned Janjigian would perform this service without charge, he became interested. When Jinishian, a lover of anything French, also discovered Janjigian spoke French fluently, he accepted the offer. Ed Janjigian made as many as three trips a year to the sites that administered Jinishian's money, and he made his reports in person upon return.

In 1963, Dan Pattison — representing the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations (COEMAR), the foreign mission division of the United Presbyterian Church (UPC) in the U.S.A. — spoke with Jinishian about helping Armenians in Lebanon and Syria. This was the first time COEMAR had considered a program that would be limited to one ethnic group.

Shortly thereafter, Janjigian met with Rev. Benjamin Weir in Beirut, Lebanon, and with Rev. Savakian in Aleppo, Syria, to discuss financial help for the Armenian communities in those places. After hearing about the severe poverty Janjigian reported, Jinishian gave COEMAR a total of \$110,000 to alleviate the suffering in Beirut and Aleppo. A local committee was

formed in Aleppo, and its program recommendations were financially supported by Jinishian. The main elements of the program were a day nursery, hot lunch programs for school children, assistance to 29 poor families to help keep their children in school, and direct cash relief for desperate cases.

In December 1965 Jinishian established a similar program in Beirut and hired a social service team to carry out his projects. During that same month, Jinishian transferred the ownership of two office buildings in New York to COEMAR, the income from which could be used for the expanding programs in Aleppo and Beirut. He never visited those sites nor saw the harvest of his financial support, but when Janjigian brought him reports of the good being done, Jinishian wept openly.

The local committee administering Jinishian's funding in Syria and Lebanon was ecumenical, made up of representatives of the Armenian Orthodox Church, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation, the Armenian Catholics, and the Union of Evangelical Armenian Churches in the Near East. Rev. Benjamin Weir chaired this committee, and UPC controlled the finances. It was the first time all of these organizations had come together for a common purpose.

After Jinishian reached his 90s, he was often lonely and depressed in his Pleasantville retirement home. He could not forget either the horror of the 1917 genocide or the sufferings of his people. During this time, his spiritual needs were met by pastoral care through his contacts with the UPC. Jinishian grew curious about how this denomination through COEMAR might use his money to help the Armenian people. He was uncomfortable with the politics and rivalry he perceived among Armenian denominations and service organizations. Fearing they would fight among themselves for his money, he found in UPC a trusted, neutral body to administer the endowment he was planning.

THE WILL

Following the death of Vartan Jinishian, COEMAR appointed an ad hoc committee of commission members and staff to study the development of the program in order to fulfill the aims of Jinishian's will. Dan Pattison was named executor.

EXCERPTS FROM THE WILL OF VARTAN H. JINISHIAN

I give, devise and bequeath my American Estate to the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA to be held by the Commission as an endowment fund. I request, but do not direct, that the endowment fund be named "Fund in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Haroutune Jinishian of Marash, Turkey" and that the income therefrom be disposed of by the Commission. I hereby so provide and direct, that it is only the income from such fund which the Commission may use and that the principal shall remain intact.

I request, but do not direct, that the Commission use the income from the endowment fund for the maintenance of a free dispensary and free clinic, and as far as the available income allows, a staff of nurses and devoted men of high character, to visit Armenian families, especially those having any sick members, to help poor and needy Armenians by distributing food and clothing, and medical and other essential supplies, and attending to their physical, mental and spiritual needs, and by sending the young and sickly to the country and seashore in summer months, and in every way ministering to the needs and furthering the welfare and uplift of the Armenian people. It is my primary intention that the income from said endowment be used for the benefit of poor Armenians, but it is not my desire that immediate dispensary or clinical help in emergency cases be refused others, for that would be un-Christian in spirit. However, no non-Armenians or any foreign government shall have any claim whatsoever to be benefited in any manner by such income. I especially request that great stress be laid upon religious uplift work along the lines of Christian principles, that regular religious visits be made, that Bible readings be arranged at the homes of the sick, and that the work be carried on in any other appropriate way.

I specifically mention as worthy of attention, and possibly preferential attention in the work, Armenian families with children ten years old or younger, especially such families with a child or children seven years old or younger.

I request that attendants, whether teachers, doctors, nurses, ministers or others, be the most competent available, be they of Armenian or other nationality, but I prefer to have at least one half Armenian.

I realize that young children learn in many ways and that instruction (in addition to instruction in Christian ways and for Christian living) can often be given incidentally, and I approve of that, but I also state that the income from said fund is not planned for school teaching or general educational purposes.

I specifically request that in the application and use of the income from the said fund the Commission should not discriminate between Armenians of the Catholic, Protestant or Gregorian faiths.

As to the location of the work, I prefer Aleppo, Syria, being nearer the birthplace of my parents. If the Commission, for any reason, political or otherwise, considers Syria inappropriate, then Beirut, Lebanon, or any Armenian center elsewhere (excluding, however, Russia) where such a center can exist, as much as possible, free of persecution and free of government interference and control. I request that the work be not conducted in the United States of America for here, by contrast at least, Armenians are well provided for. In any case, the choice lies with the Commission and I request the Commission to change the location of this work from time to time, as it may consider advisable.

I request but do not direct that the Commission shall not buy any real estate for carrying on its work anywhere outside the United States of America, and wherever feasible, space should be leased.

I direct that in carrying out my wishes, the Commission consult with and obtain the advice and guidance of an Advisory Committee consisting of five members, three of whom shall be of Armenian descent and the other two who shall be members of the staff of the Commission. I appoint Leila Karagheusian, Antranig A. Bedikian and Edward Janjigian to be the Armenian members of the Committee and Daniel M. Pattison and Rodney Sundberg as the Commission members. If any one of the members of the Committee who are of

Armenian descent shall die or resign or fail to act for any other reason, the remaining four members of the Committee shall appoint in her or his place on the Committee another person of Armenian descent.

I am a Trustee of the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation, a New York corporation, which my dear friend and associate, the late Miran Karagheusian, founded in memory of his son, Howard Karagheusian. Its main activities are in the Near East, and Leila Karagheusian, daughter of Miran Karagheusian, is president of that corporation and is ably administering its affairs.

It is clearly advisable for the two corporations to cooperate continually, and it would seem unwise, for example to have two separate organizations in one city and to have them carry on identical work there in two separate parts. I do say, in all earnestness, that the more the two corporations cooperate, the greater will be the tribute which each pays the memory of my beloved parents, Haroutune and Catherine Jinishian.

INTERPRETING THE WILL

The ad hoc committee studying the Jinishian will reported to the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations in June 1968 with a document entitled the Jinishian Memorial Fund Administration. It was adopted as the first set of administrative guidelines. Care was given to adhere closely to the type of service desired by the benefactor. Those who knew the conditions of the Armenian poor in the Middle East affirmed the largely neglected need for the kind of services provided for in the will. Information gathered from many sources confirmed the judgment of Jinishian. The indigent Armenians of the Middle East had been largely forgotten by most other large-scale philanthropies.

A general form for administration of the program was set in place: COEMAR, advised by the New York Advisory Committee (NYAC), gave general oversight to the administration of the fund, working through an executive secretary and a field program director. Local advisory committees in each country gave to the NYAC their advice concerning local programs.

In the years 1967–70, the Jinishian Memorial Program was gradually expanded under the direction of COEMAR following the recommendations of the advisory committees. Assistance was also rendered through other Armenian philanthropic organizations in the Middle East. The Rev. Rodney A. Sundberg served as the first executive secretary to the program. The Rev. Willis A. McGill was appointed executive secretary in August 1967. The Rev. Morton S. Taylor succeeded him in September 1969. Hans Baenziger, recently retired from many years of social service under the Swiss Friends of the Armenians, was appointed full-time field program director in March 1968. Hans Schellenberg and Anna Elisabeth Sigrist Schellenberg were appointed as fraternal workers to serve in the Jinishian program in September 1969. Schellenberg then became field program director in June 1970 upon Baenziger's retirement and return to Switzerland.

By 1971 the Jinishian Memorial Program budget included allocations to the countries of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey, and Iran. The services included lunches for child care centers and orphanages, general family social services, emergency relief, medical assistance, elderly and handicapped assistance, and camp programs. At that time, approximately 500,000 Armenians were living in the various countries of the Middle East.

A variety of political circumstances continued to influence events in the Middle East during 1972. The Arab-Israeli conflict divided the region—with skirmishes, invasions, and terrorism—making it impossible for governments to relax their militaristic controls. Considerable relief followed the withdrawal of the Soviet military presence from Egypt, but this exodus did not resolve the issues between the contestants. Some of the principal events affecting this area ministered to by JMP were nationalization of the Iraq Petroleum Company, Syrian reaffirmation of close relations to the USSR in spite of the latter's withdrawal from Egypt, terrorist activities in Turkey, election of new Armenian deputies to the Lebanese parliament, and Knatchig Babigan's appointment as minister of information in Lebanon.

Several approaches were taken to alleviate political and religious differences among the Armenian denominations. Equal or proportional aid was given to institutions of different

religious communities. JMP made no religious or political distinction among those Armenians who received aid. The resources of Jinishian were used as an incentive to bring Armenian communities together in the planning and administering of programs sponsored by JMP.

From the beginning, NYAC and COEMAR envisioned an appropriate, gradual shift from programs of direct relief and toward effective programs of self-help or self-development, as well as from dependency-creating types of charity and toward activities that stimulate self-liberation. Yet, realism demanded that the plight of desperately poor Armenians be taken seriously. The aged, the ill, the mentally retarded, orphans, widows, and refugees would require direct relief even in an affluent society.

Self-development can be described as a process that leads to improving the long-term quality of people's lives. It ensures their cultural, social, political, spiritual and economic well-being through a participatory and integrated process of empowerment, self-reliance, regeneration and the removal of obstacles to this process. It is a process of change that leads to a better life for people, communities and society as a whole.

— *Suggested by Armine Jamkochian, Director for Armenia, for the 4th International Consultation in Yerevan, Armenia, May 26, 1999*

The concept of self-development was initially studied by JMP using Criteria and Guidelines, published by the National Committee on the Self-Development of People, UPC. According to that document, a proposal must be initiated by and from within a community of need. The proposal must address the long-term correction of conditions, not merely short-term emergency assistance. The proposal must describe in detail its goals and objectives and the methods to achieve them. It must describe the resources known to be available to support the proposal. The proposal must include a financial plan showing the required expenditures and income at stated intervals over the life of the proposal and specify how progress toward the goals will be measured by the community.

By 1971 some of the more promising areas of self-development for JMP were vocational, on-the-job training;

personal loans for business and housing; housing projects; community organization; community centers; employment offices, and rural development.

Executive Secretary Morton S. Taylor wrote the following about the resources within the Armenian communities of the Middle East:

In tribute to the Armenian people, it must be stated that they are generally people with upward mobility who progressively seek solutions to their problems. They have been developing themselves according to their understanding since the beginning of history; unfortunately, their growth conflicted frequently with the great empires of their region. Even in exile, however, Armenians have rapidly adapted to their new environments and made the most of opportunities open to them. They are known for the quality of their vocational and professional performance, their contributions to the arts, their ability to be good citizens of their host countries, and their preservation of their own culture and religion. They possess an ability to organize themselves for achieving their goals in religion, education, business, culture and recreation.

In 1971, five years after the inauguration of JMP in the Middle East, Taylor felt it an appropriate time to review the progress of the program and choose a direction for future development. He prepared a position paper that summarized his findings and recommended actions for the program. The resulting guidelines, "The Administration of the Jinishian Memorial Fund and Program" (a revision of the paper entitled "Jinishian Memorial Fund Administration"), were approved December 1971. The paper clarified structure and guidelines for the administration of JMP, summarized the specific "I direct" clauses and "I request" clauses mentioned in Jinishian's will, and specified the duties of the Board of the UPC, the New York Advisory Committee, the director of JMP, the field program directors, and the local advisory committees.

In the United States Advisory Committee (USAC, formerly the NYAC) minutes of May 26, 1987, a "Rationale for Position of Director" specified the responsibilities of this position, the responsibilities of the field director for the Middle East, and the standards for performance review. The Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, JMP coordinator from 1990 to

The following guidelines were adopted, directing JMP policy for the next five years:

1. A continuing place be given to social and developmental research in pursuit of more adequate ways of meeting the problems and needs of Armenians. In December 1973, the guidelines defined "Armenian" as persons who are members of an Armenian church, consider themselves Armenians, and fulfill two of the following criteria: speak Armenian, have an Armenian name, or send their children to an Armenian school.
2. The resources of JMP continue to be used in part to meet the basic social and relief needs of Armenian people in the Middle East and elsewhere.
3. Self-development programs among Armenians receive increasing emphasis, with a gradual shift culminating in the use of 50 percent of the annual income for self-development projects and the potential use of 75 percent to 100 percent of the general reserve of JMP for the same purpose.
4. Instead of developing further programs under the direct administration of JMP staff, that JMP resources be used, wherever possible, to stimulate the development of ecumenical, community-wide, cooperative projects of self-development administered by representatives of the community it serves in collaboration with representatives of the several sponsoring agencies.
5. Increased exploration be made of the ways by which JMP, in harmony with the donor's wishes, may give support to the training of Armenians for self-development and for leadership in self-development.
6. Persons trained in self-development programs be employed in order to encourage more rapid movement to this type of program.



Above images: Sites of the former Manhattan properties of Vartan Jinishian

1997, proposed a revision to the 1971 guidelines; USAC accepted the revision September 11, 1991; and the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Unit adopted them. A revised Guidelines for the Administration of the Jinishian Memorial Program was adopted by USAC and World Ministeries Division (WMD) in 1994. More recently, a two-page document, "Mutual Understanding and Expectations," was approved by both WMD of the General Assembly Council (GAC) and USAC in the summer of 1997. Currently, the 1994 Guidelines for the Administration of the Jinishian Memorial Program is being revised and updated.

