

May 16, 2021

The Sunday after Ascension Day

Welcome. We are glad you're here.

**BECOMING
CHRIST'S
CHURCH
IN THE
WORLD**

**TURNING OUR VIEWS OF OTHERS
UPSIDE DOWN**

Acts 10:1-11:18

Pastor Tim Pusey

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Today's Psalm: 47



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.



MONDAY, MAY 24 * 12:00 TO 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 pm.

Adult Bible Study Online
Led by Timothy Barrett

Beginning May 19, Wednesday night Bible Study will begin exploring
Critical Race Theory in Light of Scripture.

The study will be on the Zoom platform.
Contact Church office for Zoom link.

**PETER VASQUEZ, EVANGELIST
2ND CHANCE GRACE**

Peter is seeking and planning opportunities in Idaho, Utah, California, Nevada and Oregon for evangelism, outreach, preaching and evangelizing. If you know of friends or family that would be interested in offering him an opportunity to do this, please contact him at 208-703-6930.

Also, if you would like to contribute to their ministry to help with reducing the financial burden of their travel expenses, you can donate directly to 2nd Chance Grace or designate your giving as Vasquez when giving to VSN.

VSN Phone App

SPECIAL NOTE: With the termination of PushPay as our giving platform, the Church App is no longer functioning. Our new website myvsn.org functions as an app on your phone.

Go to myvsn.org on your phone browser and click **CONNECT** on the myvsn.org menu to access Connecting Point.

Questions? Contact the church office.

Prayer Requests

Military/Law enforcement

Boise Castle Hills

Pastor Joy Streight

Church Finances

Persecuted Church: Turdy

Kamal Naamanian, Iran, held 345 days

Connexions led by Cindy Pusey

Branches led by Bob Arnold

Living for Christ led by Fred Fender

& Craig Zickefoose

University-Age led by Angie Pearl

Undefined led by Kim Nixon

to connect to these groups.

Order of Service

Congregational Reading

Invocation

Worship in Song

Sermon

Closing Prayer

THANK YOU!

There was a wonderful, heartwarming response from Valley Shepherd toward supporting the Stanton Healthcare Baby Bottle Drive. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Financials

Needed each month: \$95,295

Guest Wifi Available
"VSN-Guest"

Cry Room Available

Across from the Chapel in Rm 105

Thursday Morning Men's Prayer

Breakfast for those who can at

KJ's American Grille (formerly called JB's)

Sermon Notes:

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN TURKEY



OVERVIEW:

The gospel spread throughout what is now Turkey in the first century, and the region remained under Christian rule for centuries, beginning in the fourth century. Now, however, less than 1 percent of Turks are Christians. Turks are proud of their nation, which has seen rapid industrial growth and modernization. Unfortunately, Islam is considered by most Turks to be part of their national identity; it is hard for them to imagine leaving Islam even if they know little about its teachings and do not practice its tenets. Christians in Turkey have limited freedom of worship. While there are few Turkish churches, believers boldly share Christ with their countrymen. Ongoing changes in Turkey's government have limited missionary activity and increased pressure on the small Christian community.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

96 percent of Turks are Sunni Muslims who view Islam as a core part of their identity, even though most are not devout. Less than 1 percent of Turks are Christians.

PERSECUTOR:

Believers face a range of challenges from family members, neighbors, employers and the government.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN TURKEY:

Pastors have been targeted in sophisticated assassination plots, and a missionary was murdered in 2019. Another missionary and two Turkish believers were brutally murdered in a highly publicized 2007 incident. Evangelism faces significant opposition in Turkey, and Christian converts from Islam are harassed and pressured from all sides. Believers are opposed by their families, communities, and all levels of government. Mature expatriate believers — many of

whom have lived in Turkey for decades — have long served in Turkish churches; however, the Turkish government has recently targeted these foreign workers for expulsion.

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Bibles can be legally printed and distributed in Turkey, but there are few distribution points.

VOM WORK:

VOM responds to persecution and supports front-line workers' Bible distribution and outreach efforts.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *Pray for the faith and strength of believers pressured by Muslim family members*
- *Pray that the government will uphold the constitutional freedoms of Turkish churches*
- *Pray that God will raise up a new generation of bold, wise Christian leaders in Turkey*
- *Pray for ministries focused on the discipleship of Turkish Christians*
- *Pray for the comfort and direction of the many missionaries deported from Turkey*
- *Pray that God will expand his kingdom among the millions of Arab and Persian refugees living in Turkey*
- *Pray for the success of numerous ongoing evangelistic efforts*

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Prisoner Profile



PRISONER NAME	LOCATION	ARRESTED	HELD
Kamal Naamanian	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Jun 2020	345 DAYS

Christian converts Kamal Naamanian and Mohammad Vafadar were arrested along with Shahrooz Eslamdous on Feb. 15, in a house church meeting in Rasht. Six other Christians from the same church were arrested during the same time period. At a court hearing on July 24, 2019, Judge Mohammed Moghisheh called the men “apostates” and argued that the Bible was “falsified.” The men were subsequently sentenced to five years in prison for “acting against state security” and “promoting Zionism.” Their sentences were upheld on appeal in February 2020, though neither the men nor their lawyers were allowed to attend the hearing. Released on bail of approximately \$13,000 in March 2019, the men were summoned to begin serving their sentences on June 2, 2020.

Kamal Naamanian is married with a family.

All nine men are from the northern city of Rasht and are members of the Church of Iran. The church’s pastor, Yousef Nadarkhani, is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence, and the men were helping lead the church in his absence.

Address for Hossein Kadivar

Evin Prison
Saadat Abad
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Please note:

When writing a letter, never mention the name of the source of your information or the name of any organization such as Voice of the Martyrs or Prisoner Alert. It is not dangerous for a prisoner to receive letters from individuals, but if an organization is mentioned they may be accused of links with 'foreign organizations' and receive harsher sentences. Also, please do not state anything negative about their government. For the latest information, including letter writing tools and helps, please visit PrisonerAlert.com.

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