

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Eritrea

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release International

Arrests Continue Despite Loss of Imprisoned Mother

A woman by the name of Fikadu Debesay, who was arrested with her husband during raids targeting Christians, passed away recently while in incarceration. The mother of three reportedly died in Metkel Abiet, a desert camp located within the Northern Red Sea Region, and was buried on August 10th in Mendefera. While the cause of her death is still unknown, the camp where she was detained is situated in an area known for its oppressive heat and aridity.

A campaign of house-to-house raids targeting members of non-sanctioned churches was initiated in several towns since May of this year. Fikadu was detained when mass arrests took place in the town of Adi Quala, as part of an ongoing crackdown on Christianity over the years. It all began in May 2002 when the Eritrean government effectively outlawed religious practices not affiliated with Orthodox Christian denominations or Sunni Islam.

Arrests now appear to be occurring monthly. During the first week of August, 23 more Christians were rounded up in the capital city of Asmara. In July, 16 female national service conscripts in their late teens were taken from their place of assignment in Adi Halo, a village about 32 kilometres from Asmara, and detained in Metkel Abiet camp. Other Christians and family members who made attempts to visit them were also imprisoned.

Since May, the number of Christians known to have been detained in desert camps and military facilities has now risen to 210. Most were detained following raids on their homes, while a few were arrested at prayer meetings. Like Fikadu, several are parents. According to local sources, over 50 children are currently without one or both parents as a result of these raids.

Ask our Heavenly Father to comfort Fikadu's husband and children with His reassuring presence and the fact that they will see her again in heaven. On behalf of the hundreds of other imprisoned believers, please pray that they will receive protection and strength while awaiting safe release -- in hopes of being reunited with their families soon. In the meantime, intercede for the children who've been left to fend for themselves as a result of their parents' detainment. Ask the Lord to not only provide all that is required to safely sustain them but to also convict the Eritrean authorities responsible for the difficulties now facing these many innocent lives. May the country's governing officials experience conviction for their crimes against humanity, sincere repentance, and God's transformative love.

Our Prayer Partnership

- Brandon Valley Assembly of God
- Sioux Falls Seminary

BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

400 N. Splitrock, Brandon, SD 57005

Ph: 582-2248

Merv Kramer, Senior Pastor

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Matt Murphy, Church Administrator

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Website: www.brandonvalleybaptistchurch.org

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Sunday, August 27, 2017

Accompanist: Pam Osmanon and Jan Questad

Greeters: Lindy Johnson Scripture Reader: Kelsey Frost

Usher: Gene Preston

Nursery: TBD

Children's Church: Barbara Young and Kyle Skogen

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....I Peter 1:18-19

Hymn #521....."Redeemed"

Prayer of Praise

Offering

Offertory..... Pam Osmanon

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Ministry of Music

Scripture Reading..... Ephesians 6:10-20

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

Sermon... "The Christian's Secret Weapon"..... Chip Ingram (video)

Prayer Response

Special Offering for Windswept Academy

Closing Hymn #488..... "He Keeps Me Singing"

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 – test your Bible knowledge with a fun game of Bible trivia today

For Your Information and Prayer

-Wednesday: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Awana Registration and Staff Meeting
(please contact Joan if you cannot attend the staff meeting)

Next Sunday: September 3, 2017

- Communion Service
- Love Offering for Brandon Valley Ministerium
- Greeters: Dan & Joan Murphy
- Usher: Scott Sittig
- Nursery: Ginger Nelson and Katrina Nelson
- Scripture Reader: Theresa Friesen
- Children’s Church: Erica Skogen and Trevor Skogen

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, September 6: **first night of Awana Clubs** (HS starts at 6pm, 6th-8th starts at 6:15, everyone else starts at 6:30)
- Saturday, September 9: 7:00 a.m. **Men’s Bible Study**
- Tuesday, September 12: **Awana Staff Training** at Lincoln Hills Bible Church (Sioux Falls) 6 p.m. snacks, 6:30-9 p.m. training. **Please register and pay ahead of time** (contact Joan) if you want to attend. Topics include “Keeping YOUR Identity Rooted in Christ,” “Just a Minute (to shape a child’s life),” “Student Leaders,” “Volunteer Encouragement,” “Impact of Youth Apologetics,” “Building a Multi-Cultural Club,” “The New Tool in Your Discipleship Toolbox: the New T&T,” and “Understanding Kids.”
- Sunday, September 24: retirement party for Pastor Merv Kramer

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

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

***** 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)

OUR GIVING:	Sunday, August 20, 2016
General Giving	\$ 1,261.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,286.00
OUR GIVING:	Sunday, August 13, 2016
General Giving	\$ 1,373.05
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,398.05
(Approximately \$2,500 is needed each week to meet expenses)	

HELP NEEDED: A family in our congregation needs help moving on Saturday, September 30th after 8:00 a.m. (from the apartments across the street to a different apartment complex in Brandon). They plan to have the smaller items boxed and moved on their own, so it should mostly be the large items that they need help moving: beds, dressers, couch, etc. If you would like to help, please contact Lindy Johnson for more information.

Baptism:

Any persons wishing to be baptized before Pastor Kramer’s retirement, the following options are being arranged: Sunday, September 3rd; Labor Day, September 4th at the Kramer’s pool (afternoon); or Sunday, September 10th. (Sundays are currently planned for evenings.) Please contact Pastor Merv or the church office if you wish to be baptized.