Guidelines for the Administration of the Jinishian Memorial Program is an official document of the WMD of the Presbyterian Church (USA), (PC(USA) and USAC. Its contents outline the structure and guidelines approved for the administration of JMP.

THE JINISHIAN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In December 1965, seven months before his death, Jinishian transferred the ownership of two office buildings in New York to COEMAR. In January 1969 the property at 554 Madison Avenue sold for \$3,100,000. A portion of the Sony Building is built on this property today. The second property at 15 East 57th Street sold for \$1,775,000. The Chanel Building is built on this site.

The sale of Jinishian's New York real estate, his stock, and his personal property netted just under \$10,000,000. To this corpus was added stock from the estate of Dikranouhi Jinishian, one of Jinishian's three sisters. The Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation reports an "outside trust" gift from the estate of Nevart Jinishian, another sister. In 1974 Jinishian's Paris real estate 3bis Place des États Unis was sold. After the payment of a high inheritance tax imposed by French law, \$500,000 was added to the endowment portfolio. In 2000 the endowment reached just over \$50,000,000.

The Foundation is the designated custodian of the fund, the income of which is to be made available to the General Assembly Council's Mission Support Services (MSS) for JMP. The Foundation is to invest and reinvest the principal and

any accumulated income of the fund in accordance with PC(USA) investment policy and guidelines. The cost associated with investment is to be discussed annually with USAC.

WMD, in consultation with USAC, is to administer and use the income in accordance with the provisions of Jinishian's will, including the following: adopt general administrative policy and programmatic directions, approve the annual program budget for use of the Fund Income and Reserves in keeping with general budget procedures of PC(USA), employ and supervise personnel according to PC(USA) and WMD policies and procedures, engage and supervise country directors through contracts, carry out yearly performance reviews of all JMP staff under its supervision according to its regular procedures, and receive and approve annual reports concerning the program.

MSS provides regular quarterly and yearly reports on the status of investments and activity in the fund for WMD and USAC. MSS oversees financial procedures and provides corporate and financial services for JMP, overseeing annual audit procedures. It receives and reviews financial reports from all local advisory committees and provides copies for WMD and USAC. It may conduct independent financial audits, as necessary, to maintain assurance that funds are being properly handled in accordance with approved policy and Jinishian's will. It may also require appropriate financial reports from any entities receiving JMP grants.

MSS recommends financial and management procedures to USAC and the executive director of JMP with due consideration for the programmatic needs and cultural norms of program areas. MSS is responsible for serving as a liaison between USAC and the Foundation, and it reports to USAC directly concerning financial evaluations, audits, and reports. Each year, an internal or external audit is conducted at local JMP sites.

It is the responsibility of USAC to advise and guide WMD concerning programmatic and administrative policies for JMP. USAC meets no less than twice yearly, with secretarial services provided by the executive director's office.

In the past 35 years, JMP has gathered four times for international consultations as follows:

- Geneva, Switzerland, October 22–24, 1986
- Athens, Greece, October 5–7, 1990
- Athens, Greece, November 21–23, 1993
- Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, May 25–27, 1999

These gatherings have enabled local staff and advisory committee members to discuss goals and plans and to share information with USAC and PC(USA) staff.

JMP Goals for the Five-Year Period 1999-2003
Adopted, 1998

1. Identify and implement program priorities.
2. Move to increased self-development emphasis.
3. Devise leadership learning and training process.
4. Research and recommend geographical realignments.
5. Improve governance and management systems.

HISTORICAL STRUCTURES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FROM 1966 TO 2000 AND THE STAFFING OF THE JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

1966–1973

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE USA
COMMISSION ON ECUMENICAL MISSION AND RELATIONS

The Rev. John Coventry Smith, Director

AD HOC COMMITTEE, JINISHIAN FUND MINISTRY

(Date of first recorded minutes, November 14, 1966)

The Rev. John S. Badeau, Chairman

Mrs. Walter R. Clyde

Mr. David A. Cort

The Rev. Harry G. Dorman

The Rev. Theodore M. Greenhoe

The Rev. W. Stewart McColl

Mrs. Granville C. Smith

—1971—

Mr. John R. Lucy

The Rev. W. Stewart McColl

Mrs. Clarence W. Munroe

The Rev. Donald B. Register

STAFF

The Rev. Donald Black

The Rev. William K. Du Val

Mr. Daniel M. Pattison, Executor of Jinishian Will

Miss Dorothy C. Wagner

Rev. Willis A. McGill, Executive Director, 1967–69
 The Rev. Rodney A. Sundberg, 1966–69, Executive Secretary, 1969–71
 The Rev. Morton Taylor, Executive Secretary 1971–73

NEW YORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

(First meeting, October 10, 1966)

The Rev. Charles W. Arbutnot
 The Rev. Antranig A. Bedikian
 The Rev. William K. Du Val
 Mr. Edward Janjigian
 Miss Leila Karagheusian
 Mr. Daniel M. Pattison
 The Rev. Rodney A. Sundberg, Chairman

PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND MISSION PERSONNEL

The Rev. Benjamin M. Weir, Deputy Commission Representative in Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, 1966–
 Mr. Hans Baenziger, Field Director, Lebanon and Syria, 1968–69
 Mrs. Anna Elisabeth Sigrist Schellenberg, Fraternal Worker, 1969–
 Mr. Hans Schellenberg, Fraternal Worker, Associate (1969–70), Regional Director for the Middle East, 1970–
 The Rev. Melvin Wittler, United Church of Christ Missionary, JMP Consultant with IAC, Istanbul, Turkey, 1971–

1973–1987

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

PROGRAM AGENCY

The Rev. J. Oscar McCloud, Director

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Rev. Donald Black, Associate General Director
 The Rev. Rodney Sundberg, Associate General Director
 The Rev. Donald Wilson, General Director
 The Rev. Fredrick R. Wilson, Associate General Director

JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

New York Advisory Committee Members and Staff
 The Rev. Rodney A. Sundberg, Chairperson

Mr. Edward Janjigian, Vice Chairman, 1966–
 Miss Leila Karagheusian, 1966–1986
 The Rev. Antranig A. Bedikian, 1966–74
 The Rev. Syngman Rhee, Liaison Officer relating to the Middle East, Program Agency, 1973–80
 The Rev. William Scholes, Executive Secretary, 1973–77
 The Rev. Vartan Hartunian, 1975–86
 The Rev. Donald Wilson, 1978–
 The Rev. William K. Du Val, Executive Director, 1978–
 The Rev. Charles Watt, 1979–84
 Mr. Paul Hopkins, Liaison Officer related to the Middle East, Program Agency, 1980–84
 The Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, Liaison Officer related to the Middle East from Program Agency, 1984–
 Mrs. Pergrouhi Svajian, Ph.D., 1986–
 The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., 1986–
 Mr. James McDaniel, Coordinator, Health and Human Development Unit
 The Rev. Morton Taylor, Former Executive Secretary of JMP
 The Rev. Fredrick Wilson

PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND MISSION PERSONNEL

The Rev. Benjamin M. Weir, UPC Representative in Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, 1969–5/8/84
 Mrs. Anna Elisabeth Sigrist Schellenberg, Fraternal Worker, 1969–79
 Mr. Hans Schellenberg, Field Director, Lebanon and Syria, 1970–79
 The Rev. Melvin Wittler, UCC Missionary, JMP advisor to AC, Istanbul, Turkey, 1971–
 Mr. Jack Stepanian, interim during Mr. Schellenberg's furlough, 1974–75
 Mr. Haig Tilbian, Field Director, Lebanon and Syria, 1980–
 The Rev. William L. Huskins, Coordinator for Iran

1987–1993

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACEMAKING (SJP) MINISTRY UNIT

Dr. Belle Miller McMaster, Director

JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

United States Advisory Committee Members and Staff
 Mr. Edward Janjigian, 1966–
 The Rev. William K. Du Val, Executive Director, 1978–90
 The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., 1986–
 Mrs. Pergrouhi Svajian, Ph.D., 1986–
 The Rev. Leonard Bjorkman, SJP Liaison, 1988–90
 Ms. Colleen Shannon, 1988–
 The Rev. Victor Makari, Ph.D., Coordinator for the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, 1990–
 The Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, JMP Coordinator, 1990–
 The Rev. Dr. Robert Watkin, SJP Liaison, 1990–92
 Mrs. Carla Libby Gentry, Program Assistant, 1990–
 The Rev. Daniel Rift, alternate, 1990–
 Mr. Frederic Arnold, SJP Liaison, 1992–93

PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND MISSION PERSONNEL

The Rev. Melvin Wittler, UCC Missionary, JMP liaison to IAC, Istanbul, Turkey, 1971–92
 Mr. Haig Tilbian, Field Director, Lebanon and Syria, 1980–
 Mrs. Ani Cholakian, Program Director, Aleppo, Syria, 1987–
 The Rev. Alan McCain, UCC Missionary, JMP liaison to IAC, Istanbul, Turkey, 1992–

1993–2000

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

WORLDWIDE MINISTERIES DIVISION

The Rev. Marian McClure, Director

GLOBAL SERVICE AND WITNESS

Ms. Gwen Crawley, Associate Director, 1993–95
 The Rev. Daniel Rift, Associate Director, 1996–

JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

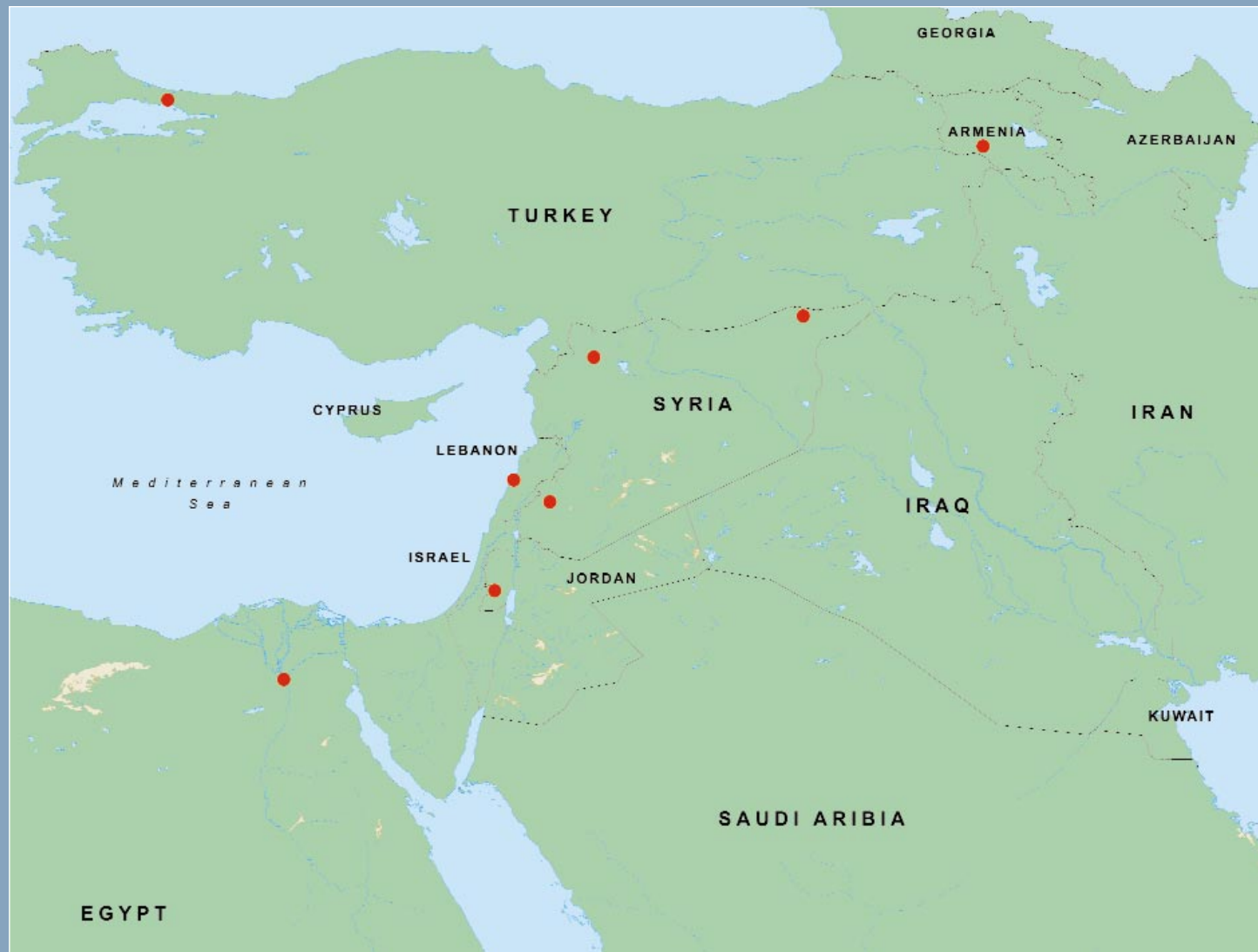
United States Advisory Committee Members and Staff
 Mr. Edward Janjigian, 1966–
 Mrs. Pergrouhi Svajian, Ph.D., 1986–
 The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., 1986–
 The Rev. Victor Makari, Ph.D., Coordinator for the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, 1990–

The Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, Coordinator/Executive Director, 1990–97
 The Rev. Carla Libby Gentry, Program Assistant, 1990–99
 The Rev. Daniel Rift, Associate Director, Global Service and Witness, 1990–
 The Rev. W. Edmund Carver, WMD Liaison, 1993–97
 Mr. Norman Miller, 1996–98
 Mrs. Beth Heisey Kuttub, Management Consultant, 1996–98
 The Rev. Robert Ellis, Associate, Program Development and Resourcing, Global Service and Witness, 1997–
 The Rev. David H. Nelson, Coordinator/Executive Director, 1997–
 The Rev. Dwight White, WMD Liaison, 1997–
 Mr. Burkhard Paetzold, Coordinator for Special Projects, 1998–
 Ms. Kirsten Benson, Operations Manager for Armenia, 1999–
 Miss Alina Hovhannisyian, Intern, 1999
 Ms. Paris Ramseur-Brown, Administrative Assistant, 1999–
 Mr. Nagy Tawfik, Vice President and Corporate Controller, General Assembly Council

PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND MISSION PERSONNEL

Mr. Haig Tilbian, Regional Director for Lebanon and Syria, 1980–99
 The Rev. Alan McCain, UCC Missionary, JMP Liaison/Advisor to IAC, Istanbul, Turkey, 1992–
 Mr. Jim Barnhart, Regional Coordinator for Armenia, Jerusalem, and Turkey, 1993–98
 Mrs. Elizabeth Barnhart, Special Consultant in Public Health, 1993–98
 Ms. Pauline Sagherian, Assistant to Lebanon Director, 1995–
 Mrs. Armine Jamkochian, JMP Director, Yerevan, Armenia, 1996–
 Mrs. Seta Pamboukian, JMP Director, Beirut, Lebanon, 1998–
 Mrs. Ani Cholakian, JMP Director, Syria, 1999–

JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM SITES



A map of JMP Program sites. Each dot represents an area in which the JMP Program works.

