

Daily Prayer Notes

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1st N. AMERICA *Psalms 35-36*

Mandy writes, "A very special early birthday present arrived quickly on December 11th at 10:33pm. Introducing **Boaz Eric**. His name means swiftness or strength within." Praise the Lord together with **Danny, Mandy, Zeke, Theo, Jonah, Samuel** and **Moses** on the safe arrival of little **Boaz**.

2nd CHAD *Proverbs 18*

Pray for the Spiritual Retreat for our missionaries in Chad Feb. 3-7. Pray for volunteers from Mt. Bethel Church in PA who will care for the children. Pray also for **Chris** and **Suzy Priestaf** (Mt. Bethel Church, PA), who will lead the retreat as our new pastoral care couple for our missionaries in Chad.

3rd TAIWAN *Proverbs 19*

Tomorrow is Chinese New Year's Eve. Pray for our missionaries as they visit with non-Christian families during this holiday season. **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson** ask us to pray that they will have opportunities to talk about spiritual things while they share supper with the **Yun** family tomorrow evening.

4th JAPAN *Luke 1*

Pray for the many activities planned at the House of Hope in Ishinomaki. Praise God for the

seeds of the gospel that have been planted. Pray for encouragement for **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** as they continue to share the gospel in their neighborhood.

5th CHAD *Luke 2*

Pray for a new family who has recently joined **Paul, Teresa** and **Micah**. Pray for unity as these families study and work together to proclaim the gospel in their village.

6th TAIWAN *Luke 3*

Pray for our Taiwan missionaries as they gather Feb. 6-10 for their annual field conference. Pray for a refreshing time together and for good discussions about future ministry.

7th CHAD *Luke 4*

Kay asks for prayer as plans are being made for the location and construction details for a home for her. Pray also for her continued progress in conversational Chadian Arabic.

8th TAIWAN *Luke 5*

Praise the Lord for the safe arrival of baby **Henrietta Midland Hosch** on Dec. 31st. Pray for the ongoing cultural adjustments for **Ben** and **Sara** and their children, **Adelaide, Emery** and **Winnifred**. Praise God for the love and care shown for them by the church in Taiwan.

9th N. AMERICA *Luke 6*

Pray for those who are now preparing for work among Chadian unreached people groups. Pray also that we as a church would be generous in our prayers and financial giving in order to bring the message of God's love to unreached people in Chad.

10th JAPAN *Luke 7*

Roger and **Sue Olson** travel to Japan tomorrow. Pray for many God-orchestrated opportunities to meet and encourage students, new believers, fellow Christians and family during their visit.

11th CHAD *Luke 8*

Pray for **Nathanael** and **Carrie** and their children, **Selma**, **Cyril**, **Adelynn**, **Talitha** and **Clement**, as they have returned to their village after three months in France and two months at the Welcome Center. They are eager to share God's Word with their village neighbors. Happy 9th birthday to **Selma** today.

12th TAIWAN *Luke 9*

Pray for **Michael** and **Delores Kittelson** as they begin planning and organizing their schedule of events and activities for the spring and summer months.

13th EAST ASIA *Luke 10*

Things have not gone smoothly for **Joel's** new position at the university. Pray for favor and for good connections with faculty and university staff. Pray also for the ongoing visa application process and for Joel's students.

14th INDONESIA *Luke 11*

As Indonesia was hit by an earthquake/tsunami in September and another tsunami in December,

pray for the affected families and continued relief efforts. Pray also for the church to be an instrument of God's grace and compassion.

15th CHAD *Luke 12*

Dave writes, "pray for us as we really start to learn the language where we live. It's always a struggle to start a new one, so pray for perseverance." Pray for **Dave** and **Sonja** and their children, **Nate**, **Eva**, **Boeden** and **Ivan**, as they continue to adjust to life in their village.

16th TAIWAN *Luke 13*

Tomorrow Bau Shan Evergreen group and Hsinchu Victory Hakka Fellowship will have a joint outreach activity during the Lantern Festival. Happy 3rd birthday tomorrow to **Winnifred Hosch**, as she celebrates her birthday in Taiwan for the 1st time.

17th CAMEROON *Luke 14*

Pray for the newly elected President of our sister church in Cameroon. Pray for God's protection for the church and that God would use his people to help bring gospel peace to this country.

18th CHAD *Luke 15*

Pray for **Jeremy** and **Sallee** as they are back in Chad after spending Christmas with their daughters, **Olivia** and **Abigail**, in the US. Pray for them as their family is separated again. Pray also for the preparations for major repairs on two separate roof structures at the Welcome Center.

