



## Profiles of the Holy Evangelists Writers of the Holy Gospels

The following are the profiles of four great men who wrote about the life of Jesus Christ, his teachings, his ministry and wondrous acts, in order to preserve the truth of what he said and did. The written gospels have preserved the truth and transmitted it to us. It is this same truth that we, the believing community, will pass on to the Church of tomorrow.

### **SAINT MARK**

He lived at the time of Christ and was also known by the name John-Mark. Being a Jew, he knew the apostles who stayed at his house

following the crucifixion. Though very young at the time of Christ's death, John-Mark heard Jesus when he preached in Jerusalem. Mark even followed Christ into the courtyard of the high priest on the day he was sentenced. Mark is an important link because he also shared in the ministry of Saint Paul, who took him on his first journey to Cyprus. Paul even refers to Mark as "my son."

Mark's gospel is recorded sometime before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. He stressed the miracles of Jesus Christ, and preached in Egypt and the east; he is believed to have died in Persia.

## SAINT LUKE

Luke was an early convert to Christianity. Though not a Jew, he knew their ways quite well and understood their needs. He was known to be a physician, but his healing went beyond the physical body. He dealt with the healing of the soul as well. This spiritual nurture is emphasized in the writing of his gospel account of Jesus' life. He, too, like Mark, journeyed with Paul to Rome where he was referred to by Paul as "my fellow worker." (Philemon 24) Saint Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles, known as the New Testament Book of Acts.

## SAINT MATTHEW

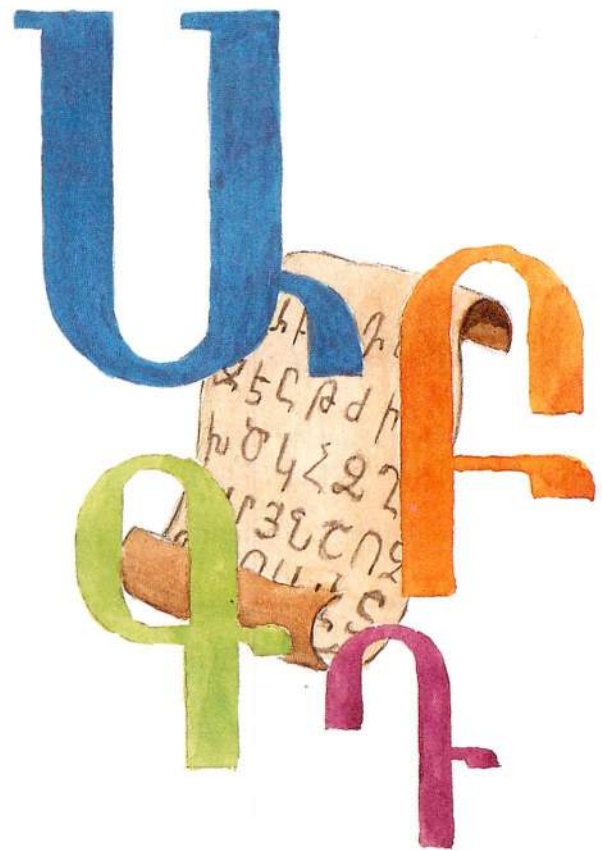
Matthew was a tax collector, known also as Levi. Eastern Christians have always believed that he and Zacchaeus are the same person. (Luke 19:2) Matthew was a publican and well educated. He was a native of Galilee who worked in Capernaum and later in Jericho. It is traditionally believed that he wrote the gospel account primarily for the Jewish people, and wrote in Aramaic which was their spoken language. He attempted to convince the Jews that Jesus was truly the Messiah.

## SAINT JOHN

John, son of Zebedee and brother of James, was from Bethsaida, Galilee, and was one of Christ's first disciples and the youngest. He was closest to Jesus perhaps because he was the youngest and most innocent, and needed more attention. After the Resurrection of Christ, John withdrew with Christ's mother Mary, away from the center of attention. He wrote in the Greek language and probably dictated his gospel to a scribe. It is believed that he had some rabbinical education, evidenced by his eloquent literary style. The fourth gospel, authored by John, came into the formal church about the year 95 A.D. He is also known to be the author of the Revelation of John.

## Armenian Church Fathers Continue The Work of the Evangelists

Of the many great saints of the Armenian Church, Saint Sahag and Saint Mesrob Mashdotz are remembered for their dedication to the Armenian people. They took up the work of the Holy Evangelists and succeeded in transmitting the message of salvation of Jesus Christ to



the people. Saint Mesrob created the means by which this was achieved.

In the year 404 A.D. Mesrob, who was a monk some 40 years of age, created an alphabet that became the vehicle through which God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ were brought to the Armenian people. The 36-letter alphabet enabled his and Saint Sahag's many students to translate the Holy Bible into Armenian. This enabled the people to learn of

and experience their Savior, and express their love for him in worship and prayer, in their own language. Together with an entire school of translators, they rendered into Armenian the writings of the Holy Fathers of the Church, the worship services originally written in Greek and Syriac. Finally, the people had access to the word and rules which they could now apply to their own lives; they could understand the truth of our Lord and transmit it to future generations.



## Coming to Terms

Avedaran  
Avedis  
Avedaranich  
Soorp Keerk  
Tarkmanich

Gospel  
Good News  
Evangelist  
Holy Book  
Translator

Ganon  
Havadk  
Margos  
Matteos  
Ghoogas  
Hovhannes

Canon  
Faith  
Mark  
Matthew  
Luke  
John

## QUICK QUIZ

Complete the following sentences by filling in the correct Armenian word.

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are known as \_\_\_\_\_
- Saints Sahag and Mesrob are called Holy \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_ was translated into

Armenian (three possible answers).

- Writing down the truth preserves the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church community.
- The four evangelists are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