Historically, JMP has not established local advisory committees outside the Middle East and Armenia. Financial assistance has reached Bulgaria, France, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Greece, and Cyprus through the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Needy Armenians in Egypt have received aid for the aged and homeless through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In 1966 funding from JMP enabled programs in Aleppo, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon, to begin. JMP programs were funded in Egypt, Iraq, and Turkey in 1970, and the following year in Iran. Jerusalem programs began in 1973. The most recent site is in the Republic of Armenia. Following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, an advisory committee was appointed to begin activities there in 1993.

Each program site has a local advisory committee normally composed of Armenian members from the three religious denominations: Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, Armenian Evangelical, and Armenian Catholic. Members are women and men, lay and clergy.

Local advisory committees in consultation with JMP staff have the responsibility of researching needs in their area, outlining the projects for their programmatic and

financial implications, and submitting their proposals for advice and guidance. Once a project has gained final approval, it is funded by PC(USA) and supervised and administered by the local advisory committee and local staff. In the cases of Istanbul and Jerusalem, where there is no local staff, the advisory committee also administers the programs.

Local sites report regularly to USAC and WMD through the minutes of their advisory committee meetings and their annual reports covering programmatic, financial, staff, and advisory committee information.

SYRIA

The Jinishian Memorial Program serves three local sites in Syria: Aleppo, Damascus, and Kamishly. The Aleppo program began in 1966 and was the first site to receive funding from JMP.

In the early 1970s, the apple-farming Armenian villagers of Kessab, Syria, and Hans Schellenberg, field director of JMP for Lebanon and Syria, began planning a cold storage project. The complex nature of Syrian law, local politics, and the need to involve the whole community in this project prolonged the process, but official

approval came in February 1972. Government offices in Damascus and Lattakia informed the delegates from Kessab that this was the first time in the history of the Syrian Republic that a community had prepared and qualified for such a program.

A year later, farmers and other community members, including churches of the three denominations, purchased shares in the cold storage association, formed an executive committee, secured approval from the Syrian government to become an association, purchased land, and sought a building permit. The community-wide project was structured to reward the poor families in greater proportion to their investment through additional shares distributed to them through JMP.

ALEPPO

STAFF

Mrs. Ani Cholakian	Director/Social Worker
Mr. Manuel Halladjian	Chief Accountant
Miss Seta Tatarián	Social Worker/Old People's Program and Summer Camp
Mrs. Hripsime Bilemjian	Nurse
Miss Tamar Nazarian	Receptionist/Secretary
Mrs. Eujeny Euyrenjian	Home Visitor and Summer Camp
Mrs. Marie Darakjian	Housekeeper
Miss Verjin Demirjian	Cashier and Assistant to the Accountant
Mr. Michel Moubayed	Auditor, part-time
Mr. Marcel Khayat	Legal Consultant, part-time
Mr. Michael Sarkisyan	Computer Maintenance, part-time

Since the end of World War II, Vartan Jinishian had been supporting the Armenian poor in Syria through the HKCC as the Anonymous Donor. He seems to have known some of the Armenian families in Aleppo and still had some relatives in that city. In the mid 1960s, Rev. Savakian and Rev. Benjamin Weir met with a consultative committee of five to determine the most urgent needs in the Aleppo and Beirut communities. The result of that meeting was to

begin a day nursery enabling mothers to take jobs outside their homes and to distribute food relief to families that were selected by a social worker.

JMP PROGRAMS IN ALEPPO

In 2000 the programs in Aleppo included low-cost, affordable housing, personal and business loans, allowances for medical services, care for elderly and needy families, hot lunches for schoolchildren, summer camp for young children, and a day care center.

The housing project began in conjunction with HKCC in 1990. The goal was to move Armenians from two ghetto centers into their own apartments in Armenian-populated quarters. Families with young children were targeted. Apartment buildings were purchased and registered in the names of the various religious communities, and families were selected for occupancy.

The loan program, the first of its kind for the Armenian community, began in the 1970s. Its goal was to help clients develop independence in their own business projects. Loans are also made for housing projects and emergencies. They are without interest and repayable within 20 months.

There is no medical insurance in Syria, and medical costs are high compared with the average family income. JMP helps those with chronic medical problems, and it finances prescription medication, hospitalization, diagnostic tests, dental care, referrals, and consultations.

Since the inception of JMP services in Aleppo, serving the elderly has been a priority. Many of the elderly prefer to live independently as long as they can, but some are forced to live with their children, straining the income of their own families. Monthly cash allowances, food parcels, and fuel allowances help the elderly live with dignity. Such elderly are invited to social programs several times each year, given assistance with minor renovations in their homes, and visited by staff when they are bedridden, receiving encouragement and support through prayer and Bible readings.

Families with very modest incomes receive onetime grants for special needs; others with more chronic problems may need long-term assistance. Case workers visit the homes regularly to appraise the needs.

ALEPPO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (AAC) - SERVING FROM 1969 TO 2000

The Rev. Hovhanness Karjian, Chairman
 Mr. Sarkis Darakjian
 The Rev. Adom Kehyaian
 Mrs. Angele K. Nersoian
 The Rev. Hovsep Shadaravian
 Mr. Garbis Vartabedian
 Mr. Hans Baenziger, Field Program Director
 Mrs. Michele Yerezian
 Mr. Vahram Babikian
 Fr. Sarkis Krikor Ayzavian
 Mr. Bedros Kelliguian
 Dr. John Ohanian, Chairperson, 1974–76
 Mr. Kegham Khrigian
 Mr. Joseph Shadarevian
 The Rev. Assadour Sadakian, ex-officio
 Mr. Melkon Terjanian
 Mrs. Apartian
 Dr. Bedros Terjanian
 Mr. Dirarian
 Fr. Haroutun Jabbourian
 Mr. Krikor Eblighatian, Chairperson, 1976–80
 Mr. Hagop Khatchadourian
 Mr. Charly Aposhian

Mr. Sarkis Darakjian
 Mr. Noubar Azezian, Chairperson, 1980–88
 Fr. Sarkis Gabadian
 The Rev. Norair Hagop Orchanian
 Mr. Movses Keushgerian
 Mrs. Araxie Babikian
 Mr. Yetvart Manougian
 Fr. Kevork Shahbaz
 Dr. Maggie Keshishian
 Mr. Haroutun Kavafian, Chairperson, 1989–93
 Mr. Haroutun Halladjian, Chairperson, 1994–97
 Mr. Garbis Nanejian
 Mr. Garbis Seraydarian
 Mr. Hagop Takhtabrounian
 Mr. Jirayr Reisian
 Mr. Haroutun Keshishian
 Mr. Khatchig Aprigian, Chairperson, 1997–2000
 Dr. Robert Sulahian
 Miss Dalida Nalbandian
 Mr. Nerses Nersoyian
 Mr. Stepan Baghchedjian
 Mrs. Ani Cholakian, JMP Director for Syria, ex officio



Syrian delegates attending the 1999 Fourth International Consultation in Yerevan, Armenia. Standing: Miss Anie Teokmejian, Mr. Khachig Aprigian, Mrs. Zabel Yirikian, Dr. Robert Sulahian, Mr. Mourad Seferian. Below: Mrs. Ani Cholakian, Miss Nayiri Keshishian



Aleppo delegates attending the 1999 International Consultation at Yerevan, Armenia. Mr. Khachig Aprigian, Chairperson AAC; Mrs. Ani Cholakian, JMP Director for Syria; Dr. Robert Sulahian, member, AAC

Children aged 8–12 who are poor or malnourished or who come from dysfunctional families attend summer camp each year. The program includes a balanced diet, creative activities, emotional support, and spiritual nourishment. The children's camp is held in Kessab, a village where the three Armenian denominations have schools, churches, and camp facilities.

A hot lunch program began in 1966. When school hours were from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., children of low-income families were given lunch at the schools. When schooldays were shortened to end at 1 p.m., the hot lunch program was discontinued.

Since the beginning of the day care center for working mothers in 1966, the program has become a community welfare activity. The Relief Cross Ladies Union has adopted the center, an example of JMP working as a catalyst to involve other community organizations.

DAMASCUS

STAFF

Mrs. Zabel Yirikian	Social Worker, part-time
Mrs. Meggie Kahkejian	Assistant, part-time

Damascus, the capital of the Syrian Arab Republic, is a cosmopolitan city in southeastern Syria. Since the beginning of JMP work in Damascus, the vocational training programs, loan programs, and school health programs have been as important as the assistance programs. Original members of the Damascus Advisory Committee (DAC) believed in vocational training for women as a means of self-development within the family. The first vocational training programs were typography, knitting, sewing, first aid, computing, and language studies in English and French.

There are about 6,000 Armenians living in Damascus. Some have moved from Iraq with refugee status, some have joined husbands serving in the Syrian Army, and others have moved to improve their economic situation.

JMP PROGRAMS IN DAMASCUS

Two part-time social workers are employed to carry out the programs of home visitation, medical assistance, assistance to the elderly and needy families, vocational training, summer camp, school health, food parcels, Christmas gifts, and restoration and rehabilitation, as well as the revolving loan fund.

The purpose of home visitation is to become better acquainted with needy families and their conditions, to give helpful advice, to encourage and comfort the sick, and to complete the updating of the files of clients.

Medical assistance is given for consultation referrals such as dental treatment, eyeglasses, and laboratory fees. Unusual problems are referred to specialists whose services are given at reduced fees. Medications are sold at cost, and grants are given in some cases requiring hospitalization.

Assistance ranging from \$20 to \$30 is given to the elderly on a monthly basis. Needy families receiving assistance are usually large, with the breadwinner either ill or underpaid. These families receive \$10–\$30 per month.

Young people who have secondary school diplomas and yet remain unemployed are encouraged to become computer literate. JMP participates in the expense of enrolling such young people in Al-Rida Technical School.

Every summer JMP helps needy students participate in summer camps organized by local churches and sports organizations. The school health program offers medical examinations, toothbrushes, and toothpaste to students attending the six Armenian schools in Damascus. These schools have also been given money to buy heating fuel. Food parcels and Christmas gifts are given to needy families each year.

Another program, restoration and rehabilitation, assists families with heating fuel, money to buy ovens, water pumps, fans, refrigerators, washing machines, and home furnishings.

The revolving loan fund program functions without charging interest. It has a high rate of repayment, and loans are most often made for business-related needs. Loans range from \$200 to \$800.



Damascus staff: Miss Nayiri Keshishian, Mrs. Zabel Yirikian



Kamishly delegates to the 1999 International Consultation in Yerevan, Armenia: Miss Anie Teokmejian and Mr. Mourad Seferian, DAC Chairman

DAMASCUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) SERVING FROM 1971 TO 2000

- Fr. Mashdotz Tufenkjian, Chairman
- Mr. Joseph Ghazarian
- Mr. Kevork Brounsouzian
- Mr. George Marshlian
- Mr. Berj Najarian
- Mr. Hovhannes Seropian, JMP Administrator
- Mr. Hans Schellenberg, ex officio
- Dr. Garbis Karagheusian
- Mr. Diran Aginian, Chairperson, 1975–95
- Mrs. Georgette Yacoubian
- Miss Briske Lousararian
- Mr. Hagop Semerjian
- Mrs. Paris Simonian
- Mr. Movses Haladjian
- Mr. George Marshlian
- Mr. Souren Haroutiounian
- Mrs. Ardine Semerdjian
- Mr. Sarkis Keshishian
- Mrs. Mayda Guiragossian
- Mr. Gazar Sakoyan
- Mr. Paris Simonian
- Mr. Diran Aginian
- Mr. Hagop Khadjarian
- Mrs. Isabelle Yirikian
- Mrs. Loris Fettelian
- Mr. Georges Marshlian
- Mr. Serop Seropian
- Dr. Garbis Gazarian, Chairperson, 1995–
- Mr. Sarkis Bourounsouzian
- Mr. Bedros Stepanian
- Mr. Varoujan Kanzabedian
- Miss Nairy Keshishian, ex-officio
- Mrs. Zabel Yirikian, ex-officio
- Mrs. Ani Cholakian, JMP Director for Syria, ex officio

KAMISHLY

STAFF

Miss Anie Teokmejian	Social Worker
Miss Sevan Hovsepian	Receptionist/Cashier
Mr. Neshan Sahagian	Loan Program, part-time
Mr. Vartkes Zakarian	Accountant/Auditor, part time
Miss Aghavnie Sarkissian	Assistant to the Accountant, part-time
Mrs. Munira Bahho	Housekeeper

A fast-growing town in the Syrian desert, Kamishly is located in northeastern Syria where the borders of Syria, Turkey, and Iraq meet between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. It is populated largely by Kurds and Eastern Orthodox Christians. There are an estimated 8,000 Armenians living in Kamishly and the villages nearby. Most people make their living in agriculture.

