



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

THE JEREMIAH JOURNAL

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A Ruling Elder who attended the 2017 General Assembly at Fair Oaks told me the other day that he reported to his congregation his number one takeaway from General Assembly: “To remember Andrew Brunson, to pray for him and his family, and to turn up the visibility of his situation” in his congregation.

That surprised me, given that we said very little publicly in Sacramento about Andrew.

We continue to be very restricted as to what we can pass on to you in terms of updates, but be assured that many people are still working behind the scenes to secure his release. These efforts are being done outside of the public eye and with very little—if any—media coverage.

A member of the U.S. State Department who saw our hashtag #ForgottenAmericanInTurkey assured me last week that Andrew has not been forgotten by the U.S. government. In fact, he told me the priority of his office every day is to secure Andrew’s release.

We can report this: Andrew has been moved to a better prison situation that is closer to Izmir, making Norine’s travel for visits easier.

If you’re interested in keeping up on the Brunsons, they have set up a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AndrewAndNorine where the Brunson family shares information and specific prayer requests.

Second, you can do a Google search on “Andrew Brunson.” Look under the “News” tab for search results of media coverage from around the world reporting on Andrew’s situation. These results will most likely not be in a newest-to-oldest chronological order, so the most recent article may be on the second or even third page of results.

Finally, in addition to regular contact with my sources in Washington, I stay current on developments in Turkey by regularly checking the BBC website at www.bbc.com. You can download their app on your smart phone.

In my remarks to the General Assembly, I spoke about what it means to be a connectional church as we celebrate it in the EPC. That is a celebration of the “one anothers” of the New Testament. We accept one another; welcome one another; forgive one another; encourage and pray for one another; we forgive one another; and of course, we love one another.



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As we continue to struggle with Andrew's situation, another element of our connection comes to mind: 1 Corinthians 12:26 where Paul instructs us that "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

This tells me that because our brother in Christ, Andrew, suffers we all suffer. And we want to do all we can to help win his release.

Even when we were actively advocating for Andrew and giving you regular updates on his situation, always in the background of my thinking was Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord of Hosts."

In many ways, we have done all that we could, and we will continue to work on this. But ultimately it is for our Risen Savior—the reigning King of kings and Lord of lords—who is going to work and move to bring Andrew home in His good time.

And so please, continue to pray without ceasing, especially remembering Andrew to the Lord by name in your prayer time during worship each week. And do not grow weary in doing good. We can look forward to the day when the Lord answers our prayers, but we must not give up.

Thank you, God bless you, and remember: He is risen!