

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Pakistan

Two Chinese Students Killed by ISIS

Sources: VOM USA, China Aid

Two Chinese students, whom the Pakistani government accused of "preaching," were kidnapped and killed by members of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) in May. The young Chinese nationals, Li Xinheng and Lu Ling Lina, lived in Quetta where they were studying at a local language school with the intent of becoming teachers.

On May 24th, their vehicle was stopped by men dressed as police officers. The students were pulled from their vehicle and forced into another, while a third Chinese student managed to escape. A local man who tried to help the students was shot in the foot. The Pakistani military responded by raiding the militants' hideout and killing 12 of the ISIS fighters. Unfortunately, the two Chinese hostages were already dead by the time of the military's arrival.

Other foreigners living in Pakistan are understandably concerned for their own safety after hearing of this tragic incident. Ironically, so are the many Christian citizens being forced to silence in their homeland of China. These Chinese believers are receiving terrorizing threats for speaking out against the Chinese government's response to the murders. Four of those who did try to speak out have already been detained.

After the Islamic State announced that they had killed the students, a state-run newspaper in China blamed their murders on the young people's "illegal missionary work" and accused the Korean missionaries with whom they were affiliated of encouraging them. Chinese officials also refused to assist the Pakistani military in the rescue attempts or to conduct any of their own.

Thank you for joining us by upholding the families, friends and missionary colleagues of the two slain victims - including the 11 other Chinese students who were sent home as a result of the tragic incident. Ask the Lord to minister great comfort and peace as they grieve this loss, reminding them of the fact that the slain young people are still very much alive spiritually and have now gone on to receive their heavenly rewards. Please also pray for God's protection on behalf of other Christians in Pakistan who are in danger of being targeted and, additionally, for the safety and deliverance of His people in China who are standing up for righteousness.

Sioux Falls and Lennox Christian Women's Connection

The Sioux Falls meeting is on Tuesday, August 8th at 9:30am at the VFW on South Minnesota Avenue. The speaker is Laurie Kimball from Minneapolis, MN (a friend of mine). Reservations are necessary call Bonnie Herzig 332-7054. The Lennox meeting is on Monday, August 7th at 7pm, Laurie Kimball is the speaker and they meet at the Presbyterian Social Hall, 305 West 1st Ave, Lennox (the west end of the building). Reservations can be made by calling Lois at 605-647-0023 (leave a message) More details about each meeting will be posted on the bulletin board.

BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday, July 23, 2017

Accompanist: Jan Questad and Pam Osmandson

Greeters: Aaron & Erica Skogen Usher: Gene Preston

Scripture Reader: Justin Tiffany Nursery: TBD

Children's Church: Kyle Skogen and Hailey Skogen

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Psalm 103:1-5

Hymn #8....."Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Prayer of Praise

Offering

Offertory – Jackie Kramer

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Scripture Reading.....I Samuel 16:1-13

Children's Moments/Ministry of Music

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

Sermon..."Life Lessons from David".....Pastor Merv Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn #473....."Victory in Jesus"

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 & High School Class in Sanctuary: this week's topic is "The Influence of the Bible on America" – part 2

For Your Information and Prayer

-No Thursday Women's Bible Study until fall
-Friday: 7:05 p.m. Faith and Family Night at the Canaries game (gates open at 6:00 p.m.)

Next Sunday: July 30, 2017

-Greeters: Gene & Judy Preston
-Usher: Dave James
-Nursery: Justin & Sara Tiffany
-Scripture Reader: Pat Lacey
-Children's Church: Doris Conradson & Hailey Skogen

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**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.

| <b>OUR GIVING:</b> | Sunday, July 16, 2016 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| General Giving     | \$ 1,903.25           |
| Furnace Fund       | \$ 200.00             |
| Building Fund      | \$ 25.00              |
| Total              | \$ 2,128.25           |

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

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE VBS A SUCCESS!**  
**We had 37 children attend VBS this week.**

**Our Prayer Partnership**

- Swedona Covenant Church, Rural Corson  
- Associate Pastor Brian Stroh, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls

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

**Carol**, mother of Theresa Friesen, recovering from a stroke  
**Daphne Dunger**, (retired missionary) healing from surgery on broken leg, now in rehabilitation at Bethany Lutheran Home in Sioux Falls  
**Lajeane 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)

**We extend the hand of Christian love and sympathy to Stan Friesen and family in the loss of Stan's mother, Linda.**

**We extend the hand of Christian love and sympathy to the family of Elmer Gerdes, who passed away on Thursday.**