



# The Baptist Herald

## Praying for the Persecuted Church: Iran

Praise God! On May 22, Maryam Rustampoor and Marzieh Amirizadeh were acquitted of all charges by the Iranian judicial authorities, according to Elam Ministries.

Iranian authorities warned Maryam and Marzieh that any future Christian activity would be dealt with seriously. "We are most grateful to everyone who prayed for us," Marzieh told Elam Ministries. "I have no doubt that God heard the prayers of his people." Maryam added, "I believe our arrest, imprisonment and subsequent release were in the timing and plan of God, and it was all for his glory. But the

prayers of people encouraged and sustained us throughout this ordeal." Following their acquittal, Marzieh and Maryam left Iran for another country.

In March 2009, Marzieh and Maryam were arrested and labeled "anti-government activists." Their apartment was searched and their belongings were confiscated. The women were reportedly interrogated numerous times and were held in three different police detention centers before being sent to Evin Prison.

On Aug. 8, they were summoned to an Iranian court and ordered to deny their

faith verbally and in a written statement. They were pressured to recant their faith after the chief interrogator recommended they be charged with apostasy. Praise God, they stood firm and replied, "We love Jesus. We will not deny our faith."

Maryam and Marzieh were released from prison in November 2009. Praise God for his mercies and the final acquittal of these women. Thank God for their courage and resilience, and pray that God will continue to protect and encourage them. Pray that their courage and testimony will draw their persecutors into fellowship with Christ.

### BIG THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone in the church who so generously donated to the garage sale. Special thanks to: Glenn & Cindy Whitaker, Tom & Tina Martin, Dick & Barb VanArsdel, Julie Zull, Tom Gourley, Pat, Snow, Phil & Denise Cochran and Dennis Kinslow. The sale was a huge success and we made a lot of money to help the children.



Guiding Light  
Childcare

Ministries has a job opening. Experience preferred. Please call the daycare if you are interested. Call:

364-0656

## Gratefully Monkey On—Pastor Isaac

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I admit that I still find a good climbing tree irresistible. When the first tugs of longing begin to pull at me there are no shortage of detractors; the arguments against the climb parade before my mind like fashion show contestants; each vainly trying to catch my attention. "What if someone sees you," the first model argues; "you are 30 and nearly a grown man. Think of how ridiculous it would be for you to be climbing a tree!" The lower branches, solid and smooth, beckon; my eyes drift up the trunk gauging the height to which I could climb. "Think about your family," the next argument shouts, strutting into view; "what happens to them if you fall to your death? Do you think your wimpy life insurance policy will raise, educate, and support your wife and kids for all those years alone?" The tree smiled down at me in kind benevolence, assuring me that it's only intentions were love and joy; I knew it could be trusted. I reached out my hand and let my fingers gently caress the trunk; it was hard and a bit too rough. The last model burst through the curtain and charged down the catwalk toward me. "That bark will hurt your feet," the argument screamed in desperation, "what is the point of climbing a tree if it is pokey and uncomfortable?" I smiled and flexed my toes, tightening my grip on my special tree-

climbing footwear; this was always the final argument, signifying defeat. I was wearing flip-flops, the only shoes perfectly suited for every activity, (minus ice-skating) and I knew that foot poking could not inhibit the joy of a good tree climbing. I eyed the first branch, gauged the distance, and jumped.

I grew up in a little house; with a pretty good back yard. Its only liability was a shortage of good climbing trees. We had the big old maples, whose lowest branches were too big to grab and a couple of skinny birch; nothing useful. The only climber was a mulberry tree in the fence row scrub which was big enough for a modest 10 foot ascent. Because of my childhood deprivation (of course I am not implying that buying a house without a good climbing tree in the backyard can be considered child-*abuse*; my lawyer says that no matter how heart wrenching and permanently scaring this was for me we simply have no grounds for the suit, and he wants to go back to defending honest coffee-burn-victims) I was always on the look-out; searching for the illusive; the ever enticing; perfect climbing tree. Perhaps this term needs to be defined for the casual reader. A perfect climbing tree is about 30 feet tall; with lower branches which are both reachable and not too big; a mid-section that has plenty of strong branches for holds, but is not too crowded; good leaf cover;

and a strong and slightly bendy top where someone can hang out and feel the breeze gently sway the branches. These trees are few and far between; islands in a sea of disappointing promises. I remember one maple that showed some promise, until it jammed a capybara sized bark chunk into my eye, and I spent the next 24 hours squinting fiercely. This would not have been so bad except it was Halloween and so I looked like Pac-Man (my costume) the Pirate (an interesting and confusing combination) which caused most people to open the door a crack to throw some candy out and then retreat back into the safety of their homes. I guess good, non-flaky bark is another element of the perfect tree.

