

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Iran

Separate Education Denied for Christian Children Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

This September, children from families belonging to the Church of Iran denomination in the cities of Rasht and Shiraz have been told they must either study Shi'a Islam, or leave school. Originally, these children -- the majority of whom are second-generation Christians, and thereby recognized by the Iranian constitution to be part of a minority faith community -- were granted access to religious instruction designed by members of the Christian community and approved by the Ministry of Education.

Until recently, if children wished to proceed with religious instruction outside of the Islamic faith, their families could present a signed letter from the denomination requesting exemption from the study of Shi'a Islam. However, as the authorities are now rejecting this letter on the grounds that the church is considered an "illegal organization," they are insisting the children either agree to study Islam, or go home.

Under Article 30 of the Iranian constitution, the government is obligated to provide free education for all children until they complete secondary school. However, the policy adopted by school authorities in Rasht and Shiraz effectively deprives children currently enrolled in the primary and secondary school levels of the educational system, unless they agree to religious instruction that does not conform with their own faith.

Iran is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which recognizes the rights of parents to ensure that the religious and moral education of their children is in line with their own convictions. The country has also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which commits signatories to ensure access to primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education.

Pray that God will uphold these precious children and their families, helping them to overcome this challenge by revealing how to wisely deal with the situation. Even though the students' rights to education are presently being threatened, may their thirst for knowledge not be quenched. Rather, may the Spirit of our Lord instill within them a desire to grow and learn from the Master Teacher so they can "increase in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men" (Luke 2:52). Considering this Biblical text, may the hearts of the educational officials be impressed to maintain the rights of the Christian students in keeping with the country's constitution and, most importantly, God's Word.

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, September 24, 2017

Accompanist: Jackie Kramer and Jan Questad

Greeters: Paul & Pam Osmandson

Usher: Dave James Scripture Reader: Joan Murphy

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Psalm 145:1, 3-4

Hymn #66....."To God Be the Glory"

Prayer of Praise

Offering

Offertory.....Pam & Paul Osmandson

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Ministry of Music.....Chet & Rachel Hsiao

Children's Moments with Pastor Merv Kramer

Ministry of Music.....Grace & Ava Tiffany

Scripture Reading.....Luke 10:1-12

Ministry of Music.....LaDell Hanson

Ministry of Music.....Frost, Questad, and Skogen Youth

Sermon... "Til We Meet Again".....Pastor Merv Kramer

Prayer Response

Closing Hymn (Insert)....."God Be with You"

Benediction

Postlude

***Nursery is available for children infant thru 3 years old

(No attendant today...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.

No Sunday School today

Enjoy extra fellowship time before lunch

For Your Information and Prayer

- Today: 11:30 a.m. Catered meal at the Brandon Fire Hall
- Wednesday: Awana Clubs (HS starts at 6pm, 6th-8th starts at 6:15pm, Preschool-5th grade starts at 6:30pm)
- Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Lindy Johnson home, 413 Heatherwood, Brandon

Next Sunday: October 1, 2017

- Pastor Randy Battey's first Sunday as our pastor
- Greeters: Terry & Chris Kramer
- Usher: Paul Osmandson
- Nursery: TBD
- Scripture Reader: Justin Tiffany
- Children's Church: Dee Olson and Garret James
- POTLUCK MEAL following Sunday School

Upcoming Events:

-Friday, October 6 6:15-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 7th 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Live Simulcast of *Extraordinary Women* Conference at Faith United Church, 800 N Splitrock Blvd, Brandon. \$15 registration fee includes dessert, light breakfast, and lunch. Speakers include Nicole Johnson, Angie Smith, Liz Curtis Higgs, and more. Register by October 2nd at www.faithunitedepc.org or call 582-6788 for more information.

-Saturday, October 14: 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at the church

OUR GIVING:	Sunday, September 17, 2016
General Giving	\$ 2,610.00
Love Offering: Warrior 180	\$ 1,191.00
Awana	\$ 644.00
Total	\$ 4,445.00

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

Note: Matt will be out of the office Tuesday-Thursday this week.

Needed: weekly snacks for Middle and High School Awana youth. They can be prepackaged or homemade. Please avoid tree nuts and coconuts. You may put items in the treat cupboard east of the fridge. Thank you!

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

Carol Kline, mother of Theresa Friesen, recovering from a stroke
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 Prayer Partnership

- First Lutheran Church, Valley Springs
- Association Enrichment Committee

Hurricane Harvey Donations

As the North American Baptist Conference gathers to support our churches in times of need or crisis, we wanted to send an update that there are currently no reports of damage to NAB churches or member's homes in the Texas area at this time. Please continue to pray for the area affected and for God's provision as the torrential rain and flooding continues. Regional Minister Dan Heringer will keep us informed and updated as things progress.

Since monetary donations are the most effective way of providing direct aid and there are aid groups already at work on the ground, we encourage you to give through Samaritan's Purse to provide assistance to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Donations can be made online at www.samaritanspurse.org