

June 13, 2021

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome. We are glad you're here.



CARED FOR BY MY SHEPHERD PSALM 23

Pastor Tim Pusey

2021 Fishing Night & BBQ

Saturday June 19th, 4pm-8pm

Dinner served by 5:30pm

Cost: \$10 per person, \$40 per family
(children 6 and under are free)

We are grateful to be offered the use of this private lake for our event, as such fishing licenses are not needed. Fishing Equipment will be provided for on site use free of charge thanks to Howard's Tackle Shop of Nampa.

Please note that seating and tables will not be provided, so please come prepared. Attendees will want to bring their own lawn chairs for seating.

O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom you do bring up in your steadfast fear and love; Keep us, we beseech you, under the protection of your good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today's Psalm: 88

Senior Connections

Friday, June 18 * 10:00 am * Rm 162

Senior Connections is a time to connect socially with other senior adults in the church. This is being planned as a monthly get-together.

New Sound System

We need your support to replace the backbone of our sound system, the audio mixing system. This is a critical need! The cost is about \$70,000. If you have questions and/or can donate to help us replace these crucial components, please contact

Pastor Stephen.

Collected to date: \$7279

A Celebration of Grace

June 26 at 4 pm & June 27 at 9 am & 3 pm

Our global Nazarene family is invited to join us for a worship service featuring music from across our regions and a message from the Board of General Superintendents.

<https://nazarene.org/celebration-of-grace>

Prayer Requests

Our nation & leaders
 Military/Law enforcement
 Church of Week:
 Buhl

Pastor Kurt Oman

Loved ones in care facilities
 Church Finances
 Those with chronic health issues
 Persecuted Church: China
 Imprisoned Christian:
 Babak Hosseinzadeh, Iran, Held 687 days

Church Information Classes

June 13, 20 & 27

9:30 am in the Prayer Chapel off the foyer.

Class is taught by Pastor Tim

Contact the church office at 208-888-2141 or
office@myvsn.org

Volunteers Needed

We still need volunteers to help in our Children's Department! Contact Pastor Bob if interested.

Financials

June offering to date: \$31,686
 Needed each month: \$95,295

Sunday Morning Connections:

Connexions led by Cindy Pusey
Mariners led by Keith Ricketts
Branches led by Bob Arnold & Ken Altman
Ambassadors led by Bob Marsland
Living for Christ led by Fred Fender
Adult Life Application led by Gail
 & Craig Zickefoose
20-Something led by April & Matt Drinnon
University-Age led by Angie Pearl
 & Kevin Thompson
Undefined led by Kim Nixon

Call the church office at 208-888-2141 to connect to these groups.

All-Church Picnic

Wednesday, June 30

Hot dogs and Hamburgers provided. Those with a last name beginning with the letters A-P please bring a side dish (Baked Beans, Salads, Fruit, Veggies, etc) to share. Those with a last name beginning with Q-Z please bring a dessert.

In Lieu of the Fourth of July picnic since the 4th of July holiday falls on a Sunday.

Order of Service

Welcome
 Invocation
 Church Family Announcements
 Hands of Hope Presentation
 Worship in Music
 Sermon
 Closing Prayer

Sermon Notes:

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CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN CHINA



OVERVIEW:

Revival and rapid church growth have characterized China's churches since the 1990s. About 130 million Chinese are Christians, most of whom worship in illegal house churches. Only about 30 million are affiliated with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) — which, as the only legal church, is controlled by the Communist government. Despite continuous pressure and oppression from the Communist government, house church leaders refuse to compromise the gospel by joining government-controlled churches. Because of decades of government oppression, few Chinese Christians have their own Bible or access to discipleship literature.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Influenced by their atheistic government, many Chinese are nonreligious. About 20 percent are Buddhists and another 20 percent practice Chinese folk religion. 9 percent are Christians.

PERSECUTOR:

The main persecutor is the government.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN COLUMBIA:

In the early 2000s, many unregistered churches enjoyed some freedom from government intrusion and harassment despite their illegal status. However, in recent years restrictive religious regulations and persecution have increased significantly. Hundreds of churches have been forced to close, pastors and church members have been arrested or detained and the online sale of Bibles has been prohibited. A campaign to remove crosses from churches continues in one province. The government has installed more than 170 million facial recognition cameras, many in or near

churches, to identify those who attend worship services. Church leaders are under intense pressure to join the government-controlled TSPM. In general, the farther Christians are from Beijing, the more freedom they have. Authorities pressure Christian parents by refusing their children an education, and even the grandchildren of Christians are often denied schooling. It is illegal to disciple anyone younger than 18. Christians are often charged with participating in cults or with other spurious accusations, such as “bad business practices” or “intent to undermine the state.”

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Those living in rural areas have little access to Bibles and usually cannot afford them even when they are available. Bibles can be purchased at some bookstores operated by the TSPM, but rarely in significant numbers. The Bibles that VOM and other frontier missions organizations distribute each year have only begun to meet the massive need.

VOM WORK:

VOM distributes Bibles in the least reached, most challenging areas of China. We distribute children’s Bibles, which are illegal, as well as study Bibles for Christian leaders, which are both illegal and expensive. We also support groups that are reaching Muslims in China.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *Pray that God will protect Christian children, who are forbidden to attend Sunday school*
- *Pray that a seminary will be allowed to remain open*
- *Pray for a church that underwent a recent police interrogation*
- *Pray that brothers "P" and "V" will trust in God's provision as they enter full-time ministry*
- *Pray that Christians will remain faithful to Christ no matter the circumstances*
- *Pray for front-line workers seeking to bless persecuted Christians*
- *Pray that front-line workers will trust God for financial provision*
- *Pray for unity among Christians throughout China*
- *Pray that Christians will bring the love and truth of Christ to a dying world*
- *Pray that members of Early Rain Church will find peace amid ongoing persecution*
- *Pray for God's protection of the few house churches that are still meeting*

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Prisoner Profile



| PRISONER NAME | LOCATION | ARRESTED | HELD |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Babak Hosseinzadeh | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Jul 2019 | 689 DAYS |

Christian converts Babak Hosseinzadeh and Mehdi Khatibi were arrested at two separate house churches on Feb. 23, 2019. Kamal Naamanian, Mohammed Vafadar, Behnam Akhlaghi, Khalil Dehkanpour, Hossein (Elisha) Kadivar, Abdolreza (Matthias) Haghnejad and Shahrooz Eslamdous, who are all members of the same church, were also arrested between Jan. 29 and Feb. 23, 2019. In March, seven of the nine men were released on bail to await sentencing, while Pastor Matthias and Shahrooz Eslamdous remained in custody.

At a preliminary hearing on July 24, the nine men were accused of “acting against national security” and “promoting Zionism.” Judge Mohammed Moghiseh, who has earned the nickname the “judge of death,” rejected the lawyer representing five of the defendants, and they, in turn, rejected an alternate appointed by the court. Angered, the judge transferred the pastor, Shahrooz Eslamdous, Babak Hosseinzadeh, Mehdi Khatibi and Behnam Akhlaghi straight to Evin Prison, where they remain in Ward 4.

The converts lost their appeal against the five-year prison sentences, though neither they nor their lawyers were allowed to attend the Feb. 25, 2020 hearing.

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 Shahrooz Eslamdous

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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