

THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET

In the early fifth century, Saints (Mesrop) Mashdots and the Catholicos Sahak embarked on a mission to create an alphabet for the Armenian language in order to bring people to Christ and unite the people divided between two empires under a common Christian faith.

The alphabet of St. Mashdots, invented in AD 405, was comprised of 36 letters, each letter representing a sound in the Armenian language. The alphabet begins with the letter “Ա” (‘A’ ayp) represents Asdvadz, and the last letter “Է” (‘K’ kay) represents Kreesdos, the Armenian words for God and Christ. This reminds us of the words of Christ, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). It was in the 12th century, two other letters were added to the alphabet, O (Օ) and F (Ֆ), bringing the number of letters to 38.

Soon after the new alphabet was officially put to use, St. Mashdots translated the Bible with the help of his students. The Bible was the first text to be translated and is called, in Armenian, “the Breath of God” Asdvadzashoonch. The very first words translated were from the Book of Proverbs 1:2, “To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding.”



TRANSLATE

Gospel Reading: [Mark 12:35-44](#)

How many languages do you know? Maybe you know a couple of words in Armenian or Russian or Spanish or another language. Maybe you know someone who speaks more than one language. To change words from one language to another is called translating. When someone translates, he actually takes words from one language and brings them to another language. This is what the word translate originally meant – to take something from one place to another.

Yesterday, we remembered the Holy Translators of the Armenian Church who, not only invented the Armenian alphabet (St. Mashdots) and translated the Bible, the Church canons and the writings of the Holy Fathers into Armenian from other languages, but they also translated (took and brought) the Armenian people from the darkness of ignorance and idolatry to the light of the knowledge of God.

When someone is in darkness, he cannot see where he is going or what he is doing – he is lost. These people who live in darkness do not know God. But we, who know God and follow His commandments, live in light. As a result, we are called to be Holy Translators too, by bringing people to God and into the light.

What if you do not speak another language? That is OK! You do not need to speak many languages in order to bring people to God. You can do this by helping others, talking to them about Christ, welcoming them into our church, becoming friends with them, and praying for them.

What else can you do to help bring people to God?
How can you be a Holy Translator?

ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

լուսավորիչ => loos-a-vor-eech => enlightener

Առաջնորդացն մերոց եւ առաջին լուսավորչացն...
Arachnortatsn merots yev aracheen **loosavorchatsn...**

That our leaders and first **enlighteners...**
(This example is on page 36 in the Liturgy Book)

WORD SEARCH

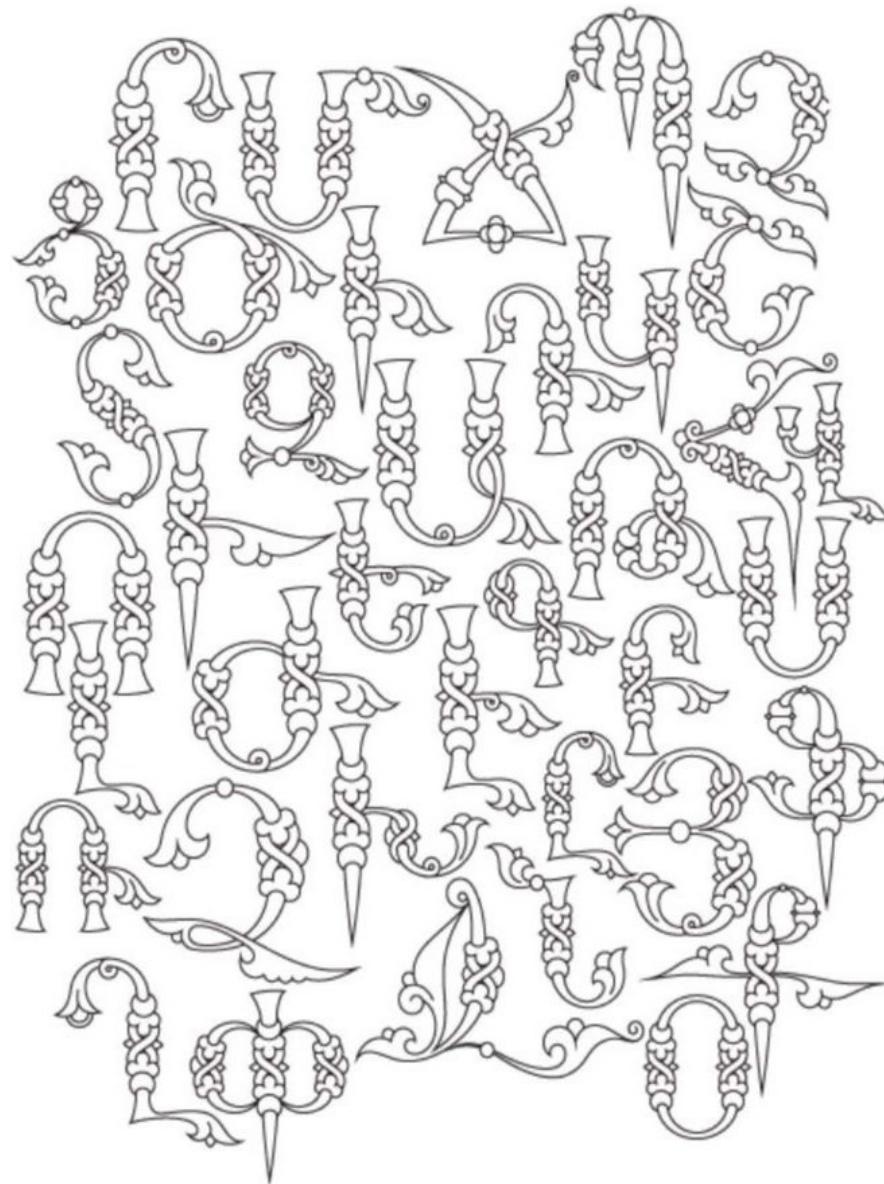
Armenian Alphabet

D	E	W	O	R	D	S	W	I	N	U	E	A	T
T	E	B	A	H	P	L	A	G	T	N	I	A	S
Y	O	P	O	R	S	E	M	R	R	D	H	A	A
S	A	E	A	S	A	H	A	G	L	E	B	T	I
Y	T	K	L	H	A	S	L	H	T	R	E	B	N
R	H	O	E	A	A	E	T	M	N	S	V	K	V
I	I	E	G	T	T	I	W	A	E	T	A	A	E
A	R	W	D	T	A	Y	P	S	T	A	N	G	N
C	T	W	E	F	M	D	B	H	H	N	G	E	T
H	Y	R	L	V	O	D	I	D	G	D	E	M	E
R	S	N	W	D	D	O	B	O	I	I	L	O	D
I	I	B	O	I	S	G	L	T	L	N	I	M	A
S	X	S	N	D	I	L	E	S	N	G	Z	A	E
T	Y	R	K	K	W	P	B	O	E	T	E	K	S

UNDERSTANDING
KAY
LETTERS
GREEK
KNOWLEDGE
GOD
ALPHABET
CHRIST
ENLIGHTEN
THIRTY-SIX
WISDOM
MESROP
INVENTED
MASHDOTS
EVANGELIZE
SAHAG
WORDS
BIBLE
FAITH
AYP
SAINT
OMEGA
SYRIAC

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6197421/>

TZAGHKAGIR (FLORAL) ARMENIAN ALPHABET



Դառնամք ի լոյս Աստուածգիտութեան:
Tar-namk ee looys Asd-vadz-kee-doo-tyan
We turn to the light of the knowledge of God.

(From the Baptismal Service of the Armenian Church)