

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Iran

Believers Appeal Latest Prison Sentences Sources: Mohabat News, Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Two Iranian Christians were sentenced to a total of eight years in prison by a revolutionary court in December 2017 after being convicted of national security-related crimes. Soroush Saraie and Eskandar Rezaie, who are both members of the Church of Iran denomination, each received seven-year sentences for "creating a group that works against national security" and an additional year for "propaganda against the state." Both men are appealing the verdict.

The more recent verdict was handed down in a court hearing at the 4th Chamber of the Revolutionary Court in Shiraz. During this same court hearing, a Christian woman named Zahra Norouzi Kashkouli was sentenced to a year in prison for "being a member of a group working against the system." She is also appealing the sentence.

Article 23 of the Iranian constitution states that "the investigation of individuals' beliefs is forbidden, and no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief." Nevertheless, there has been a rise in the arrests of members affiliated with minority faith communities since the advent of the Rouhani presidency. Christians have since been routinely charged with national security-related crimes in order to justify the excessive sentences.

Despite these incriminating sentences, ask God to draw the focus of the three convicted believers onto Him – the Author and Finisher of their faith (Hebrews 12:2) – so they will not despair. May they see beyond their present circumstances to the unfolding of His greater and higher plans, not only in relation to their own lives but with an awareness of the potential spiritual impact they can have on others. Pray that as the Lord mediates for justice and deliverance on their behalf, imparting wisdom to their legal representatives throughout the process, these imprisoned Christians will serve as effective witnesses – filled afresh with His Holy Spirit and wonderfully comforted and strengthened by His abiding presence.

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 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

Randy Battey, Senior Pastor

Cell: 605-228-6162

Matt Murphy, Church Administrator

Website: www.brandonvalleybaptistchurch.org

Email: bvbaptch@alliancecom.net / pastorrandybvbc@alliancecom.net

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Accompanist: Dixie Battey and Jan Questad

Greeters: Paul & Pam Osmanson Scripture Reader: Pat Lacey

Nursery: Justin & Sara Tiffany Usher: Mike Kresak

Children's Church: Judy Preston and Andrea Skogen

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Hymn #228....."Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Pastoral Prayer

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Hymn #473....."Victory in Jesus"

Children's Moments with Pastor Randy

Scripture Reading.....I Thessalonians 4:9-12

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

Sermon... "Make Someone Happy"Pastor Randy Battey

Main Points:

I. Excel in Love (vv.9-10)

II. Exude Ambition (vv.11-12)

The Lord's Supper

Love Offering – Alpha Center

Closing Hymn #274....."Break Thou the Bread of Life"

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 Jan Questad
- 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

- Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Awana Clubs
- Thursday: Women's Bible Study – starting a new study

Next Sunday: February 11, 2018

- Greeters: Dan & LaDell Hanson
- Usher: Doyle Young
- Nursery: Olivia Digatono
- Scripture Reader: Kelsey Frost
- Children's Church: Doris Conradson and Maegan Questad

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 Valley Assembly of God
- Pastor Aaron Rush, Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD

Missionary/Church Planter of the Week



Aaron and Rachael Weiss; Mission Hill Church; Calgary, Alberta. Aaron and Rachael Weiss have been married since 2008, and they have two young daughters, Addy and Lily. Their passion to plant in their hometown took them to Riverbend, a neighborhood in Calgary. Together, Aaron and Rachael desire to see a church family grow and flourish through authentic community and the transformative power of the Gospel in southeast Calgary. Pray that God would continue to use them and Mission Hill to make the Gospel known among the people in their community. For more information, visit www.missionhillchurch.ca.

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

- Theresa Freisen**, for health issues
- 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 28, 2018
General Giving	\$ 967.00
Total	\$ 967.00
(Approximately \$2,500 is needed each week to meet expenses)	