

# Daily Prayer Notes

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Lutheran Brethren International Mission

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P.O. Box 655

Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0655

lbim@clba.org

*Daniel Venberg, Director*

*Gaylan & Joy Mathiesen, Editors*

## 1<sup>st</sup> TAIWAN *Psalm 35-36*

Today marks the celebration of the Chinese New Year. May Christians returning home for the holidays be a light to their relatives who do not yet know the Savior.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> FRANCE *Prov 18*

**Claire** and **Dan** ask prayer for good health. “After some illness (thankfully not Covid!) that have kept the kids (**Ashley** and **Austin**) out of school, we are asking the Lord for good health so that no one needs to miss any more school!” With different classes for both Dan and Claire starting this year, pray for good class dynamics and enhanced language learning experiences.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> TAIWAN *Prov 19*

Praise God for guiding **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** into their new ministry setting, along with a good school situation for their three older children, **Adelaide**, **Emery** and **Winnie**. Pray for **Etta** and **Charlie** too who are still at home. Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to **Charlie**!

## 4<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Luke 1*

**David** and **Sonja** write, “Pray that we would stay in good health as we get in stride in our town. We hope to find ways to reinforce old friendships and make new ones while also seeking how we should share the gospel.” Pray for

their children, **Nate**, **Eva**, **Boeden** and **Ivan**.

## 5<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Luke 2*

Former missionary **Danny** is traveling to Chad from February 5-15<sup>th</sup>. Pray for safe travels and good visits with former friends, missionary partners, and ministry sites.

## 6<sup>th</sup> JAPAN *Luke 3*

Praise God for answered prayer! We rejoice with **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** that, beginning in April, third-year seminarian and current intern **Haruya Itoh** will join their team as Church Planting Pastor at Ishinomaki House of Hope!

## 7<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Luke 4*

**Nathanael** and **Carrie** and family, **Joel**, and **Dan Venberg** are all presenting at a mission-themed week at Bethel Church, Fergus Falls Feb 6-13. Pray for this to be a week of renewed mission vision and engagement.

## 8<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 5*

During the one-month winter break (started 1/17), **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson** are doing some camping and hiking with the college students Ethan is discipling, along with some of the students' non-Christian friends. Pray that these outings will include many

meaningful interactions about spiritual things.

### 9<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Luke 6*

**Jeremy** asks prayers for progress on a nearby village well project headed by one of their Welcome Center employees, **Daira**. Pray also as they conduct training for backup employees at the Center.

### 10<sup>th</sup> JAPAN *Luke 7*

Pray for the weekly Sunday afternoon “Message of Hope” given by House of Hope intern, **Haruya Itoh**. Pray that interest will grow, and that more neighbors will come and learn more. Pray especially that the seeds sown in people’s hearts over the years will sprout and bear much fruit.

### 11<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Luke 8*

Pray for **Nathanael** and **Carrie** and their children: **Selma**, **Cyril**, **Adelynn**, **Talitha**, **Clement** and **Francis** as they travel in MN and ND this month to share about their work. Pray for health and safe travels. Pray also that their partnership with churches will be strengthened in a renewed resolve for all of us to live the gospel here in our N. American communities as well as in Chad. Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday, **Selma!**

### 12<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 9*

**Mrs. Ya** brought five other non-Christians to **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's** recent camping outreach! She now attends church regularly and is getting quite involved. Pray that she will be open to pre-baptism classes.

### 13<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Luke 10*

Big changes are happening with Japanese Ministries, Rock of Ages,

Seattle as no Japanese students will attend their local community college this year. Pray that **Roger** and **Sue Olson** will hear God’s new plan and be equipped to follow it.

### 14<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 11*

**Mrs. Wen** has been regularly attending **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's** small group for several years now. Recently, she expressed that she is too shameful of a person to be a Christian. Pray that the Christian members of this small group would be wise as they lovingly care for and share God's Word with this friend.

### 15<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Luke 12*

**Paul** and **Teresa** begin a four-month home assignment this month. Pray for times of rest, renewal, and encouragement after a challenging year in ministry.

### 16<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Luke 13*

**Joel** and **Liz** begin visiting congregations and supporters in the US and Canada this month, for the next six-months. Pray for good opportunities for connecting and for fellowship as they share stories about what God has been doing in East Asia over the past few decades.

### 17<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 14*

**Ben** and **Sara Hosch** ask prayer for getting settled in Taichung and starting up a new ministry alongside Taichung Victory Church. Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Winnifred!**

### 18<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Luke 15*

Pray for **Paul** and **Alexa Fraser**, and their sons **Arthur** and **Oswald**, as they continue their internship at Japanese Ministries, Seattle, along with taking Japanese language classes. Pray that God would use

this time to prepare them well for ministry in Japan.