Problems in this area are the loss of young people who move to larger cities to make a better living, large families with a breadwinner of advanced age because of late marriage, lack of houses for rent, unstable agricultural income due to weather conditions, families needing to support sons serving in the military for two and a half years, and Armenian families arriving from Iraq hoping to emigrate to the U.S.A., Canada, or Europe.

JMP PROGRAMS IN KAMISHLY

Five part-time staff members administer the JMP programs in Kamishly and the surrounding area. Home visits are made on a regular basis, with special attention given to people who are in the hospital or homebound. Each family is reviewed and given assistance according to its need. Beneficiaries who become self-supporting no longer receive aid.

Medical assistance is necessary in a country without medical insurance. Many Armenians need referrals to specialists offering reduced rates, as well as financial support for hospital expenses, medications, prescription eyeglasses,

dental treatment, and laboratory and diagnostic tests. Other welfare and church-related organizations join JMP in covering the high costs of hospitalization.

Large families with low incomes or health problems receive financial assistance and food parcels. At Christmas and Easter they are given additional food: eggs during Lent, olives and cheese at other times. Heating fuel is distributed to these families and to the elderly twice a year, basic clothing and shoes are given to needy families, the elderly receive nightgowns, underwear, and coats, children receive clothes for summer camp, and gifts are presented to families on Mother's Day.

The Kamishly Advisory Committee (KAC) provides a monthly allowance for old people and helps pay the water and electric bills of those living in the local Old People's Home. A hardship allowance for needy families has provided such items as washing machines, fans, heaters, furniture, and gifts of food for New Year's celebrations.

Many families live in houses made of earth. With no cement or stone, these homes need constant repairs in the winter because of leakage during the rainy season. Engineer members of the KAC supervise home improvements, such as installing doors, repairing roofs, and installing water pipes. In 1998 an additional room was constructed for a nine-member family living in a two-room home. Two lots were purchased for the development of office space and the construction of 16 apartments for needy families. Members of KAC and other religious leaders in the community are planning this project together. It is to be dedicated in 2001.

The revolving, no-interest loan fund is used for small business purchases or rental payments, for an immediate financial crisis, for a housing need, or for settling an interest-bearing loan taken out during a financial crisis or illness. Families that need enough to complete the purchase of an apartment may also apply for a loan.

Temperatures in the Kamishly region are extremely high in the summer. It is a blessing for children to get away to a cooler area for summer camp and enjoy basic nutritious food. The summer camp program includes Bible stories, Armenian-language instruction, songs,

KAMISHLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (KAC) - SERVING FROM 1978 TO 2000

Fr. Khajag Hagopian	Mr. Harout Bedrosian
Fr. Antranig Ayzazian, Chairperson, 1978-81	Mr. Varoujan Garabedian
Dr. Khatchig Reshdouny	Fr. Gomidas Ohanian
Mr. Noubar Arabian	Mr. Roupen Mirzoian
Mr. Sahag Donoyian	Mr. Garbis Hovhannessian
Fr. Norayr Ashegian, Chairperson, 1981-88	Miss Zepure Yeretian
Mr. Kapriel Atalla	Mrs. Hermine Hovhannessian
Mr. Mourad Seferian, Chairperson, 1988-	Mr. Hovhannes Aroyian
Mr. Nishan Sahagian	Mr. Varoujan Der Mesrobian
Mrs. Inna Reshdouny	Mr. Neshan Sahagian, ex-officio
Mr. Antranig Hekimian	Miss Anie Teokmejian, Recording Secretary, ex officio
Mrs. Hasmig Garabedian	Mrs. Ani Cholakian, JMP Director for Syria, ex officio

handicrafts and outdoor games, field trips, and hikes. The last night of summer camp, children end their experience with a campfire and program including the giving of gifts to their counselors.

The school assistance program provides books, uniforms, copybooks, pencils and pens, and transportation for students living far from school. Priority is given to orphans and to young children of needy families.

Yearly events sponsored by KAC include a Mother's Day celebration, Christmas parties for young children and the elderly, and picnics for the elderly, described here:

The elderly were taken to a picnic area where Armenian music and songs could be heard in the cool morning air. They sat around tables filled with a variety of delicious breakfast foods and enjoyed the pleasant care of the members of the staff and the KAC. Miss Teokmejian took the opportunity to speak briefly about the dedicated work of the late Mr. Vartan Jinishian which made this possible. In appreciation, many of the elderly stood up and spoke good wishes and blessings for the members of the staff, administration and committees for their dedicated work. The time was concluded with a group prayer and a safe return to their homes.

KAC minutes, July 9, 1998

LEBANON

**BEIRUT STAFF
ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Seta Pamboukian	Lebanon Director
Miss Pauline Sagherian	Assistant to the Lebanon Director
Miss Hamesdouhie Karageuzian	Secretary
Mr. Puzant Nazarian	Internal Auditor, part-time
Mrs. Lena Nazigian	Accountant
Miss Manoushag Hovhannessian	Cashier, Stock Keeper
Miss Maral Zadirian	Receptionist, Telephone Operator
Miss Maria Jertidian	Assistant Receptionist
Mr. Onig Tavitian	Housing Manager

CENTER SUPPORT STAFF

Mr. Sarkis Varjabedian	Caretaker-Driver
Mrs. Varsenig Terterian	Kitchen Support and Cleaning
Mrs. Rose Ghazarian	Cleaning

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Miss Maro Tontian	Social Worker: Hospitalization, Institutional Care
Mrs. Marina Baladian	Social Worker: Old People's Assistance, Family
Mrs. Lucy Kachadourian	Social Worker: Housing, Widows and Orphans, Special Cases

PHARMACY-MEDICATION DISPENSING SERVICE

Mrs. Maral Arzoumanian	Supervisor, Nurse
Mrs. Verjine Etyemezian	Midwife
Mrs. Simoneh Khachadourian	Stock Keeper, Computer Recording and Control
Mrs. Zepure Berberian	Cashier, Medication Dispenser
Miss Rita Maghakian	Medication Dispenser, Computer Recording Assistant
Miss Maral Kelegian	Receptionist

DAY CARE CENTER

Mrs. Ani Aznavourian	Supervisor
Miss Sevan Yepremian	Assistant
Mrs. Rebecca Kurdian	Cook
Mrs. Marie Mekhsian	Cleaning/Caretaker
Miss Aline Marsim	Assistant/Educator
Mrs. Elizabeth Armenian	Cleaning

Turkish Armenians escaping the aftermath of the genocide during the 1920s and 1930s fled eastward into Syria and then Lebanon. Settling in the Bourj Hammoud section of Beirut, they built shack cities of dense population and slum conditions. Vartan Jinishian had been supporting projects in Lebanon initially through the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation. By the mid 1960s Jinishian was funding programs in Beirut through the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and its Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations (COEMAR).

In March 1966 the Rev. Benjamin Weir formed a consultative committee from the Armenian community. It was called the Beirut Relief Advisory Committee (BRAC) and was the Armenian Evangelical forerunner of the more inclusive Beirut Advisory Committee (BAC) which included all three denominations. Dr. Puzant Krikorian, Mr. Peter Braunschweig, and Mr. Noubar Tavitian were among the early members of BRAC. They worked closely with HKCC and began serving the Armenian poor with two programs: a day nursery for working mothers and direct food relief. A social worker, Ms. Jane Krikorian, daughter of Dr. Krikorian, was engaged for home visitation among the poor.

A devastating flood in the spring of 1967 left many residents of Bourj Hammoud homeless. A number of Armenian relief organizations, including BRAC, came to the rescue of 20 Armenian families and began working together on a cooperative basis. A co-op store opened where residents could buy food and supplies cheaply and where emergency supplies could be stored for future needs. Only two months later, a fire destroyed 100 shack homes in the Tiro area. Emergency relief and food were appropriated from the co-op store. At Christmas, women from the three Armenian denominations distributed food to the families.

The goal of JMP is to uplift people. Two important characteristics are to be flexible and act as a catalyst in the community.

We have tried to find solutions for all kinds of suffering: financial assistance for medication and hospitalization, utilities, rent, guidance and counseling for family problems, legal aid, and care for the handicapped and the elderly. We have been flexible enough to understand that occasionally hair coloring can uplift the spirits of poor women.

JMP always tries to work with other community organizations. This helps our programs become joint efforts and increases the ownership in a project. JMP is involved with the whole community through work, church and community activities. This is the catalytic power of JMP.

Mr. Haig Tilbian, JMP Regional Director for the Middle East, 1980-99



Beirut delegates at 1999 International Consultation in Yerevan, Armenia Mrs. Seta Pamboukian, JMP Director for Lebanon; Miss Annie Boudjikian, BAC Recording Secretary; Mr. Antoine Kaloust, BAC member; Miss Pauline Sagherian, Assistant to the Lebanon Director



Mr. Haig Tilbian, JMP Regional Director for the Middle East

JMP PROGRAMS IN BEIRUT

Needs among the Armenian community began to mount as refugees moved into Beirut. In the spring of 1972, a number of social workers serving among the Armenian population came together to organize the Union of Armenian Social Workers. The impetus for this union came from a study, sponsored partly by JMP, which surveyed the social problems and special needs within the Armenian community in Beirut. The study concluded that greater cooperation among the agencies engaged in serving Armenians would increase the effectiveness of these services. JMP assumed a leading role in organizing the union and continues to act as a catalyst in its programs.

A STORY FROM THE 1972 RECORDS OF JMP BEIRUT

A family living in Bourj Hammoud faced economic disaster. Their landlord was arranging for their eviction from a one-room apartment. The illiterate father's income was less than half of that needed to feed, clothe, and house his growing family. The mother had potentially marketable skills as a seamstress but could not leave her preschool children. There were no relatives to turn to for help. The parents feared the dangers of turning their children onto the street while they worked.

A neighbor suggested they appeal to family services at JMP. Here a trained social worker reviewed their situation, assisted the parents in enrolling their preschool children in the day care center, and guided both parents to the employment office, through which the mother quickly found work and the father discovered opportunities for vocational training to increase his earning power. An emergency loan was granted to pay the back rent. The family was saved.

One of the early projects in which JMP and HKCC collaborated was the Anjar Dairy Cooperative. In order to improve milk production at the cooperative, a commercial loan was guaranteed by JMP and HKCC to purchase Holstein cattle from Denmark. This same cooperation provides the services of a dental clinic in Anjar today.

Most of the services administered through JMP in Beirut have been benefiting the Armenian community for several decades. The social assistance program aims to



lessen human suffering and help individuals function more effectively in their respective communities. Services include guidance and counseling; referrals to lawyers for legal advice; cash allowances to needy families and old people; participation in medical expenses, medications, and rent; and the distribution of food. Social workers regularly visit the homes of those who receive assistance.

Those who receive special consideration are widows with children in school, large families with limited incomes, families with handicapped members, families whose breadwinner is in jail or serving in the army, and elderly citizens who are not being served by any other means. School children are assisted with uniforms, school supplies, and transportation expenses.

JMP supports institutions that care for the aged and those who were disabled physically or mentally: The Armenian Sanatorium-Azounieh, Dar-El-Rahme', and the Center for the Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL). CAHL also includes the Home for the Blind, the Old People's Home, and a school for slow learners. Armenian priests and pastors visit the residents to offer pastoral care and spiritual nurture, sharing sermons and scripture readings.

The elderly receive an allowance, clothing, food, and cleaning services for their homes when these things are needed. JMP arranges for and covers the expenses of a simple burial for elderly who die without relatives to care for these arrangements. This includes the purchase of a coffin and engaging a local priest or pastor for the burial service.

A CASE HISTORY FROM SOCIAL WORKERS' FILES IN BEIRUT

All of Vartuhi's relatives perished in the massacres in the early part of this century. Vartuhi survived in refugee camps because of a strong determination to live and the help afforded her by relief programs. Throughout her adult life, she worked at many different jobs, but mostly in poorly paid domestic service.

Now Vartuhi is old and sick. All of her meager savings have vanished in the rising costs of today's economy, especially medical bills. The assistance she receives from the local brotherhood charity group will



Above images: Elderly residents of the Center for the Handicapped in Lebanon



New apartment owner in her kitchen



A young student at Zvartnots



Children napping at the day care center



not pay her rent. The home for the elderly is already overcrowded. Her priest directs her to JMP, where a medical social worker studies her needs and resources, guides her to the medical dispensary, assists her in registering with the Old People's Home, and provides her with a small monthly allowance until she can be settled there.

The revolving loan program initiated in 1977 with seed money from JMP and others has made an astounding difference in the lives of Armenians in Beirut. The Armenian Fund for Economic Development (AFED) loans up to \$3,000 at reasonable interest rates to people who want to start a new business, expand their business, or buy needed equipment. It also provides credit bureau services for the Armenian community. Since AFED's inception, almost 20,000 loans have been made with a payback rate of 98 percent.

The Center for Mentally Handicapped Children, Zvartnots (a Gathering of Angels), began in 1987. A day care center for Armenian children and youth, Zvartnots is a cooperative project with the Union of Social Workers. AFED and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation of Portugal join JMP in making annual donations to the center.

The Bird's Nest Orphanage in Byblos was established by Danes for children orphaned by the genocide. It has become a home for orphans and children from broken families. During the war in 1967, the orphanage was turned over to the Armenian Orthodox Church.

