

## Pray for the Persecuted Church: Eritrea

### Substantial Increase in Arrests

Sources: Release International, World Watch Monitor, Christian Solidarity Worldwide

The total number of Eritrean Christians arrested since the beginning of May has now risen to more than 160. On May 26th, nearly 100 people were arrested. Since then, many more arrests have been confirmed...and they include families with young children.

According to a ministry partner, 12 children (one as young as two months old) are now imprisoned with their parents. For the more than 30 children left without the care of their incarcerated parents or guardians, the country's security police are monitoring them to make sure they do not get support from the Christian community.

Since the implementation of a 2002 law, members of outlawed churches have resorted to meeting in secret at various homes. Unfortunately, these house meetings were also targeted by the authorities. Over the past 15 years, countless homes have been raided, and local sources estimate that hundreds of Christians are being held for long periods in Eritrea's prisons as a result.

Those imprisoned for their faith are released only after admitting that they've broken the law prohibiting Christians from gathering outside registered and recognized groups. Sources further explain that, depending on the prison head at each location, prisoners are asked to sign one of two agreements. Either they promise not to engage in unlicensed religious activities or they are asked to renounce their allegiance to Christ. Those who refuse to sign can be held for years, even decades.

We ask for your prayers on behalf of our oppressed brothers and sisters in Eritrea. May they continue to remain faithful, even in the face of such intense pressure from governmental authorities. Pray that they will explicitly place their trust in the One whose love and promises are never failing (Psalm 33:18). As they lean heavily on His provision and care for their families -- and eventual deliverance from prison -- may they be further strengthened and encouraged to declare their relentless love for the Master of this vast universe who has the final authority over all.

## BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Sunday, July 2, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Jackie Kramer Usher: Doyle Young  
Nursery: Dee Olson and Dan Hanson Greeters: Dan & Joan Murphy

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Revelation 15:3

Hymn #508....."I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"

Prayer of Praise

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

### Music with the Allen Family

*Since 1991, the Allen Family has traveled internationally. Todd, Michelle, Caleb, Gabrielle, Joshua, Jared, Danielle, Abigail, Zachariah, and Christian live in their bus 365 days a year and fill over 275 engagements each year.*

*Believing God had called them into this ministry, Todd and Michelle sold all they had, bought a motor home, and set out by faith to do this evangelistic work. Since August 1996, they have depended on the Lord to supply their needs through the love offerings of churches where they minister and individual supporters.*

Love Offering – Allen Family

Closing Hymn #116....."Take the Name of Jesus with You"

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.**

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

**No Sunday School today – enjoy extended fellowship time**

Combined Preschool-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade in Cubbies room  
Combined 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade in Youth room (TREK)  
Adult & Youth Class in Sanctuary

**For Your Information and Prayer**

-Today: -5:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Service  
-Tuesday: -Independence Day (church office closed)  
-Social at Kramers: 3pm Swimming, 5pm picnic – you may bring your own meat to grill, a side dish, and lawn chairs. Beverages will be provided.  
-Thursday: -7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study on Ecclesiastes (place TBA)

**Next Sunday: July 9, 2017**

-Greeters: LeeRoy & Ginger Nelson  
-Usher: Terry Kramer  
-Nursery: Aaron Skogen  
-Scripture Reader: Gene Preston  
-Children's Church: LaDell Hanson & Hailey Skogen

**Upcoming Events:**

**July 9 – Congregational Meeting** to discuss/vote on pastor candidate  
**July 16-20 – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: please register**

**\*\*\* 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

**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)

**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 18, 2016

General Giving	\$ 1,251.00
Love Offering – St. Francis House	\$ 140.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,416.00

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

**Our love offering on July 9<sup>th</sup> will be for the Union Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls.** Some information about them: "This corporation is founded for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Salvation by Grace in Christ and Him crucified; for the salvation of souls and the establishing of believers, and doing of whatsoever is usual, convenient or expedient in such ministry; to maintain a place for the sheltering, lodging, feeding and clothing of the unfortunate, indigent and transients."

*Union Gospel Mission is a Haven of Trust  
Needful and shielding when life seems unjust.  
Its workings inspired by God's Holy Word  
Obeying when cries for assistance are heard  
No one's denied its offering hand.*

*Giving redemption to poor of our land  
Omnipotence justly used without shame  
Securing relief without searching for blame  
Pitting God's power 'gainst Satan's beguile  
Each mission builds courage in winning the trial  
Let's lend them assistance we fortunate souls.*

*Make giving our discards and bits of our gold  
Inspiring lures to come back to the way  
Son of our Father taught us to pray.  
Signs are now merging to tell all the world  
Its missions like these with banners unfurled  
Outstretching their arms to gather us all  
Next to manager that started it all.*

–poem by A.F. Tony Javurek, 1985

**Our Prayer Partnership**

- Palisades Lutheran Church, Rural Garretson  
- College/Career Director, Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls