

## **PART I**

### **John 5:24**

Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears my word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

The Word of God in Armenian is ‘Pant Asdvadz’. This ‘Pant Asdavadz’, Word of God is all- powerful. It brings into being everything pertaining to life from out of nothing; that which is in eternal life and that of this temporary world. God sustains their existence until a time when He will determine as to when it will all end. The Word of God heals. When relationships break down, He makes it whole once again. Life with God is whole and wholesome, that is, it cannot be broken down into pieces and it always remains in a healthy condition. No disease can penetrate His holy being. It is important for us, children of this world, called to become children of God, that we be able to hear His voice; a voice that continuously grants the gift of life. In family life it is important that those living together under the same roof, hear that they understand one another, although they may not agree with each other. The purpose of this program, ‘The Cross of Jesus and the Tree of Life’, is to help us to hear, thus better understand God’s will through His Word, so that we may always enjoy His blessing, that is, God’s help, not only in the life to come, but in the present age. In this way, we will be able to hear and better understand each other, especially in a family context. It should be understood that, the family unit is the most important unit in society. When the family unit is strong and healthy, so too is the society in which it is found. We can enjoy God’s blessings, that is, His help, not only in the life to come, but in the present world. It will help us to be better prepared to meet the everyday challenges of this life on our journey to the promise land where peace and righteousness reign eternally, a condition that we pray and all yearn to also enjoy during this lifetime.

With this in mind, I have prepared this work to acquaint our faithful with the teachings of the Armenian Church having information about some of the prominent figures within the context and outgrowth of the Old and New Testaments and life of the Armenian Church.

In general, Part I covers the Old Testament and has information about certain happenings in the New Testament. Part II – the Historical Outline of God’s Plan (The Five Major Feast Days -deals with the historical aspect of the acts of God and the personalities involved within them from the beginning of time to the present age. Part III, describes how God’s Plan is put into action, centered around the Divine Liturgy Worship Service, and the personal relationship developed between humans and God on an individual and collective basis through the sacraments which have become the vehicle by which God’s Plan is implemented. The project is enhanced by many diagrams and pictures as part of the teachings process, having maps for the viewer to gain a better perception as to the geographic location of certain happenings.

## **PART II**

### **HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF GOD'S PLAN**

In Part I, God's Plan was introduced, covering events and personalities of the Old Testament, with information concerning certain happenings in the New Testament era.

In Part II, 'the Historical Outline of God's Plan' - that is, the Five Major Feast Days - serves as a historical review of the acts of God, and presents Biblical figures involved within these acts from the beginning of time to the present age.

## **PART III**

### **GOD'S PLAN IN ACTION BY MEANS OF SACRAMENTS**

Parts I and II served as an introduction to God's Plan, in presenting its historical background. Part III will deal with the operational mode telling how God's Plan is put into action by the Holy Sacraments which in Armenian is called 'Khorhoort', that is Mysteries. The most important of these sacraments is the Divine Liturgy Worship Service, which in Armenian is called 'Soorp Badaarak', that is the Holy Sacrifice Service. It is the one Holy Tradition upon which all the others derive their legitimacy, existence and sustenance.

## **EPILOGUE**

Knowledge is good, but knowledge is not everything. That is why God forbade eating from the Tree of Knowledge to know the good and evil. Worldly knowledge can not bring about that which humans seek and yearn to possess...a peace where righteousness reigns. This is only possible through God Himself, the Creator of the seen and unseen, the known and unknown.. Knowledge of God helps us to gain a perception as to what should be done and that which should be avoided. At times the information may be specific, but most times, it is in a general form giving light and direction as to how we should direct our lives. In following this path, a better and more productive life can be achieved during our lifetime by utilizing the time and resources at our disposal during our journey to a life eternal, where we hope to be a member of God's Holy Family

**As Jesus says in the Gospel of St. John (5:24a)**

Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears my word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.