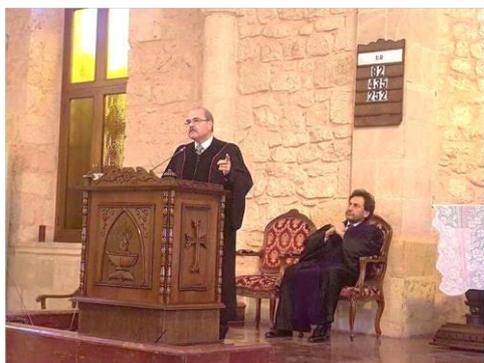


The President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East visits the Churches in Aleppo, Syria.

Early Morning on Good Friday Rev. Megerdich Karageozian, the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, with his wife Seta arrived in Aleppo to meet with the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Aleppo. In the early afternoon congregations met for the Good Friday Service, when Rev. Karageozian shared the importance of Jesus, God Incarnate, our Emmanuel, dying for us on the cross and how we in Aleppo during these years of hardship have been asked to carry this same cross while giving the Message of Hope to family, friends, neighbours and even strangers. This we will now continue doing as the Body of Christ.

Pastor Simon Der Sahagian led the service, Rev. Haroutune Selimian offered a thanksgiving prayer and Miss Armani Hera Selimian sang a song encouraging us all to look forward to the hope of Resurrection. We finished the day rejoicing that we were all together seeing the work of God in our lives.

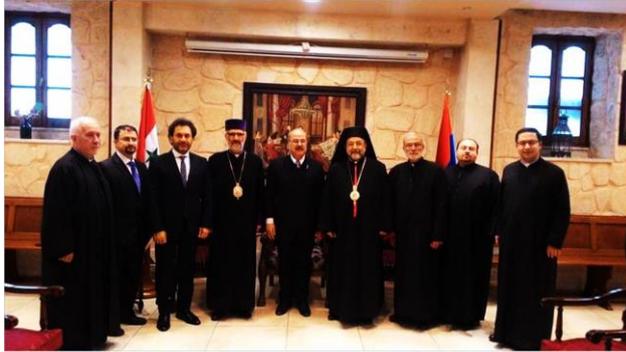


Rev. Mgrditch Karageozian, the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Visits the Destroyed Churches, Mosques, Aleppo Citadel and Aleppo Historic Gates in Aleppo

On the Saturday of Light, April 15, 2017 Rev. Mgrditch Karageozian visits the churches, Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church, St. Rita Armenian Catholic Church, The Forty Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church that have been so very much destroyed during these years of war!

Together with the Head of the Armenian Protestant churches in Syria Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Armenian Evangelical pastors and members of the Armenian Evangelical Central Committee they took the time to pray for God's guidance to the people trying to carry out

Late afternoon at Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church Rev. Karageozian received the Armenian Consul of Aleppo, Mr. Dikran Kevorkian and thanked him for his tremendous help, especially to the Armenian community of Aleppo, and for his courage staying in Aleppo all through the war until now.



Joint Easter Service at Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church

The joy of the Resurrection Sunday met the excited church-goers on this special Easter with “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!.” Luke 24:5-6. Yes, for the first time in six years the Armenians of Aleppo were able to rejoice without fearing the shells falling during the Great Feast. On this occasion the families of the Armenian Evangelical Churches (Bethel, Emmanuel, Martyrs') in Aleppo celebrated this Easter Service on 16 April, 2017 together with their Sunday-school children, their youth groups, their women’s auxiliaries, altogether 2000 people. Rev. Haroutune Selimian led the service and the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church's choir performed Easter Songs. Then the Sunday-schools children, about 300 children, presented a number of songs, testimonies and prayers. During the Service, Pastor Simon Der Sahagian offered a thanksgiving prayer and Rev. Mgrditch Karagozian, the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, delivered the sermon based on Luke 20.1-29. The chosen theme was "Our Lord's Victorious Resurrection". The service ended with the Lord’s Prayer and a benediction said by Rev. Mgrditch Karagozian. After the Service, Rev. Mgrditch Karagozian along with Rev. Haroutune Selimian received the well-wishers from the Armenian community and officials on the occasion of Easter.

Meeting with the Heads of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Armenian Catholic Church

On the Resurrection Sunday Rev. Mgrditch Karageozian and Rev. Haroutune Selimian met with His Grace Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian and His Grace Archbishop Bedros Meryatian at the Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church. They discussed the new situation with a unified Aleppo and the many challenges where all the churches together must make it possible for the church families to repair their homes and return to them. They also talked about the main task of the Church that of proclaiming the Word of Jesus until He comes! This is the only hope for us as Armenian Christians today!