

# Daily Prayer Notes

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Lutheran Brethren International Mission

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## 1<sup>st</sup> JAPAN *Psalm 25-26*

Please continue to pray for **Haruya** and **Chikara**, seminary student interns working with **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** in Ishinomaki. They will come for three weekends this month. Pray for God to bless their interactions with neighbors.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> TAIWAN *Psalm 27-28*

Pray for the outreach at Yo Tien village. After many months, **Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** and others are able to gather together again. Pray for a renewal of fellowship in God's Word. Happy Birthday **Mike**.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> FRANCE *Psalm 29-30*

**Claire** and **Dan** ask prayer for adjusting to **Cathy Barlow's** (Claire's sister) return to the US. Claire writes: "We praise and thank God for her time here! Pray especially for the hearts of **Ashley** and **Austin** as they adjust to a new 'normal' without their aunt."

## 4<sup>th</sup> JAPAN *Prov 16*

Pray for the Sunday afternoon "Message of Hope" gatherings at House of Hope, that include music, prayer and a simple, short Bible message. Pray for **Haruya** and **Chikara** as they speak, and for those who attend, that they will understand the gospel.

## 5<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Prov 17*

Pray for **Daniel, Nancy** and their family. Pray for good schooling opportunities for the children and for language learning for the family. Pray for guidance as to their future ministry in Chad.

## 6<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *2 Sam 1*

Today, **Dan Venberg** travels to Chad with a team of students and professors from Lutheran Brethren Seminary. Pray for good health, safe travel, and for a deeper sense of God's heart for unreached people groups in Chad.

## 7<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *2 Sam 2*

January 7-9, **Randy** and **Betsy Mortenson** are hosting a virtual retreat for our Asia missionaries. Pray that as they gather around the throne of grace they will find refreshment, encouragement and Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ.

## 8<sup>th</sup> CHAD *2 Sam 3*

**Nathanael** asks prayer for recruiting new teachers for the mission school in their village. It can be hard to move a family to a small bush town. Pray for the right family to sense God's call.

## 9<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *2 Sam 4*

Pray for the salvation of **Mrs. Ya** and her husband. She started attending church as part of a graduate school research project on

Christian outreach to Hakkas. After her project ended, she continues to attend and regularly joins **Ethan and Sandy Christofferson** in their hiking and camping outreaches.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> CHAD 2 Sam 5

**David** and **Sonja** are now in their first month back in their village. Pray for them as they renew old friendships and make new ones. They are also hosting the LB seminary team. Pray for good fellowship. Happy Birthday **Sonja**.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> N.AMERICA 2 Sam 6

**Joel** is completing his service as a professor of English at an East Asian university. Pray for God to draw to Himself the hundreds of students that have attended Joel's classes over the years.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN 2 Sam 7

Pray for **Peng Ma Ma** that she will come to know Christ and receive His grace in baptism. Her daughters use music and Bible readings to witness to her.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> CHAD 2 Sam 8

Pray for the teaching and mentoring ministry of **Paul** and **Teresa**. Pray that God will lead more families to train with them in cross-cultural work with unreached peoples. Happy Birthday **Paul**.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> N.AMERICA 2 Sam 9

Pray for Japanese Ministries in Seattle at Rock of Ages Church. Pray for students who have heard the gospel from **Roger** and **Sue Olson**. May the seeds of faith that have been planted bear much fruit.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> ASIA 2 Sam 10

Pray God to raise up new workers to serve His mission in

Taiwan and Japan. Pray for pastors and congregations in Taiwan and Japan to be inspired to reach out to their communities with the gospel.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> CHAD 2 Sam 11

Pray for the Chadian churches as they distribute famine relief. Pray that many will get what they need and that God will protect those suffering because of lack of food.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN 2 Sam 12

**Mr. Liang** has expressed interest in Christianity through a "Happiness Group" outreach. Pray that these believers can help him understand and receive the gospel.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> N.AMERICA 2 Sam 13

Pray for **Matt** as he takes seminary classes and heals from his surgeries. Pray for **Christina** and the family in their daily life and schooling in Fergus Falls, MN.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> CHAD 2 Sam 14

Pray for the Lutheran Brethren Seminary team as they return to the US. Pray for health and stamina, and that there will be no complications related to COVID travel restrictions.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN 2 Sam 15

**Ben** and **Sara Hosch** have completed formal language study and are now making the transition into full-time ministry. Pray for good adjustments to a new home, school and neighborhood. Happy 11<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Adelaide**.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> CHAD 2 Sam 16

Pray for **Jeremy** and **Sallee** as they return to their duties at the Welcome Center. Pray for good relationships with their staff, with government officials, and those they serve at the Center.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> N. AMERICA 2 Sam 17

Pray for **Paul** and **Alexa Fraser** in their internship at Japanese Ministries in Seattle. Pray for them as they befriend the Japanese who attend Rock of Ages Church, and as they study the Japanese language.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> N. AMERICA 2 Sam 18

This week **Nathanael** and **Carrie** plan to be at Pilgrim LBC in OH to demonstrate how they teach Bible stories to people in Chad. Praise the Lord that He gives us His story to share.

