

Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

July 2021

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1st N. AMERICA *Num 23*

Pray for **David** and **Sonja Narvesen** and family as they travel to churches and talk about their work and vision for ministry in Chad. Happy 13th birthday to **Nate!**

2nd JAPAN *Num 24*

Pray for **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson's** "Creative COVID Ministry" of a vegetable garden in the House of Hope parking lot. Pray for God's blessing on conversations with neighbors and the coming harvest: not only of vegetables but also of neighbors drawn closer to Jesus (*see back*). Happy Birthday **Linda**.

3rd N. AMERICA *Num 25*

Pray for **Dan** and **Claire Rose** and family, as they begin their training in language acquisition and cultural adaptation this month. Pray also for approval for their long-stay visas for France to learn French.

4th N. AMERICA *Num 26*

Praise the Lord that **Paul Szobody** recovered from COVID and had a negative test result so he could attend his son **Micah's** graduation from Hillcrest. Pray for **Paul** and **Teresa** as they return now to ministry in Chad.

5th TAIWAN *Num 27*

Mike and **Delores Kittelson** ask prayer for **Pastor Jung's** mother,

that her faith will grow as she walks with Jesus and that she will receive God's promises in baptism.

6th N. AMERICA *Num 28*

Matt Smith and **Pastor Danny Bronson** (Community of Joy) have been meeting at a Somali restaurant to study God's Word. Both have befriended Somali men who work at and frequent the restaurant. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with these Somali men.

7th CHAD *Num 29*

Pray for families of the teachers and students at the Gethsemane school in Boudamasa as they work in their fields. Chad is always one failed crop away from famine so pray for good rains and good health.

8th N. AMERICA *Num 30*

Roger and **Sue Olson** ask for prayer for **Mr. T**, their Live Stream video technician, who suffered a minor stroke. Pray also that God would use this Live Stream outreach to reach many Japanese for Him.

9th N. AMERICA *Num 31*

David and **Sonja Narvesen** will be traveling and speaking at Bethany LB Church, East Hartland, CT on the 11th. Pray for safe travels and good fellowship.

10th TAIWAN *Num 32*

Pray for God's protection for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** and children during a COVID surge in Taiwan. Pray for stamina during the hot summer season as well. Happy Birthday **Sara**.

11th N. AMERICA *Num 33*

Pray for **Joel** and **Liz** as they work on getting visas to reenter their country of ministry. Pray for God to work through all the details. Happy birthday tomorrow to **Joel**.

12th N. AMERICA *Num 34*

Matt Smith hopes to finish physical therapy this month. Pray that Matt will continue to meet the goals set that will help gauge their readiness for working in Chad. Happy Birthday to **Christina** today.

13th N. AMERICA *Num 35*

Nathanael and **Carrie Szobody** are thankful for their home assignment and for this time of rest for their family in Michigan. Pray for refreshment and for good times of fellowship with family, friends, and churches.

14th TAIWAN *Num 36*

Pray for the Spirit's leading as plans develop for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch's** future ministry in Taiwan. Happy Birthday **Ben**.

15th JAPAN *Heb 1*

Dean and **Linda Bengtson** ask prayer for their neighbor, **Mrs. S**, who had her stomach removed due to cancer. (DPN 5/6) After being prayed for, she "suddenly" was able to eat. She and her friends in the neighborhood seem in awe of the power of prayer. May they meet the Healer God who cares for them.

16th N. AMERICA *Heb 2*

Pray for **Matt** and **Christina Smith** and their children as they remain in Minnesota while Matt recovers from spinal surgery. Happy 6th birthday to **Evangeline!**

17th TAIWAN *Heb 3*

Pray for the Victory Hakka Fellowship and Baushan Evergreen group members that they would practice what **Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** have been teaching them about evangelism, outreach and encouraging one another.

18th CHAD *Heb 4*

Pray for **Daniel Wen**, his wife **Nancy Wu** and their children as they live at the Welcome Center while doing language learning and cultural acquisition. Pray for good health and stamina during this very hot season.

19th TAIWAN *Heb 5*

July is the last month of **John** and **Caristy Olson's** ministry at Victory English Fellowship. Pray that they can finish well after working at the church for over 10 years. Pray for a smooth transition back to the U.S. in August.

20th WORLD *Heb 6*

Today marks the beginning of the Feast of Sacrifice when Muslims remember Abraham's sacrifice of his son to God. It is a time for Christians to celebrate with them and point to God's provision of a ram and the ultimate provision of the sacrifice of Jesus. Pray for Muslims to meet the Lamb of God.

21st N. AMERICA *Heb 7*

Today **Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** are traveling back to the States for vacation. Pray for safe

travel and for rest, refreshment and good times with family.

