

Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

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1st N. AMERICA *Psalms 38-39*

Pray for recently born **Boaz** and the health issues he is facing. Pray that God would heal Boaz and for wisdom for the doctors and caregivers as they proceed with treatment. Pray for **Danny** and **Mandy** as they wait and care for their little one.

2nd CHAD *Psalms 40-41*

Nathanael writes, "Praise the Lord that the school director, **Terach**, along with our Chadian missionary partner, **Amine**, have started two adult literacy classes. These are huge opportunities to build into people's lives and share the gospel."

3rd TAIWAN *Proverbs 20*

The Taiwan Missionary Fellowship Women's Retreat will be taking place the 4th through the 6th. May all who attend be strengthened by the Word and refreshed by the fellowship.

4th N. AMERICA *Proverbs 21*

Roger and **Sue Olson** ask prayer for 50 new students arriving in Seattle from Japan this month. Pray that the opportunity God is giving these students to hear the gospel through Japanese Ministries will bear much fruit.

5th E. ASIA *1 Kings 1*

Pray for **Joel** and **Liz's** son, **Tim**, in his final semester of high school; he has a full and busy semester ahead of him.

6th CHAD *1 Kings 2*

Pray for **Jeremy** and **Sallee** in their administrative work at the Welcome Center in Chad. Pray for their daughters who are at Hillcrest in MN, far from their parents. Happy 16th birthday to **Abigail** today.

7th TAIWAN *1 Kings 3*

Ben and **Sara Hosch** ask for wisdom in creating a schedule that fulfills both language learning needs and family needs. They had to take a break from language learning when baby **Etta** was born. Pray that they can craft a routine where both can do language learning well.

8th JAPAN *1 Kings 4*

Dean and **Linda Bengtson** ask prayer for an area-wide Christian Concert and Memorial Service on the 8th anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami. The next day, Ishinomaki House of Hope hosts a Bible Talk and Dessert Night, with music by **Shizu Takeshita** and a message by her husband, **Chikara**. Pray that Dean and Linda's neighbors will come

with a spiritual hunger for God's Word.

9th CHAD *1 King 5*

Pray for **Dave** and **Sonja** as they focus on language learning and ministering to their new neighbors. Pray for stamina, as cultural adjustments are exhausting.

10th TAIWAN *1 Kings 6*

Tomorrow, **Dr. Naomichi Masaki** lectures at China Lutheran Seminary on the topic "Sola Fide and Sinners." Pray for the pastors and lay leaders who attend. Happy birthday to **Ethan Christofferson**.

11th CHAD *1 Kings 7*

Kay writes, "Praise God for permission from authorities to work and build a home in the village. Pray that details and timing for building will go forward smoothly and be accomplished in God's timing."

12th WORLD *1 Kings 8*

Pray for missionaries who are working in "creative access" nations under very unstable and precarious situations. Pray for wisdom and discernment, and protection from discouragement and fear.

13th EAST ASIA *1 Kings 9*

Praise God that **Joel** and **Liz** got all the work permits and residence permits/visas that they have been waiting months for. Joel has been teaching for a couple of months. He enjoys being back in the classroom with students. Pray for good connections with students and faculty.

14th CHAD *1 Kings 10*

Pray for good ongoing relationships between **Jeremy** and **Sallee** and the employees at the Welcome Center. Pray for God's love to shine through Jeremy and Sallee to their staff.

15th TAIWAN *1 Kings 11*

Victory Hakka Fellowship will gather for an Ancestor Memorial service tomorrow. Enlin LB Church will hold their Ancestor Memorial Service on the 17th. May this Christian way of honoring ancestors provide a breakthrough for the gospel.

16th CHAD *1 Kings 12*

Pray for **Dave** and **Sonja's** children as they build friendships with their new neighbors. Pray for their growth in language fluency.

17th N. AMERICA *1 Kings 13*

Joel and **Marybeth Nordtvedt** ask prayer for international students who are retuning to their countries as believers. Pray that these converts will find Christian fellowship and grow in faith.

18th EAST ASIA *1 Kings 14*

Praise God for the 10th anniversary of Gift Club's ministry to families with special needs children. **Liz** was able to attend this event in January, and heard many stories of changed lives.

19th TAIWAN *1 Kings 15*

In January, a member of Victory Hakka Fellowship, **Yap**, was taken home to heaven. May his sons and other family members respond to the message of God's grace in Christ that was presented at the funeral service.

20th JAPAN *1 Kings 16*

The Japan LB Synod is holding their annual meeting in Sendai tomorrow. Please pray for a sense of unity and vision as they discuss plans for the next year.

21st N. AMERICA *1 Kings 17*

Pray for **Heidi Jensen**, as she reaches out through Bible studies and English classes for the diplomatic community at the UN.