When I was eight we moved from the house of unloving depravity (I have decided to represent myself in the case and as soon as my parents get rich I will wring every penny out of my inheritance) to the Philippines. After weeks of travel and unrest we finally arrived at the house that we would occupy during the two years of language school. I still remember walking into the back yard (a rarity in that country) and looking with wondering eyes at a low branched- full- roomy- leafy- strong- but- still-swaying- topped- un-flaky- barked- 30-foot- marvel; *the perfect climbing tree!* Oh how the angels sang! I cannot count the number of times I climbed that tree; every time a

## *Pastor Isaac...continued*

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new joy discovered. I still remember my favorite climb; on a hot afternoon (in the Philippines “hot afternoon” accurately describes all but about 3 days every year) I slipped out the door of the house and retreated to my sanctuary. I moved up the familiar path; each hold and step sure; quick and confident. In moments I reached the top; a slightly swaying perch where several upper branched divided to make an excellent spot to stand and hold while the cool breeze moved the tree back and forth. I looked out over the houses and the field behind; from my vantage point I could see quite a ways but was totally hidden from view. It was wonderful and exhilarating. I shifted my position; moving my feet slightly, turning my body and switched hand holds. As my hand closed on the branch I felt the dry; flaky bark of dead wood instead of the smooth green branch I had expected. The loud crack; a familiar sound in a leafy world; was even more terrifying because I was already falling while trying to understand why the branch had just broken. I had been standing about 30 feet above the ground and with the broken branch still in my fist;

my body seemed to turn slowly as I drifted through space. I knew what lay below me; I had just been thinking about how open and clear the view was to the ground; only broken by a big limb about three feet from the dirt. As I fell face first I looked at that limb; thick and hard; a great friend in the ascent and an even greater enemy in the descent.

I never hit that limb. As I fell twisting over onto my face I hit the only branch between me and severe injury; a little stick about 2 inches wide and about 2 feet below my perch. The branch hit me directly between the eyes running down the absolute middle of my body. Instinctively I wrapped my arms and legs around it; fiercely trying not to roll off so thin a beam. I was still staring downward; looking at the same limb that I thought was going to break my spine; staring around the tiny branch that had saved my life. I could not see my saving stick; only the danger from which I was saved. My arms and legs began to shake and I tried to breath; tried to calm my hammering heart. A stick which by the grace of God had grown years before was in the exact right place at the right

time to preserve my life; how mysterious and wonderful are the mercies of God. I waited a minute or so and then very slowly and cautiously began to make my descent. My hands were still shaking as I reached the ground and my legs still shook as I walked back into the house to admire the huge purple knot right between my eyes.

You may never see the compassions of God; you may only feel them as they smack you between the eyes; but let me encourage you to thank Him. If He renews his mercy every morning than it seems logical every evening to recount the mercies of God; to thank Him for all He has done throughout the day. A practice that I have found to be fruitful is to fall asleep praying; not asking, but thanking God for the unfailing compassions I have received that day. Sometimes they are big and obvious; sometimes small and almost unobserved; but all should be gratefully received. Do not allow a day to pass by ungratefully; for tomorrow will be a new day with many new mercies, all of which flowing from our loving Heavenly Father.

Psalm 42:8 By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

Lamentations 3:21-24 <sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Psalm 63:6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.