The JMP housing project, phase one, approved in 1997, facilitated the purchase of an 18-unit apartment building in Bourj Hammoud. The purpose of this project was to provide an affordable apartment with a manageable repayment plan for a limited number of people facing a housing crisis. Four hundred families responded to a newspaper advertisement. Conditions for selection were that each family must include four to six members (including two to four school-age children), must be able to pay regular monthly installments toward purchase of the apartment, and must not currently own an apartment. The director and social workers interviewed applicants and visited their homes before choosing the occupants.



Above images: The annual JMP Christmas party in Bourj Hammoud

BEIRUT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (BAC) - SERVING FROM 1969 TO 2000

- | | |
|--|--|
| Mr. Antoine Kehyayan | Mr. Peter Braunschweig |
| Dr. Puzant Krikorian | Mr. Vazken Chekidjian |
| The Rev. Soghomon Nuyujukian | Mr. Antoine Kaloust |
| Bhp. Karakin Sarkissian | Mr. Shahe' Kalousdian |
| Mrs. Nina Jidejian | Dr. Vahe' Karagoezian |
| Mr. Noubar Tavitian | Mrs. Laura Merdakhianian-Kattan |
| The Rev. Benjamin Weir, Chairperson | Mr. Raphael Oumoudian |
| Mr. Judson W. Allen | Mr. Kaspar Sagherian |
| Mr. Hans Baenziger, ex officio | Mrs. Arpy Khatchikian |
| Mr. Werner Hufper | Dr. Ropovt Chorbajian, Chairperson |
| The Rev. Robert H. Meloy (interim for Mr. Allen) | Mrs. Azadouhi Simonian-Kalaidjian |
| Mr. Mugrditch Bouldoukian | Mrs. Yester Haidostian Kilaghbian |
| Mr. Hriar Mouradian | Dr. Gostan Yapoudjian |
| Dr. Walter Bandazian | Mr. Hans Schellenberg, Regional Director for the Middle East, ex officio |
| Mr. Ohannes Mouradian | Miss Pauline Sagherian, Assistant to the Director, ex officio |
| Fr. Nishan Keheyan | Mr. Haig Tilbian, Regional Director for the Middle East, ex officio |
| Miss Mannig Makinessian | Mrs. Seta Pamboukian, JMP Director, Lebanon, ex officio |
| Mr. Elie Karakehayan | |
| Dr. Garbis Harboyan | |
| Dr. Hrach Kouyoumjian | |
| Mrs. Zevart Najarian, Chairperson | |
| Miss Annie Boudjikian | |



Dental clinic in Anjar

The second phase of the emergency housing project is targeting widows with limited income supporting school-age children, elderly persons, handicapped persons, and families that live in shacks or other unhealthy accommodations.

In the Armenian community of Beirut, JMP was the first to provide a day care center. The center is the only one for children of low-income, working mothers and mothers who are chronically ill. Children from 18 months to 3 years of age are given nutritious food and educational recreation. Mothers receive guidance and counseling. HKCC provides medical care, including periodic check-ups and vaccinations for the children. The center operates from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the school year.



Mrs. Seta Pamboukian, JMP Director for Lebanon

The demanding work of JMP Lebanon is designed carefully, run professionally, and blessed by the Lord, Jesus Christ. He has multiplied the effectiveness and magnitude of our work among needy Armenians like he multiplied the five loaves and two fish among his hungry followers.

JMP is Christian, but nonconfessional and ecumenical among its program staff, its advisory committee leadership, and its service to the Armenian community.

My dream is for a future when relief work is no longer necessary and all our resources can be used for projects involving people in self-development.

Mrs. Seta Pamboukian, JMP Director for Lebanon

IRAQ

The country of Iraq developed in the region of Mesopotamia. It is bordered by Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. It became part of the Arab Empire in the seventh century. About 75 percent of Iraq's people are Arab. The economy depends heavily on the export of oil. During the 1970s, Iraq's economy prospered. But both the war with Iran in the 1980s and the Persian Gulf war in 1990-91 greatly damaged the economy. The United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Iraq that has created unemployment and a critical shortage of medicine. Those affected most severely are children and the elderly.



Children and teacher at the Bird's Nest Orphanage

In Baghdad during the late 1960s, a number of Armenian poor came to the Armenian Ladies' Association for the Relief of the Poor. The members of this association had been appointed by the Central Committee of the Armenian Orthodox Church. Requests soon increased beyond the amount given through special offerings taken at Christmas and Easter.

Zakho, a village in the north of Iraq and bordering Turkey, had a sizable, mostly Kurdish-speaking Armenian population. Thirty of the families there had no means of work or support. His Grace, Bhp. Asoghig Ghazarian, aware of the need for relief, heard about the Jinishian fund assisting Armenians in Aleppo and Beirut. He contacted JMP in Beirut and explained the need for help in Zakho and Baghdad.

JMP PROGRAMS IN IRAQ

After consultation with COEMAR and the New York Advisory Committee (NYAC), JMP in Beirut began to allocate funding for relief and medical care in Zakho and Baghdad. The money was sent to the Orthodox Armenian Church Central Committee, then given to the Armenian Ladies' Association for the Relief of the Poor to distribute in Baghdad and Zakho. The first donation was received in 1968.

In 1972 COEMAR and the NYAC received a proposal to start an economic development program in Iraq. Loans for sewing machines and knitting machines were made available to women. Beirut continued to transfer monthly funds into Iraq until 1975, at which time COEMAR began remitting funds.

1983 December		1992
Name - Couple	Finger-Print	Amount
1- Navath & Manoush Mkrtchyan		10. 6/-
2- Tom & Valentine Sisikian		10. 6/-
3- Lshikhan & Margareta Kakutian		10. 6/-
4- Hrachik & Levon Soghomonian		10. 6/-
5- Galabet & Hayal Tomars		10. 6/-

Relief register with thumbprint signatures

IRAQ ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVING FROM 1992 TO 1997

- Mr. Vahakn Mesrobian, Chairperson
- Mr. Louis Ipekian
- Mr. Haig Bostanian
- Abp. Avak Asadourian
- Miss Servart Keshishian

At the request of COEMAR and the NYAC, His Eminence, Abp. Avak Asadourian formed a local advisory committee composed of members from the three Armenian denominations. Soon after the formation of that advisory committee, it became increasingly difficult to transfer funds from the U.S.A. into Iraq. The final distribution occurred in the 1990s.

TURKEY

The Istanbul Advisory Committee (IAC) began meeting in 1970. Members of the committee approached their purpose with a traditional understanding of poverty and social work, combined with a memory of historical realism about minority survival in an unfriendly environment. They first endeavored to understand the Jinishian Memorial Program and then began to identify the greatest needs of the poor and ways to assist them.

Initially, the most important issue for Armenians in Istanbul was the steady stream of migrants from the Anatolian interior. Armenian groups in Istanbul had been encouraging the children of Armenian villagers to attend boarding institutions in Istanbul in order to renew their acquaintance with their Armenian language, culture, and religion. These rural Armenians moving into urban life were poorly prepared to deal with the problems they encountered. IAC recommended to JMP that funds be used to give direct assistance to newly arrived families in order to give them time to find work.

By 1989 the Armenian community in Turkey was estimated at 55,000 (45,000 in Istanbul). There were 38 active churches in Istanbul and 7 others in the provinces. Today 70,000 Turkish Armenians live in Istanbul.

JMP PROGRAMS IN TURKEY

Early programs that JMP funded at the recommendation of IAC gave assistance to the elderly, to homes for migrant children, and to summer camps for poor children.

Since there is no paid staff in Istanbul, the work is administered by IAC and assisted by a group of volunteer subcommittee members who, through home visits, distribute financial support to families and the elderly on a quarterly basis.

ISTANBUL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - SERVING FROM 1970 TO 2000

The Istanbul Advisory Committee was founded under the patronage of His Beatitude, Shinork Kaloustian, Patriarch of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Turkey.

PRESENT PATRIARCH: HIS BEATITUDE, MESROB MUTAFYAN

Mr. Mardiros Agavniyan
 Dr. Anahid Azaryan
 Mr. Bogos Ernekyan
 Miss Yeprakse Gomikyan
 Mr. Berc Kamparosyan
 Mr. Vensan Karakoc
 Mr. Yetvart Monciyan
 Mr. Kegham Parunyan
 Mr. Albert Tazbaz
 Mr. Melvin A. Wittler
 Mr. Hans Schellenberg, ex officio
 Prof. Arman Manukyan, Chairperson
 Mr. Garo Kalustyan
 Mr. Kevork Karamanukyan
 Mrs. Anahis Kurkcuyan
 Mr. Yasent Kamberk
 Mr. Garbis Cilacian
 Mr. Andon Cendereci

Mr. Kevork Tasciyan
 Mr. Arsen Gazikyan
 Mr. Edvar Haddeler
 Mrs. Sella Yarici
 Mr. Herman Bedan
 Mrs. Bercuhi Semizoglu
 Mr. Nubar Bedrosyan
 The Rev. Alan McCain, JMP Advisor in Turkey,
 ex officio

VOLUNTEER DISTRIBUTORS

Mrs. Janet Gullapyan
 Mrs. Nazli Dikici
 Mrs. Sirarpi Akbiyik
 Mrs. Isguhi Zingik
 Mr. Hayk Sekercian
 Mrs. Janet Kirkoryan
 Mrs. Katrin Amasyaliyan
 Mr. Migirdic Avedikyan
 Mr. Vartkes Kalinyan
 Mr. Arto Acemyan

The programs supported by JMP in Istanbul are social assistance programs, loan programs, school lunch programs, vocational training, youth recreational activities, and summer camps.

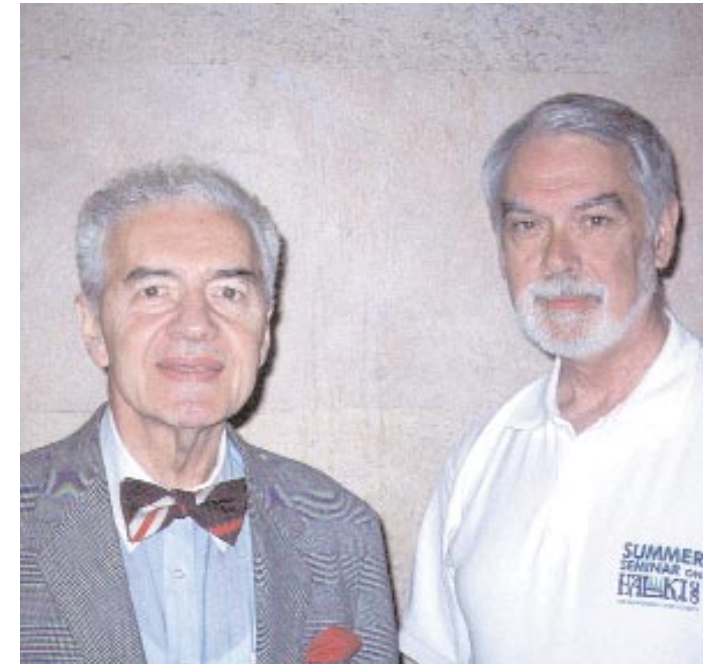
Needy families receive financial assistance every three months, with an additional bonus for the Christmas season. The 1999 Annual Report for JMP Istanbul reported 370 families received an average subsidy of \$20–\$30 a month. The recipients have no other means of making a livelihood; many of them are old, disabled, without family, or poor. The money is distributed through volunteers who regularly supply information concerning the families. This volunteer service reduces administrative costs of the program.

Loans are given without interest, payable within 20 months. Recipients are generally young people who have some kind of workshop or small company and need to purchase equipment for their business, usually small machinery

or appliances. Loans must have two cosigners who are well-known in the community. Since the inception of this program, the only default has been in the case of an individual who was killed in the 1999 earthquake.

Armenian schools, camps, and old people's homes receive financial assistance from JMP. Schools offer free lunches, free books, evening classes, and social guidance. Free transportation is given to all students who live at a great distance. School budgets and academic activities are inspected regularly by IAC.

There are two types of vocational training offered through IAC: Professional training teaches the English language, nursing, and computer studies, and apprenticeship programs are for children who cannot attend schools of higher education. Most of the apprenticeships are with diamond setters, jewelry cutters, jewelry designers, carvers, carpenters, and furniture designers.



Delegates at the International Conference in Yerevan, Armenia: Mr. Arman Manukyan, IAC Chairperson; The Rev. Alan McCain, JMP Advisor in Istanbul



The Rev. William K. Du Val, JMP Executive Director

Youth recreational activities help train boys and girls to become coaches, physical education directors, and administrators. Training courses are held in the Sisli Sports Club indoor gymnasium, the only Armenian institution of its kind in Istanbul. The center provides medical and dental care for all of its members. From 1994 to 1996, 25 members received state and national coaching certificates. In the past ten years, membership has increased from 250 to 750.

For the past 28 years, IAC has hosted a summer camp on Kinali Island. For the most part, campers are needy elementary school boys and girls. Principals from the 25 Armenian schools in Istanbul identify 200 of the neediest students for summer camp, and JMP supports 25 percent of their total expenses for 70 days.

Emergency assistance is given for hospitalization, for certain academic assistance, and for suffering caused by various types of disasters and acts of nature. In 1999 JMP helped with earthquake recovery projects through the auspices of the Armenian Patriarchate.

One must be impressed with the sizable legacy of Vartan Jinishian and be grateful for his choosing the Presbyterian Church to carry out his intent. At the same time, one can only be grateful for hundreds of dedicated people who have devoted their lives and efforts to serve the Armenian communities in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Jerusalem and Armenia. This service has been carried on in spite of difficult conditions and dangerous times.

Another joy is the cooperative, interchurch significance of joining together the Orthodox, Evangelical and Catholic branches of Armenian Christianity in a common effort and significant ministry.

