

Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

November 2022

P.O. Box 655

Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0655

lbim@clba.org

Daniel Venberg, Director

Gaylan & Joy Mathiesen, Editors

1st TAIWAN *Jer 20*

The first Tuesday of each month, our LBIM-Taiwan missionaries gather for a business meeting and fellowship. Pray for them as they seek to encourage one another in their ministries and personal lives.

2nd CHAD *Jer 21*

Pray for **Nathanael** and **Carrie** as they move back to their village after a long rainy season. Pray as they renew relationships in the community.

3rd JAPAN *Jer 22*

Dean and **Linda Bengtson** are rejoicing with their coworker, **Haruya Ito**, who was recently engaged to **Fumi Sasaki**. Pray for them as they prepare for her move from Akita, and for their February wedding at House of Hope.

4th TAIWAN *Jer 23*

Pray for **Mr. Yang** as he studies the Catechism with **Mike Kittelson**, that he will understand the essential teachings of Scripture. May the Spirit lead Mr. Yang to faith in Jesus and prepare him to receive baptism.

5th CHAD *Jer 24*

Dan and **Claire** ask prayer for continued language learning and cultural adaptation, and for **Ashley** and **Austin** as they manage their schoolwork. Pray for stamina and good health for the family.

6th TAIWAN *Jer 25*

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** as they work with their partner church in Taichung in planning outreach events for Feng Jia University students.

7th JAPAN *Jer 26*

Dean and **Linda Bengtson** are celebrating with their long-time friend **Takeshi** on his 60th birthday today. Pray for Takeshi and his family to be led to faith in Christ.

8th CHAD *Jer 27*

Paul and **Teresa** ask prayer for strength and health for their ministry of training Chadian workers for mission. Pray for perseverance in the day-to-day operations of their training site.

9th N. AMERICA *Jer 28*

Pray for **Paul** and **Alexa Fraser** and their sons as they near the end of their internship at Rock of Ages, Seattle. Pray for ongoing language and cultural studies. Pray for doors to open soon for them to move to Japan and take up ministry there.

10th TAIWAN *Jer 29*

Pray for **Sandy Christofferson** as she takes walks with Grandma **Guo** and shares Bible stories with her that her spiritual eyes will be opened.

11th CHAD *Jer 30*

Pray for **David** and **Sonja** as they spend some time in the capital being refreshed and restocking things that they need after their long stay in the bush. Pray that they would be fully rested and ready to return to their village at the end of the month.

12th TAIWAN *Jer 31*

Pray for opportunities for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** to build relationships with neighbors in their community. Pray for good health, good friends, and positive experiences for their children at school.

13th CHAD *Jer 32*

Pray for **Matt** and **Christina** and their family as they adjust to their new life in Chad. Pray for new Chadian friends, helpful language partners, and language acquisition.

14th CHAD *Jer 33*

Pray for **Jeremy** and **Sallee** as they continue to help our new missionaries adjust and acclimate to Chad. Pray for the many responsibilities they have regarding finances and government regulations. Pray too for good relationships with Chadian co-workers at the Welcome Center.

15th JAPAN *Jer 34*

Dean and **Linda Bengtson** ask prayer for those attending the monthly Words of Hope meeting. In September, three women took home New Testaments. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give them a desire to read His Word and open their eyes to the saving truths of the gospel.

16th TAIWAN *Jer 35*

China Lutheran Seminary is starting their second academic year without a President. Pray that the search for a new president would be successful. Thank God for the work of interim president **Ray Chen**.

17th CHAD *Jer 36*

Pray for **Matt** and **Christina**, that they might take a prayerful, learning posture as they begin to visit Chadian ministry sites and learn about village life.

18th TAIWAN *Jer 37*

Ethan Christofferson will teach a class at the Hakka Seminary this fall, sharing his research on mission strategy in the Taiwan context. Pray that students will learn to do their own research and more effectively relate the gospel to the unreached around them.

19th CHAD *Jer 38*

Nathanael and **Carrie** ask prayer for their partner missionary, **Pastor Amine** and his wife **Talitha**. Pastor Amine is struggling to find a healthy balance with his multifaceted ministry callings, including serving as chaplain to the mission school and relational evangelism in the community. Pray for relief.

20th TAIWAN *Jer 39*

Miss Ming's mother and brother have been studying the Bible weekly now for the past 7+ months. Pray for **Ethan Christofferson** and his ministry partners as they work to bring the Word closer to these seekers. Pray for their salvation.