## How To Make Isaac A Better Preacher!—Pastor Jeff

*Or how we can become better listeners...*

Let's face it; listening to a sermon can sometimes be a little difficult. Lack of sleep, distractions of daily life, attention spans created by TV, finding out that the church coffee is decaf, etc.—can all cause issues for our hearing of the Word of God each Sunday morning. These issues aside, I am not sure that many of us have ever really considered that we have some responsibility as to how we listen to the Bible preached each week. We are not called to be passive spectators of the sermon, but an active participant. In our FBC Book Club, we are reading *What is a Healthy Church Member* by Thabiti Anyabwile, which begins with a chapter on how to listen to sermons better. In addition to this book, I also stumbled upon some similar thoughts by George Whitefield ("How to Listen to a Sermon"), the famous 18<sup>th</sup> century preacher. I found these ideas to be so insightful and helpful for myself, that I thought I'd condense/summarize them for you below: (I'll link to the originals on my blog)

**Think and study the sermon passage during your quiet time**—ask the pastor what passage of Scripture he plans to preach the following Sunday and outline this passage in your daily devotions and let it inform your prayer life as well (*Anyabwile*)

**Pray to the Lord; before, during, and after every sermon**—pray for the pastor, the congregation, and your own heart, that the Spirit would work mightily through the Word (*Whitefield*)

**Talk with family and friends about the sermon after church**—instead of pushing aside the sermon almost

immediately, why not discuss it on the car ride home with your spouse and family or over lunch with some friends. (*Anyabwile*)

**Cultivate humility**—do not become a "professional sermon listener" and beware of pride, condemnation of others, and critical nit-picking; instead, seek to meet Jesus each time you come to the Scriptures. (*Anyabwile*)

**Develop the habit of addressing any question about the text itself**—don't let questions/thoughts fall by the wayside, follow up the sermon with good questions and comments that would be an encouragement to your pastor and help you to better grasp/live out God's Word. (*Anyabwile*)

**Act on the sermon throughout the week**—choose one or two particular applications from the Scripture and prayerfully put them into practice over the coming week; you could even use the sermon and your notes as a resource in your small groups, mentoring relationships, and family devotionals. (*Anyabwile*)

**Make particular application to your own hearts of everything that is delivered**—"when our Savior was discoursing at the last supper with His beloved disciples and foretold that one of them, should betray Him, each of them immediately applied it to his own heart and said, 'Lord, is it I?'"—how many of us when hearing a sermon, think of others who need to hear it, rather than saying "Lord, is it I?" (*Whitefield*)

**Take seriously the Word of God preached and listen with a sincere desire to know Him**—we have deeply underestimated the profundity and the power of the Word of God, desiring more to be entertained and comfortable than hear from our great God and Father (*Whitefield*)

Does James 1:22-24 describe a little too well your hearing of the weekly sermon?

*"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like."*

Do you come and hear the sermon each week, only to leave church and immediately forget what you heard? Let us pray that we would become those who "look into the perfect law...and persevere, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts." (James 1:25)

Pastor Jeff's Book Club will meet to discuss the June book "What is a Healthy Church Member?" on July 10th at 9am.

The book to read for July is "Foxe's Book of Martyrs"

## From the Keys of Linda Wilson

An inspiring story of *The Love of God*, one of my favorite hymns. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did.

### THE LOVE OF GOD

Words and Music by Frederick M. Lehman, 1868–1953

*The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.* (Zephaniah 3:17)

Never has God's eternal love been described more vividly than in the words of this greatly loved hymn: "measureless," "strong," "evermore endure ..."

The unusual third stanza of the hymn was a small part of an ancient lengthy poem composed in 1096 by a Jewish songwriter, Rabbi Mayer, in Worms, Germany. The poem, entitled "Hadamut," was written in the Arabic language. The lines were found one day in revised form on the walls of a patient's room in an insane asylum after the patient's death. The opinion has since been that the unknown patient, during times of sanity, adapted from the Jewish poem what is now the third verse of "*The Love of God*."

The words of this third stanza were quoted one day at a Nazarene camp meeting. In the meeting was Frederick M. Lehman, a Nazarene pastor, who described his reaction:

The profound depths of the lines moved us to preserve the words for future generations. Not until we had come to California did this urge find fulfillment, and that at a time when circumstances forced us to hard manual labor. One day, during short intervals of

inattention to our work, we picked up a scrap of paper and added the first two stanzas and chorus to the existing third verse lines.

Pastor Lehman completed the hymn in 1917. His daughter Claudia (Mrs. W. W. Mays) assisted him with the music.

