

Swedenbound

December 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

First of all, I just want to say thank you so much for all of the kind Birthday/Christmas greetings! Thank you to all of you who have given so much—time spent in prayer, emails, cards/packages sent, extra gifts of money, etc! Thank you for being such a huge encouragement and blessing!

Visa

Many thanks to all of you who have been praying for me in regards to my visa renewal! I was able to go in to the immigration office here in town and speak with someone about my visa/the process involved in renewing it. I was told that they indeed had all the information they needed from me, but that they wouldn't even start to process the application until after my current visa is expired. That means they should begin working on it at some point after the 17th of January. She said I shouldn't worry if it takes 3-4 months from that point, and that I certainly am allowed to stay and continue working here in Sweden during the process—I just can't leave the country (wouldn't be able to get back in) at that time! She told me that she doesn't anticipate any problems and went ahead and took my photo/fingerprints for the card they would send to me

upon visa approval.

Please continue to keep this matter in your prayers! Pray that the way might be made clear and smooth for my visa to be approved in the right time!

Salvations

We are praising the Lord for the recent salvation of two young men who have been attending our church! Thank you so much for your diligence in prayer on their behalf! One of the men, who had been coming to church for some time now (because of his wife and kids), was saved just days before our church Christmas program and was able to dedicate his baby daughter (and really, his whole family) to the Lord! What a tremendous blessing!

Pray for this family as they strive to grow together in the Lord!

The other man saved is a university student from China who has been coming to our church for some time! We are so excited to see his enthusiasm for God! He has such an interest in God's Word and meets with Pastor Ron on a regular basis for Bible study!

Christmas Stuff

It was wonderful to be able to have a Christmas party with the neighborhood kids again this year! We did a combined party/Bible Club! We had 8 chil-

dren that came and were able to hear the true meaning of Christmas! Please continue to pray for these precious kids!

We also had our annual church Christmas program/dinner! Praise the Lord for 2 who were baptized during the evening! Praise the Lord for their willingness to obey the Lord in this matter! Pray for strength and wisdom as they seek to live each day for the Lord!

Meeting in Karlstad

In the beginning of the month, I had the privilege of traveling up to Karlstad, Sweden in order to meet with a group of people who are interested in/currently serving in various aspects of children's ministry throughout central/southern Sweden. The meeting was led by a friend of mine from Gothenburg who serves with Child Evangelism Fellowship. It was a blessing to be able to make some new contacts and get some new ideas in regards to getting the Gospel message to the hearts of the children of Sweden!

Thank you all again for your support—both prayerfully and financially—of the ministry here! God Bless!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

Prayer Requests:

* Ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Jönköping

* Unsaved contacts

* Kids ministry

* Teen Girls Christmas party tomorrow afternoon (the 27th)

* Visa Renewal Process

* Please pray for a Swedish family we know that is serving the Lord in Canada. They lost their 24 year old daughter in a car accident just before Christmas.

Riley's Corner

Merry Christmas, Friends!

I love Christmas—and I love snow—and I love kids (especially when they accidentally drop cookies on the floor!!!!!!) In other words, I've had a fun month! I love helping my mommy serve God in Sweden!

Thank you to everyone who wished me a Merry Christmas! And thanks for the doggy treats a few of you sent in the mail!!!!!! I'm very excited about treats! My mommy says I should be nice and not bark at the scary delivery people when they come to the door, but I say somebody has to protect the house from those strangers!

Happy New Year!

Your Pal,
Riley

