

## Pray for the Persecuted Church: Iran

### Maryam Released from Prison!

Sources: Release International, Middle East Concern

On August 1st, an Iranian convert to Christianity, Maryam Naghash Zargaran, was released from prison. Maryam has served a four-year sentence in the women's ward of Evin Prison in Tehran. She was first imprisoned in July 2013 after being found guilty of "propagating against the Islamic regime, and colluding to undermine national security."

During the time she was detained, Maryam had orchestrated a hunger strike to protest the authority's refusal to allow her medical treatment. While she was allotted hospitalization time on June 6th, she was soon ordered back to court where her requests for medical leave had been denied.

Although now released, Maryam suffers from heart disease, for which she requires regular medical attention. Harsh prison conditions have also resulted in her suffering from depression. While we are grateful for Maryam's release, she needs our ongoing prayers for her health and well-being. May the Lord strengthen and encourage her as she now receives the necessary medical attention and adjusts to life after being released from prison.

**Additional Note:** Our Iranian brother, Amin Nader Afshar, was recently released on bail. In July of this year, Amin had been sentenced to 15 years in jail; and his co-accused friends, Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz and Hadi Asgari, were both given ten-year sentences. Although Hadi is the only one remaining in jail, we pray that he will also be released on bail, and that the appeals of all three men will be successful.

## BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Sunday, August 20, 2017

Accompanist: Pam Osmanson

Greeters: Dan & LaDell Hanson Scripture Reader: Kyle Skogen

Usher: Mike Kresak Nursery: Erica Skogen

Children's Church: Theresa Friesen and Cade Fox

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Revelation 5:11-12

Hymn #106....."Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Prayer of Praise

Offering

Offertory.....Pam Osmanson

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Ministry of Music – video

Scripture Reading.....II Corinthians 4:1-6

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

Sermon...WHAT IS A PASTOR-SHEPHERD?

"A Proclaimer...".....Pastor Merv Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn #447....."Freely, Freely"

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-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade in Cubbies Room  
Combined 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade in Youth room (TREK)  
Adult & High School Class in Sanctuary – today’s topic is “Answers to Some Apologetic Questions” part 2

**For Your Information and Prayer**

-Tuesday: 11:30 a.m. Ministerium  
(church office closed Tuesday)  
-August 25-27: *Extend the Impact* Lifestream Global events in Sioux Falls, including Youth Night & City Fest (see bulletin board for more information, or go to [www.lifestream.org](http://www.lifestream.org))

**Next Sunday: August 27, 2017**

- Special Offering for Windswept Academy  
-Greeters: Lindy Johnson  
-Usher: Gene Preston  
-Nursery: TBD  
-Scripture Reader: Kelsey Frost  
-Children’s Church: Barbara Young and Kyle Skogen

**Upcoming Events:**

-Wednesday, August 30: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Awana registration and staff meeting (please contact Joan if you cannot attend the staff meeting)  
-Sunday, September 3: Love Offering for B.V. Ministerium  
-Wednesday, September 6: first night of Awana Clubs (HS starts at 6pm, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> starts at 6:15, everyone else starts at 6:30)  
-Tuesday, September 12: Awana Staff Training at Lincoln Hills Bible Church (Sioux Falls) 6 p.m. snacks, 6:30-9 p.m. training

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**AWANA** – Please **REGISTER** your child online as soon as possible. You also may register in person during office hours or August 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30pm. Regular Awana clubs start September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**We need volunteers** to be a grades K-2 story person and a special events coordinator. We’re also seeking a volunteer for Commander.

**Our Prayer Partnership**

- Brandon Lutheran Church, Brandon  
- Pastor John Gilliland, First Baptist Church, Emery, SD

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*"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you....so that their work will be a joy, not a burden." Hebrews 13:7, 17*

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

**Carol Kline**, mother of Theresa Friesen, recovering from a stroke  
**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); Amir Rottluff, Navy (grandson of Charlotte Rottluff)

<b>OUR GIVING:</b>	Sunday, August 6, 2016
General Giving	\$ 1,926.00
Love Offering – NAB Pastors Retirement	\$ 116.00
Men’s Bible Study books	\$ 5.00
Furnace Fund	\$ 500.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,572.00</b>

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