

Etchmiadzin

St. Gregory Builds a Church

St. Gregory and Drtad were friends now. Drtad was thankful St. Gregory had healed him. Drtad had been baptized by St. Gregory, and now was a Christian. They both wanted to serve Jesus in Armenia.

King Drtad wanted Armenia to be a Christian country. He wanted to help Gregory in any way he could. St. Gregory wanted to build a church in Armenia. He wanted God's people to have a home.

St. Gregory prayed about the church he wanted to build. God answered St. Gregory's prayer. St. Gregory had a dream. In the dream St. Gregory saw Jesus come down from heaven. Jesus had a hammer in his hand and he struck the ground with the hammer.

Gregory woke up. He knew that Jesus wanted him to build the church in that place. King Drtad helped Gregory build the church. Many people helped. They built it just where Jesus showed Gregory.

King Drtad asked Gregory, "What shall we name this church?" Gregory said, "Let's call it 'The Place Where Jesus Descended,' Etchmiadzin."

The church was a good church, strong and big and beautiful. Gregory was the priest of Etchmiadzin. After he grew old and died, another priest took care of the church. Year after year, the church was filled with Armenians.

Many other churches were built in many other towns in Armenia. But Etchmiadzin was the first church. We call it the Mother Church.