### 19<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 16*

**Mr. Dzam** has come to faith and has been baptized. Pray that he would begin to attend a small group so he can be encouraged and continue to grow in his understanding of what it means to follow Christ.

### 20<sup>th</sup> N. AMERICA *Luke 17*

February will continue to see **Matt** deep in studies at LBS. Pray for **Christina** as she homeschools **Verity, Noam, Bastion** and **Evangeline**. Pray too for **McClellan** at Hillcrest Lutheran Academy. Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday, **McClellan**!

### 21<sup>st</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 18*

The annual field conference for LBIM Taiwan starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> and runs through the 25<sup>th</sup>. May the Lord lead and guide as our missionaries plan for their future ministries.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> JAPAN *Luke 19*

Pray for **Pastor Zeniya** as he continues to lead the monthly “Words of Hope” Bible time at House of Hope tomorrow. Pray especially for **Mrs. S** and **Mrs. W**, who attend each time and listen attentively.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> CHAD *Luke 20*

Pray that the Lord would call other Chadian teachers from the church to join the faculty in the mission school. The conditions are rough for a young, educated family to move into (even for Chadians), and a mission calling is important.

### 24<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Luke 21*

Pray for **Daniel**, his wife, **Nancy** and their children, **Dan, Chi** and **Joy** as they continue in language study and navigate four different languages. Pray for all the family in this period of learning and adjustment.

### 25<sup>th</sup> TAIWAN *Luke 22*

Pray for **Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** and their ongoing work with the Hakka people of Taiwan. Pray for them as they strive to reach out and minister to people while following COVID restrictions.

### 26<sup>th</sup> JAPAN *Luke 23*

Pray for concerts by the musical groups, **Cymbal & Olive**, held at House of Hope tonight and tomorrow afternoon. Pray that neighbors will come and be touched by the message of the gospel in word and song.

### 27<sup>th</sup> CHAD *Luke 24*

**Jeremy** and **Sallee** ask prayer for the upcoming solar project and that it improves the power situation at the Welcome Center.

### 28<sup>th</sup> EAST ASIA *Psalms 37*

Praise God that another student **Liz** has been tutoring for years has recently begun attending a house church! Pray that his parents might begin to attend with him and that all three would be open and receptive to the gospel message.

## CALLED TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS IN TAICHUNG

After 3 years of Mandarin language study, visits to different churches and cities in Taiwan, and much prayer and consideration, our family made the decision to move to the city of Taichung in December. Taichung is a sprawling city of almost 3 million people; the second most populated city in Taiwan, and a haven for traditional southern Taiwanese culture. Whereas we were used to hearing people speak Hakka in Hsinchu, many people in Taichung speak Taiwanese Hokkien in their homes and in traditional markets. The city is also home to the famous and elaborate temple of Matsu, the sea goddess; one of the most revered deities in traditional Taiwanese and Chinese religions.

We sensed God's direction to help work with Taichung Victory Church, our southernmost CLBC church in Taiwan. The church is located by Feng-Jia University and has a ministry to and much involvement from university students. Yet, it is also located near what is considered the best night market in Taiwan, and there is potential for outreach to grassroots market workers in the area. Traditional Taiwanese working-class families are a large unreached population in Taiwan and, like many Hakka, are very resistant to the message of the Gospel.

This is a new work and a new direction for our LBIM team in Taiwan. Historically our missionaries have all settled in Northwestern Taiwan close to Hsinchu. We are the first to head further south. Since the mid-1980's our missionaries have prioritized speaking Hakka. We are the first to consider learning Taiwanese Hokkien. Our previous ministry experience makes us suitable for helping a church with a college-age ministry focus; but we also feel called to outreach to grassroots, working-class Taiwanese families. This is an exciting opportunity in a new ministry location! And Taichung is full of people who have yet to hear the Good News of the Gospel!

Please pray for our family as we spend these next few months settling into a new city and getting to know our new church family at Taichung Victory. Pray for our children as they settle into a new school and make new friends. Pray for the ministry of Taichung Victory as they seek to share the Gospel in their university neighborhood. Pray for our partnership with our CLBC leadership in Taiwan as we work together to support the ministry of the local church and create opportunities to spread the message of the Gospel. Pray for us as we follow God's direction and lead for ministry decisions and focus in order to share the Good News of Jesus with our new friends and neighbors in Taichung.



~ Ben Hosch

*The Scripture readings are on a “read through the Bible in 3 years” schedule!*

