

# Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

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## 1<sup>st</sup> CHAD *Amos 3*

**Nathanael** and **Carrie Szobody** ask prayer for **Chérif**. He listened to an audio recording of the New Testament and came to one of the Gethsemane school teachers, who gave him an Arabic New Testament. Chérif now visits the teacher to discuss what he is reading.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> N. AMERICA *Amos 4*

**Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** are traveling to churches to thank them for past support and to represent LBIM and ministry in Taiwan. Pray for good health and safe travels.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> TAIWAN *Amos 5*

Pray for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** as they get to know their neighbors and apartment building security guards. Pray that they can find ways to do life with them and minister to them. Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday **Charlie!**

## 4<sup>th</sup> JAPAN *Amos 6*

Pray for **Migiwa** as she sings and shares her testimony in concerts today and tomorrow at House of Hope. She has given concerts regularly in Ishinomaki since 2012 and has many friends in the neighborhood. Pray for open hearts.

## 5<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Amos 7*

China Lutheran Seminary is in need of a professor of New Testament. Pray that this important

position will be filled quickly and with the right person.

## 6<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Amos 8*

Pray for **Danny Bronson** as he leads a team in Chad, Feb. 7-23, including his son **Samuel**, **Jim Kain**, **Rick Anfinson**, and **Joe Anfinson**. Danny will bring oversight to our holistic ministries, visit well recipient communities, refugee camps, and meet with our LBIM and Chadian partners. **Pastor Chris Priestaf** and his family will be traveling to Chad later in the month to visit in a pastoral care capacity.

## 7<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Amos 9*

**Mr. Ding**, a newly baptized Christian, participates in **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's** Sunday afternoon hiking outreach and invites non-Christians to join him. Pray for this outreach.

## 8<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Obadaiah*

**David** and **Sonja Narvesen** ask prayer as they host the team with **Danny Bronson** next week. February is a good month for meeting with Chadians and sharing God's Word. Pray for wise use of time and that people will hear and understand the gospel.

## 9<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Psalm 76-77*

**Roger and Sue Olson** find that there are always new Japanese individuals, families and students moving into the Seattle area. Pray that through searching online, God will lead them to Japanese Ministries where they can be welcomed and encouraged. Pray too for Japanese students who showed interest in Christ while here and have now returned to Japan. Pray for them to be led to a church that's a good fit for them so their faith can continue to grow.

## 10<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Psalm 78*

**Matt and Christina Smith** ask prayer about their future move to Boudamasa. Pray for clarity in selecting a home site, timeline, and building plans. Pray for ongoing language learning.

## 11<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Psalm 79-80*

**Nathanael Szobody** asks prayer as they consider whether the Gethsemane school should open a middle school for children finishing elementary school. Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday to **Selma!**

## 12<sup>th</sup> CHAD *1 Cor 1*

**Jeremy and Sallee Stanton** ask prayer for their neighbors, that they would begin to find peace with one another again, after the flooding. Pray for the country of Chad, that its leaders would oppose corruption and seek the true God of its people.

## 13<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *1 Cor 2*

This week **Mike and Delores Kittelson** are attending a debriefing and re-entry program at Missionary Training International in Colorado. Pray for safe travel and for their

readapting to life in America. Pray too for the ministries they directed and handed off in Taiwan. May the believers adjust well to their weekly activities with Mike and Delores no longer there.

## 14<sup>th</sup> JAPAN *1 Cor 3*

**Dean and Linda Bengtson** begin their journey back to Japan today. Pray for safe travel, and a good transition back into ministry and life in Ishinomaki.

## 15<sup>th</sup> CHAD *1 Cor 4*

**Paul and Teresa Szobody** have begun a new student group of two Chadian families. Pray for the Lord's guidance and anointing, that this year will result in learning and spiritual formation for both families.

## 16<sup>th</sup> CHAD *1 Cor 5*

In December, **Dan and Claire Rose** and family visited Doh and were affirmed that the Lord is calling them there. They are praising God for His clear leading. Pray for the Spirit to continue guiding them through the process of getting there.

## 17<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *1 Cor 6*

Taichung Victory Church is searching for more effective ways to intentionally evangelize their surrounding community. Pray for church members to build good relationships with their neighbors. Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday to **Winnie Hosh.**

## 18<sup>th</sup> CHAD *1 Cor 7*

Pray for **Daniel Wen and Nancy Wu**, as they and their children live in the community of Bokoro learning Arabic language and local culture. Pray for growth in forming relationships with their neighbors,

and for opportunities to share the gospel.

**19<sup>th</sup> JAPAN** *1 Cor 8*

Pray for **Pastor Haruya Ito** at House of Hope, as he continues to visit neighbors and make friends in the neighborhood. May God's Holy Spirit open people's hearts to hear and understand the gospel.

