

Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

March 2024

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1st CHAD *Exod 7*

Pray for a training session today and tomorrow for the mission school teachers on teaching Bible curriculum. **Nathanael** and **Carrie** are thankful for other missionaries in Chad who came to serve as trainers in these sessions.

2nd JAPAN *Exod 8*

Paul Fraser writes “Please pray as **Alexa** and I begin preparations for attending a new semester of Japanese language school this month, and for **Arthur** as he prepares to begin kindergarten in April.”

3rd TAIWAN *Exod 9*

Ben and **Sara Hosch** ask prayer for the salvation of **Miss Ting** and her daughter who have begun attending Taichung Victory Church. Miss Ting was invited to Victory’s New Year’s event by a coworker and is very interested in the gospel. Her daughter also enjoys helping with Sunday School.

4th CHAD *Exod 10*

March 4-9 **Nathanael** and **Carrie** are hosting the Bible translation team to proofread their translation of the Gospel of Luke and test it with local people. Pray for the non-believers present, that they would come to know Christ.

5th JAPAN *Exod 11*

Pray for continued relief for those affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake that occurred on New Year’s Day. Over 230 people were killed, and many are in evacuation shelters. The economy has also been severely impacted.

6th N. AMERICA *Exod 12*

Roger and **Sue Olson** are steadily being introduced to more Japanese college students. Pray that they may take every opportunity that God opens for them to befriend and disciple these students.

7th TAIWAN *Exod 13*

Pray for **Ben** and **Sara Hosch** and children as they finalize plans for a home assignment, starting mid-May. Pray for a well-organized visitation schedule, and for good times with family. Pray also for the children’s schooling as they will miss the last weeks of school in Taiwan.

8th CHAD *Exod 14*

Jeremy and **Sallee** ask prayer for the Lord to provide replacements soon for their position, as they will resign in the summer of 2025. They would love to be involved in the training and orientation of this person or persons.

9th JAPAN *Exod 15*

Dean and Linda Bengtson ask us to pray for an area-wide “3/11 Memorial Concert” to be held in Ishinomaki this Sunday afternoon, recalling the earthquake and tsunami of 2011. Pray that the gospel will reach and transform many people’s hearts.

10th TAIWAN *Exod 16*

Ethan Christofferson asks prayer for tomorrow’s conference at China Lutheran Seminary for pastors and lay leaders. Pray that attendees will be equipped and encouraged in their ministries. Happy Birthday to **Ethan**.

11th CHAD *Exod 17*

Paul and Teresa ask prayer for their children and grandchildren. Missionary parents must pray, trust, and hope from a distance that Christ will guide their offspring. May the power of God’s Word prove mightier than any foe.

12th JAPAN *Exod 18*

Spring is a time of new beginnings. Pray for **Paul and Alexa Fraser** and their neighbors as they begin this new season together. May they continue to find new ways to connect with their neighbors.

13th CHAD *Exod 19*

Owen and Kami are spending several months in Chad serving our missionary families and their ministries. Pray that this time will be a blessing for Owen and Kami, and for the families and ministries they serve.

14th CHAD *Exod 20*

Dan and Claire ask prayer for their children’s homeschooling as they prepare for testing during a

Wellspring Academy Homeschool Week, held the week of March 25. Happy Birthday to **Claire**.

15th FRANCE *Exod 21*

Pray for steady progress for **Ellie Szobody’s** fluency in spoken French, which takes more practice than reading and writing (*see back*). Pray as she practices with her language partner and with a knitting club each week. Happy Birthday to **Ellie**.

16th N. AMERICA *Exod 22*

Pray for today’s Seattle city-wide “Reaching Japanese for Christ” Conference. The theme is “Encouragement.” Pray for all who are reaching out to Japanese people in Seattle, that they would be encouraged to continue doing so.

17th CHAD *Exod 23*

Pray for **Daniel and Nancy** and their children as they visit other villages. Pray for health and wisdom as they interact with the villagers, learn the culture, and build trusting relationships.

18th JAPAN *Exod 24*

Dean and Linda Bengtson ask prayer for a concert by **Shizu, Misa and Chiyo** at House of Hope tomorrow evening. Pray for attendees to have receptive hearts as they hear the gospel presented.

19th JAPAN *Exod 25*

Tomorrow will be the first “in person” Japan LBC Annual Meeting since 2020, due to COVID-19. Pray for the Lord’s clear guidance as representatives gather, especially as they consider their part in God’s mission of reaching Japan for Christ in this coming year and beyond.

20th CHAD *Exod 26*

Pray for ongoing projects at the Lutheran Welcome Center, especially the big project of re-running the main wiring in the building. May the Lord grant safety to all who are working on this project.

21st CHAD *Exod 27*

Pray for **David** and **Sonja** and family, that they can expand their witness to people who are outside the village, so that the Word of God would be proclaimed among them as well.

