

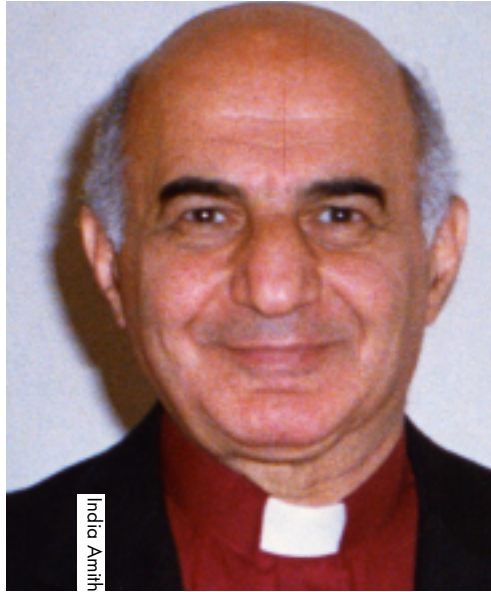


## MINUTE FOR MISSION

September 15, 2007

### A Compassionate Pastor (Iran)

In the early 1980s, just after the major political changes in the country and when most people were facing serious economic problems, a middle-aged pastor started his ministry in a small parish in Tehran. Being a visionary person he had a great love for and belief in youth and children. He was very close to them and well aware of and concerned about their various needs.



*Rev. Tateos Mikaelian worked tirelessly to help young people receive the support and care they needed.*

He was not a wealthy man, but having learned how to live as a steward of God's gifts and blessings he started helping youth become educated and start small businesses. He then shared his concern for the youth with the session and church members and encouraged them to support and contribute to a small loan fund project that was established in 1985.

The success of this small project brought great joy to the pastor, but his job was not done. He was also concerned about young couples who could not find affordable housing. Excited by his previous experience, he started praying for the establishment of a home loan fund. He encouraged more people to

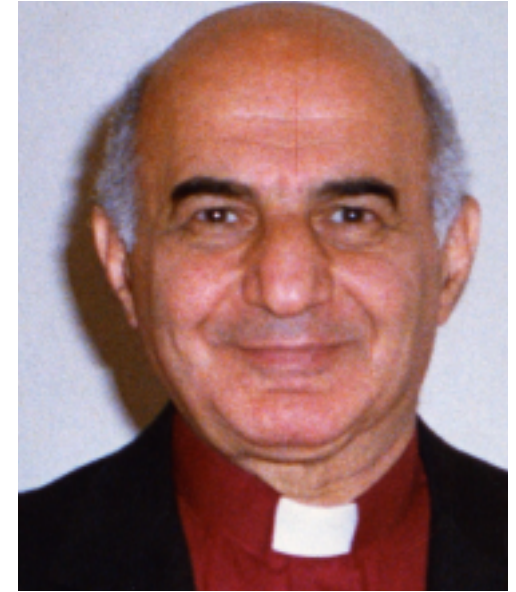


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contribute, and he drew some support from mission organizations. The first young couple who received a zero-interest, long-term loan was able to buy their own apartment in 1987. His joy was great when he visited the couple in their own home for the first time.

This favorable result encouraged the pastor and the church session to continue with more confidence and enlarge the vision. In a period of about six years, most of the young couples of the church and some from other churches, twenty-six couples altogether, received loans to buy their own apartments.

The Rev. Tateos Mikaelian is with the Lord, but what he started continues being a blessing for many.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for enriching our lives with so many gifts. Nothing we receive from you is small. Help us to spend the wealth you have entrusted us with in a way that reflects your compassion and love. Thank you for blessing our least coin.

The Rev. Hendrik Shanazari  
Synod of the Evangelical Church of Iran  
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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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