The Rev. William K. Du Val, JMP Executive Director, 1978–90

IRAN

Iran, an ancient country in the Middle East, is a land of snowcapped mountains, green valleys, and barren deserts. About 70 percent of Iran's land, chiefly mountain and desert regions, is almost uninhabited. Iran's history includes the days of the great Persian Empire. Muslim Arabs conquered

**IRAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
SERVING FROM 1971 TO 1993**

- His Grace, Archbishop Artak Manoogian, Honorary Chairperson
- The Rev. Durwood A. Busse
- Mr. Vigen Gevorkian
- Mr. Vachik Gharabegian
- Mr. Giani Goulvartian
- Mrs. Oda Grigorian
- Col. Emile Hacopian
- The Rev. William L. Huskins
- Mr. Pedros Khanbabayan
- Dr. Yervant Kralian
- Miss Hasmik Nahapetian
- Dr. Vartges Nahapetian
- Mr. Thaddeus Ohanian
- Mrs. Rose Tchaptchovian
- Dr. Maria Tchiloyan
- Mr. B. Mac Kyle, Treasurer
- The Rev. William L. Huskins, Consultant to JMP
- Mr. Roupig Der Boghossian, Chairperson
- Fr. Vaxken Shemavonian
- Mr. Shahen Apoulian
- Mr. Vigen Gevorkian, Chairperson
- Mr. Ardavazt Ghazarian
- Mr. Jasig Khechoyan
- The Rev. Tateos Mikaelian, assassinated
- His Grace, Bhp. Gorum Babian
- Fr. Nishan Topouzian
- Mr. Yeprem Kevorkian
- Mrs. Dora Sabounjian
- Mr. Zareh Martkhanian
- Mr. Khechoum Khechoumian
- Mr. Etig Shahinian
- Mr. Yeprem Melikian
- Mrs. Seta Krikorian
- The Rev. Pakrad Melkonian
- Mr. Hans Schellenberg, Field Program Director, ex officio

the country in the seventh century. During their rule, the Islamic faith spread throughout Iran, and today the vast majority of Iranians are Muslims.

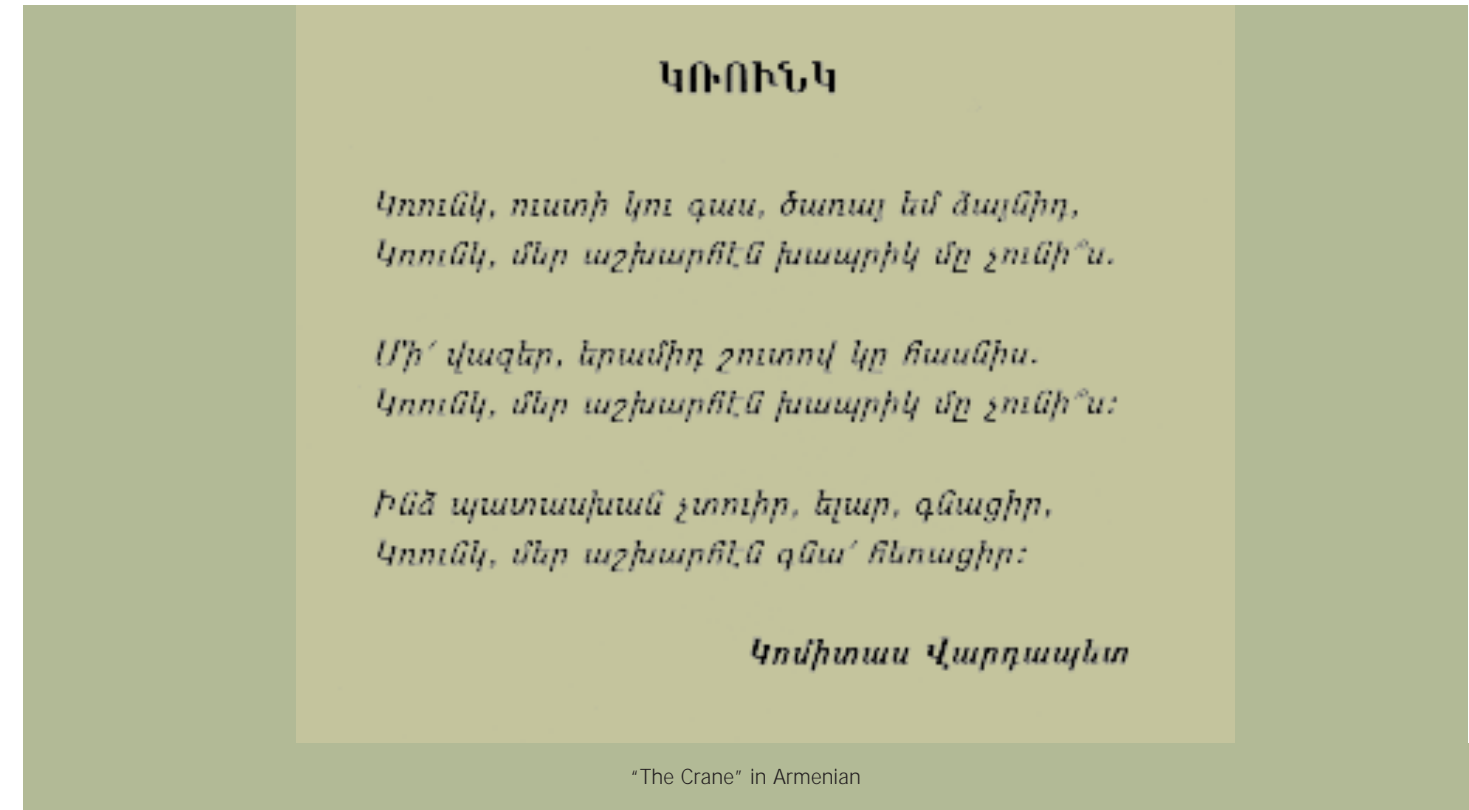
In the early 1900s, the discovery of oil in southwestern Iran gave the country an enormous source of wealth. During those years, many Armenians moved into this area to practice their skills in iron art and tile work. In 1979 revolutionaries under Ayatollah Khomeini took control of Iran. They changed Iran’s government from a constitutional monarchy to an Islamic republic. War between Iran and Iraq lasted from 1980 to 1988. Relations with the United States were once strained by terrorist activities, and although in 1995 Pres. Bill Clinton signed an executive order barring trade with Iran, the situation has improved greatly.

JMP PROGRAMS IN IRAN

JMP first sponsored summer camps and lunch programs in 1970 and 1971. With the organization of an Iran Advisory Committee in the fall of 1971, two young people were brought from Isfahan to Tehran for training in social work. In early 1972 they returned to Isfahan/New Julfa to lead in the organization of the Family Social Service Program and Survey and the Youth Center of the Armenian Church. The Family Social Service Program provided resources and leadership in the areas of general family counseling and assistance, medical care for the sick, food for the elderly and infirm, help finding jobs for the unemployed, and vocational training.

The programs provided by the Youth Center were religious, intellectual, and theatrical. Art, chess, and sports activities served 200–300 youth. The Youth Center was encouraged to accept the poorest of the poor. Day camps were active.

Winter relief support was administered through existing social service organizations in 1972. After a survey of the Vahidieh area of Tehran, the Iran Advisory Committee recommended a community welfare center in 1973. During that same year, the Iran Advisory Committee spent time studying program needs and began several self-development projects. A project in the Iranian province of Azerbaijan began process-



“The Crane” in Armenian

ing food with the purchase of equipment, and a rug weaving project began in New Julfa. There were sewing and knitting programs and a revolving loan program.

Although the Armenian community was not actively involved in the Iranian revolution, it suffered from the economic results. The loan program became essential during the late 1970s. Many shopkeepers needed money to change their businesses due to the strictures of the revolution.

Despite turmoil in the country, JMP programs continued. These included medical services, agricultural projects, workshops, vocational training, and family assistance. In 1982 The Rev. William K. Du Val discussed additional program needs with the Rev. Benjamin Weir, UPC representative for Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, and with JMP field director Haig Tilbian. The Armenian community felt a great need for Christian studies to be taught in the Armenian language.

During the Persian Gulf war, Armenian refugees from Iran received assistance in Turkey and Syria. Due to continued difficulty getting information concerning advisory committee members, project evaluation, and funding during the early 1990s in Iran, JMP ended program funding in 1991.

“THE CRANE”

A Song of the Homesick Armenian

Where from, oh crane? Praised be your voice!
Do you bring no news from our land?

Don't rush! You will soon join your flock.
Do you bring no news from our land?

You flew, left me without answers.
Go now, oh crane, far from our land!

—Translated by Dr. Mihran Essegulian

JERUSALEM

The Jerusalem Advisory Committee (JAC) was appointed in January 1972 and quickly identified a viable project to answer an urgent need among poor Armenians in Jerusalem: a health services center. Following negotiations with the Jerusalem Armenian patriarch, a room within the St. James Convent building was repaired, and the Jerusalem Armenian

Health Service Center employed a doctor and nurse in December of that year. The center began operating in the Old City of Jerusalem on January 1, 1973. It has served as many as 1,200–1,500 patients yearly. Physical space and utilities are supplied by the Patriarchate. In the mid 1990s the clinic was renovated, and new equipment was purchased for the laboratory.

JMP PROGRAMS IN JERUSALEM

The clinic operates three hours a day. A nurse is on duty each day from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Two days a week, the doctor arrives at 4 p.m. and receives patients for two hours, conducting basic diagnostic procedures for high blood pressure, glucose levels, and routine illnesses. Prescriptions are filled at wholesale cost. In 1995 the clinic provided well over 1,000 consultations, with 850 of these patients unable to pay. In addition to clinical services supplied to Armenian patients at the health center, grants are given to other institutions in Jerusalem for diagnostic and curative needs, including preventive dental care and laboratory tests.

The physician and nurse employed by JAC conduct yearly physical examinations and vision screening of students at the Turkmanchatz Armenian School and of seminarians at the Armenian Patriarchate Seminary. Dr. Maurice Sabella, a Palestinian doctor, has served in the clinic more than 20 years with an Armenian nurse, Mrs. Siroun Der-Vartanian.

There is no JMP staff or social worker in Jerusalem. All matters are handled through JAC. Emergency assistance is available to families that are experiencing medical difficulties, minor home repairs, or other financial disasters. The elderly and disabled also receive direct assistance. Armenian pilgrims coming to Jerusalem for religious holidays and who become ill there have been treated at the clinic.

JAC provides assistance for the institutions caring for Armenians in Jerusalem. For example, grants have been made to Four Homes of Mercy, an elder-care center in the West Bank. Several Armenian centers and clubs in Jerusalem receive JAC funds for the Christmas packages they give to Armenian children. JAC also furnishes scholarships for Armenian children to attend summer camps sponsored by these same clubs.



Jerusalem delegate to the 1999 International Consultation in Yerevan, Armenia: Mr. Kevork Hintlian

JERUSALEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVING FROM 1972 TO 2000

The Jerusalem Advisory Committee serves under the patronage of His Beatitude, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Torkum Manoogian.

- Mr. Antranik Bakerjian, Chairperson
- Dr. Noubar Arsenian, Chairperson
- Mr. Hagop Karageuzian
- Mr. Setrak Balian
- The Rev. Harold Adkins
- Mr. Hagop Demerdjian
- The Rev. Berge Najarian
- Mr. Sarkis Yacoubian
- The Rev. Clive Handford, Secretary
- Mr. George Sevan
- Mr. Kevork Hintlian
- Mr. Mardo Nalbandian
- Mr. Nazer Benneyan, Vice Chairperson
- Mr. Stepan Der Vartanian
- Mr. Dikran Bakerjian

JAC accepts applications from needy individuals and families for personal and business loans. These loans are often necessary as a result of natural disasters or the death of a family member. Most loans are given to people who have small businesses. Loans are granted without interest but must be approved by JAC and cosigned by a community leader. Community pressure ensures repayment without default.

THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

STAFF

Mrs. Armine Jamkochian	Republic of Armenia, Director
Mr. Michael Grigorian	Accountant
Miss Alina Hovhannisyann	Office Manager
Dr. Zaruhi Janibekian	Health Program Officer
Mr. Rouben Krikyan	Relief Program Officer
Mr. Armen Hakopyan	Loan Program Officer
Mr. Armen Stepanyan	Community Development Program Officer
Mr. Gevorg Aboyan	Program Assistant
Mr. Armen Karapetyan	Driver
Mr. Homeros Muradyan	Driver, part-time
Mrs. Laura Avanesyan	Housekeeper
Mr. Aren Virabyan	Security Guard

Armenia is located in a landlocked area of a little less than 12,000 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Maryland and just north of the border where Iran and Turkey meet. Over 90 percent of the 3.6 million inhabitants are Armenians. The other ethnic groups include Russians, Kurds, Georgians, and Azeris. Most of the land is on a high plateau that contains extinct volcanic mountains of considerable height; Mt. Aragats is the largest. Mt. Ararat, which is both the historic and current symbol of Armenia, is located about 13 miles south of the border in Turkey. Winters are long and severe; summers hot. The country has some fertile valleys where fruit, cotton, tobacco, and other crops are grown. Before the demise of the Soviet



Young Armenian boy

ՀԱՅՈՒ ՀՈԳԻՆ

Ի՞նչ է Հոգին, Հայր՛ն Հոգին՝ հարցուցի մերթ ինքզինքիս,
 Եւ մերթ լացաւ ու մերթ խնդաց իմ հոգիս,
 Անյո՛յս լացաւ և յոյսերով խօյարշաւ
 Մրրկարթեւ մինչեւ ի փա՛ռք խոյացաւ...,
 Որմէ յետոյ անրէն ըսի տխրագին՝
 Ի՞նչ է Հոգին, Հայր՛ն Հոգին...:

Ի՞նչ է Հոգին, Հայր՛ն Հոգին՝ ևս ինձի դեռ հարցուցի
 Եւ ինչպէս ամպ մը երևցաւ ան ինձի՝
 Որ կ'իջնէ վար ու մատախտոյ կ'ըլլայ մերթ
 Եւ մերթ ճերմակ ու վարդագոյն՝ թերթ առ թերթ
 Կը տարածուի երեսն ամբողջ երկինքին,
 Անհո՛րն ոգին, Հայր՛ն Հոգին...:

Ի՞նչ է Հոգի՛ն, Հայր՛ն Հոգի՛ն՝ կը հարցընեմ դեռ, աւա՛ղ
 Ու կը գտնեմ գայն ցեխի մէջ կիսաթաղ...
 Բայց զերթ զինուոր մ'որ կը կոտի անդադար՝
 Յնիսն այ, կ'ըսեմ, գայն աղտոտել չի կրնար,
 Եւ ընդմէջէն իր այդ ցեխին, սարսուղին
 Կը համբուրեմ Հայր՛ն յոգնած, սո՛ւրբ Հոգին...:

Վահան Թերէեան

Union on September 21, 1991, Armenia exported agricultural and industrial products to the other republics. Yerevan is the present capital of Armenia.

