

Melkonian Memorial service



Alexander-Michael Hadjilyra for Gibrahayer.com - Last Sunday, 17 January 2010, Melkonian graduates and friends gathered in front of the Melkonian brothers' mausoleum for the annual memorial service (hokihankisd) of MEI's founders, Krikor and Garabed Melkonian, described by the marble tampan as "anmah parerarnar" (immortal benefactors). The very touching ceremony was celebrated by der Momik Habeshian, after which the school's kaylerk "Anmah Louso" was sang.

Standing there, looking and been looked at by the immortal benefactors, admiring their unparalleled achievement, I was wrapped in a mixture of intense sorrow and anger: the mistakes of the past have inevitably led to the unfortunate closure of the school, but it is the lack of morality and integrity - on behalf of all involved - that keeps this school closed. With Aglandjia Gymnasium having left during Christmas 2009, unless something is done, the historical school buildings may be one day facing a similar fate to the old Sourp Asdvadzadzin church in walled Nicosia and the Ganchvor church in old Famagusta: this is unacceptable, unthinkable and intolerable, not to mention the unknown fate and inaccessibility of the school's rich library. Enough with the past: actions must be taken, decisions must be made, and solutions and compromises must be found.

