

December 2023 Gifts That Give

Advent is upon us, and Christmas is soon here. One of the major themes this time of year is the giving of gifts. For this Prayer Link, I'd like for us to be praying for the gifts God has given us in the people who are serving in our various ministry areas within the CLB and North American Mission. These folks are friends of mine, but you may not know them. All are working hard on behalf of our mission. I'll share their names and their general ministry commitments—you pray for them, won't you? Thanks for praying!

Bruce Stumbo, bstumbo@clba.org
CLB North American Mission

1 CLB President Paul Larson is out of the country visiting Thailand and Taiwan, then returning to California later this month. Pray for safety, energy, and opportunities for ministry.

2 Pray for our new Director of NAM, Brandon Pangman, as he learns the ropes and hits the trail. (I should have had a cowboy theme!) Special prayer focus: relationships with churches and pastors, health, energy, and vision.

3 The 1st Sunday in Advent.

Jesus is coming again. Let's pray for that while we wait for that: "Come, Lord Jesus."

4 Cathy Barlow, Administrative Assistant for International Mission (LBIM). She helps keep Dan Venberg organized and coordinates many tasks for our missionaries.

5 Krista Hexum, Administrative Assistant of Finance. Processing gifts, expenses, etc. Details are important!

6 Phil Heiser, Associate for Minister Support. Energetically takes on a diverse set of responsibilities assisting our pastors and their families. Pray for wisdom, patience, grace, and strength.

7 Dr. Troy Tysdal, President, Lutheran Brethren Seminary. He's a few months into his new role. Lots to learn. Places to go. People to meet. Teaching to...teach?

8 Andrea Knick, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Office of the President. *You* try to keep up with Paul Larson and the others in that office! 😊 She does quite well, thank you.

9 LaWayne Rogness, Director of Finance. Gifted, able and committed. A great heart for the CLB, even more for Jesus! Huge job!

10 The 2nd Sunday in Advent.

Pray that the One who is coming soon, will soon come to the hearts of those our congregations reach through their ministries.

11 The NAM office needs an Administrative Assistant to help with the details of everyday ministry life. It'll be a big job. Pray for the right person to join us.

12 "Church planting" is being considered by several of our congregations. Adding campuses. Pray God's guidance for them.

13 Disciple-making is one of our major goals and commitments. Pray for NAM efforts to encourage and teach disciple-making lifestyles as we go after North America!

14 How is your church focusing on the mission to your part of North America? Pray for that!

15 Roger Viksnes heads up the "Rooted" ministry for young adults. Construction of the program is well underway. Pray for Roger as he leads and for future students.

16 Dr. Brad Pribbenow, Dean, Lutheran Brethren Seminary. He works closely with current and future students, faculty, and the seminary program.

17 The 3rd Sunday in Advent

"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, may these gifts to us be blessed." Give thanks for his many gifts to you. Make a list!

18 Matthew Rogness wears many hats serving as Director of Operations. "Life is in the details" was never expressed better than in this guy's ministry. Strength, health, patience.

Join in prayer for LB Seminary professors and staff, this week... and students, too!

19 Dr. Troy Tysdal, Dr. Gene Boe, Dr. Brad Pribbenow.

20 Dr. Daniel Berge, Dr. Joel Christenson, Dr. Nate Larsen.

21 Rev. Clint Knutson, Dr. Jeff Seaver, Dr. David Veum, Dr. Allan Bjerkaas.

22 LBS Administrative Assistants, Patti Zwiers and Kathy Doering.

23 LBS Librarian/Media Specialist and Student Life Director, Brent Andrews; Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Instruction Design, Dr. Margareth Alexanderson.

24 The 4th Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve Day. There's an old song: "He left the splendor of heaven..." Thank you, Jesus.

25 Christmas Day. We celebrate and give thanks for the redemption story which includes this singular moment: The birth of the One who has come to save us. Take a look at Philippians 2:5-8 for some background. Give thanks.

26 Dan Venberg, Director of Lutheran Brethren International Mission. His "direct reports" are from around the world. He travels, teaches, leads... pray for strength of vision and good health.

27 Steve Tonneson, Associate for Advancement Ministry. Steve connects with many people through personal visits, group presentations and other communications. Pray over his busy schedule and his gifted representation of our ministry to people around the U.S. and Canada.

28 Pray for our International Missions. Taiwan, Japan, Chad. Why does a NAM Prayer Link request prayer for our servants far away? Because that work is supported best by an informed and supportive home base of people who know that we are called out to the whole world, even while we focus on communities and regions close to home. Let us give thanks for the privilege we have to serve in so many places.

29 Pray for our youth convention this summer, that hundreds of young people and leaders would gather and grow together.

Don't forget our church planters!

In Canada:

30 Harold & Joyce Rust/Red Deer, Alberta; Bob & Melonie Schultz/Regina, Saskatchewan

In The US:

31 Jason & Savannah Rogness/Parker, CO; Carl & Emily Juhl/Lincoln, ND; Jason & Heidi Lang and Nick and Brittany Olson/New Prague & LeSueur, MN; Kristian & Mary Anderson/Boston, MA.

Merry Christmas and God bless you.