

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Eritrea One Hundred Christians Recently Detained

Source: World Watch Monitor

The Eritrean government has stepped up its campaign against Christians, arresting almost a hundred followers of Christ in recent weeks. The arrests came as believers in the repressive East African country marked ten years since government officials placed the Eritrean Orthodox Patriarch, Abune Antonios, under house arrest and incommunicado, and 15 years since the forced closure of many churches.

Since the government passed a law shutting down many churches, some Christians meet in secret. Evangelicals are at particular risk since a 2002 law was passed -- prohibiting churches other than those of Orthodox, Catholic and Lutheran affiliation. However, as the Orthodox leader's incarceration shows, members of permitted churches are also at risk if they criticize the regime.

The fresh wave of arrests took place early this May, leading up to Eritrea's Independence Day (May 24th). Many Christians found themselves under added scrutiny around the time of the country's Independence Day celebrations because they are reluctant to participate in ceremonies that go against their conscience.

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide, at least 28 Christians have died during their incarceration -- or shortly after being released -- as a result of harsh treatment in prison or withheld medical treatment. Those who have survived imprisonment recount facing torture, hard labour, filthy conditions and insufficient food.

Thank you for joining us in prayer on behalf of our oppressed Eritrean brothers and sisters who are at great risk of imminent action being taken against them. May their troubled hearts receive God's assurance and peace, especially if they have witnessed friends or family members being taken into custody for following Christ. As for those who are in prison, pray that their resolve will be strengthened as they wait for the Lord's deliverance. In the meantime, may they be greatly encouraged in the knowledge that although they have temporarily lost their physical freedom, they have spiritual freedom in Christ which is a precious treasure.

Our Missionary/Church Planter of the Week: June 18



David Ibarra, Field Coordinator, Hispanics for Christ, Rafaela, Argentina. David has spent nearly twenty years planting churches across central and northern Argentina. Pray for David's ministry with Hispanics for Christ, training pastors and planting new churches, even as he continues to serve as pastor of Iglesia Jesucristo Mi Esperanza. Ask God to give him great strength as he helps the church reach those in Argentina for Jesus Christ. Pray as well for his wisdom in leading. For more information, visit the Hispanics for Christ website at www.hispanicsforchrist.org.

Our Prayer Partnership

- Heritage Lutheran Church, Brandon
- Youth Pastor, Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD

Meal serving at the St. Francis House on July 26th has been **cancelled** due to schedule conflicts for our servers. If you would like to serve in August or September, please contact Joan.

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

Email: bvbaptch@alliancecom.net

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Jackie Kramer

Greeter: Ray & Dee Olson Nursery: Erica Skogen Usher: Doyle Young
Children's Church: Theresa Friesen and Cade Fox

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, & Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Ephesians 1:6-8

Hymn #506....."I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

Prayer of Praise

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (Hymn #625) – please stand

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

Music with SONrise Gospel Music Ministries....Harlow & Jarene Rudolph

Love Offering for SONrise

Father's Day Recognition

Closing Hymn #608....."May the Grace of Christ, Our Savior"

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-3rd Grade in Cubbies room

Combined 4th-8th Grade in Youth room (TREK)

Adult & Youth Class in Sanctuary – Video series by Neil Anderson: “The Battle of the Mind”

For Your Information and Prayer

-Today: -5:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Service

-Tuesday: -2:00 p.m. Bingo Social at Helping Hand

-Thursday: -7:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study on Ecclesiastes at Jackie Kramer home, 6800 E. Maple St.

Next Sunday: June 25, 2017

-Communion Service, Love Offering for St. Francis House

-Greeters: Dan & Joan Murphy

-Usher: Scott Sittig

-Nursery: Ginger Nelson and Katrina Nelson

-Scripture Reader: Theresa Friesen

-Children’s Church: Barbara Young and Kyle Skogen

Upcoming Events:

July 2 – The Allen Family will sing during the worship service

July 9 – Congregational Meeting to discuss/vote on pastor candidate

***** Praise & Prayer*****

Daphne Dunger, (retired missionary) healing from surgery on broken leg, now in rehabilitation at Bethany Lutheran Home in Sioux Falls

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

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

Lajeanne Wright, wife of Jim Wright, has been moved from the hospital to

Garretson Palisades Nursing Home (room 301), continue to pray for increasing mental clarity, and also encouragement for Jim

Lorrayne 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); Kristina Lee, Air Force (Grandchild of Ray & Dee Olson)

NEEDED: Summer Sunday School Teachers for the PreK-3rd grade class for June-August (one teacher per month, if possible)

Card Shower: Please send cards of encouragement to Jim and Lajeanne Wright at 920 4th St. Palisade Manor room 301 Garretson, SD 57030

Needed: Awana has a new program for grades 3-5. Contact Joan about training. We also need volunteers to be a grades K-2 story person and a special events coordinator. We’re also seeking a volunteer for Commander.

OUR GIVING:

Sunday, June 11, 2016

General Giving \$ 1,736.20

Furnace Fund \$ 100.00

Building Fund \$ 25.00

Total \$ 1,861.20

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

Hands and Feet project for June: During June, you can help young men and women who turn 18 and are transitioning out of foster care into independent living by sending them on their way with **Loads of Love!** Just as you would bless your own child with some of the things they need to “get started” in their own apartment or college dorm, you can also help smooth out the way for one of the 30 young people who will be graduating from high school and out of the foster care program. With the help of Lutheran Social Services and you, these new adults will receive a big basket full of good things that will help them get off to a good start!

When a child in foster care celebrates their 18th birthday they legally become an “adult.” For kids in foster care, the support of parents is often missed as they transition to life “on their own.” LSS Independent Living Services is there to assist with the transition to adulthood, including offering resources and classes in planning skills like budgeting and job interviewing. To help, first get a large laundry basket and then begin adding brand new items like:

- Twin size regular or extra long sheet set, pillow, and blanket
- Towel set (bath towel, hand towel and washcloth)
- Kitchen hand towels
- Laundry soap, hand soap pump, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, Clorox wipes
- Small kitchen supplies like measuring cups, wooden spoons, pot holders, knife, fork, spoon, cereal bowl, cup, plate, can opener, etc.

When you have your basket filled, bring it to Life 96.5 studios, Lutheran Social Services, or The First National Bank in Sioux Falls locations (including the bank in Brandon).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is July 16-20 – please register your children