

NARA MELKONYAN  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

#### WAYS TO HELP

Humanitarian  
Goods Collection:  
April 24-28

#### Priority Items

- Children's Clothing (ages from 0 to 17)
- New Shoes for all ages
- Food
- Hygiene Supplies
- School Supplies
- Blankets and Bedding
- Medical Supplies
- Mattresses
- Chairs, Tables

Contact your Church  
mission chair for  
more information

#### FELLOWSHIP OF 1000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mails: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_

# Project AGAPE

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## HELPING ARMENIAN REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

Almost 100 years ago Syria became home of many Armenian refugees from Western Armenia, who were forced to leave their homeland or killed for only reason - **THEY WERE CHRISTIANS...**

Although the Armenians have had a long history in Syria, most arrived there during the Armenian Genocide committed by Ottoman Empire. The main killing fields of Armenians were located in the Syrian desert of Deir ez-Zor (Euphrates Valley). In 1915, this desert became a final destination of many Armenians. 1.5 million Armenians were killed and hundreds of thousands fled historic Armenia. A memorial complex commemorating this tragedy was opened in Der Zor city, which contains bones and remnants recovered from the Deir ez-Zor desert of Armenian victims of the Genocide and has become a pilgrim destination for many Armenians in remembrance of their dead.

And now, almost 100 years later, the descendants of those refugees became refugees again, escaping the nightmare their lives had become during the 20-month Syrian conflict. Now they had to seek refuge ... in Armenia, their ancestors' and their homeland.

Most of the refugees are from Aleppo, where the

Armenian 85,000-100,000 population is concentrated, representing largely middle class, for whom living in the towns is the only option. But there are also few families from rural places who agreed to live in villages. 20 families decided to move to the southern part of Kashatagh region, which has rich opportunities for agricultural activities. There are 7 families at the present living in Berdzor, who want to stay and live there.

But there may be more families moving to Kashatagh later. Project AGAPE expressed its willingness to give a temporary refuge to those families, who will move to Berdzor later, till the government finds permanent shelters for them and also helped the families which are already in Berdzor with clothing, food,

hygiene and school supplies, all first necessity goods. The youngest of all is 2 year old Barik, which means "Boon" in Armenian. The families were so touched and thankful for all the supplies. The governor of Kashatagh asked the Country Director of Project AGAPE to include Barik's family in AGAPE's 2013 House Renovation Project. He was replied that all possibilities will be explored and considered.



## Message from the AGAPE Board

Project AGAPE is making a difference in the lives of thousands of people in Armenia and Karabagh. We are the only organized group serving in this Karabagh region. United Methodists from across North Carolina continue to support our brothers and sisters helping to meet needs of

food, medical care, clothing and Christian education. The economy continues to struggle with 60% unemployment where folks just try to exist from day to day. YOU provide hope in this day to day struggle.

Please continue your support and share this need in your

church. Your financial contributions are vital to Project AGAPE's ministry. If you are not a member of the Fellowship of 1000, please join today. It only takes a gift of \$100.00 per year to be part of making people like little Barik, who are less fortunate, happier.