19th JAPAN *Luke 16*

Praise God for **Momoe's** baptism on Dec. 30th at Japanese Ministries, Rock of Ages, Seattle.

As she recently returned to Japan, pray for her to connect soon to other Christians and a local church. It's a very difficult thing to return to Japan as a new Christian alone.

20th N. AMERICA *Luke 17*

Pray for **Heidi Jensen** in her work with diplomats at the UN. Pray for many opportunities to share the truths of the Bible in her Bible studies and English classes.

21st TAIWAN *Luke 18*

Mike and **Delores Kittelson** ask prayer for several people who want to believe and trust in Jesus but are hesitant because of the social implications of baptism. Pray for bold faith.

22nd JAPAN *Luke 19*

Praise God for a recent home meeting that took place at House of Hope with a group of neighbors who as of yet are not believers. Pray that God's Word will take root and grow faith in their hearts.

23rd N. AMERICA *Luke 20*

Pray for **Marcos Holzner** as he works on translation work. May God use this work to open many hearts to the gospel. Happy birthday to **Danny Bronson** today.

24th CHAD *Luke 21*

Pray for Chadian missionaries, **Amine** and **Talitha**, as they help manage the new school, 'Gethsemane de Meube!' and teach a literacy class. Pray that they would be comforted in the absence of their five oldest children who have stayed in a bigger city to go to school. They are feeling the sacrifice keenly.

25th N. AMERICA *Luke 22*

Danny and **Mandy** are working to prepare to return to Chad. Pray that they are able to get all the regular health checkups for the children as well as paperwork such as passport and visa for their new baby, **Boaz**. Happy 7th birthday to **Jonah** today.

26th EAST ASIA *Luke 23*

Liz builds friendships with children and their parents through tutoring and giving homeschool support. Recently, a mother talked to Liz about wanting to send her son to Hillcrest Lutheran Academy in Fergus Falls, MN; she would like Liz and **Joel** to help her son learn English. Pray for Joel and Liz as they invest in the lives of children and young people.

27th JAPAN *Luke 24*

In September, Japan LBC president, **Pastor Takayama**, along with another pastor and **Dean Bengtson**, traveled to visit LB churches in Taiwan and thank them for their many acts of support following the 2011 tsunami. Pray that this and future connections will launch a very fruitful partnership for God's mission in Asia.

28th CHAD *Psalms 37*

Pray for the new school in Boudamasa 'Gethsemane de Meube!' Fifty-three children are having a very fruitful first year. Pray for help in building teacher housing, a fence around the property and a water tower. Pray for the right provision at the right time and for wisdom in using it.

NAVIGATING GOD'S CALL TO MISSION

In August, my wife Christina and I had an encouraging conversation with Dan Venberg about the mission of the Lutheran Brethren in Chad, ending with an invitation to join him on a trip. For the past year and a half, we had been considering missions in Haiti, but God seemed to be redirecting us. After praying about it, I decided to join Dan on a trip to Chad in October. That decision proved to be another step in the process of God revealing his heart to me.

This past spring, God opened my eyes and heart to unreached people through a course called *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. During this time, Christina had been communicating with Teresa about the logistics of moving a large family to the mission field.



Christina's history with LBIM started when Paul was pastor at her childhood church, Desert Rose in Tempe, AZ. Combined with our new perspective on God's world mission, these conversations began to include others who motivated us to pursue this new heart for unreached people. During a recent visit to Arizona, we visited Living Word Community Church in Phoenix, my first experience worshiping at a LB church. It blessed us to hear how well connected the church congregants were with the missionaries in Chad and those working from Fergus Falls! The Lord has provided so many answers and open doors, that we continue to ask, "Can our family best be used on this particular field?"

The opportunity to cast a vision for our family in Chad turned out to be a fantastic success. It was uplifting to see how LBIM's missionaries are so well-supported, the obvious need for a gospel witness in Chad and the receptivity and hospitality of unreached people towards Christian missionaries in their communities. LBIM's Living Waters ministry is an awesome open door to speak gospel truth to people who would otherwise not hear, as well as to build an ongoing relationship with the community. On one visit to a village, it was impacting that the women and children no longer needed to walk miles to the river for water. While we were there, we sat down with 20-30 men, and were blessed to share with them the gospel in a contextual way that spoke truth and hope into their worldview. I was encouraged to learn that during each follow-up visit, there will be more chances to talk about the gospel! What I saw was an excellent, sustainable effort to present the gospel to the unreached in a culturally appropriate way that brings about new disciples of Christ. Our family is thrilled to continue pursuing the Lord's call in serving in such a way!

Matt and Christina Smith