22nd TAIWAN *1 Kings 18*

Tomorrow, LB coworkers and church delegates will gather for a business meeting to plan next year. May the Lord lead and guide in the decisions that are made.

23rd CHAD *1 Kings 19*

Pray for **Nathanael** and **Carrie**. Pray for good health and protection for their children in their life in the village. Pray for favor with village leaders.

24th S. AMERICA *1 Kings 20*

Jim and **Suzy Olsen**, ministering in Ecuador, ask prayer for Venezuela. A disputed election following economic collapse and three million refugees leaving the country, is causing strain in neighboring countries.

25th N. AMERICA *1 Kings 21*

Pray for those who are now making preparations to go out as our new missionaries. Pray that God would open doors and bring in the prayer and financial support needed to send them.

26th TAIWAN *1 Kings 22*

Pray for the salvation of three non-Christian high school guys attending **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson's** weekly small

group. Pray for three others in the group who have become Christians that they would grow in their faith.

27th JAPAN *Psalms 42-43*

Pray for **Pastor Zeniya's** Bible message at House of Hope today. May people come with receptive hearts to hear and understand more of the gospel. Happy birthday tomorrow to **Dean Bengtson**.

28th N. AMERICA *Psalms 44-45*

Roger and **Sue Olson** of Japanese Ministries in Seattle, ask prayer for several students asking for baptism. M. wants to talk with her parents face-to-face upon returning to Japan. Y.'s father told her not to bother to come home if she gets baptized.

29th CHAD *Psalms 46-47*

Pray for **Paul** and **Teresa** and the families studying with them to prepare for service in God's mission. Pray for favor with others in the village.

30th N. AMERICA *Proverbs 22*

Joel and **Marybeth Nordtvedt** ask prayer for new families to join their Friday evening program, and for new contacts through English classes, social events, and other relationships.

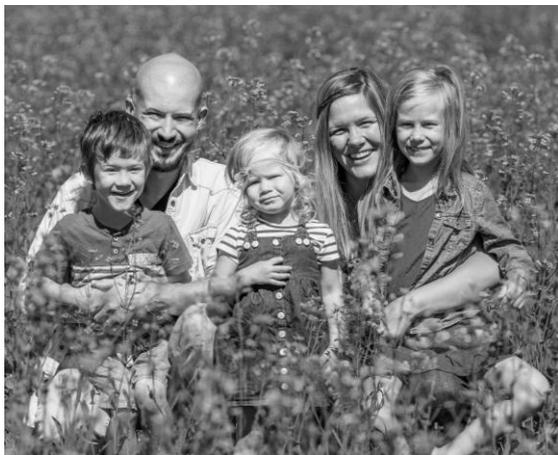
31st CHAD *Proverbs 23*

Pray for **Terach**, director and teacher of the school, whose sister recently passed away. He and his wife, **Amina**, are taking on the care of his sister's 8 year-old daughter. Pray that **Nathanael** and **Carrie** and their family will be an encouragement and comfort to her in her move to the village.

Meet (again) Ben and Sara

We landed in Taiwan after Thanksgiving. Three months in a new country provides much time to reflect and process. Our road to Taiwan has been a crazy adventure, but the one thing that has remained constant has been God's provision, when we needed it the most and when we least expected it. Some big obstacles stood in our way, but God pushed them aside. And even now it's the little acts of love, like messages of encouragement and gifts for our children, that continue to show us that he is still there.

Family and friends continue to ask us, "How's your new job?" New job? I suppose right now our job is to learn Chinese. And it is a rather hard job. Our son asked, "How do you sing the Chinese ABC's?" It took a long time to convince him that Chinese doesn't have an



"alphabet!" Chinese isn't anything close to English. Learning Chinese is like rewiring your brain to think differently. English can operate like a bad habit causing you say something the wrong way. And when you're learning Chinese you never seem to run out of embarrassing things to say!

Language learning is a good reminder that the gospel is brought to us through words. We want the people of Taiwan to hear the gospel in words they understand. We want the gospel to be for them. So, we are committed to start from scratch learning a new language. We are committed to making mistakes and continuing to ask, "Do you understand me?" until people finally hear the words of the gospel in a language they know full well.

Our family lives in a world where the old and the new mix and clash. Our home is in Hsinchu, an established city with two major universities. Our church is in Zhubei, a rapidly developing suburb with a growing immigrant community. Right outside our apartment is a popular temple where the earth god is known to help you pass your exams in exchange for green grass tea. Yet our church is Zhubei continues to grow beyond its building capacity. And Hakka (the language our missionaries learned first) is being replaced by Mandarin. The mission work in Taiwan is changing; and that is exciting! We can't wait to see what opportunities God has in store for us as we share Christ with our neighbors in word and deed. We are excited to be a part of a disciple-making movement with you. Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement. We look forward to sharing more with you in the years to come.

Ben, Sara, Adelaide (8), Emery (5), Winnie (3), and Etta (3 months)