## 24<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN 2 Sam 19

Almost every afternoon, **Sandy Christofferson** goes for a walk with **Mrs. Guo**, an elderly neighbor. Each time they walk down a country road in their neighborhood, Sandy tells her a new Bible story. Pray for the salvation of Mrs. Guo.

## 25<sup>th</sup> JAPAN 2 Sam 20

Tomorrow, **Pastor Zeniya** leads a monthly Bible time at House of Hope. Pray for those who come, and also those who want to come but usually don't. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to the saving power of God's Word.

## 26<sup>th</sup> CHAD 2 Sam 21

Two student families that have been working with and learning from **Paul** and **Teresa** will complete their training this month. Pray for the Lord to guide the Chadian Church in their placement of these missionaries.

## 27<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN 2 Sam 22

A junior high neighbor boy named **Shin** has started attending **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's**

English Bible discussion group on Saturday evenings. Pray for him as he hears Bible stories for the first time. Pray that his family also will be open to hearing the gospel. His dad likes to hike, so Ethan is excited to have a new hiking partner.

## 28<sup>th</sup> FRANCE 2 Sam 23

The second semester at Les Cèdres started January 3<sup>rd</sup> for **Dan** and **Claire**. Pray for renewed energy and perseverance in the new semester. Pray for continued relationship building with those in their community. Happy Birthday to **Dan**.

## 29<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA 2 Sam 24

**Joel** and **Liz** will be visiting churches in the US from February until August. Pray for God's blessing as they visit congregations and connect with supporters and share about God's faithfulness through 24 years of fruitful ministry with LBIM in East Asia.

## 30<sup>th</sup> JAPAN Psalm 31-32

Pray for the Japanese pastors and elders as they meet together online tomorrow. Pray for encouragement in God's Word and for good communication, as this group has not had an in-person gathering for the last two years.

## 31<sup>st</sup> TAIWAN Psalm 33-34

**Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** have known the **Vong** family for many years. **Mr. Vong** has often shown resistance to the gospel. But recently he expressed an interest in attending their Yo Tien village gathering. Pray for the Spirit to soften his heart to the gospel.

## ROLLING IN CHAD

As our team of 8 weary travelers exited the terminal of Hassan Djamous International Airport in N'djamena, Chad, it was such a relief to see LBIM missionaries Jeremy and Sallee Stanton waiting for us. As luggage was loaded and introductions made, there was a sense of relief and joy to have reached our destination after the long trip of navigating covid tests, airports, international flights, forms, and immigration protocols.

We were visiting Chad for two primary purposes: One, to give the N'djamena Welcome Center a much-needed coat of paint, and two, for trip participants to visit our missionaries and ministry sites to learn about and experience firsthand what God is doing through LBIM in Chad.

Painting started the next afternoon. We were not initially optimistic that we would complete the painting of the estimated 30,000 square foot Welcome Center in the six days we had allotted. There were lots of lines to cut around windows and doors, lots of trim to paint on said windows and doors, lots of difficult and high places to reach...and all this in 100 plus degree heat!

Not only did we get the job done, but we were able to put a second coat on. Joined by Jeremy and Sallee and three Chadian colleagues, the team worked hard, and the Welcome Center now has a beautiful new coat of paint. The color you ask? Appropriately called "Mission Hills"!

About the project, Jeremy and Sallee say this: *"For quite some time we have wanted to paint the Welcome Center, but skilled painters are very hard to come by in Chad. We are so grateful for Tim Anderson, Greg Munson, Pat Murphy, Charlene Vlcek, and Joshua Hill (from Bethesda LBC in Eau Claire, WI), and Steve and Janice Flude (from Hope Church in Everett, WA) who gave their time to travel and labor for a week in the heat to make our guest house beautiful. It was a privilege to meet and get to know each one of them! Our thanks also go out to the donors of paint and supplies. We and all our guests are truly blessed by the generosity of everyone involved."*

The second week was spent traveling to some of LBIM's ministry sites in Chad. The team graciously and beautifully endured the bumpy



roads, new foods, linguistic challenges, unique toilet and lodging accommodations, and came away with a new perspective of the mission of LBIM in Chad.

Thank you, reader, for your faithful prayers for and support of our missionaries and their ministry around the world!

~ Dan Venberg