

Voice of the Martyrs Conference in Sioux Falls

Many Christians around the world today are persecuted because of their faith in Christ, yet they continue to advance the gospel through their lives and words. At the VOM Advance Conference you will meet persecuted Christians and hear their inspirational testimonies. There is no charge to attend the VOM Advance Conference. Register online today and bring a friend!

Please join us **Saturday, August 12**, for the VOM Advance Conference at Community Reformed Church, 6800 E 41st Street, Sioux Falls (9am-4pm). Doors open at 8 a.m. for registration, resource-center access and prayer. Lunch will be on your own from 12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at area restaurants. Register online by going to <https://www.vomadvance.com/conference/12/> or register by phone at 800-747-0085

The conference will feature the following speakers: Dr. Hormoz Shariat, who came to the United States in 1979, is the founder of Iran Alive Ministries; Sarah Liu lived a life of faith in her homeland of China. Her unapologetic Christian beliefs ultimately led to her arrest, torture and imprisonment for six years; Pastor Benny is president of IMPACT Leadership Development with Alpha Bible Churches of India; Cole Richards serves as Executive Vice President of The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM). In this role, he leads VOM's global ministry work, which includes significant outreach both in the U.S. and abroad, and music and worship guest Amy Shreve, who along with her husband, Gary, lived in Nashville, Tennessee, for many years, and have recorded 16 CDs, ranging in style from harp instrumental to vocal with full instrumental accompaniment.

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Sudan

Newest Release of Christian Prisoners! Sources: Release International, Middle East Concern

After 510 days in prison, Rev. Hassan Abduraheem and Mr. Abdulmonem Abdumawla, whom were both initially sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment, have recently been released after receiving presidential pardon. The two men were arrested in December 2015, along with VOM's Czech ministry partner Petr Jasek and fellow Christian Rev. Kuwa Shamal.

Rev. Shamal was acquitted of all charges and released in January, while Petr Jasek was released in February, after also being granted presidential pardon. "My joy is now complete as they are free as well," Petr gratefully announced following news of their release. Petr spoke to Rev. Abduraheem at about midnight local time following his release. "He told me that both he and Abdulmonem were in good health, and excited and so happy to be free. He also expressed thanks to all those who had pushed their case."

Acknowledging the Lord's ability to use their incarceration for His higher purposes, Rev. Abduraheem added that he had no regrets about his time in prison. He was able to encourage Christians in Sudan's various prisons, while his imprisonment also served to encourage and embolden the Sudanese church as a whole.

The recently freed pastor mentioned in his conversation with Petr that he had already forgiven those who interrogated and imprisoned him, and that he felt no anger or bitterness. Rev. Aduraheem then sincerely added, "I pray that the Lord Jesus would reveal Himself to them as Lord and Saviour."

Thank you for joining us in prayer on behalf of these four released Christian prisoners (James 5:16), while being mindful to continue interceding for our other brothers and sisters in Sudan who are under intense pressure from a regime that appears to be set on eradicating Christianity. May God not only give them the spiritual fortitude, grace and encouragement required to persevere but, additionally, more opportunities to preach the "Good News" of the Gospel in both word and deed.

BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday, May 21, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Pam Osmanson

Greeters: Dan & LaDell Hanson Scripture Reader: Trevor Skogen

Usher: Dave James Nursery: Aaron & Erica Skogen

Children's Church: Dee Olson and Cade Fox

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, & Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Psalm 145:1, 3-4

Hymn #73....."Thou Art Worthy"

Hymn #74....."Majesty"

Prayer of Praise

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

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

Graduate Recognition

Children's Moments – Teacher Recognition

Scripture Reading.....Ephesians 4:10-16

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

Sermon... "Knowing and Growing".....Pastor Merv Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn #394..... "In My Life Lord, Be Glorified"

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-1st Grade with Aaron Skogen or Jan Questad in Nursery
Combined 2nd-5th Grade with 2D Gerdes in Cubbies Room
6th-8th Grade with Erica Skogen or Judy Preston in Pastor's Office
9th-12th 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 5 - "Living by the Spirit"

For Your Information and Prayer

-Today: -2:00 p.m. High School Graduation
-5:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Service
-Thursday: -7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (location TBA)

Next Sunday: May 28, 2017 (Memorial Day weekend)

-Greeters: Paul & Pam Osmandson
-Usher: Gene Preston
-Nursery: Aaron Skogen
-Scripture Reader: Justin Tiffany
-Children's Church: Barbara Young and Kyle Skogen
-No Sunday School classes
-High School Sunday School Social (after church)

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## Upcoming Events:

**June 18** – SONrise Gospel Music Ministries (Harlow & Jarene Rudolph) will sing during the worship service  
**July 2** – The Allen Family will sing during the worship service  
**July 17-20** – Vacation Bible School  
**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 14, 2016

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| General Giving | \$ 1,461.50 |
| Building Fund  | \$ 25.00    |
| Total          | \$ 1,486.50 |

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

## Our Prayer Partnership

- Celebration United Methodist Church, Brandon  
- Great Plains Association Ministries

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

**Daphne Dunger**, (retired missionary) healing from surgery on broken leg  
**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 Montecullo**, 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 21



**Jeff and Sonya Kilmartin, NAB Missionaries, Cameroon.** For the past eight years, the Kilmartins have fostered a connection with the Fulbe people, a nomadic group in West Africa. They are now planning to return to West Africa to work at the seminary in Ndu, Cameroon, though they will also travel and minister among the Fulbe in

Cameroon and Nigeria. Pray for the ongoing process of learning the Fulfulde language so they will more easily be able to communicate directly with the Fulbe people they interact with. Ask God to provide the financial support they need to leave for Cameroon. For more information, visit [nabonmission.org/missionaries/jeff-sonya-kilmartin](http://nabonmission.org/missionaries/jeff-sonya-kilmartin) or check out their blog at [kilmartinblog.wordpress.com](http://kilmartinblog.wordpress.com).

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