

## Card Shower for Elmer Gerdes

Elmer's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please take time to send him a card and shower him with love and encouragement. Please mail cards to:

Elmer Gerdes  
c/o Palisades Manor  
920 4th Street  
Garretson, SD 57030

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### Pray for the Persecuted Church: Eritrea Abuse Victims Die Following Hunger Strike

Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Two Christian women tragically died in Eritrea on March 17th, just days after being transferred to a hospital from detention where they had been on a hunger strike. According to the Eritrean website, *Erimedrek News*, the two women were detained at the Wi'a military camp prior to being transported in critical condition to Massawa Hospital on March 12th. They had embarked on a hunger strike in protest of the horrific abuse they were receiving while in detention. Upon medical investigation, their bodies were allegedly marked with bruising consistent with sexual abuse.

The Eritrean government is one of the most repressive in the world. Thousands of prisoners of conscience are detained arbitrarily for indefinite periods of time in unsatisfactory facilities where conditions are life-threatening and torture is rife. A campaign of arrests targeting selected religious communities has been ongoing since 2002 when the government effectively outlawed all Christian practices not affiliated with certain denominations and Sunni Islam.

In its June 2016 report, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea found "reasonable grounds to believe" that crimes against humanity have been committed by state officials in a "widespread and systematic manner" since 1991. Crimes of persecution against religious groups involve all forms of abuse, including repeated rape or gang rape by detention officials.

Thank you for upholding the grieving families and friends of the two deceased Christian women. As they grieve over the tragic loss of these precious lives, may they take comfort in knowing that their loved ones are now in the glorious presence of Jesus -- where they are freed from pain, sorrow and fear.... Pray that this case will be used to expose the grave injustices and evil practices within Eritrea's prison system and, therefore, serve to bring about greatly needed change. Additionally, please intercede for the safe release of the numerous Christians remaining in captivity, and for God's wisdom and protection to be granted to all who are diligently striving to carry out the Great Commission in this repressive nation.

### BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

400 N. Splitrock, Brandon, SD 57005

Ph: 582-2248

Merv Kramer, Senior Pastor

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## Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Pam Osmanson

Greeters: LeeRoy & Ginger Nelson Usher: Mike Kresak

Scripture Reader: Joan Murphy Nursery: Aaron Skogen

Children's Church: Doris Conradson and Maegan Questad

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, & Christian Greetings

Children's Choir Palm Sunday Processional

Praise Affirmation.....Ephesians 1:18-20

Hymn #173....."All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Prayer of Praise

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Ministry of Music.....Chet & Rachel Hsiao

Children's Moments with Pastor Merv Kramer

Scripture Reading.....Mark 11:1-10

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

Sermon... JESUS' LAST JOURNEY AND ENCOUNTERS:

"Followers Before and After".....Pastor Merv Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn #259....."Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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 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 "The Easter Story."

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

**Kevin Van Malsen**, resting in hospice care at The Cottage in Luverne

**Maxine Savage**, for healing and strengthening

**Elmer Gerdes**, healing from hip fracture surgery, now at Garretson nursing home

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

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

**Lajeane Wright**, wife of Jim Wright, thankful for her increasing physical strength, continue to pray for increasing mental clarity; also encouragement and endurance for Jim

**Lorrayne Montecuolo**, 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

-Tuesday: -9:30 a.m. Worship Service at Helping Hand

-Thursday: -6:00 p.m. Seder Meal (please sign up)

-No Women's Bible Study this week

-Friday: -Church office closed for Good Friday holiday

## Next Sunday: April 16, 2017 (Easter)

-7:30 a.m. **SONrise Service**

-8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

-9:00 a.m. **Resurrection Day Worship Service (note different time)**

-Greeters: Glen & Doris Conradson

-Usher: Paul Osmanson

-Nursery: Shawna James

-Scripture Reader: Justin Tiffany

-Children's Church: Theresa Friesen and Cade Fox

**-No Sunday School on Easter**

### OUR GIVING:

Sunday, April 2, 2016

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| General Giving                    | \$ 1,808.00 |
| Love Offering – Furniture Mission | \$ 209.00   |
| Furnace Fund                      | \$ 500.00   |
| Building Fund                     | \$ 25.00    |
| Total                             | \$ 2,542.00 |

(Approximately \$2,500 is needed each week to meet expenses)

### Our Missionary/Church Planter of the Week: April 9



**Shan Reed, NAB Missionary, Japan.** Shan Reed has been serving as a long-term missionary in Japan since 2001. For the past six years, she has been serving at Komyo Christian Church. One of the ministries she serves in is the English and baking class. She has also been invited to be part of the youth committee for the Japan Baptist Conference. Pray for the JBC committee as they plan and lead youth events. Also, pray for the people of Komyo Christian Church to deepen their desire to love Jesus, His word, and others. For more information, visit [www.nabonmission.org/missionaries/shan-reed](http://www.nabonmission.org/missionaries/shan-reed).

### Our Prayer Partnership

- Valley Springs Reformed Church

- Associate Pastor Paul Pankratz, Oak Hills Baptist Church, Sioux Falls