

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Easter Island Heads – Not Just Another Pretty Face



Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15

Today on Creation Moments we bring you a bit of old news. I mean really old news. Though this news is nearly a hundred years old, few people even today know that the massive stone heads on Easter Island are actually sitting atop tall stone bodies buried in the ground.

The statues – carved from volcanic rock between A.D. 1100 and 1500 and put in place by Polynesians on Easter Island – range in size from 3 feet to a towering 33 feet in height. The largest statue – named El Gigante – tips the scales at about 165 tons.

In 1919 pictures of the first excavations to Easter Island revealed that some of the heads were full sized. But over the following decades, the discoveries were gradually forgotten. Since 2010, the Easter Island Statue Project has been excavating two of the buried bodies. According to the project director, most people think the statues are only heads because there are 150 of them buried up to the shoulders on the slope of a volcano, "and these are the most famous, most beautiful and most photographed of all the Easter Island statues."

Think of it – if archaeologists had never dug deeper, they would not have uncovered the whole truth about these massive stone statues. Similarly, if we want to get a more complete understanding of what the Bible teaches, we need to dig deeper. In-depth Bible study takes time and work. But it is well worth the effort!

Ref: Natalie Wolchover, "Do the Easter Island Heads Really Have Bodies?", LiveScience, 9/25/12.
Photo: Courtesy of Aurbina. (PD)

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**TODAY: January 29<sup>th</sup> - 3 p.m. at Sioux Falls Seminary** there will be a special 1 hour event taking place for the family of North American Baptists. You are invited to learn about how we *can do something together that we would not be able to do alone!* **"REACH: NAB on Mission Together"** is a special initiative that was launched at the last Triennial and is now catching fire throughout the Conference. We will be sharing the specifics of 10 unique Kingdom-building projects throughout North America and our mission fields around the world. Refreshments will be served and special brochures available to take home and share with others.

### BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Sunday, January 29, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Jackie Kramer

Greeters: Gene & Judy Preston     Scripture Reader: Lindy Johnson  
 Nursery: Ginger Nelson and Katrina Nelson     Usher: Justin Tiffany  
 Children's Church: Scott & Nora Sittig and Trevor Skogen

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, & Christian Greetings

Praise Songs.....Bluegrass Singers

Prayer of Praise

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Children's Moments with Pastor Merv Kramer

Scripture Reading.....John 15:1-4

Ministry of Music.....Bluegrass Singers

Children may be excused for Children's Church (3 yrs-2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

Sermon... "The Secret to God's Kingdom - Abiding".....Pastor Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn #490....."I Am His, and He Is Mine"

Benediction

Postlude

\*\*\*Nursery care is available for children infant thru 3 years old

(Please contact an usher for information and/or direction)

\*\*\*Hearing Amplifier Available – Please contact an usher

**Please join us after the worship service for coffee and treats in the fellowship room.**

## Sunday School for All Ages

Combined Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> Grade with Aaron Skogen or Jan Questad in Nursery  
Combined 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade with 2D Gerdes and Mindy Roeder in Cubbies Room  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade with Erica Skogen or Judy Preston in Pastor's Office  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade "Truth Project" with Mike & Stacy Frost in Youth Room  
Adult Classes:

- "Grace" Bible Study with Mike Benson in Fellowship Room
- Video study with Pastor Kramer in Sanctuary. Today's topic is "Genesis: Key to Reclaiming the Culture" - Part 2

### \*\*\* Praise & Prayer\*\*\*

**Elmer Gerdes**, healing from hip fracture surgery

**Ruth Ortiz**, possible cornea transplant surgery (previous one was unsuccessful)

**Ruth Hansum**, recovering at home from back surgery

**Lajeane Wright**, wife of Jim Wright, for continued strengthening, dealing with side effects of medication; encouragement and endurance for Jim

**Lorraine Montecucollo**, for healing from broken hip, now home recovering

**Ron Benson**, brother of Mike Benson, for heart health issues

**Amanda Benson**, as her sending church, Amanda has asked that we lift her up in prayer as she is in the mission field.

**Serving Our Country:** Josh Onnen, Air Guard; Chad Carlson, Air Guard (Son-in-law of Carl & Lindy Johnson); Devon Lee, Army, and Kristina Lee, Air Force (Grandchildren of Ray & Dee Olson)

## For Your Information and Prayer

- Today: -11:30 a.m. Potluck Meal and White Cross Bandage Rolling
- Wednesday: -6:30 p.m. Awana Clubs
- Thursday: -Church office closed Thursday  
-7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Fellowship at Lindy Johnson home, 413 Heatherwood Dr.

## Our Prayer Partnership

- Brandon Valley Assembly of God Church
- Dr. Greg & Heather Hanson, President, Sioux Falls Seminary

## OUR GIVING:

Sunday, January 22, 2016

|                |    |          |
|----------------|----|----------|
| General Giving | \$ | 2,061.00 |
| Building Fund  | \$ | 25.00    |
| Total          | \$ | 2,086.00 |

## Next Sunday: February 5, 2017

- Communion Sunday, love offering for Alpha Center
- Greeters: Ray & Dee Olson
- Usher: Dave James
- Nursery: Dee Olson and Dan Hanson
- Scripture Reader: Theresa Friesen
- Children's Church: Mindy Roeder and Garret James

## Upcoming Event: Sunday, February 19

Missionaries Ron and Jeannie Seck (NAB Hungary Field Director) will be joining us for the **5:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Service on February 19<sup>th</sup>**. They will be accompanied by Marijana and Emil Cizmanski from Novi Sad, Serbia. Marijana is an NAB National Worker that we support when we support the Secks. This event will give you an opportunity to meet them and hear an update on what is going on in Central Europe.

## Pray for the Persecuted Church: Sri Lanka

**Church Continues Despite Disaster** Source: World Watch Monitor

The leader of a Sri Lankan church destroyed by a mob earlier this month has vowed that the church will continue to meet. Kamal Wasantha, leader of the Kithu Sevana Prayer Centre, states: "No attack can stop us. We shall continue to meet and pray under a tree." Despite the attack leaving the Christian community of 15 families and 20 other worshippers nowhere to meet, they have no desire for revenge. "(We) shall not attack them in retaliation," he adds. "Judgement belongs to God."

On January 5th, a group of people, allegedly led by a Buddhist monk, attacked the church in Paharaiya, northwestern Sri Lanka. "First, they threatened us verbally," Kamal explains. "Then they came with wooden sticks, iron bars and knives, and destroyed everything. (People) begged the attackers not to damage the place of worship."

Four days prior to the attack, a Buddhist monk from Gothamirama reportedly threatened them with "serious punishment" if they continued to lead worship at the church. A complaint was filed with the police by the leaders of the church and warnings were given to others in the Christian community. Then on January 5th, two of the church leaders and the monk were summoned to the police station. Ironically, the attack happened that same night. About 200 witnesses named the monk and 12 other people as the attackers. The accused perpetrators of the crime remain free on bail.

The church was growing quickly and, with all its members being from other faiths, this attracted the attention of those in the village who do not tolerate Buddhists changing their religion to Christianity. Kamal, himself a Buddhist convert, says he "cannot abandon (this) mission just because of the attacks."