#### Verses:

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell,

It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell,

The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win:

His erring child He reconciled and pardoned from his sin.

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,

When men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,

God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong:

Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,

Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev'ry man a scribe by trade

To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry,

Nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho stretched from sky to sky.

**Chorus:** O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure—the saints' and angels' song.

Osbeck, Kenneth W.: *Amazing Grace : 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Kregel Publications, 1990, S. 47

July 11th

Combined Baptism Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship & Baptism Service

All Church Potluck Dinner following service

6:00 2nd Quarter Business Meeting



July 15th The

Keenagers will head to Attica Harrison Country Club for lunch. We will meet at the church for a brief meeting at 11:45 and leave the church at noon. Call Juanita McCauley for reservations:

361-2930



## Beef & Boards—"Church Basement Ladies" August 19

Attention all ladies of First Baptist Church. We have 40 seats reserved—if you are interested be sure to make your reservation. The group price includes dinner and the play for \$43.00. The bus will leave the church at 5:00pm and donations for gas will be taken at that time. If you are planning to go—please remember you must pay in full no later than July 3rd. We will be in the Nartex to accept your payment following both services on Sunday, June 27th and July 3rd.

### Passion Groups Monday, July 19

10:00 am  
Marge Hughes at  
Terri Duncan's  
105 Woodlawn Dr

7:00 pm  
Patti Kinslow at  
Toni McKinney's  
693 N Campbell

7:00 pm  
Nancy Kline  
in her home at  
2459 W Del Mar Dr

## ABW Women's Day—October 9th

It's time to mark your calendars for a Wonderful Day in the Circle City to celebrate Women's Day for American Baptist women of Indiana.

Hosted by—The First Baptist Church of Indianapolis  
8600 N College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240

Some of the highlights include:

Friday night girls Sleep-over. Exercising made easy, A Bible Study, Scrappy ABW and making baby blankets

Information about the NEW Edna Martin Christian Center location and more . . .

Cost: only \$15.00 for women.

Contact Tracy Karnes for registration for the girls.

Come join us right in the center of the beautiful state of Indiana of renewal and recommitment to the ministry which has been entrusted to ABW.

## Note From Julie

We at the daycare have had a busy summer so far. We are averaging about thirty after school kids each day. We started going on field trips. We went to Monkey Joes in Lafayette and Linda Wilson was gracious to drive us, Thanks Linda! We go swimming

every Friday. We love being a part of Bible school every year. It is



definitely a highlight in our summer! Continue to pray for the children who accepted Christ during VBS. Pray they will continue to grow and come to church.

Continuing to Serve,  
Julie and the Guiding Light Staff

## News from the Library

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### To the Golden Shore

by Courtney Anderson

This is a must read for all Baptists. It is a biography of Adoniram Judson. It begins with his feeling led to be the first American missionary in 1788 after graduating from college and follows his trails and heartbreaks in going to Burma to witness to the people there. His life ends in 1850. The women in his life along the way are all strong Christians and make their own marks.

### The Book of Answers

By Ken Hams for Kids

Kids are never short of questions—and now there are answers to some of their most difficult ones regarding the Bible and faith. The new answers Book for Kids series is a unique collection from Ken Ham and the creative team at Answers in Genesis. Look for the series in the Family Section of the Library. A very good tool for sharing your faith with your child.

### Who Do I Lean On?

By Neta Jackson

This is the 3rd in the House of Hope series. Neta is the author of the Best-Selling Yada Yada Prayer Group series.

All these books are available in the church library.

## Thank You from the Congregation

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First Baptist Church,

Because of your support we have been able to move to the school building. We are increasing all the services that we provide as well as significantly increasing the programs for the kids. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Edna Martin Center.

The Edna Martin Christian Center Board

Church Family,

Thanks for the prayers, cards and flowers during the illness and passing of our Brother-in-law, Rudy Cosler. Your kind thoughts were appreciated.

Dick & Barbara VanArsdel

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you—thank you—thank you for all the many prayers you lifted up to God for my healing and return to good health. I felt them in a beautiful way! Thank you for all the lovely cards, the phone calls, the visits, the delicious food and the sharing of loving caring concerns throughout my surgeries and now into my recovery time. You are a blessing from God and I am so glad to be a part of your family. I especially thank Isaac for being with me and sharing his prayers before each surgery.

