

# Upcoming Events

- Today's Nursery Attendants: Karin & Hailey DelPercio
  - Children ages 0-5 years
  - Parents/Guardians - Nursery attendant will escort you.
- 5/25 - Please mark your calendars for this FBC Workday
  - Project List now available - Please see Sign Up Sheet in Foyer - Thanks Everyone!
- 5/12 - Baby Bottle Campaign Begins (Runs Mother's Day to Father's Day)
  - Bottles will be made available soon in foyer
  - Please see Marie Bodine with questions
- 5/15 - Business Meeting to Appoint Deacons
- Wednesdays 7pm - Bible Study, Prayer & Book Discussion
  - Resource: \*Church is a Team Sport : A Championship Strategy for Doing Ministry Together by Jim Putman
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions  
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreaches, Changemakers, Etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People via our CONNECT Card
- On which MISSIONAL TEAM should I be Serving?
  - Internal / Discipleship - Don & Carm Hickson
  - External / Outreach - Jose & Ivis Quann
  - Bldg. & Grounds - Bill & Laura Dolhansky
  - Technology - Mark & Jillaine Couse

## — MISSIONARIES —

2024 BMA Global Legacy Award

David & Shelley Dickson



# Persecuted Christian

- IRAN -

## IMPRISONMENT LEADS TO SALVATIONS

- An Iranian pastor, released from prison, after serving years for leading a house church, reported that God enabled him to work as an evangelist behind bars. He said, "I began to think that this was a dangerous place & that it would not be possible to witness to anyone." But later he found ways to secretly witness to others & eventually led 13 prisoners to Christ. "During recreation time, I would walk around in a spirit of friendship with new believers & teach them how to grow in faith & answer questions". The pastor hopes to somehow continue discipling those prisoners from outside the prison walls: "I realized that if I had not been imprisoned, these 13 would not have had an opportunity to hear the gospel & believe in Christ." he said.
- The Islamic Revolution of 79, led by Ayatollah Khomeini, created the world's only Shiite Islamic theocracy & profoundly changed every aspect of life in Iran. Today, many who committed their lives to Islam/ Islamic rule are filled with despair. This disillusionment has opened new doors for the gospel, which is sweeping across the nation via Christian media & bold evangelists in Iran's growing house church movements. The government continues its attempts to thwart this move of God. Christian leaders & pastors are often arrested, tortured & imprisoned, & their families are harassed. Some, left only with the option of fleeing the country.
- More than 97% of Iranians are identified by the government as Muslim, but a significant part of the population has left Islam & have come to faith in Christ.
- Christians are persecuted by government authorities, who have networks of informants in each city. The government is among the most oppressive regimes in the world. It is illegal to leave Islam or own a bible, & Christians face the constant threat of imprisonment & false charges with "acting against national security" for even talking about Christ. Christians are routinely fired from jobs, & it is difficult for a known believer to find a job/ rent a home. Many Christians gather in covert places & receive teaching through Christian media smuggled into the country & through broadcast media.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- That Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-Khamenei will come to know Christ.
- That new Farsi resources will reach children.
- For the safety of underground printers involved in the production of Farsi Bibles, & protection for those smuggling printed & digital Bibles to believers.
- That house church leaders in Iran will reach the country's youth who have lived their entire lives under Islamist oppression.
- That Christians imprisoned for their faith will be witnesses in prison.
- That Iranians who have dreams & visions will come to faith in Jesus Christ.
- For Christian prisoners who feel discouraged & need emotional support.
- For creative new strategies to reach more than 60 unreached people groups

WWW.PERSECUTED.COM/STORIES

