

Daily Prayer Notes

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1st WORLD *Daniel 6*

Let us pray for all who are impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19). Pray for those whose jobs require them to be out in public. Pray for a cure and for vaccines, and that God might bring good out of this. Pray for our pastors, church leaders and congregations, that we all might live out our faith toward each other and our neighbors.

2nd CHAD *Daniel 7*

Nathanael Szobody writes: "Pray for our family in this hottest and most humid month of the year as we just make it through the daily tasks and try to get enough rest."

3rd N. AMERICA *Daniel 8*

Pray for **Naomi Evans**, who returned to the States early due to COVID-19. Pray for a good re-entry and for God's leading in her future. Praise God for her months of helping **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** and children with daily routines.

4th JAPAN *Daniel 9*

Large gatherings in Japan are still difficult, but **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** ask prayer for God-arranged small gatherings and one-on-one conversations. Pray also for God's leading in re-scheduling their home assignment.

5th N. AMERICA *Daniel 10*

Around 300 university students in Asia are in **Joel's** online classes. Redemptive themes abound in the British literature that they study. Pray that students will hear, understand and be receptive to God's grace.

6th TAIWAN *Daniel 11*

Because of the pandemic, Victory Hakka Fellowship is trying to decide how best to celebrate Mother's Day. Pray for biblical and culturally appropriate ideas for honoring mothers.

7th N. AMERICA *Daniel 12*

Pray for the Lord's leading for **Paul** and **Teresa Szobody's** schedule. They were to return to Chad and begin training for two new Chadian missionary families, but there aren't any flights now.

8th TAIWAN *Psalms 92-93*

Pray that **Ben** and **Sara Hosch's** home assignment to the US this summer would not be affected by the pandemic. Pray for good health.

9th CHAD *Psalms 94-95*

Dave and **Sonja Narvesen** ask prayer that COVID-19 doesn't get bad in Chad, as there is little in the way of medical resources. At this writing the Chadian government has closed their borders as a precaution.

10th TAIWAN *Psalm 96-97*

Pray that God would give the leaders of Victory English Fellowship wisdom and guidance as they search for a new pastor (when **John** and **Caristy Olson** leave in the fall). Pray that God will call the right person to minister to this diverse group of people.

11th JAPAN *Revelation 1*

Thank you for years of prayer that God would raise up students for Japan LB Seminary. The new school year (April) started with 3 students (**Haruya Itoh, Nobukazu Takahashi, Chikara Kasai**). Pray for God to bless their studies and direct their future ministries.

12th CHAD *Revelation 2*

Planting of crops usually starts in May, which is a great deal of work. Pray for a good start to the crops because subsistence farmers greatly depend upon them for life.

13th FRANCE *Revelation 3*

Pray that **Matt** and **Christina Smith** find creative opportunities to practice their French during their confinement, which hampers their learning and retaining the language. Happy birthday to **Matt** tomorrow!

14th CHAD *Revelation 4*

Praise God for the wonderful conversations that CLB president **Paul Larson** had with many Chadian LB church leaders when he visited there in March for the church's 100th anniversary. Pray for continued fruit from these conversations. Happy 9th birthday to **Cyril Szobody!**

15th N. AMERICA *Revelation 5*

Joel Nordtvedt writes that many international students in the

US experience fear and loneliness. Pray for Christians who work with them to show in word and deed the love, peace and hope that only Jesus can give.

16th CHAD/STATES *Revelation 6*

Pray for **Jeremy Stanton** as he runs the Welcome Center alone and navigates Ndjamena through these changes. Pray for **Sallee** as she is in the States with their daughters and for **the Stanton family** as they are separated at this time.

17th TAIWAN *Revelation 7*

Pray for wisdom as **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** make choices for their children's schooling for this next year. Pray as they adjust to life now that their childcare helper, **Naomi Evans**, is back in the States. Happy 7th birthday to **Emery!**

18th N. AMERICA *Revelation 8*

Liz is in contact with several families in Asia whose children she has tutored. They have expressed concern for **Joel** and **Liz** while they are here in the US. Pray that **Liz** will be "always prepared to give an answer" about their hope in Christ.

19th TAIWAN *Revelation 9*

Pray for the relationship **Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** have with their friend **Patty's** father who is not a believer. The number of friends that have recently passed away troubles him. May they find ways to bring him God's peace.

20th N. AMERICA *Revelation 10*

Pray for **Paul** and **Teresa Szobody** as they plan the Africa orientation and house construction in Chad for **Matt** and **Christina Smith** and family (currently in language study in France).

