

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Kazakhstan

Proposed Legislation Poses New Restrictions

Sources: Forum 18 News Service, WEA Religious Liberty Bulletin

Kazakhstan is on the verge of passing legislation which proposes changes to the 2011 Religion Law, Administrative Code, and many other laws. The Religious Affairs Committee refused to explain why the Amending Law does not remove any restrictions from the existing law, even though they violate Kazakhstan's international human rights obligations. There was also no explanation regarding the addition of further restrictions.

The draft Amending Law, which at the time of the reports was undergoing review by Prime Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev, imposes new restrictions on the freedom of religion or belief, including the compulsory re-registration of all previously registered non-Muslim and non-Russian Orthodox religious organizations. If adopted by parliament, the Amending Law would also introduce restrictions on religious education and the sharing of beliefs, along with increased censorship of literature, among many other concerns.

It is reported that while 1,300 Christian organizations have sought registration under the 2011 legislation, only 495 received state recognition. Experts warn that, if passed, the proposed legislation could lead to a series of closures of religious organizations in Kazakhstan.

In light of the pending legislation, pray that Kazakhstan's lawmakers would recognize the benefits of permitting religious freedom to the citizens of their country and the consequences of adopting the proposed Amending Law. May they be granted wisdom from the Most High God whose decrees are designed to administer true justice, righteous order and peace among all people groups. Pray that regardless of the outcome, the Christians of this nation will stand firm upon the Word of God whose statutes are absolute and will always accomplish His higher purposes (Isaiah 55:11), despite the frailties, limitations and rebellion of humankind. May His people graciously represent Him so that those who are spiritually seeking may indeed discover "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6).

BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

400 N. Splitrock, Brandon, SD 57005

Office: 605-582-2248

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Sunday, January 21, 2018

Accompanist: Pam Osmandson and Jan Questad

Greeters: Gene & Judy Preston Scripture Reader: Theresa Friesen

Nursery: Aaron Skogen Usher: Scott Sittig

Children's Church: Matt Murphy

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Video

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn #270....."Wonderful Words of Life"

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Hymn #379....."Take My Life and Let It Be"

Children's Moments with Pastor Randy Battey

Scripture Reading.....I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

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

Sermon... "Profitable Waiting".....Pastor Randy Battey

Main Points:

I. Expect Difficulties (2:17-3:4)

II. Find Faith in Faith (3:5-10)

III. Let God be God (3:11-13)

Closing Hymn #245....."What If It Were Today?"

Benediction

Postlude

***Nursery 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

- Preschool - 1st Grade in the Nursery with LaDell Hanson
- 2nd - 5th Grade in the Cubbies room with 2D Gerdes
- 6th - 8th Grade in Pastor's office with Judy Preston or Erica Skogen
- High School study on James in the Youth room with Mike & Stacy Frost
- Adult Bible Study on I Peter in Fellowship Room with Mike Benson
- Adult Video Study in Sanctuary (topic to be announced)

For Your Information and Prayer

- Today: 11:30 a.m. Worship Team & Discipleship Team meeting
- Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Awana Clubs
- Thursday: No Women's Bible Study this week (resumes February 1)

Next Sunday: January 28, 2018

- Greeters: Justin & Sara Tiffany
- Usher: Paul Osmandson
- Nursery: Scott & Nora Sittig
- Scripture Reader: Hannah Frost
- Children's Church: Lindy Johnson and Maegan Questad

Upcoming Events:

- January Alpha Center **World's Largest Baby Shower** (bring baby item donations to the church - all month, or take to any Sioux Falls Lewis Drug store)
- February 7: 11:30 a.m. **Mentor Try-It Day** at Brandon Elementary, this is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with a student in need of a mentor. RSVP by February 5 at 221-2403 or email mentoring@LssSD.org

Alpha Center – World's Largest Baby Shower Baby Boutique Needs List:

- Diapers: Newborn and size 5
- Baby wipes
- Teething toys
- New car seats, cribs and strollers
- Pack 'n Plays
- Jumpers and exercise saucers
- Newborn baby clothing for boys and girls
- Boy blankets
- Enfamil formula
- Pacifiers
- Diaper bags
- Any gender neutral items (clothing, blankets, toys, bibs, etc.)

OUR GIVING:

Sunday, January 14, 2018

General Giving	\$ 1,252.55
Total	\$ 1,252.55

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

Missionary/Church Planter of the Week



Shan Reed; NAB Missionary; Japan.

Shan Reed has been serving as a long-term missionary in Japan since 2001. For the past six years, she has been an integral part of the Komyo Christian Church family, which she helped plant with Paul and Melissa Ewing. She is currently on home assignment, spending much needed time with family and visiting

friends and supporting churches across North America. Pray for her travels as she visits churches, and pray for times of rest and recuperation. Pray as well for the ministry of the Ewings and Komyo while Shan is away. For more information, visit www.nabonmission.org/missionaries/shan-reed.

*** Praise & Prayer***

Charlotte Rottluff, for healing from illness

Josh Onnen, deploying for training

Maxine Savage, for continued healing

Marv Veldkamp, for recovery and healing from a recent stroke

Karen Miller, mother of Shawna James, for healing of broken vertebrae

Marlene Smith, pray for healing for broken arm

Joan Murphy, cancer has returned, pray for healing and wisdom for decisions, she received word she is not a candidate for the clinical trial in Maryland and the doctor is searching for other alternatives. Thank you for your continued prayers that He be glorified in this.

Mary Tripp, sister of Theresa Friesen, undergoing radiation treatment

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

- Blessed Redeemer Lutheran, Brandon
- Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Medina, ND