**20<sup>th</sup> CHAD** *1 Cor 9*

**Christina Smith** asks prayer for their Arabic language teacher. He came to the Christmas day service at the Arabic Christian church they attend. Pray that they can share a meal with him and his family and get better acquainted. Happy 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday to **McClellan**.

**21<sup>st</sup> TAIWAN** *1 Cor 10*

Pray for healing and good health for **Janice**, the wife of **David Kuan**. She has been undergoing treatment to shrink or dissolve a tumor on her kidney. David and Janice have been in training to join **Daniel Wen** and **Nancy Wu** from Taiwan as new missionaries to Chad!

**22<sup>nd</sup> CHAD** *1 Cor 11*

**Dan Rose** began Arabic studies in December and is progressing. Pray for both him and **Claire** as they work on strengthening their language skills.

**23<sup>rd</sup> JAPAN** *1 Cor 12*

Pray for **Pastor Haruya Ito** and **Fumi Sasaki** as they are married today at Ishinomaki House of Hope. Pray for God's blessings on their marriage and their future ministry.

**24<sup>th</sup> CHAD** *1 Cor 13*

**Daniel Wen** and **Nancy Wu** ask us to pray for the Lord to call, equip, and send new workers through his church "so that the true light of Christ can come to those who are still in the shadow of death, the people who haven't heard the gospel in their heart language."

**25<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA** *1 Cor 14*

Pray for Japanese Ministries interns **Paul** and **Alexa Fraser**. They are taking steps of faith towards a calling to serve as our next LBIM missionaries in Japan. Pray for the Lord's affirmation in this, and for their ongoing preparation and equipping.

**26<sup>th</sup> CHAD** *1 Cor 15*

Pray for **Matt Smith** as he begins learning Arabic this month. Pray for a suitable instructor and friendship opportunities for practicing what he learns.

**27<sup>th</sup> CHAD** *1 Cor 16*

**Dan** and **Claire Rose** ask prayer for their house construction on land purchased in Doh. May the Lord use this building for His glory and grant his anointing and blessing to the Rose's future life and ministry in Doh.

**28<sup>th</sup> CHAD** *Psalms 81-82*

**Jeremy** and **Sallee Stanton** ask prayer for **Timothy Webb**, who has returned to the US for a few months before committing to help serve the Welcome Center for two years. Pray for a good visit with his family.

## A NEW HOPE

“Thank you! We have a new hope!” These words were enthusiastically spoken to me by Pastor Zeniya, of the Japanese Lutheran Brethren Church (JLBC), serving in Sendai, Japan. I was wrapping up my first visit as Director of Lutheran Brethren International Mission (LBIM) to Japan, and Pastor Zeniya was referring to his reaction to the conversations and meetings I had been privileged to be a part of over the previous week. I had spent time with LBIM missionary Dean Bengtson and his JLBC partner, Pastor Haruya, learning about their church planting ministry in Ishinomaki. I had been part of a meeting of pastors from the Japanese Lutheran Brethren Church, discussing how LBIM might move forward with a renewed partnership with the JLBC in mission in Japan, where less than 1% of the population are evangelical Christian. I spent one on one time with Pastor Wakamatsu, the president of the JLBC. And I had met individually with several of the pastors, including Pastor Zeniya, whose congregation is eager to plant a new church or sister campus in the inner city of Sendai, and are hopeful that future LBIM missionaries might be able to work alongside them in this effort.

I believe that the “new hope” that Pastor Zeniya is referring to is multi-faceted. A hope for renewed partnership with LBIM, that emphasizes an interdependent unity in mission, focusing on community outreach and relational evangelism; a hope for new LBIM missionaries coming to Japan; a hope for a fresh mission passion and engagement on the part of the JLBC leadership and lay people alike; a hope for the spiritually lost people and nation of Japan, that God would use the JLBC and LBIM to be part of a fresh wind of the gospel to move through the nation of Japan; a hope in the sure promise that God will continue to use his global Church to be a people sent out into their neighborhoods, cities, and nations, for the sake of the gospel and the glory of God.

Dear reader, please join me in prayer for Japan this month. Pray for the JLBC, its leaders and its members, that they would be full of joy in their salvation and be encouraged in their calling to be a Church and people on mission. Pray for Dean and Linda Bengtson, for JLBC missionary partner Pastor Haruya, for Paul and Alexa Fraser (LBIM missionary candidates for Japan), and other potential future missionaries that the Lord is raising up for this field. Pray for the Lord’s will, wisdom, and direction regarding a potential future LBIM/JLBC mission partnership development. And most importantly, pray for the unreached people of Japan, that they would hear anew the message of the gospel, and that faith would come through that hearing.

~ Dan Venberg

