

Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

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*Matthew Rogness, Director
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1st N. AMERICA *Psalm 83-84*

LBIM Pastoral Care Team, **Randy** and **Betsy Mortenson** recently met with our Asia missionaries in Taiwan. Pray that this time of fellowship in God's Word will bring ongoing encouragement to our missionaries in Japan, Taiwan and East Asia.

2nd EAST ASIA *Psalm 85-86*

May God accomplish his redemptive purposes in East Asia in this time of fear and confusion due to the coronavirus epidemic. May those asking questions about life and death find peace in Christ.

3rd TAIWAN *Ezekiel 1*

Pray for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** in continuing language study. Pray for opportunities to befriend non-Christian Chinese. Pray for good friends for their children and good health for all of them.

4th FRANCE *Ezekiel 2-3*

Dan meets up with **Paul, Bee** and **Karina** in Paris today to accompany them to Chad. They will tour our mission sites and participate in the Centennial celebration of the LB Church in Chad.

5th N. AMERICA *Ezekiel 4-5*

Paul asks prayer for continued cultural adjustment and spiritual direction for son **Micah** at Hillcrest

Lutheran Academy. Happy 17th birthday to **Abigail** tomorrow who also attends Hillcrest while her parents serve as missionaries in Chad!

6th JAPAN *Ezekiel 6*

Pray for musicians **Misa Kamiyama** and **Chiyo**, as they sing and talk at a 3/11 Tsunami Memorial Concert taking place tomorrow at Ishinomaki House of Hope. Pray that many neighbors will attend and sense God's presence and comfort personally.

7th CHAD *Ezekiel 7*

Pray for **Nathanael** and **Carrie** and their family as they work in their village. Pray for protection for their family from tropical diseases. Praise God for ministry partners who served them during their recent bout of illness.

8th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 8*

Dr. Jeff Oschwald is lecturing at China Lutheran Seminary, on the topic of "Christ Alone." Pray for clarity and accuracy for the translators. Pray that the pastors, church leaders, and others who attend will benefit greatly as they interact about this important truth.

9th CHAD *Ezekiel 9*

The annual convention of the LB Church in Chad takes place this week, March 9 - 13. Pray for the

Holy Spirit to guide and direct the delegates according to God's Word.

10th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 10*

Ethan & Sandy Christofferson are mentoring three new Christian college students. Pray that these young men will be hungry to grow spiritually and that they will be faithful, available, and teachable. Happy Birthday **Ethan!**

11th N. AMERICA *Ezekiel 11*

Roger and Sue Olson meet today with a new group of 36 college students from Japan to invite them to regular times of English conversation, called Rock Talk. Pray for positive first impressions, so students will want to attend and eventually learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

12th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 12*

March 14 is Hsinchu Victory LB Church's ancestor memorial service. May hearts be comforted, the gospel shared and God be glorified.

13th JAPAN *Ezekiel 13*

Please pray for the area-wide 3/11 Tsunami Memorial Concert tomorrow in Ishinomaki featuring pianist **Min Gong** and his **Bridge Band** from Korea. This is now the 9th anniversary of the Great Earthquake and Tsunami.

14th CHAD *Ezekiel 14-15*

Pray for God's blessing on the two-day Centennial celebration of the LB Church in Chad that starts today. CLB President **Paul Larson** will present tomorrow on the subject of the presence and impact of the CLB around the world.

15th EAST ASIA *Ezekiel 16*

Joel has a new group of students this semester in his university courses on British literature and culture. Pray for opportunities for deep and meaningful conversations inside and outside the classroom.

16th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 17*

Pray for the salvation of four non-Christians who often attend **Ethan & Sandy Christofferson's** Sunday afternoon outreach activities. Pray that believers who also attend would grow in their ability to converse with non-Christians about spiritual things.

17th CHAD *Ezekiel 18*

Pray that **Paul and Teresa's** Chadian ministry partners and students for almost three years, **Jean and Jacqueline**, will have direction from the Lord as they visit sites and decide where they will serve with LBIM partners to an unreached people.

18th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 19*

Victory Hakka Fellowship has declined in numbers due to those being called home to the Lord. Pray for outreach to new people who will follow Christ as his disciples alongside the current members.

19th JAPAN *Ezekiel 20*

The Japan LBC Annual meeting & Seminary Entrance Ceremony takes place tomorrow. Pray for the Spirit's leading as delegates choose a new President and Vice President. One new seminary student will enter, joining two current students.

20th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 21*

Tomorrow is the Chinese LB ladies annual meeting. May those

who attend be encouraged by the Word, refreshed in spirit and enjoy fellowship with sisters in Christ.