21st TAIWAN *Revelation 11*

Pray for the salvation of two young men who this past year attended **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's** English Bible Study. They are preparing to graduate from high school and will go off to college next fall. Both desire to know God better.

22nd JAPAN *Revelation 12*

Pray for newly elected Japan LB President **Wakamatsu**, Vice President **Echigoya**, and Executive Committee members who began their duties in late March. May God give each of them abundant wisdom and grace leading the Japan churches in God's mission.

23rd N. AMERICA *Revelation 13*

Pray for **Heidi Jensen** in her ministry at the UN, and for diplomats and families to be encouraged through Bible Study and English classes. Pray for world leaders during this pandemic.

24th CHAD *Revelation 14*

Pray for two new teachers at the new Gethsemane de Meube school in Boudamasa: **Jean-Baptiste** and **Levi**. Both are active in their home churches and are eager to join the school's ministry. Pray for their families as they relocate.

25th TAIWAN *Revelation 15*

Mike and **Delores Kittelson** are working to be examples in how to encourage others and provide spiritual comfort when people cannot meet face to face. May this ministry of encouragement continue after the pandemic passes.

26th JAPAN *Revelation 16*

Pray for Christians in Japan during the COVID-19 crisis; may

they bring hope and encouragement to their families and friends. Pray that the church would be a light to others in this fearful time.

27th FRANCE *Revelation 17*

Pray for **Matt** and **Christina Smith's** five children as they have been in French schools, but are now at home because of the virus. Pray that God will bring peace to them through all these changes.

28th CHAD *Revelation 18*

Pray that God will bring good out of the COVID-19 situation in Chad, and use His Church in bringing the comfort and peace of the gospel to their neighbors.

29th WORLD *Revelation 19*

Pray for leaders of communities, cities, regions, and nations. They face impossible policy decisions, inevitable criticism and even hostility. May God give them wisdom, good counsel, humility, and lead many of them to find Him.

30th TAIWAN *Revelation 20*

Pray for **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's** friend **Miss Ming** who is preparing for baptism. The Jehovah's Witnesses are trying to convince her to join their group. Pray for God's protection and strength for Miss Ming.

31st CHAD *Revelation 21*

Pray for the leaders of Chad as they struggle with insurgency, corruption and great need. Pray for all the poorer nations – most of which have not yet felt the full brunt of COVID-19. Their populations are all much more at risk than those in the Global North.

CENTENNIAL!

An individual stood out from the mass of humanity surrounding me. He cradled a Bible to his chest as he worshipped. He was full of emotion, dancing, singing, occasionally wiping tears from his eyes, seemingly oblivious to everything except his own worship. Maybe he was just an emotional guy. But he helped me to gain perspective of what this venue was all about.



I was in the town of Léré, in the southwest corner of the country of Chad. Around me was an estimated 10,000 people. We were gathered on a small rocky hill. Large tents had been erected for shade. A crude but functioning sound system had been set up with speakers precariously perched, connected by crisscrossing wires splayed out over the rocky ground. For most, it was standing room only. It was a time of worship. A choir in matching outfits lined up in front of microphones and led the crowd in song. And this man...he was all in. And as I reveled in the moment of worship, I reflected on what this was all about.

100 years ago, pioneer CLB missionaries Berge and Herborg Revne traveled by boat from New York to the coast of West Africa and then intentionally made their way inland into the heart of Africa, to a region currently recognized as the country of Chad. Back then it was known as the Yola-Melut Gap, known in mission circles to be totally devoid of Christian witness. And that is exactly why our missionaries went there, for... *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”* (Romans 10:14,15) That’s right. Because those missionaries were faithful to go, and because the Church was faithful to send them, people who had never heard the gospel heard it...and *“faith comes by hearing”* (vs. 17)...and now, a century later, the resulting Church was celebrating.

There were many things to celebrate: the explosion of the Lutheran Brethren Church in Chad and Cameroon, made up of thousands of congregations and hundreds of thousands of believers; Bible schools that train lay leaders; seminaries that train pastors; Bible translations into multiple languages; holistic ministries in agriculture, health care and community development. And the list of accomplishments went on. There was much to celebrate indeed.

But this man and his worship captured it for me. This was ultimately a celebration of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who sacrificed all for his bride, the Church. And a celebration of the Church’s faithful response to her Lord, as we go into all the world and make disciples. Let’s go!

- Dan Venberg