



GLOBAL PRAYER

JANUARY 14, 2018

Violations Threaten Religious Freedoms-- Uzbekistan



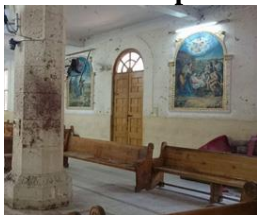
On November 10th, police in Andijan raided the private flat of **Irina Stepanova**, a member of a local state-registered church. Police alleged that they were looking for an illegally stored gun but instead concentrated on the confiscation of her Christian books. The five officials who entered Irina's home did so unannounced -- without a legally required search warrant and proper identification. She now faces charges for possessing Christian books and other related materials. A little over a week later, 14 officials from various agencies, including the Extremism and Terrorism Department of the local police station, raided the home of **Stanislav Kim** in Urgench. Believers visiting the home to participate in a Sunday morning worship gathering were arrested, interrogated, threatened, and had their Christian books confiscated. When one of the participants admitted under interrogation to reading Christian books, their personal collection (including a Bible) was confiscated during a raid that took place shortly thereafter. In other areas nearing the capital city of Tashkent, police raided the private homes of congregation members affiliated with another state-registered church -- confiscating literature such as the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. During the raids and searches, police committed multiple violations of legal procedure. Despite the officials' infractions, three people (including a pastor) were fined for exercising freedom of religion and belief. In Uzbekistan, only religious communities with state registration are allowed to exist, a restriction that does not comply with international human rights law. In addition, the strict censorship of all religious literature is enforced; and even texts that have passed the state's censorship are routinely confiscated. Officials have also ordered that believers are not permitted to read religious texts -- such as The Holy Bible -- in their homes. As a result, citizens with beliefs differing to those sanctioned by the government are afraid to keep religious literature in their homes and, with great sadness, some have had to destroy their own religious texts due to the country's stringent regulations.

Intensified Campaign Pressures Churches-- Algeria



In recent months, both churches and individual Christians have faced increased restrictions by governing authorities, raising concerns that these pressures signal a coordinated campaign of intensified action against the practice of Christianity. During the third week of December, three Christians were arrested in Chlef. These believers, who had been visiting from the northern town of Tizi Ouzou, had arranged to meet their contact at a local café. Upon entering the café, police discovered Christian literature in the visitors' possession. The accused were then taken to the police station where they were investigated at length. A local newspaper, known for its hostility towards Christians, described the incident as a "foiled evangelism attempt." The reporter proceeded to falsely accuse the Christians of working under the guise of humanitarian activities for the purpose of alluring young Muslims to convert by means of financial and travel inducements. While the three believers have since been released, they may face charges of proselytism. In a separate incident, which involved the inspection of a building on December 14th, church leaders reportedly "received an order from the provincial governor to cease all religious activities." The leaders of this well-established church in Ouargla were accused of lacking authorization to use the building as a place of worship and failing to comply with safety requirements. After being mandated to seek permission from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, they were told that worship activities could only recommence three months after obtaining the required permission. Just weeks prior to the Ouargla church closure, a church and Christian-owned bookshop in the northwestern town of Ain el-Turk were forcibly closed. In addition, a church training center in Boudjemaa had to halt its operations. The leaders of the training center are to be investigated this month.

Church Re-Opens After Bombing Attack--Egypt



After eight months of extensive restoration work, Christians in the city of Tanta (north of Cairo) were elated over the re-opening of St. George's Cathedral which had been destroyed during last year's Palm Sunday suicide bombing attack. As of its re-opening, the church has been renamed the Cathedral of St. George and the Martyrs, and its blood-splattered pillars have been left untouched, as reminders of the many precious lives that were lost in the attack. The cathedral was one of two church buildings that were attacked on the same day by suicide bombers who were intent on targeting Christians celebrating Palm Sunday. Between the two churches -- the other located in Alexandria, 128 kilometers northwest of Tanta -- more than 40 people were killed and over 100 injured. "Everyone is amazed to see the church rise from the ashes, and the ruins metamorphose into a lofty, exceptionally beautiful building," states local bishop, Anba Pola. "Screams of horror at the martyrs' spilt blood have now turned into joyful adulation." Pray that the restored church building will be used for God's glory and the blessing of His people, and that all who enter it will be protected and at peace.

PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

Mike and Renee Delorenzo – AIM (working in Atlanta)

Jonathan, Jodi, Jessica, Joshua, Joseph & Josiah Thar – Taiwan

The Sterns – Argentina via International Teams

C&MA: Carolyn Thorson – Gabon; The Wendels – Latin America; Westergrens – Spain; Cheryl P – Germany; Brian W – Malaysia; The Iversons – Taiwan; Dee Krueger – Guinea; M M – Israel; T & K – Bosnia; Livingstons – Ivory Coast

Muhotas in Kenya, Abba's House

The Churo School

The Gideons

OTHER MISSIONARY FRIENDS OF CANAAN

Beryl J. Pierce, Major, Salvation Army (Kinzi Wass Pierce's mother-in-law) – Zambia; **Christon & Kinzie Pierce** – Salvation Army—waiting for an assignment; **Kirk & Janis Reynolds**, Navigators (Kowalski) – Chicago Regional Ethnic Ministry; **Steve, Heather, Austin & Evan Webb** (Leonard & Linda Webb's son) – Thailand; **Jeff & April Davies** – Captivated Praise; **Vincent Mekubo** pastor & teacher of orphans in the Kissi-Kingoris area.



Todd and Karen have enjoyed leading separate boys' and girls' tween Bible studies this fall. The groups discussed themes such as God's purpose, how we can be Jesus' friend, and that we are God's masterpieces. The girls' group had a Christmas outreach and four non-Christian friends came! We are blessed to have this opportunity to build up these young believers, equip them further in knowing who they are in Christ, and encourage them to share their faith with their friends. Todd continues to preach monthly in two of the local churches in Sarajevo. His messages are well received as he shares from his pastoral gifts. We've had opportunities this fall to visit churches in two other cities: Jajce and Zenica. It is encouraging to see what God is doing through these small churches. Todd also joined other mission leaders and local pastors in organizing a special event on Oct. 31 for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Karen has been volunteering in our children's school



on a weekly basis. She is reading books aloud to both classes. The fourth to sixth grade class is listening to the "Chronicles of Narnia" series, and she picks a new theme each week for the first to third grade class. Karen has enjoyed being a part of the kids' school and is building relationships with the students and teachers in this way. She also led presentations on Thanksgiving and spoke to the children about gratitude! This past week our small church distributed over 500 packages via Operation Christmas Child to children in the community. Since our church space is small we held 10 presentations for 50-60 children each time. The children watched a puppet show based on the Bible story of Joseph. Todd and Bethany were two of the five puppeteers. Every child was invited to come back for a Kids' Club that will take place in early January during the schools' winter break. Karen will be co-leading the club, during which the children will learn about Jesus. Many of the families that attended the puppet show have never been to a church before. Pray for the Holy Spirit's work in their hearts and lives and that some of the children will return for the Kids' Club. **The Source Center Update**--We are encouraged by the doors God is opening for us through the relationships we are building through the center. Due to the goodwill and trust we have developed over the years, we are having deeper and more frequent spiritual discussions with our clients. Two of our adult English students on their initiative asked for and began reading Bibles this fall! And many of the children and their parents that come for our English Kids Corner program express how much they feel loved and cared for by our team. Please be in prayer for continued spiritual conversations with our English clients, the Kids Corner children and their parents. Once again our annual Thanksgiving Open House was a big hit! We welcomed over 125 guests that evening and enjoyed sharing with them about our American holiday and the virtue of gratitude. **Family Update**--Bethany continues to flourish in her Latin and Standard dance group! She is constantly creating her own choreographies at home and dancing with her friends and sister! She is a part of the school's performing arts program and is going to be in a play based on "Tom Sawyer" this spring. Joshua's love for Jeeps and other vehicles has exploded this fall! He loves learning about the various car companies and daily tallies which cars he sees in a special book he made. His creative mind is always leading him in new business ideas for his stuffed animals, resulting in many stores set up all around our apartment, as well as drawings of stores, factories, and logos for future businesses. Kaitlyn is enjoying first grade and has quickly made some good friends. Her reading has taken off and she barely lets us read to her anymore, because she enjoys reading to us so much! She is also in the school's performing arts program and will be in a play this spring!

* Pray for our relationships with those involved in The Source to deepen and for spiritual conversations to continue. Pray for those who received Bibles this fall to read and respond to God's Word.

* Pray for Todd as he leads our work at The Source for the next 5 months. Pray wisdom, vision, and good connections with other groups that we work with.

* Pray for our church outreach via the Operation Christmas Child packages. Pray for God's work in each child and family who attended this week.

* Pray for our follow-up Kids' Club in early January. Pray for children to come and receive God's truth and love.

* Pray for our ministry with tweens that God would lead us and use us to encourage them in their faith and their witness to their friends.

