

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Turkey, Persecution and the Book of Revelation”

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested...”
Revelation 2:10

Andrew Brunson is a victim of Christian persecution whom most of you have not heard about. He has served as pastor of Resurrection Church in Izmir, Turkey, for twenty years. Brunson was arrested and put in prison 19 months ago. He was the subject of a 62 page indictment that charged him with terrorism, espionage and conspiracy. Supposedly he has used his church as a cover for the Kurdish militant group, the PKK. He was also charged with conspiring with the perpetrators of the 2016 coup attempt that occurred in Turkey. Eight months ago Erdogan publicly offered to exchange this American missionary pastor for opposition leader Fetullah Gulen, who was blamed for the coup and lives in exile in Pennsylvania.

Turkey is a NATO ally. Its president, Recep Erdogan, just won an election that gives him dictatorial powers in his country. The parliament and judiciary now fall under his control. Erdogan, during his twelve years in power, has succeeded in moving his country

from its secularist political philosophy toward a more Islamic agenda. Independent news media outlets have been eliminated. Christians are suffering.

At a court hearing Brunson was accused by a number of secret, unidentified witnesses of being guilty of everything from serving as a cover for Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons to arranging arms transfers from the US to Kurdish fighters. One witness admitted to creating a fake Facebook page for the church, linking it with photos to the PKK. Nevertheless, the chief judge accepted his testimony.

The defense team came prepared with ten witnesses to testify on Pastor Brunson's behalf. The judge did not allow any of them to testify. Also present at the trial were the pastor of Brunson's home church in North Carolina, one of the church's elders and representatives of religious rights organizations. The trial has been continued without any judgments. (cf. *World*, 6/9/2018)

The additional point of interest for us is that Pastor Brunson's church is in Izmir, which is the site of ancient Smyrna. Smyrna was the object of one of the messages to the churches from Jesus in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. In vv. 9 & 10 of Chapter 3 Jesus says to the Christians in Smyrna, “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are

rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [Today, this might be more descriptive of the mosque of Islam.] Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Pray for Pastor Brunson and his family, the church in Izmir, Christians in Turkey and the Turkish government.

Pastor Kurt

MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, July 14, at 8:15 AM we will have a men's breakfast in Emmaus Hall. We will hear a message for men by Pastor David Jeremiah. Guys, come and join us.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Over the years people from church have donated medical equipment to us, such as wheel chairs, crutches and walkers. So if you or a family member ever have a need for such things, check with us first. Don't spend your hard earned money when you can use good stuff that we already have.

JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Happy 4th of JulyOFFICE CLOSED...	5	6	7 Care Center Visit 9:45 am Ladies Breakfast 9 to 11 am
8	9	10	11	12	13 Elders' Meeting 10 am	14 Men's Breakfast 8:15 am
15 Christian Education Meeting 12:15 pm	16	17 Missions Meeting 1:30 pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

July Birthdays

8th Chuck Lamb
 10th Ginny Peñuelas
 16th Scott Hedlund
 31st Donald Moberger
 31st Don Scott

July Anniversaries

17th Jerry & Sue Wilbur
 26th Mike & Marti Barth

CARE CENTER VISIT



Our next Care Center & Hospital Long Term Area Visit will be on Saturday, the 7th. Meet at 9:45 a.m. Come share some time and sing some songs with the residents. Spend a small amount of time with those not able to attend a Sunday service!

Ladies of Bethany

Make a joyful noise to the LORD....Psalm 98:4

A Joyful Experience
 Philippians 2:2-13

Saturday, July 7, 2018,
 9:00AM—11:00AM

Breakfast Provided

Keynote Speaker- Sandy Crawford

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Prayer Time - 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Service - 10 a.m.
 Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
 Bible Study - 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting - 7:30 a.m.
 Praise Team Practice - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: Men's Group - 7 a.m.



Once again, thanks to all who helped make this year's VBS a success! Thank you for providing snacks and paper products each night and for praying for the children. We had more kids (about 10 per night) this year than last year - we averaged 31 children each night. The kids loved the songs and are still singing them! Thank you to all who were crew leaders and station leaders - you made the Bible story come alive to them. 7 children prayed to accept Jesus as their Savior. PTL! The kids were getting into the Bible each day. 5 of them learned all 5 memory verses and received a new Bible on closing night. I am honored and privileged to serve the children. Thank you for the beautiful flowers that you gave to me. They were beautiful and brightened my home for several weeks.

Since VBS, our attendance has increased. Each Sunday we have between 22-27 children. So my prayer request and need is for more helpers/teachers. I am especially in need of helpers in the nursery and Pre-K class. Training is provided, a back ground check is needed and a commitment of serving once a month is requested. Please contact Jenny Fletcher or the church office if you are interested in being part of the children's ministry.

Future events:

Sunday, August 5, will be Promotion Sunday. The children will go into new age groups as Clark County School begin on August 13. With the school district having made more budget cuts this year-teachers, classrooms and kids are in need of some help. We are going to have a Back-to-School event on Saturday, August 11, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We would like to provide each child with a back pack with the basic school supplies. If you are interested in helping the kids, I have included a list of school supplies needed. Please bring your items to church no later than July 30. That will give us time to assemble the backpacks.

Jesus has said to bring the children to me. We are doing that, but now we need to have enough workers to do a great job of teaching them. We have excellent materials, and the kids are anxious to learn more about God, learning to trust Him and being able to be baptized. Please pray about where God would have you serve Him.

It is an exciting time in the Children's Department at Bethany Baptist Church Thank You! - Jenny Fletcher

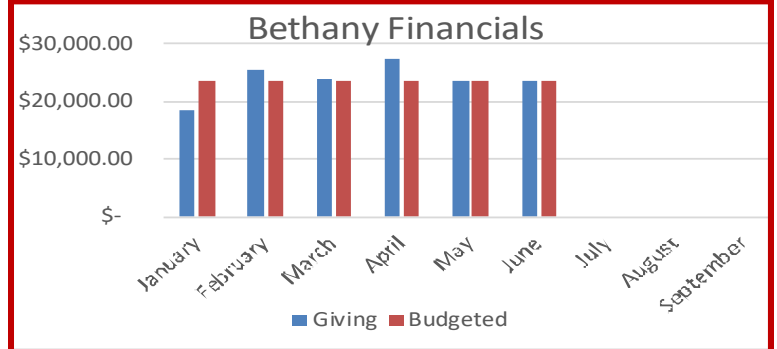
List of school supplies needed for kids:

Back packs, Lined
paper, Pencils -no 2,
Washable markers,
Crayons, Scissors, Glue
sticks, Colored pencils,
Tissues - small



Bethany's 2018 budget is based on receiving offerings averaging \$23,700.74 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$142,204.44. Year to date giving, through June, totaled \$142,791.50. The difference was \$586.56.



Bethany Baptist Church
210 Wyoming Street
Boulder City, NV 89005

Happy July 4th

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Board of Elders - *Mike Barth, Chairman*
Board of Deacons - *Lary Street, Chairman*
Board of Deaconesses - *Sue Wilbur, Chairwoman*
Christian Education Board - *Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman*
Property Maintenance Board - *Dave Legler, Chairman*
Missions Board - *Kathleen Hill, Chairwoman*

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Senior Pastor
Kurt Hedlund
Administrator and Music Director
Don Scott

Service Time: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Telephone:
702.293.1912

Web Site:
www.bcbethany.com

Email:
Kurt Hedlund - kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com
Don Scott - don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

The **Communicator** is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church.
For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mailing list;
please contact the church office at 702-293-1912 or e-mail don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com.