THE ARMENIAN SPIRIT

How can I define the soul, the Armenian spirit,
 I have asked myself, amused by the question
 all the time while the soul itself escapes
 my grasp of words, soaring with its wings
 trailing glory as I ask sadly still:
 What is spirit? What is soul?

What is essence? Idea? What is being?
 What is soul that comes as a cloud
 unseen but felt as mist?
 Sometimes it is a fragrance of roses
 or a haze of petals covering the sky's face,
 immense and immeasurable Armenian soul.

What exactly is Armenian soul, Hyoo hokee,
 I ask, and think I see it before me
 half buried in wet earth, like the soldier
 dug into his battlefield without feeling
 mud. I salute it through clay then
 kissing the tired but sacred Armenian soul.

—Vahan Tekeyan, 1918

Translated by Diana Der Hovanessian and Marzbed Margossian

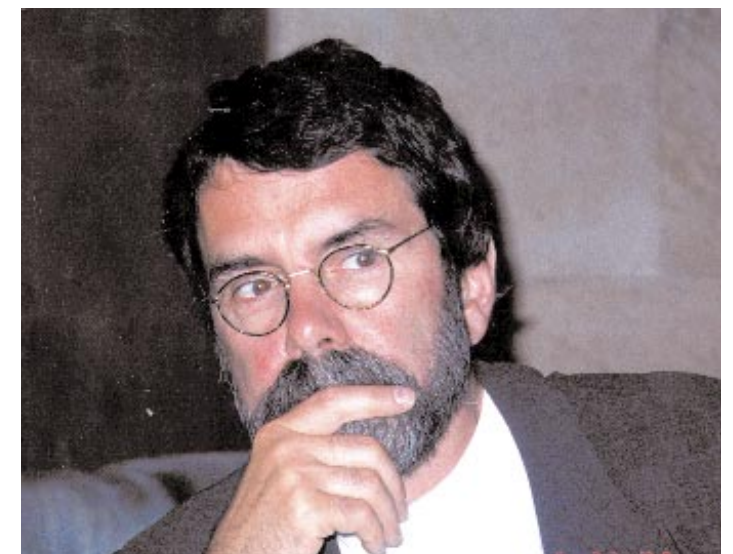
The will of Vartan Jinishian did not allow programs in the former Soviet Union, to which the will's designation of Russia was assumed to refer. After the fall of the Soviet Union, JMP voted program funds to be expended in the independent Republic of Armenia. Beginning in 1993, this is the most recent site for the work of JMP.

The democratization of the political system is a difficult and long-term process. Newly established democratic bodies are in a phase of reconstruction and have yet to establish themselves, still influenced by old powers and individual economic interests. Voluntarism is developing slowly, and there is an urgent need for teachers and social workers. Trust in dem-

Sustainable development means to meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is achieved by keeping in mind these seven things:

1. Address not only poverty but also the root causes of poverty.
2. Offer long-term impact on communities.
3. Provide community growth, learning, and empowerment by participation.
4. Maintain an understandable level of development.
5. Give impetus and opportunity for spiritual and personal growth.
6. Cooperate, network, and take advantage of the enabling role of nongovernmental organizations.
7. Encourage an integrative aspect in projects.

—Mr. Burkhard Paetzold, Coordinator for Special Projects, JMP



Mr. Burkhard Paetzold, JMP Coordinator for Special Projects



Volunteers and staff attending the 1999 International Consultation in Yerevan, Armenia: First row: Mr. Armen Hakopyan, Loan Program Officer; Mrs. Armine Jamkochian, JMP Director in Armenia; Mr. Rouben Krikyan, Relief Program Officer. Second row: Sister Arousiag Sajonian, The Rev. Rouben Pahlevanian, The Rev. Nshan Karakehyan, The Rev. Rene' Leonian. Third row: The Rev. Yuri Avanesian; Miss Alina Hovhannisyian, Office Manager; Mr. Armen Karapetyan, Driver; Dr. Zaruhi Janibekian, Health Program Officer



Residents of the Giumri apartments

ocratic bodies is weak. There is a lack of investment in the whole country and strong competition with neighboring countries. The gray market economy still plays an important role. One of the main difficulties is a weak infrastructure (energy resources, transport systems, road reconstruction, telephone systems). Unemployment is estimated at 60–70 percent. The most important human resource is the high literacy rate.

JMP PROGRAMS IN ARMENIA

The programs in Armenia concentrate on community development, preventative health and dental care, spiritual uplift, emergency relief, small business loans, institutional support for orphanages and homes for disabled children, summer camps for children, and a housing initiative for families displaced by the 1988 earthquake.



Books published by JMP Armenia

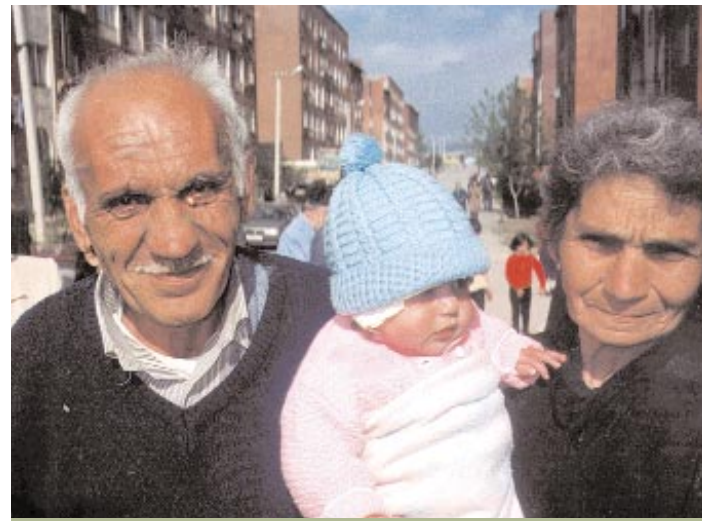
The village of Teghenik needed water. Construction of a water tunnel from the Gyumush hydroelectric power station lay unfinished. Using its own resources, the village repaired its existing pipeline and pumps, but it was not enough for both agriculture and safe drinking water. For the village to have safe drinking water it was necessary to complete construction of the tunnel. JMP Armenia financed completion of the pipeline. The village now irrigates 300 hectares of land and there is ample drinking water.

Significant health information has been published in Armenian for the general public. The first was a booklet on prenatal health care for expectant mothers. In 1998 JMP published The Child from Birth to One Year Old. The book contains information on monthly development, nutrition, breast-feeding and weaning, how to recognize dis-

eases, and sleep issues. The book was so well received, a second one was published in 1999: Child Care from One to Three Years Old. Recently, a coloring book about dental care was printed for young children. Thousands of these coloring books are given free of charge through children's clinics in Armenia.

Summer camp is an annual spiritual uplift program of JMP. Orphans and other needy children from different regions of Armenia spend several weeks on the beautiful slopes of Tsakhkadzor, Dilijan, and Arzni. The purpose of this program is to provide children with necessary physical care and religious education, which are unavailable in their daily lives.

The Winter Project is part of the emergency relief for all regions of Armenia suffering from severe seasonal conditions. The project targets the most vulnerable: the elder-



Above images: The Giumri apartments

Above images: Residents of the Giumri apartments

ly, the physically and mentally handicapped, families of soldiers killed in Nagorno Karabagh, families without employment, and families with many children. During the coldest of months, families receive heating fuel (wood, diesel, kerosene) and money to pay for electricity where electricity is available. Two thousand families received such help in 1999. Many who consider emigration, especially from the mountainous regions, take heart from this help and remain in their homeland. JMP Armenia receives many letters of gratitude from those who find renewed hope through this project.

The December 1988 earthquake in Armenia destroyed thousands of homes in one day. Railway containers (domiks) became homes for the homeless. These tempo-

rary shelters eventually became permanent. Giumri, the second-largest city in Armenia, was the most devastated. JMP worked with the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund in the construction of housing for 40 needy families comprising orphaned children, the chronically ill, pensioners, and families of the handicapped. After living in shelters with leaking roofs and rail floors, without sewage disposal or clean water supply, families wept tears of joy when they saw their new homes.

In the spring of 2000, JMP Armenia became registered as the Jinishian Memorial Foundation. It is now officially recognized as a not-for-profit organization created by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the Republic of Armenia to conduct JMP activities.

At the April 17–18, 2000, meeting, USAC received and affirmed a report by Maureen Ittig and Lucina Hennig entitled Assessment of the Situation for Children at Risk in Armenia. Recognizing the realities reported in this research document, USAC voted to recommend to the Armenia director and the Republic of Armenia Advisory Committee (RAAC) that an integrative, holistic program, focusing on the nurture and support of children at risk in the context of family life, be the major priority for JMP Armenia in the future.

“YOU BROUGHT CHRIST INTO OUR HOME”
BY SISTER AROUSIAG SAJONYAN,
VICE CHAIRPERSON, RAAC

Since Eddie’s return from summer camp sponsored by JMP of Armenia, life has not been the same at the M... household. The once turbulent and restless 12-year-old son, the terror of the street gang, has become the troubleshooter of the whole district where the family lives. “You shouldn’t hit back!” “You must pray for your enemies.” “You should help those in need.” Statements like these have become part of Eddie’s conversation—to the amazement of his friends and family. Whenever there is fighting in the street, Eddie is called to make peace.

At home, Eddie reads to his sister from the children’s Bible he received at the camp. Many times Mrs. M... will stop her work in the kitchen to listen to her children pray for their father, an alcoholic who has brought the family to extreme poverty. Mr. M... spends most of his time in the bar around the corner and sells household items to pay for his drinks. He has gone so far as to place their dilapidated house for sale at a bargain price. Eddie, however, has great hopes for his father because lately his father has been coming home early and joining in their evening prayers.

Each summer more than 1,000 children participate in the JMP summer camp program in Armenia. Far beyond the nutritious meals and the versatile educational program, the children are given biblical instruc-

tion and religious experiences. While thanking the staff, many parents add, “You have done miracles with my child. You have brought Christ into our home.”

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (RAAC) SERVING FROM 1993 TO 2000

- Abp. Nerses Bozabalian, Chairperson
- The Rev. Levon Bardakjian
- Mr. Nerses Karamanoukian
- Dr. Ervand Melkonian
- Fr. Komitas Manoukian
- Sr. Arousiag Sajonyan, Vice Chairperson
- Fr. Serob Chamourlia
- The Rev. Yuri Avanesian
- The Rev. Rene Levonian
- The Rev. Roubik Pahlevanian
- Fr. Haigazoon Najaryan
- Fr. Nshan Karakeheyan
- Mr. Armen Karapetian
- Mrs. Armine Jamkochian, JMP Director for Armenia, ex officio

4 ADDENDUM



The Rev. Victor Makari, Ph.D.; Mr. Edward Janjigian; The Rev. Robert L. Ellis; Mrs. Pergrouhi Najarian Svajian, Ph.D.;
The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D.

THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF JMP

THE REV. VICTOR MAKARI, PH.D

The Rev. Victor Makari, Ph.D., is a native of Egypt and an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) since 1966. He studied at Assiut American College and the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. In the United States he pursued graduate studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in 1960; Princeton Theological Seminary, 1961–64; and McCormick Theological Seminary in 1965. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Temple University in 1972 and 1976 respectively. For 25 years Makari served two pastorates: Wayne, Pennsylvania, and Columbus, Ohio. Since 1990 he has served as coordinator for the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia in the Worldwide Ministries Division, PC(USA). Beginning in 2000, his responsibilities included Inter-Faith Concerns.

MR. EDWARD JANJIGIAN

Mr. Edward Janjigian was born in Aleppo, Syria. He graduated from French College of Freres Maristes with a major in philosophy. He and his wife, Lucy Boyadjian, have

raised three children. Currently, Janjigian is president and founder of Janjigian Trading Company, Inc., an import-export firm in Ridgewood, New Jersey.

As a young businessman, Janjigian met Vartan Jinishian and offered to bring him news of the Armenian condition in the Middle East. Jinishian was deeply touched by Janjigian's personal reports and began planning for an endowment to help poor and needy Armenians in that area.

Janjigian's deep commitment to the welfare of the Armenian communities at home and overseas has led him to be actively involved in many charitable organizations. Currently vice chairperson of USAC, he has been a member since its inception, serving as president from 1976 to 1987.

THE REV. ROBERT L. ELLIS

The Rev. Robert L. Ellis is associate for program development and resourcing, International Health Ministries Office, Worldwide Ministries Division, PC(USA). He has served as health consultant to the Presbyterian Community of Zaire; administrative director of the Orange Family Medical Center in Hillsborough, North Carolina; Pastor of Eno and Fairfield Presbyterian churches in Cedar Grove,

North Carolina; and evangelistic missionary with the United Church of Christ in Japan Hokkaido Christian Center, Sapporo, Japan.

Ellis received an M.A. in public health from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, an M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a B.S. from the University of Alabama.