21st N. AMERICA *Jer 40*

Roger and **Sue Olson** just returned from a trip to Japan to visit

their daughter and family, and to visit students that were ministered to through Japanese Ministries in Seattle. Pray that these students will have been encouraged in their faith through these visits.

22nd CHAD *Jer 41*

Pray for **Nathanael** as he teaches Arabic and the tribal language to elementary students at the mission school. Pray that he will communicate the love of Christ in all his interactions.

23rd TAIWAN *Jer 42*

Pray for **Mike** and **Delores Kittelson** as they prepare for their return to the U.S. in December. Pray that they will say their goodbyes well and have good closure. Pray also for times of rest during these busy days.

24th CHAD *Jer 43*

Pray for God's blessing on **Daniel, Nancy** and children as they do ministry in their village. Pray for language acquisition and building friendships in their village. Pray for health and good schooling for their children.

25th JAPAN *Jer 44*

Pray for **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** as they minister in their Ishinomaki neighborhood. Praise God for the many friendships they have made over the years. Pray that God will continue to use them to bring the joy and comfort of Christ to many.

26th TAIWAN *Jer 45-46*

Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church president **Zhou Shi-Wei** is

visiting one of the eighteen CLBC churches each month to preach and then meet with church leaders and members to encourage them and help them feel a part of a bigger church family. Pray that good connections can be made.

27th N. AMERICA *Jer 47*

Pray for those at Lutheran Brethren Seminary who are training for cross-cultural ministry. Pray that God would also call others to go to Japan, Taiwan, and Chad.

28th JAPAN *Jer 48*

LBIM Director **Dan Venberg** is in Japan 11/29 - 12/9. In addition to meeting with **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** and **Pastor Ito**, he will also meet with **President Wakamatsu** and other JLBC pastors and leaders to discuss our future partnership in mission. Pray that if it be the Lord's will, they will affirm a mutual calling to send more missionaries to Japan and solidify some details as to what the next steps would be.

29th TAIWAN *Jer 49*

Pray for Taichung Victory Church and for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** as they partner together. Pray that they will all be a light in this city and God would open doors and hearts for many to hear and receive the Gospel.

30th CHAD *Jer 50*

Paul and **Teresa** ask prayer that if the Lord wills that their mission-training work with Chadians continues, He will send new workers who possess the gifts, heart, and vision to carry it on in future years.

LENDING TO THE LORD

November is a month of transition. Days are getting shorter. Leaves have fallen from the trees. Temperatures are dropping. Crops are harvested. We give thanks to the Lord for his blessings and provision over the past year, and we trust in our gracious and compassionate God for the year ahead.

The November DPN back has a tradition of highlighting needs on our African mission field related to famine and refugee relief. Generous giving has provided relief that has mitigated drought related famine among poverty-stricken subsistence farming populations. Other relief has been directed to refugees who have fled ethnic and religious violence in neighboring countries.

Another pressing need has arisen this year in Chad among our own family of churches in the south of the country. The Lutheran Brethren Church of Chad has fell victim to a food crisis in several areas. In August, multiple villages in a region of Chad were attacked by nomads. It started from a land use conflict between an unbelieving nomad and Christian farmer. Violence erupted and snowballed. Many were killed. Villages were razed to the ground. Fields were burned. The religious and persecutive nature of the ensuing violence was blatant. People were left with nothing.

LBIM was able to immediately transfer funds to procure and deliver food, blankets, tarps and mosquito nets to those most in need. Due to the impassable roads, ox carts were used to bring in these supplies.



In another region of southern Chad, torrential rains have caused a major earthen dike to give way, flooding a large area of homes and agricultural fields, leaving the residents in a very hard way. For subsistence farmers, losing their crops that they depend on for life is catastrophic.

Scripture exhorts us to give to the poor, to clothe the naked, to give water to the thirsty, to feed the hungry, to care for the widow and orphan, to welcome the stranger, to care for the sick... Matthew 25:40 states that when we care for the needy in this way, we are doing it for Jesus himself. Proverbs 19:17 compares our kindness to the poor like a loan with a divine guarantee: *“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.”* We are saved by grace. But we are called to in turn be gracious. We are blessed of God, and we are called to be a blessing to others, in both word and deed.

Church, thank you for your generous contributions this year to LBIM’s famine relief fund. Gifts will be used to bring relief to our Chadian brothers and sisters in crisis. Thank you for your heavenly loans that leverage our ministry to the poorest of the poor.

~ Dan Venberg