22nd TAIWAN *Exod 28*

Pray for delegates from each of the nineteen churches in Taiwan as they meet tomorrow for fellowship and business. Pray for fruitful and meaningful interactions as they consider their place in God's mission.

23rd CHAD *Exod 29*

Praise the Lord that He has provided new teachers who are a good fit for the launch of a middle school next year. Pray for safety as houses are constructed for these new teachers.

24th TAIWAN *Exod 30*

Ben and **Sara Hosch** ask prayer for Taichung Victory Church in their search for new ministry space. Pray for a building that has adequate space and is close to the Feng-Jia University campus and Wenxiu Park where they do outreach events.

25th FRANCE *Exod 31*

Pray for **David** and **Janice Kuan** as they are in French language study in Massy. Pray for a good living situation and for friends with whom they can practice French.

26th CHAD *Exod 32*

Claire and **Dan** ask for prayer as they begin language study this month. Happy 11th Birthday to **Ashley**.

27th TAIWAN *Exod 33*

Pray for three young men that **Ethan** and **Sandy Christofferson** are discipling who are looking for jobs. Pray that they will be able to find suitable work close at hand.

28th JAPAN *Exod 34*

Pray for **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** as they partner in ministry at House of Hope with **Pastor Haruya** and **Fumi Ito**. May they continue to find ways to bless their neighbors with love and friendship. Pray for continued healing for Linda. Happy Birthday to **Dean**.

29th CHAD *Exod 35*

Pray for the fill-in guard, (Little) **Moussa**, who works at the Welcome Center. He has done a good job, but the work needed is less at this time and he is looking for more consistent work.

30th FRANCE *Exod 36*

Matthias and **Ellie Szobody** ask for prayer for **Patrick**, a neighbor who is very curious about their faith. Pray that they and their local church will be God's means of softening his heart toward God's Word.

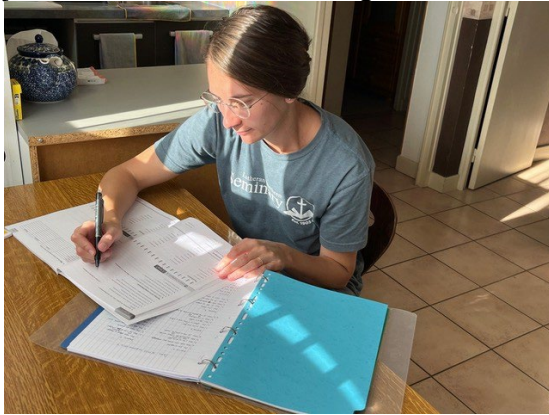
31st CHAD *Exod 37*

David asks prayer for **M**, a recently baptized believer. He is spending some time in the capital to increase his knowledge of the Christian faith. Pray for him that his faith will be strengthened and that his family would also come to know and accept Christ as well.

HUMBLING EXPERIENCES IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

Greetings from Albertville! We've been here about six months now, and the time has flown by! Matthias' theology studies are continuing to progress well, and I'm now in my second semester of language school. Between formal classes, a knitting club at a nearby café, and regular meetings with a local language partner—along with lots of help from my built-in language partner, Matthias—my French is coming along.

I'm at a funny stage in language learning right now where I understand *most* of what I hear, but I can't quite express *most* of what I want to say, at least not in the way I'd like to. On the one hand, that's only natural—think of how soon kids begin to understand, and how long it takes them to speak without making funny mistakes! In that sense, it's not a bad thing to be feeling like a kid, still absorbing way more than I'm expressing and relying heavily on people's patience and help. It's just humbling, in a good way. But on the other hand, feeling like a child learning how to talk can be frustrating and embarrassing, and it's sometimes tempting to hide behind my own sense of insufficiency, to settle into fly-on-the-wall mode and only speak when I absolutely have to. Besides having the potential to be detrimental to my own progress, that's also just not conducive to meaningful conversations and real relationships, and, ultimately, to sharing the gospel.



As I'm gradually learning how to express myself in French, I'm increasingly aware that there's a time to be quiet, to learn, to absorb, and a time to start to speak, to share, to pour out. As our move to Chad approaches and this transitional season between preparation and full-time ministry draws to a

close, I find myself reflecting that as with language learning, so with Christian life in general: at no point on this side of the sun does learning and growing stop; at no point will I cease to need pouring into; at no point should I graduate from being a "little child" to whom Christ's Kingdom belongs (Mt 18:3). Yet, we're called to maturity, to be students who don't just store up knowledge, but go on to share it (Heb 5:12). We're not meant to just be flies on the wall—we're the salt and light of the earth (Mt 5:13-16)!

Matthias and I are here because we long to shine Christ's light, wherever we are, in whatever season. Please pray for us, that in our studies and all other aspects of our lives, we would be both humble and bold to live out our missionary calling, for the sake of Christ's Kingdom throughout the Earth.

~ Ellie Szobody