22nd CHAD *Heb 8*

Serious ethnic-related conflict has surfaced between the students who are training with **Paul** and **Teresa Szobody** for mission work. Pray for understanding between ethnic groups, for self-examination and repentance, that Christlike love might bring unity in the gospel.

23rd TAIWAN *Heb 9*

Pray for the salvation of **Mr. Lao**. After attending a Christian ancestor memorial service this spring, Mr. Lao is considering using Christian ancestor rituals instead of traditional ancestor worship. Pray for **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson** as they reach out to this man and his adult sons.

24th N. AMERICA *Heb 10*

Five new Japanese students are attending worship at Japanese Ministries, Rock of Ages, Seattle. Pray for receptive hearts as they hear God's Word. Also pray that Rock Talk group activities and Bible Studies can return this month.

25th TAIWAN *Heb 11*

CLB China leaders are gathering to discuss women's ordination. In this fourth and final, **Dr. Eugene Boe** will lecture and interact virtually with attendees. A final vote will follow on whether to change the CLBC constitution to allow the ordination of women pastors/elders. Pray for good interactions and decisions.

26th JAPAN *Heb 12*

After a 3-year absence from House of Hope, **Mrs. T** attended **Pastor Zeniya's** Bible talk for the

first time, she happily received another Bible. Pray that she will read it, and that the Holy Spirit will open her heart to the gospel.

27th TAIWAN *Heb 13*

Mrs. Guo, a neighbor of **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson**, wants to be a Christian but doesn't dare to give up ancestor worship. Pray for Sandy as she shares Bible stories with her. Pray that Mrs. Guo's son would trust Ethan and Sandy more.

28th CHAD *Deut 1*

Continue to pray that Chadian government leaders will work together for the good of their people. Pray also for the country's battle against COVID with few resources available.

29th TAIWAN *Deut 2*

Pray for the salvation of the **Du** family, neighbors of **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson**. Mrs. Du is doctoring for intestinal cancer. Mr. Du is open to talking about spiritual things and often tells his wife to become a Christian. Pray especially for wisdom for Sandy as she urgently ministers to Mrs. Du.

30th N. AMERICA *Deut 3*

Pray for **Jeremy** and **Sallee Stanton** as they returned to Chad on the 12th. Praise God for good family times with their daughters before they left N. America. Happy Birthday today to **Jeremy**.

31st JAPAN *Deut 4*

Pray for the LB synod in Japan that the churches would express a passionate mission heart to reach their neighborhoods with the gospel. Pray that the Spirit of God would anoint their churches to evangelize their friends and families.

GROWTH IN JAPAN

Directly behind the House of Hope, and directly across the street from our own house, there is a vacant plot of land. After the tsunami, the owners took down what was left of their house and moved to a safer location. Through a neighbor, who is a mutual friend, we agreed to take care of their land in exchange for free use as a parking lot. This has been a win-win for everyone, including those who live on our street or stroll by every day. Instead of dust and high, unsightly weeds, there is a border of violets by the street and pretty colored wild flowers by the back wall. There is also a vegetable garden.

Last summer when Dean was in the hospital, some of the neighbors took on the community veggie patch. Amidst Covid restrictions it was a great outdoor project and a special way for people to “cheer for” Dean’s recovery. They planted the first week in May, about the time my favorite husband was able to move only half his body. They hoped that when he came home, there would be fresh vegetables ready for him to eat. The timing worked out perfectly, and it was good for neighbor relations.



This year, however, we are the ones in charge. A year ago we never would have guessed that when summer 2021 rolled around, we would STILL be under strict Covid restrictions. But here we are, with the vaccine rollout just now getting slowly underway. This summer, too, most of our “people time” will be outside.

As gardeners, we are very much beginners. Thankfully, though, we have some veteran veggie growers nearby who are diligently watching over us and advising us. So far we have planted tomatoes, several kinds of lettuce, green peppers and paprika, parsley, basil, zucchini, summer squash, a random cucumber plant, green beans and CORN! (We’re VERY excited about the corn.) We are enjoying watching things grow and being out in the neighborhood while we work, but we are also realizing this is a rather time-consuming venture.

It’s very much like planting seeds of the gospel in the hearts of those around us. We plant, we water (sometimes a LOT), we ask advice, we try to be attentive, we PRAY!!! And God brings the good results. (I Corinthians 3:7) We’re already quite pleased with how many neighbors we see more regularly while we’re in the garden. But, indeed, it is GOD who makes both plants and faith grow. Because of THIS, we are hopeful.

We’d love to have you join us in praying for a good harvest of both kinds. After all, to quote a former missionary, “The prayer of believers is THE key to turning Japan to the light and love of Christ.”

~Linda Bengtson, Ishinomaki House of Hope