

SUNDAY BRIEFING



More of a Prayer Concern than a Message

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

You wouldn't want to be a Christian in Afghanistan today. It has been reported from leaders of House Churches that the Taliban has a "hit list" of Christians to target and kill. With no US Embassy still in place, safe locations for believers have dwindled to nothing!

Neighboring countries are not open to refugees, and this has forced locals to find any possible safety in the mountains.

It has been described that homes with girls over 12 years of age must mark their doorpost with an "X" so the Taliban can take them. The cost of defiance on this rule is that the whole family may be executed.

Females over 25 in a home are being regularly taken from their homes as sex slaves for the Taliban as the husbands are "eliminated!" Christian women have been known to receive guns from their fathers and husbands with the instruction to use the gun on either attackers or themselves, as needed.

Brothers and Sisters, while we give thanks to God for the freedoms of religious faith that exist for us here in this country, we must remember that persecution remains in many other places. Let us pray for our Christian family who may physically look different from us but walk with the same Lord that we do! Their courage and faithfulness under persecution must be a testimony for us all.

UPCOMING

August 28th |
Quarterly Teacher's Meeting

September 25th |
Prayer Fellowship

October 3rd |
Baptism Sunday

Order of Worship

Sunday, August 29th, 2021

Welcome & Prayer | Alex Wong

Worship Through Music | Praise Team

Announcements & Prayer | Deacon Emmitt Phok

Scripture Reading | Willie Kwan

Message | Pastor Don Gardner

Worship Through Music | Praise Team

Closing Prayer | Ken Yee

*Hatred stirs
up strife, but
love covers
all offenses.*

PROVERBS 10:12

"Love Others Because of Christ"

Pastor Don Gardner

1 John 4:1-15

I. Discernment Brings Us Our Hope v.1-6

II. God's Love Requires Definition v.7-12

III. Love Abiding in Us Removes Fear v.13-19

IV. Love is Our Responsibility! v.20-21

Announcements & Prayers

Nursery Services Temporarily Closed - Parents may feel free to use the dedicated Mother/Baby room at the back of the Sanctuary during Worship Service for Nursery-aged children (2 years and younger). We apologize for this inconvenience.

Change in English-Speaking Sunday School Start and End Times - Starting this Sunday, August 29, the English-Speaking Sunday School will begin at 11:00 AM and end at 12:15 PM to align with the start and end times for the Chinese-Speaking Worship Service. This will shorten the time between the Service and Sunday School and allow parents to pick up their children by 12:30 PM.

October 3rd Baptisms - Baptism is a testimony of a person's faith in Christ. It is not salvation, but a picture of what Jesus has done in a person's life. He has cleansed and forgiven one's sin as we're given a new life in Him. On October 3rd, we will have baptisms at 10:45am. Please contact us if you're interested in making a public profession of faith in Jesus through water baptism.

Announcements (cont.)

Quarterly Teacher's Meeting - Please join us this Saturday, August 28 at 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. We will continue with training via Zoom due to the rising COVID-19 cases. Please click onto the link below to join the training session.

Training Link: [Quarterly Teacher's Training: August 28, 2021](#)

Meeting ID: 883 0249 7473

Passcode: 357398

As a reopening committee, we would like to share some updates as we continue to monitor the current COVID situation.

Currently we're still in the "High Transmission" category for Maricopa County.

At this time, the following are the committee's recommendations:

- Postpone the opening of our nursery for the safety of our nursery staff and the babies, infants, and toddlers in our care. This decision is mainly driven by the inability to social distance while caring for these young vulnerable children that cannot be masked.
- The English speaking congregation is meeting back in the FLC for worship service to allow more room for social distancing.
- Chinese speaking Sunday School and worship will meet in the sanctuary worship hall.

We want to thank you for your patience, support, and prayers as we navigate through these challenging times.