

Missionary Prayer Page

GLOBAL MISSION/EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



PRAY FOR

Charles Fredrickson and Beth Borstad Mari and Anna

Charles serves as pastor of Meito Christ International Church, an English speaking ministry supported by the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Charles also serves as a missionary working with Nagoya-Kibo Lutheran Church with a focus on education and evangelism ministries. Nagoya-Kibo Lutheran Church has worship and ministry at four locations.



BIRTH DATES	Charles – October 6
	Elizabeth – December 23
	Mari – April 12
	Anna – November 14

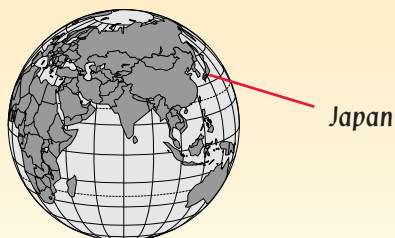
ANNIVERSARY	June 29
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COMPANION SYNOD	South Carolina
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COUNTRY OF SERVICE	Japan
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Prayer Concerns

- ✠ Pray for attendees of Meito Christ International Church, particularly the many who are here in Japan for a year or two. Many bring their families and experience varying degrees of stress related to moving, and leaving family and friends.
- ✠ Pray for the mission and ministry of Nagoya-Kibo Lutheran Church as it struggles to share the good news of Jesus Christ in an affluent country.



(see letter from Charles and Beth on the back side of this page)

As a sponsor of Charles and Beth, you are asked to remember them with your prayers and your financial support. Gifts of any size are welcome. Please send support gifts to:
ELCA Office for Global Mission Support
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The subway in our city, Nagoya, the fourth largest city in Japan, is quite extensive. We do not own a car; rather we use the many forms of public transportation—subway and the bus system—and also occasionally our bicycles. This is quite common for all kinds of people from young to old and across economic classes, as it is quite expensive to own a car and public transportation is very efficient, clean and extensive.

I enjoy getting out and using the public transportation. My office and our home are the same building as the church. We live on the second floor; the church, which includes a small sanctuary, fellowship area, kitchen, bathrooms, vestibule, and storage room, is located on the first floor. Although above the church, I am alone many times. Beth is involved in her activities and is a graduate student; our two girls are at school. Therefore, being with a large group of people on the bus or in the subway is actually a break for me.

One aspect of public transportation for many international visitors is that the subways, buses, and other forms of transportation are quiet. Considering the number of people involved, the subway is usually as quiet as a church. Talking on cell phones is prohibited. People converse quietly, read, or take a cat nap. Some listen to music, watch TV or video, or play games on various electronic game pieces. Some also write and answer e-mails on their cell phones. But the majority of people simply have blank looks, appearing to be deep in their own thoughts.

For me this has been a good time to pray. Before I came to Japan, I rarely prayed in my car and rarely took public transportation. Now, I find myself saying short prayers. I may pray the Lord's Prayer or say a few words of the Small Catechism. And at times, someone will catch my eye. Perhaps because of the look on their face or their clothing, I find myself saying a prayer for them.

This prayer process has grown in the last year and a half. I usually travel to worship at one of the two Japanese worship services and also to teach English Bible classes as part of the Japanese church's evangelism and education effort. In all those cases I use public transportation. Even though the times I leave and return are relatively consistent, I rarely, if ever, see the same people in my travels.

I have heard the term "prayer warrior" used in other churches. I never liked the "war" aspect of that phrase, so I didn't encourage its use in the churches where I was a pastor in the U.S. But in my time here in Japan that phrase has taken on new meaning, not because Japan and the U.S are at war, but rather because I find that in my public transportation jaunts, I have become an advocate for those hundreds of people for whom I have prayed. I can never know what prayer they themselves would have said, and I can confidently say, because the Christian church is quite small (about 1% of the population), very few were Christians. Yet, everyone needs prayer!

Thank you for including us, my wife Beth, my daughters Mari and Anna, and myself, in your prayers. Now that you know more about my work, please include the nameless ones that I have met today and will meet tomorrow.

Charles and Beth