Ellis's responsibilities include assisting overseas partner churches of PC(USA) in planning and implementing health and development programs and reviewing requests from these partner churches for financial, technical, and personnel assistance related to health and development. Ellis serves as consultant to presbyteries working in overseas mission health and development programs.

MRS. PERGROUHI NAJARIAN SVAJIAN, PH.D

Mrs. Pergrouhi Najarian Svajian, Ph.D., is an educator and author in both the U.S.A. and the Middle East. She received her B.A. from the American University of Beirut and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. She has held teaching, administrative, and research positions at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, at the American University of Beirut, at Teachers College of Columbia University, and at the University of California at Berkeley. She has been a consultant for the United Nations. In 1998 she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Svajian is actively involved in the Armenian community, serving on the board of directors of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Friends of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and the New York Eastern Diocesan Bishop Zkon Committee. In addition, she is president of the board of directors of the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation. She currently serves as chairperson of the United States Advisory Committee.

THE REV. GIRAGOS H. CHOPOURIAN, PH.D

The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., was born in Adana, Cilicia, in Turkish Armenia. Following the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1918, his family became refugees in Larnaca, Cyprus. He attended the American

Academy of Larnaca and received a certificate. In 1945 Chopourian received a B.A. in history from the American University of Beirut and a B.A. in religious education from the Near East School of Theology. He married a fellow student, Yeprouhie Der Boghossian. They have three daughters.

Following his graduation from Andover Newton Theological School with an M.A. in religious education, Chopourian was ordained at Haverhill Congregational Church in Massachusetts. In 1958 the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Philadelphia called him to an 11-year pastorate. He continued his graduate studies at Temple University and received a Ph.D. in church history in 1971. It was during this time that Chopourian assumed the position of executive director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Chopourian is an author of Armenian history and a member of many Armenian organizations. He served 10 years as chairperson of the United States Advisory Committee.

COMMENTS BY THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED WITH THE JINISHIAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

I pause to think of those I have known through JMP, some of whom have gone before us into God's heavenly rest. What has always amazed me about these individuals is the way that God has taken diverse skills and training to be knit together into a fabric of service. In my mind's eye I see a physician kneeling beside the pallet of a sick old woman, offering end-of-life pastoral care few are able or willing to give. I see a shop owner who made his place of work a gathering spot for local JMP leaders. I see social workers striving to keep up-to-date professionally so that they might train others. I see people with graduate degrees bringing their expertise to organizing programs for simple needs that no one else would address. I see a JMP worker who sacrificed higher wages because an invitation to JMP service was prayerfully understood to be a call from God. I see JMP staff and committee members who gave willingly of time they

might have spent with their families, because their commitment to JMP always carried a vision of people, not just budgets or programs. I see eminent church leaders who recognized JMP's commitment to serving all, no matter what their church involvement might be. And I see persons whose daily work taught them about local Armenian settings and their weaknesses, who brought incredible passion to their desire for better conditions for fellow Armenians. Thanks be to God for a host of faithful people too numerous to mention!

The Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, Ph.D., former Executive Director, JMP

We need to gradually reduce outright assistance to the able-bodied poor and use the savings for development. We can use the apprentice concept, paying for the upkeep of youth placed in businesses such as computers, clerical, banking, carpentry, and mechanics.

The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., former USAC Chairperson

Vartan Jinishian, through his generosity and well-constructed will, made a significant contribution toward an ecumenical spirit among the three Armenian denominations. Each advisory committee must have members of the Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox churches and there must be no denominational discrimination in serving the poor and needy Armenian recipients. He planted this ecumenical seed, and the seed has borne fruit.

Edward Janjigian, former USAC Chairperson

LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the Armenian General Benevolent Union Central Board of Directors, I wish to extend my congratulations on the 35th anniversary of the Jinishian Memorial Program. The foresightedness and caring of Mr. Vartan H. Jinishian in establishing a most generous endowment, in memory of his parents Rev. and Mrs. Haroutune Jinishian and under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, have touched the lives of countless individuals through the years.

With all of its experience and many achievements in the Middle East, we are particularly pleased to see the "Program" expand to Armenia, a country which has suffered almost a century of totalitarian rule. Organizations and foundations are playing a major role in giving the population hope for the future.

We take this opportunity to thank the trustees and staff who have so faithfully honored Mr. Jinishian's wish to assist the less fortunate. His legacy lives on through your dedicated leadership.

With appreciation,
Louise Manoogian Simone

The Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation (HKCC) greets the observance of the Jinishian Memorial Program's anniversary with deep appreciation for its critical service in relief and development to needy Armenians, and notes our kinship in both history and program.

Mr. Jinishian was a business partner of Mr. Mihran Karagheusian, founder of HKCC in memory of his son, Howard, who died at the age of 15. Their relationship was a factor inspiring Mr. Jinishian to establish a fund similar in purpose. Mr. Jinishian directed in his will close cooperation with HKCC.

Miss Leila Karagheusian, daughter of Mihran and president of the HKCC at the beginning of JMP, was also one of the three Armenians designated by Mr. Jinishian to serve as a member of the United States Advisory Committee of JMP. She did so until 1988, when I replaced her on USAC.

The HKCC celebrates this 35th anniversary, recognizing great advances the endowment has made under the vigilant management of the Presbyterian Church(USA). We find our relationship with JMP gratifying. It is therefore with special satisfaction and appreciation we extend congratulations and best wishes for continued fruitful service to the Armenian Community.

Pergrouhi (Najarian) Svajian, Ph.D., President, HKCC

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), it is my privilege to extend to you warm greetings and congratulations on the 35th anniversary of the Jinishian Memorial Program.

The celebration of this important milestone is a special occasion for rejoicing and thanksgiving, and I join you and many others around the world in praising God for JMP's founder, Mr. Vartan H. Jinishian, and his legacy of worldwide charitable work through this remarkable fund.

Indeed, JMP has assisted thousands of needy Armenians around the world. We are especially grateful for JMP's ongoing and expanding charitable work among Armenians in their newly independent fatherland, where there is so much impoverishment, material need and human hardships.

We wish JMP many more years of faithful service. We bless the memory of the benefactor and his parents, the Rev. Haroutune and Mrs. Catherine Jinishian, and pray that JMP, established out of genuine Christian stewardship and Armenian patriotic spirit, will bless the lives of many more Armenians in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director, AMAA

SPECIAL THANKS FOR EXTENDED INTERVIEWS

The Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., Member of USAC

The Rev. Bill and Nancy Du Val, former Executive Director of JMP

Mr. Edward Janjigian, Member of USAC

Dr. and Mrs. Puzant Krikorian, former member of BAC

The Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, former Executive Director of JMP

Mr. Haig Tilbian, Regional Director for the Middle East

Dr. Beatrice Sommers, niece of Vartan Jinishian

The Rev. Benjamin and Carol Weir, former UPC, USA Representative in Syria, Lebanon, and Iran
 Dr. Ropovt Chorbajian, Chairperson of BAC
 Prof. "Sir" Keheyan, former member of BAC

FOR GOING THE SECOND MILE

Mr. Jaroslav Havlik, for rediscovering the Jinishian cemetery plot and recording the family information
 Ms. Kirsten Benson, Operations Manager for Armenia, for copyreading the manuscript
 The Rev. Carla Libby Gentry, former Program Assistant for JMP, for historical information
 The Rev. David H. Nelson, Executive Director of JMP, for copyreading and program information
 Ms. Paris Ramseur-Brown, Administrative Assistant, for program information

It is the intent of those who commissioned this book to remember the lives of the Rev. Haroutune and Catherine Jinishian, to celebrate the farsighted and prudent generosity of Vartan H. Jinishian, and to record the history of the Jinishian Memorial Program. Of equal importance is their desire to applaud the work of hundreds of volunteers and staff who have served Jesus Christ through this program and who continue its mission today. It is through their efforts that "the least of these" are fed, clothed, housed, spiritually uplifted, warmed in the cold, comforted in loneliness, and given the help to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope. In the name of Jesus Christ, thank you for feeding his sheep.

This book was written and published for the year 2001, commissioned by the United States Advisory Committee of the Jinishian Memorial Program on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Jinishian Endowment. JMP is a ministry of the General Assembly Council, Worldwide Ministries Division of PC(USA).

JMP BUDGET HISTORY

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1993:	\$20,000
1994:	\$78,000
1995:	\$485,000
1996:	\$522,000
1997:	\$1,352,000
1998:	\$1,647,000
1999:	\$1,179,000
2000:	\$1,150,000

IRAN

1971:	\$3,534
1972:	\$26,270
1973:	\$25,000
1974:	\$27,000
1975:	\$28,268
1976:	\$38,000
1977:	\$38,000
1978:	\$40,000
1979:	\$30,000
1980:	\$40,000
1981:	\$40,000
1982:	\$42,000
1983:	\$42,000
1984:	\$46,000
1985:	\$46,000
1986:	\$46,000
1987:	\$50,000
1988:	\$50,000
1989:	\$40,000
1990:	\$40,000
1991:	\$40,000

IRAQ

1970:	\$4,160
1971:	\$4,590
1972:	\$5,590

1973:	\$5,590
1974:	\$5,590
1975:	\$7,500
1976:	\$9,000
1977:	\$10,000
1978:	\$8,000
1979:	\$10,000
1980:	\$10,000
1981:	\$10,000
1982:	\$11,000
1983:	\$11,000
1984:	\$11,000
1985:	\$11,000
1986:	\$11,000
1987:	\$20,000
1988:	\$20,000
1989:	\$20,000
1990:	\$23,000
1991:	\$25,000
1992:	\$25,000

JERUSALEM

1973:	\$5,000
1974:	\$7,000
1975:	\$8,000
1976:	\$8,000
1977:	\$8,000
1978:	\$8,000
1979:	\$8,000
1980:	\$6,000
1981:	\$6,000
1982:	\$7,000
1983:	\$7,000
1984:	\$8,000
1985:	\$10,000
1986:	\$12,000
1987:	\$12,000
1988:	\$14,000
1989:	\$16,000
1990:	\$16,000

1991:	\$23,000
1992:	\$23,000
1993:	\$20,000
1994:	\$25,000
1995:	\$25,000
1996:	\$55,000
1997:	\$41,000
1998:	\$32,000
1999:	\$45,000
2000:	\$45,000

LEBANON

1966:	\$40,000
1967:	\$79,453
1968:	\$66,000
1969:	\$101,600
1970:	\$111,267
1971:	\$156,217
1972:	\$160,011
1973:	\$161,166
1974:	\$190,000
1975:	\$249,391
1976:	\$268,379
1977:	\$265,379
1978:	\$265,400
1979:	\$270,400
1980:	\$330,000
1981:	\$363,000
1982:	\$300,000
1983:	\$360,000
1984:	\$400,000
1985:	\$440,000
1986:	\$440,000
1987:	\$440,000
1988:	\$440,000
1989:	\$550,000
1990:	\$550,000
1991:	\$600,000
1992:	\$600,000
1993:	\$533,000

CHAPTER FOUR

1994:	\$400,000	1996:	\$188,000	JMP BUDGET TOTALS	
1995:	\$450,000	1997:	\$214,000	1965:	\$8,854
1996:	\$524,000	1998:	\$369,000	1966:	\$56,000
1997:	\$1,285,000	1999:	\$406,000	1967:	\$105,373
1998:	\$899,000	2000:	\$575,000	1968:	\$190,000
1999:	\$852,000			1969:	\$250,000
2000:	\$935,000			1970:	\$302,567
		TURKEY		1971:	\$473,480
		1970:	\$2,500	1972:	\$429,193
SYRIA		1971:	\$13,750	1973:	\$425,000
1965:	\$8,854	1972:	\$35,000	1974:	\$462,894
1966:	\$16,000	1973:	\$35,000	1975:	\$568,353
1967:	\$20,920	1974:	\$45,000	1976:	\$589,104
1968:	\$26,750	1975:	\$72,143	1977:	\$649,397
1969:	\$36,180	1976:	\$77,000	1978:	\$655,118
1970:	\$46,860	1977:	\$77,000	1979:	\$658,741
1971:	\$59,964	1978:	\$77,000	1980:	\$788,613
1972:	\$69,030	1979:	\$80,000	1981:	\$824,126
1973:	\$71,170	1980:	\$100,000	1982:	\$807,124
1974:	\$90,000	1981:	\$110,000	1983:	\$884,100
1975:	\$101,947	1982:	\$126,500	1984:	\$974,463
1976:	\$107,750	1983:	\$140,000	1985:	\$1,104,735
1977:	\$110,750	1984:	\$155,000	1986:	\$1,126,250
1978:	\$110,750	1985:	\$170,000	1987:	\$1,220,811
1979:	\$115,750	1986:	\$190,000	1988:	\$1,193,041
1980:	\$142,000	1987:	\$225,000	1989:	\$1,399,000
1981:	\$156,000	1988:	\$260,000	1990:	\$1,398,500
1982:	\$171,820	1989:	\$280,000	1991:	\$1,697,000
1983:	\$171,820	1990:	\$280,000	1992:	\$1,549,000
1984:	\$189,000	1991:	\$290,000	1993:	\$1,543,000
1985:	\$209,000	1992:	\$290,000	1994:	\$1,546,000
1986:	\$209,000	1993:	\$230,000	1995:	\$1,595,000
1987:	\$251,000	1994:	\$170,000	1996:	\$1,730,000
1988:	\$251,000	1995:	\$170,000	1997:	\$3,647,000
1989:	\$250,000	1996:	\$186,000	1998:	\$3,538,000
1990:	\$250,000	1997:	\$273,000	1999:	\$3,164,000
1991:	\$250,000	1998:	\$276,000	2000:	\$3,564,000
1992:	\$250,000	1999:	\$247,000		
1993:	\$200,000	2000:	\$281,000		
1994:	\$180,000				
1995:	\$180,000				