* Pray for our children! Pray for their health, their spiritual growth and understanding of God's love for them, and for God's work through them at school.

CANAAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS JAN 14, 2018

SPOTLIGHT FAMILIES FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 14 – JANUARY 20, 2018

Pray for one another.....

✠ Joel & Kay Dlugos ✠ Mike, Dreama & Alex Doolittle ✠ Joe & Carolyn Ditto
Recent Visitors: Starla & Sarah Collisi

PRAISES

Praise God for blessing Mike Black with a medication that is reversing his vision loss!

COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST

Jordy and Kayla Davidson as they await the arrival of their baby girl. Marilee's granddaughter, **Avery's** tumors have returned. **All those from the congregation** struggling with winter ailments. **Pray** for God's guidance finding a resident intern to help reach millennials. **Pray** for families in crisis. **Health concerns: Kathy Thompson; Larry Nesbitt's dad; Bob Mitchem; Rich Roth; Jim & Marianne Ash; Sue Neier; Kay Dlugos; Pam Miller;** Miller's granddaughter, **Natalie; Rita Bedwell's husband, Bill &** step-daughter, **Crystal;** Wass' daughter-in-law, **Vickie,** (Crohn's & ulcers); **Pastor Buddy Goss,** New Winchester Baptist, (diabetes, kidney & heart problems), his wife, **Phyllis. Dealing with pain: Vicki Kendall; Ann Nesbitt; Debbie Arney; Bob Mitchem; Sharon Doty; Mike Black; Rich Roth; Kay Dlugos; Claudia Wooden; Donna Draper; Ron Kowalski & Jamie Clark.**

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Adria Stephens – (Beard's grandtr)	Mitchell Stephens, Adria's husband – stateside
Rob Skillern—stateside Ft Hood	Christopher Barger (Ron's grandson) –Iraq
Robbie Skillern—stateside	Andrew Schwarz – airborne/ranger school (Gruner)
Carlos Kline, USMC (Raley's grandson) Afghanistan	Todd (friend of Mike Anderson)
Daniel Wass, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana	Jared Holtane – Iraq
Brad Royer – Marine Boot Camp	James Myers – Jordan (Audrey Birtchman's great grandson)

KEEPING OUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN PRAYER

Regional C&MA Church Fellowship Cluster

Hope Church (CMA, North Indy)
Fall Creek Community Church (CMA Fishers)
Cityview Christian Center (Inner City)
Christ Fellowship of Indianapolis (South Indy)
Current Church (Franklin)
International Churches
Vincent Mekubo of Kissi-Kingoris --
An Independent church that cares for orphans

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Jaelyn Davidson	
Haley Purcell	Virginia Muhota
Olivia Benner (Roth)	Anna Simms
Claire Simms	Rachel Simms
Abby Schubert	Katie Schubert

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CANCER CONCERNS

Claudia Wooden	Sue Neier (breast, bladder)
Rick Miller (bladder cancer)	Tracy Morehead (Rick Miller's sister)
Judy McEachern, Kathy Thompson's sister	Cheryl Roth (Rich's sister-in-law)
Bob Srstka, Medin (Anderson)	Bob Stern (missionary) leukemia
Avery (6) & Jeff (Marilee's gr grandtr & brother)	Sarah Dvorak (Jaelyn Davidson)
Dawn (Cindy Ware's stepdaughter)	Paulita Ream
Larry Dalton & Morgan Myers Audrey B	Gary, Chris Snider (Donna Draper)
Heidi, Linda, Joe, Aliza, Laura, April (Kowalski)	Heather (Pastor Kevin's sister)
Carolyn Ditto	Kelly (Collins) Thompson (Zac's mom)
Lucille (Kitzie)	Leanne (Mitchem's daughter)
Sue (Roth's daughter)	Carla (Sandra Runner)
Kay Robertson & Marylu Miller (Robertson)	Kenny (Flater)
Ron Gilmore (Josh Sparks step-father)	Alvin (Brenda D's brother)
Florence Dockey (Nicki Vance's grandmother)	Debbie O'Neal (Debbie Arney)
Keith King (Raley)	

2018 BOARD & MINISTRY LEADERS

Pastor Kevin & Kathy
Ray & Norma Robertson
Mike & Sharon Black
Mike & Dreama Doolittle
Chris & Sarah Schubert
Rick Miller
Kim Hyten
Bea Jones
Greg & Debbie Arney
Mike Collins
Jim & Brenda Davidson
Steve & Brenda Anderson
Ron & Carol Kowalski