

## Card Shower for Amanda Benson:

We would like our church family to write a note/card of encouragement to Amanda. She would love to hear from all of you. Mike and Jolene will be going to Manila at the end of May. Please put your card in the basket by Sunday May 21. We will bring them with us. Thanks for your support!

---

## Pray for the Persecuted Church: Tajikistan Officials Enforce Closure of Church

Source: Forum 18

On April 10th, the National Security Committee secret police arrested Pastor Bakhrom Kholmatov of the Sunmin Sunbogym Protestant Church in Khujand. He remains in custody, under investigation on criminal charges of alleged "extremism." The charges follow the seizure of hymnals and Christian books during a raid on his church. The pastor's family and church members have received no news of his physical condition nor state of health since the arrest.

In early February 2017, the secret police and other law-enforcement agencies began raiding Sunmin Sunbogym's affiliated congregations. They particularly targeted the church in the town of Konibodom, demanding that the members renounce their faith and leave the church. Some believers were beaten, while others were dismissed from their jobs. The officials, who admittedly stated that their "purpose is to close down churches in Tajikistan and take away their property," enforced closure of the Konibodom church in March.

In early April, the authorities then began raids on the central Sunmin Sunbogym Church in Khujand. While searching the church's premises, they seized the mentioned hymnbooks and other Christian literature. The secret police also condemned another book they had confiscated, *More Than a Carpenter*, which was written by the highly respected American author Josh McDowell. The officers stated that a group of their religious "experts" concluded that this book, as well as the other Christian texts, are all "extremist."

Authorities frequently use extremism-related charges to punish individuals for exercising freedom of religion, even though these churches are officially registered with the state. Punishments include prison terms of up to twelve years unless an individual voluntarily agrees to stop their activity. Meanwhile, officials in Dushanbe have also closed two kindergartens. One was closed after officials found a Christian songbook, and the other because believers were employed there.

Please prayerfully uphold all the believers in Tajikistan who have come under increasing intimidation and persecution by governmental authorities. Ask God to mightily intervene on their behalf, providing them strength, protection, provision, guidance and encouragement... as they wisely navigate appropriate ways to handle the opposition targeted against them. Also pray that Pastor Kholmatov will soon be released, and that all charges against him are dropped. May the Lord's presence be evident in this case so that those in authority will witness His power at work and come to acknowledge Him as their personal Savior and Lord.

---

**NEEDED: Summer Sunday School Teachers** for the K-4<sup>th</sup> grade class for June-August (one teacher per month, if possible)

## BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

400 N. Splitrock, Brandon, SD 57005

Ph: 582-2248

Merv Kramer, Senior Pastor

Ph: 330-2723

Matt Murphy, Church Administrator

Ph: 582-2248

Website: [www.brandonvalleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.brandonvalleybaptistchurch.org)

Email: [bvbaptch@alliancecom.net](mailto:bvbaptch@alliancecom.net)

## Sunday, May 14, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Jackie Kramer

Greeters: Aaron & Erica Skogen Scripture Reader: Joan Murphy

Usher: Justin Tiffany Nursery: Scott & Nora Sittig

Children's Church: Matt Murphy & Hailey Skogen

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, & Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Hymn #536....."Happy the Home When God Is There"

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.....Luke 10:38-42

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

Sermon..."Choosing What is Needed".....Pastor Merv Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn #535....."A Christian Home"

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.**

*Happy Mother's Day!*

## 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:

- Bible Study on 1 Peter with Mike Benson in Fellowship Room
- Video study with Pastor Kramer in Sanctuary. Today's topic is Neil Anderson's "Freedom in Christ" session 4 - "Reshaping our Worldview"

## For Your Information and Prayer

-Thursday: -7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (location TBA)  
-Friday: -6:30 p.m. Piano Recital (students of Matt Murphy)  
-Saturday: -7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Pastor Merv & Jackie will be gone this week from Tuesday to Saturday for a graduation in Colorado.

## Next Sunday: May 21, 2017

-Graduate Recognition and Teacher Appreciation  
-Greeters: Dan & LaDell Hanson  
-Usher: Dave James  
-Nursery: TBD  
-Scripture Reader: Trevor Skogen  
-Children's Church: Dee Olson and Cade Fox

## Upcoming Events:

**Now thru May 17** – Collecting clothes (size Kids to Adult Medium), shoes, crutches, canes, and wheelchairs for Guatemala

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** – Meal Serving at St. Francis House, please sign up to serve or provide food that evening

OUR GIVING:	Sunday, May 7, 2016
General Giving	\$ 1,165.00
Love Offering – Crystal Springs Camp	\$ 260.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,450.00

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

## \*\*\* 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, at Garretson nursing home  
**Lajeanne 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 Montecuello**, 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)

## Our Missionary/Church Planter of the Week: May 14



**Gary Clatterbuck, Field Coordinator, Russia.** Gary Clatterbuck is the field coordinator for Russia, working under the Moscow Theological Seminary and providing teachers, upon request, to ten different Learning Centers across Russia. He continues to work with MTS to plan future ways consultants can serve the developing leaders in all of Russia, though there is some uncertainty concerning a law that passed last summer calling for tighter restrictions on missionaries and evangelism. Pray for the cases working their way through the courts, as well as the hearts and actions of Russia's leaders. Due to the precarious nature of the situation because of the new law, please don't share this anywhere online, including social media. Find out more about Gary's work at [nabonmission.org/missionaries/gary-clatterbuck](http://nabonmission.org/missionaries/gary-clatterbuck).

**NEEDED: The Banquet in Sioux Falls is in need of small, disposable plastic containers (such as cottage cheese containers) to send leftover food home with guests. Please bring them to the church on or before May 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## Our Prayer Partnership

- Brandon Valley Baptist Church  
- Youth Pastor, West Center Street Baptist Church, Madison, SD