

# swedenbound

## Special Edition

**Melissa Carlson**

Dear Praying Friends,

I very much appreciate your faithful prayers for me while I was visiting in Sweden! I had a wonderful trip – it was such an encouragement and blessing to be back there, if only for a short time!

The purpose for my visit was quite specific.

Earlier this year, through different circumstances, the opportunity presented itself for me to go and work with a small Baptist church in the city of Jönköping, Sweden. A missionary couple, Ron and Inga Neely, have been serving in Jönköping without co-workers for quite a few years now. They have been in Sweden as a family for about 30 years, and Inga is Swedish by birth. They have been a part of church planting ministries in the country, and are currently serving with *Bibel Baptist Församlingen* (Bible Baptist Assembly) in Jönköping. They have a wonderful ministry there

involving church services, prayer meetings, Bible studies, street evangelism, etc. Well, throughout the past few months, I have spent a great deal of time praying and seeking godly counsel in regards to what God would have me do concerning this opportunity. My trip to Sweden was primarily a chance for me to get to know the ministry and the people there. After my visit, I am truly convinced that the Lord is opening the door for me to go and serve in this city. There is a great need and the ministry possibilities are almost endless. I will be serving in the same capacity as I would have been in Stockholm: Bible clubs for kids (helping to expand a children's ministry there), music ministry, women's ministries, etc. Overall, it is my desire to be a real help and encouragement to the Neelys and their ministry in whatever way I can! I am very excited about joining this work!

As your partner in ministry, I would greatly appreciate your continued prayers and support in this time of transition, and I assure you that I am still very much committed to the ministry to which God has called me!

For Christ Alone,  
Melissa Carlson  
Jer. 32:27



*"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" Jer. 32:27*

### Intro to Jönköping

\*Population around 60,000 (125,000 in the greater Jönköping area)

\*Located at the base of Lake Vättern – Sweden's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest lake

\*About 3 ½ hours Southwest of Stockholm; in the northwestern part of the province of Småland

\*A university town – recently opened an International Business School; potential for outreach here

\*Located in Sweden's "Bible Belt" – more "religious" people live in this area of Sweden than elsewhere in the country.

\*Jennifer, my penpal, lives about an hour from Jönköping. I was actually able to meet her during my visit to Sweden. Please keep praying for her!

*I would be very happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have! Please don't hesitate to ask!*

### Extra Stuff

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