



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

August 1, 2006

### Emil's Story

For children who are confined to hospitals or institutions due to mental or physical disabilities, the world often seems like a lonely place. Such was the case for Emil Darbinyan. Emil is seven years old and has cerebral palsy. He has never attended school and cannot play outside without his mother's assistance. Emil would prefer to play without her like other children do. He has a wheelchair, but he hates it. He would prefer to walk rather than sit. Emil's dream is to one day walk independently and attend school.

Emil attends classes at the Bridge of Hope's Children's Development Center in Yerevan, Armenia, where he participates and socializes with other children in a group setting. This is Emil's favorite place because he has many friends with whom he can play and learn.

A grant from the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) was awarded to the Bridge of Hope Non-governmental Organization to implement the Outreach Clinics and Training Project, which provides therapy and posterior walkers to handicapped children. Emil's life started to change after he received a posterior walker from the project. Emil quickly learned how to use it. Now he walks slowly without anybody's support. With excitement Emil told me, "It's been a week already that I am walking with my walker, and I can go out without my mother's help. I play with my brother and friends in the yard. Soon I will go to school with my friends. My teachers at Bridge of Hope say that there is a school waiting for me. When I go to sleep, I close my eyes and imagine I walk to school next to my friends with my schoolbag on my shoulder. I wait for September to come as soon as possible."

Zara Janibekyan  
Health Program Officer  
Jinishian Memorial Program  
Armenia



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*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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