In Christ's Love,  
Marjorie Hughes

Dear Church Family,

Jim and I want to thank all those who took the time to send us anni-

versary cards for our 48th. We are so very blessed to have so many of you thinking about us and praying for us. We are praying for you!

God bless you,  
Jim and Diane Conger

### **MOVIE NIGHT**

August 6th @  
Church—a drive-up  
movie for families to  
enjoy! Movie starts at  
dusk. We will have  
free popcorn; come to  
the field behind the  
church with your lawn  
chair or blanket and  
enjoy a family friendly  
film—free, free, free

## JULY CALENDAR

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Indians Game 4:30  
Summer Lunch Program
- 10 Book Club 9:00
- 11 2nd Quarter Business Meeting 6:00
- 13 Board of CE 6:30
- 15 Foster Parents 6:00
- 22 GLCCM Meeting 5:45
- 25 Board Meetings  
Deacons 6:00  
Missions 6:30  
Trustees 6:30
- 26 Assemble Newsletters 9:00 am

**Howard Holt**—new Treatment

**Kim McBee**—lung cancer

**Russ White**—health issues

**Ron Love**—brain tumors

**Wanda Cooper**—health issues

**Chris Blickenstaff**—hospitalized with infection

**Libbie Blickenstaff**—strength

**Joyce Pittenger**—heart catheterization

**Jack Triplett**—pneumonia

**David Kincaid** - pneumonia

**Dick Mills**—health issues

**Midge Mills**—hip replace-

ment surgery, recovering

**Marilyn Peterman**—starting radiation

**Betty Craft**—health issues

### Extended prayer needed:

Marcus Hutson—deployed

To Afghanistan

Leonard Tubach—hospice

Don Nevitt—advanced cancer

Jim Conger—advanced cancer

Luke Randles—deployed to Afghanistan

Floyd Padgitt—lung cancer

### Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Rudy Cosler

## July Birthdays

1	Cozetta Haines		Brett McKinney	19	Ken Barclay
	Larry Binford	11	Robert Porter	20	Sissy Shermer
2	Florence Gobel		Phyllis Radcliff		Max Pittenger
	Susan Streetman		Susi Williams		Kim Barclay
3	Melissa Thornburg	12	Jonathan		Jared McMurry
	Tina Martin		Streetman	22	Dick Ames
	Treyce Pittman	13	Brian Smith		Crystal Brown
5	Phil Hunter	14	Nancy Carpenter	24	Brad Case
	Cindy Leonard		Stephanie Kline	25	Terri Duncan
	Dylan Earl		Courtnei Hall		Rachel Earls
	Lincoln Zull		Nick Wilson		Aaron Zull
6	Jennie Veach		Brendan Mitchell	26	Marti Shahan
7	Pete Utterback	15	David Christensen		Shirley Pearson
	Julie Zull		Katie Oliver		Dan Martin
	Maria Salter		Lincoln Heide		Taylin Edwards
	Elizabeth Warner	16	Dick VanArsdel	27	Ally Swank
8	Larry Ratcliff		Jeremy Kline	29	Cheryl Cohee
	Neil Barclay		Nathan Sheridan	31	Margaret Rush
9	Ronald Taylor	17	Barbara Cook		William Priest
10	Lucy Moore	18	Steven Ross		Robert Maxwell
	Meredith Manges		Erin Barry		

## Anniversaries

1	Rick & Debbie Schavietello
4	Don & Jean Frederick
5	Dick & Barbara VanArsdel
6	Curtis & Letty Calder
10	Isaac & Julie Zull
13	Matt & Jennifer Pearman
14	Terry & Arlene VanScoyoc Mike & Sheila Cox Pete & Bronna Utterback
15	Douglas & Brooke Martin
18	Dick & Ann Baker
19	Allen & Dianna Personett
23	Bill & Nancy Carpenter
27	Robert & Janet Smiley Jim & Shari White
28	Tim & Jennifer Veatch
31	John & Arianne Vaught Peter & Cindy Zull