21st CHAD *Ezekiel 22*

Pray for **David** and **Sonja** and children living in their village. Praise God for the good relationships they have made with their neighbors. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with them.

22nd FRANCE *Ezekiel 23*

Continue to pray for **Matt** and **Christina Smith** as they study French. Pray for their children who are attending different French schools. Pray also for Dan Venberg's visit on his way back to the States (3/27-29). Happy 7th birthday to **Bastion!**

23rd CHAD *Ezekiel 24*

Our LBIM Chad missionaries meet with **Dan** in the city today and tomorrow, working through ministry reports, future plans, strategies, praying and fellowshiping together. Pray for mutual encouragement in God's mission.

24th EAST ASIA *Ezekiel 25*

Liz will be attending a disability ministries conference in Taiwan at the end of March again this year. Pray that congregations across East Asia will be encouraged to develop their own disability ministries.

25th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 26*

Mike and **Delores Kittelson** report that **Chun Mei** has expressed interest in being baptized. Pray that her faith becomes clearer and deeper as she prepares for this celebration.

26th N. AMERICA *Ezekiel 27*

Joel and **Marybeth Nordtvedt** (Intl. Students Inc.) asks prayer for "C" who returned with her husband and son to her country. She is reading the Bible and sends questions about what she reads.

27th CHAD *Ezekiel 28*

Pray for the LB Chadian church leadership as they work with LBIM to seek another Chadian family willing to become mission partners.

28th JAPAN *Ezekiel 29*

Pray for **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson**, as they recently lost two friends, **Skye** and **Mafumi**, to cancer. Skye, is the 14-yr.-old daughter of **Asia** who has sung in Ishinomaki many times. Mafumi is the wife of seminarian **Haruya Itoh**. Pray also for these families. Happy Birthday **Dean!**

29th CHAD *Ezekiel 30*

Pray for **Jeremy** and **Sallee** as they administer the Welcome Center. Pray as they welcome more guests during March. Pray for good health for them and their employees.

30th TAIWAN *Ezekiel 31*

Pray for **Daniel** and **Nancy** and **Pastor Li** who recently visited Chad and are now working with the Taiwan LB church to explore the details of a mission endeavor in Chad alongside LBIM.

31st CHAD *Ezekiel 32*

Continue to pray for teachers at the new school as they teach children of unreached families and share Jesus with them. Pray that God will use this school to soften hearts toward the gospel.

A CHURCH SENT

“Thank you for coming to see our country. What is close to the eyes is close to the heart.” The words were spoken by a government official wearing a flowing jellabiya, a long tunic common in Chad. His eyes peered at us through the crack in the white turban that served to protect his face and head from the bright Chadian sun. Those eyes communicated hospitality and sincerity.

I was sitting across from him in the courtyard of the regional government offices in the town of Bokoro. With me were three visitors from the Lutheran Brethren Church of Taiwan: Pastor Tom, Chair of the Taiwan Synodical Mission Board, and pastor Daniel and his wife Nancy. We were in the middle of a tour of LBIM’s mission activities in Chad.



In 1951, Arthur and Ruth Nyhus were the CLB’s first missionaries to Taiwan. Now, 70 years young, the Lutheran Brethren Church in Taiwan, made up of 17 congregations, is increasingly feeling the call to cross-cultural mission. Daniel and Nancy have specifically felt a strong sense of calling to serve among unreached Muslim people groups. Partnering with LBIM’s current work in Chad seemed a great option. So, we organized this exploratory trip. While there, we discussed many things including ministry possibilities, what it takes to raise a family in Chad, practical living realities, and the blessings and challenges of culturally diverse missionary teams.

As the trip ended and as we processed our time spent together, Pastor Tom, Pastor Daniel and Nancy unanimously expressed a renewed passion and affirmation in their sense of calling to mission in Chad. They shared about how the process of visiting with our field missionaries combined with the direct engagement with Muslim communities in Chad that are living in spiritual darkness has given them increased resolve and desire to serve in this place and among these people. Indeed, what they saw with their eyes has brought the calling closer to their hearts.

Thank you for praying specifically for Daniel and Nancy, and for the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in Taiwan, as they take the next steps in the process. Much must fall into place to see this dream come to reality. They and their three children are currently enrolled in a mission training program called Radius. Other steps to be taken include the mobilization of the LB congregations in Taiwan for support. A sending agency (or the formation of a Taiwan LB mission sending agency) needs to be engaged. Details related to budget, timeline, partnership details and further training need to be finalized. We are excited about an ethnically diverse Lutheran Brethren Church, united in service to the mission of our Lord. *(Dan Venberg)*