



O Lord, we ask you, let your continual pity cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your assistance; preserve it evermore by your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Today's Psalm: 119:65-96

DR. JOHNSON MEMORIAL
Saturday, October 9 * 10:00 am

DOUG ARMSTRONG
Guest Speaker - Sunday, September 26
Chaplain of the Idaho State Senate

September
is Alabaster Month

Meridian Food Bank
Backpack Program

Needs volunteer delivery drivers.
Questions? Stop by the kiosk in the foyer.

FAITH IN ACTION -
OVER & OVER AGAIN!

Hebrews 11:1-31

Pastor Tim Pusey

SHEPHERD'S GARDEN

Over 7000 lbs of produce for
the Meridian Food Bank

Over 265 man hours donated



Operation
Christmas Child
Shoebboxes
available in the
church office.

Women's Bible Study
"Hosea"

Perhaps the best love story ever told stands to be a most difficult story-one of harsh judgement and destruction. Yet we find in it a love we dream of-full of hope that lasts.

October 5 - November 16
Tuesdays @ 10:00 am

Cost: \$20

Leader: Lynnette Wagner

Sign up at the kiosk in the foyer.
Registration deadline: Sept. 26

AZERBAIJAN RESTRICTED CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN AZERBAIJAN



OVERVIEW:

As a former Soviet republic on the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan's churches developed in the wake of the Soviet Union's dissolution. Although Azerbaijan is rich in oil and gas reserves, corruption and the country's authoritarian government have impeded economic growth. Nevertheless, poverty has been reduced and the country's infrastructure is gradually improving.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

85 percent of Azerbaijanis are Shiite Muslims and 2 percent are Christians.

PERSECUTOR:

Families are the main persecutors of Christians. Azerbaijan has a shame-honor culture in which those who leave Islam are considered to have brought shame on the family. The government also pressures Christians with heavy fines.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN AZERBAIJAN:

For many years now, churches have been denied the ability to register legally. Secret police attend and sometimes raid church meetings, which the government classifies as illegal. In 2015, the government published a list of banned religious books that included the Old Testament. Those caught with banned religious literature are fined. The government is tightening restrictions and often asks church leaders to submit lists of members' names. Some pastors and leaders

feel this is an attempt to gather information for later use against church members or pastors. Many Christians faithfully share Christ with neighbors and family members despite legal pressure and possible fines

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Bibles are difficult to obtain. Churches can purchase them, but they cannot be printed legally.

VOM WORK:

VOM brings Bibles, including children's Bibles, into the country and provides legal assistance to persecuted pastors and churches.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *Pray for President Ilham Aliyev and the government.*
- *Pray that the gospel will spread throughout the country.*
- *Pray that churches will be able to safely acquire government registration.*
- *Pray for unity and friendship between churches and pastors.*
- *Pray that all believers will be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ*

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•1815 SE Bison Rd., Bartlesville, OK 74006 •800-747-0085

Prisoner Profile



PRISONER NAME	LOCATION	ARRESTED	HELD
Meron Gebreselasie	Eritrea	Jun 2004	6,314 DAYS

Pastor Meron Gebreselasie was arrested on June 3, 2004. Meron, also known as Million, was the pastor of Massawa Rhema Evangelical Church in Massawa, a Red Sea port city. He was also an anesthetist at Massawa Hospital.

Meron was arrested shortly after Pastor Tesfatsion Hagos of Asmara, who was arrested on May 27, 2004 while visiting Meron. On his way to return Tesfatsion's belongings to his home in Asmara, Meron was detained at a checkpoint. He has been in prison ever since.

He was held for two months at Asmara's 2nd Police Station before being moved to the maximum-security Wengel Mermera Central Criminal Investigation Interrogation Center, where many of Eritrea's prominent Christian leaders arrested after the 2002 religious crackdown are believed to be held. None have been charged, tried or given prison sentences.

The pastor was not married.

Address for Hossein Kadivar

Wenjel Mermera
Asmara, Eritrea

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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