

November-December 2013

swedenbound

Dear Praying Friends,

I feel truly blessed this Christmas season! While it can be difficult being away from family at Christmas time, I am so thankful for the family God has given me here in Sweden! I'm thankful for the love and care of my church family! And I'm also thankful for the wonderful neighbors that the Lord has given me! I am just so grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the Lord here in Jönköping!

Thank you for all of your prayers and encouragements! And thanks to all who have sent birthday/Christmas cards! You're all such a blessing to me! Thanks!

Ladies' Conference

Thank you so much as well for your prayers in regards to our fall conferences! The ladies' conference went really well! It was such a blessing to be able to have that time with our church ladies! We also had a few visitors come out for some parts of the conference! The theme was "All to the Glory of God." So thankful for the church ladies who were so willing to serve and to speak and to sing—all for the glory of God!

Creation Conference

We are also praising the Lord for the wonderful turnout for our creation conference on Nov 16th! Mats Molen, a Swedish Christian Creation apologist, did a wonderful job presenting God's Word, and showing the wonderful harmony between the Bible and science!

We had a lot of people from the community and other area churches show up. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to present God's Word and the Gospel to those around us!

Christmas Program

The children did a wonderful job with the Christmas program this year! So thankful for their hard work—and especially for the message of Christ that was clearly shown! It was also exciting to see a number of visitors come! Praise the Lord!

Children's Program

The translation for the kids' program we've been working on is getting very close to being finished! The goal is to have it all completed by the end of December or the be-

ginning of January so that we can begin to rehearse and then record it. My desire is to have the completed cds in the hands of the children before I head back to the States for my furlough in April! Please pray for us!

Bible Studies

I absolutely love being able to lead our ladies' Bible studies! I love the times that we have to pray and to study God's Word together!

This past week, one of my neighbors was also able to join us for our Bible study! Please be in prayer for her salvation! She's also due to have her first baby at any time! :) Please pray that all will go well for her in regards to that as well!

Thanks so much again for your faithfulness in prayer and support! I certainly couldn't be here without you! I appreciate each one of you! I trust that you'll have a truly blessed Christmas!

God bless you!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

Prayer Requests:

- Ministry of the church here in Jönköping
- Please pray that God would burden others for the ministry here in Sweden! Help and laborers are certainly needed!
- Upcoming opportunities to have some neighbor kids over for Christmas/New Year parties!
- **Furlough:** mid April–July 2014 - **Need for a vehicle to use while back in the States**
- Please pray for the young folks in the church—that God would truly be their first priority in life.
- Pray for a young man in our church who is currently back in China for Christmas, and is planning on sharing the Gospel with his unsaved grandfather there.
- Pray for further witnessing opportunities as I have contact with neighbors and others I may meet!

Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

I hope you're having a fun Christmas! I am! I love being able to get together with all of my neighbor friends! I was just over at a neighbor's house last night! We were

helping make sausages! :) I could have helped more, but for some reason, they just didn't want to let me too close to the meat!

I have also been able to stay with another neighbor friend and her

dog a couple of times this past month! My mommy had to play in a couple of Christmas concerts so I had to have a babysitter! But that's ok; I had fun!

Have a Merry Christmas! (And

don't forget to share your Christmas goodies with your dogs!)

Your Pal,

Riley





