

## Pray for the Persecuted Church: Burkina Faso

Thousands Call for Release of Kidnapped Doctor Source: World Watch Monitor

On January 15th, thousands took to the streets of Djibo, a town located in the province of Soum, to call for the government to secure the release of an elderly Australian doctor, Ken Elliott, who was kidnapped two years ago. The abduction was claimed by the 'Emirate of the Sahara,' a branch of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb region of North Africa.

Dr. Elliott and his wife Jocelyn had run a 120-bed clinic in Djibo for 40 years until their abduction. Although Jocelyn was released in February of 2016, she did not want to leave Burkina Faso. (An audio recording presented by members of the militant group explained that Jocelyn was released because they did not want women involved in the war.)

Dubbed "the Doctor of the Poor," Dr. Elliott was providing free treatment to patients, saving them significant amounts of money and great inconvenience. After the closure of the clinic, people in Djibo are now required to travel hundreds of kilometres via poor transportation links in order to reach the capital, Ouagadougou, for medical care. Many in need of treatment lack financial resources for such lengthy travel, the required accommodation, and the treatment itself. Most affected by the closure of the clinic are children and the elderly.

Last July, Dr. Elliott appeared, along with several other Western hostages, in a video produced by the kidnapers. In the video, Dr. Elliott made an appeal to various governmental leaders – in particular, those in Australia and Burkina Faso – asking them to do what they can to help negotiate his release. The abducted doctor also addressed his family in the videotaped message, assuring them that he was looking forward to their hopeful reunion: "I just want to say again, I love you all, and I appreciate all your prayers and all your cares...."

During this time of great uncertainty, ask our loving Heavenly Father to sovereignly intervene in the lives of the remaining hostages while they patiently wait for their anticipated release. Pray that these surviving victims will receive protection, spiritual and physical fortitude, as well as proper nourishment and care while mediations continue between government representatives and the militants responsible for the abduction. May the workings of the Holy Spirit behind the scenes – and within the hearts of all involved – be evident throughout the process. Also intercede for the victims' distraught family members, friends and community members, that they be assured of the promises of God who "will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast" as they continue to trust in Him (Isaiah 26:3,4).

## MENTORS NEEDED:

There are currently 31 mentors throughout the Brandon Valley School District. We are so thankful for each of you – and would like to add more people like you! The reality is that an additional 15 mentors are needed for Brandon Valley students. To help with recruitment, LSS is hosting a **Mentor Try-It Lunch at Brandon Elementary on Wednesday, February 7, 11:30-12:30.**

At this event, potential volunteer mentors will have lunch and do an activity with students who are in need of a mentor. We wanted to let you know about it in case you have a friend, family member, neighbor or colleague who is considering mentoring. Please encourage them to try it out at Brandon Elementary on February 7! Attendees will need to RSVP to LSS at [mentoring@lsssd.org](mailto:mentoring@lsssd.org) or by calling 221-2403. New volunteers do not need to attend this event before they start, but it's a great opportunity to learn more about the program.

## BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

400 N. Splitrock, Brandon, SD 57005

Office: 605-582-2248

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## Sunday, January 28, 2018

Accompanist: Dixie Battey and Jan Questad

Greeters: Justin & Sara Tiffany Scripture Reader: Hannah Frost

Nursery: Scott & Nora Sittig Usher: Paul Osmandson

Children's Church: Lindy Johnson and Maegan Questad

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Hymn #2....."Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Pastoral Prayer

Responsive Reading #673....."Sanctification"

Hymn #11....."My Tribute"

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (Hymn #625) – please stand

Hymn #436....."Whiter Than Snow"

Children's Moments – Awana Trek Skit....."Villain to Hero"

Scripture Reading.....I Thessalonians 4:1-8

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

Sermon..."A Walk on the Pleasing Side".....Pastor Randy Battey

Main Points:

I. A Commitment to Excel (vv.1-2)

II. A Commitment to Purity (vv.3-6)

III. A Commitment to Sanctification (vv.7-8)

Closing Hymn #438....."Cleanse Me"

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
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in the Cubbies room with 2D Gerdes
- 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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: Women's Bible Study – starting a new study

## Next Sunday: February 4, 2018

- Greeters: Paul & Pam Osmanon
- Usher: Mike Kresak
- Nursery: Justin & Sara Tiffany
- Scripture Reader: Pat Lacey
- Children's Church: Judy Preston and Andrea Skogen

## Upcoming Events:

- 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
- **SMALL GROUP IDEAS MEETINGS** -- We need your ideas to help set a direction for our church for this next year. On Friday Feb. 9 & Saturday Feb. 17 at 6:00 p.m., and Sundays Feb. 11 & 18 at 11:30 a.m. we will be hosting small group get-togethers to give everyone a chance to be a part of the future. Getting involved is easy -- just three steps are involved: 1. Sign up today for one of the meetings; 2. Bring food for the potluck (a main dish and a side dish); 3. Put on your thinking cap and come ready to share your thoughts and ideas for the future. The challenge is for everyone to be involved -- member or attendee, young or old. Let's set a course for the future together!
- February 20: 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

## Our Prayer Partnership

- Brandon Lutheran Church
- Pastor Andy & Megan Wright, River Community Church, Dell Rapids, SD

## Missionary/Church Planter of the Week



**Jon Putz; Central Baptist Southeast Campus; Edmonton, Alberta.** Central Baptist Church has been around since 1900 and has launched many church plants around the city of Edmonton in the past century, but they began a truly unique journey in 2012 when they launched their Southeast site. They have intentionally adopted a multisite model, striving to function as one church in two locations. On August 27 of this year, they reached a significant milestone as the Southeast site moved into their new permanent location after renting space the first five years. Pray for Jon Putz, site pastor for the southeast campus, and Jeremy Putz, the lead pastor of Central Baptist, as well as the staff as they lead and shepherd this church. Pray that God would use this ministry in 2018 to impact their community and grow His Kingdom. Ask God to continue to bind both congregations together as one. Check out southeast.centralbaptist.ab.ca for more information.

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

**Charlotte Rottluff**, for healing from illness

**Alan Savage**, for health issues

**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 GIVING: Sunday, January 21, 2018

General Giving	\$ 2,241.00
Total	\$ 2,241.00

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