

Visa Update

I wasn't sure I would have any update for you all concerning my visa, but I actually just got some information this evening. The migration board is requesting some additional information from me before it makes it's final decision. So, on the positive side, that means they are actually looking at my application now! So please pray that I would be able to get them the info they need soon and that, Lord willing, the decision will be a positive one! Thanks for your continued prayers!

Prayer Requests:

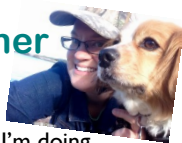
- **Ministry Opportunities**
- **Pray for A, A, D and I for salvation.**
- **Pray for my visa situation—for wisdom in turning in the needed information.**
- **Pray for the kids' ministry here.**
- **Praise! It has been such a blessing having the Andersson family serving here with us! They have been such a help and an encouragement to the entire church! Please pray for them as they continue to adjust to life here in Sweden! Pray for Masayo and Mariya Andersson as they learn Swedish!**
- **Pray for the Sixts and the Pittmans as they are on deputation preparing to come to Sweden!**

Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

How are you doing? I'm doing pretty well! I'm enjoying the nice fall weather we're having this week!

It has generally been a good couple of months, but we did have some sad times. My pal Malte (a neighbor's Golden Retriever that my mommy



has helped walk for the past 2 years) passed away. That has been pretty tough. I miss walking with him and so does my mommy.

But on a happier note, I have enjoyed helping go out soul winning! And I got to go visit



Dear Praying Friends,

Lots of things have happened in the last couple of months, so I guess I'll just jump right in!

Bible Clubs

Our July Bible clubs went well! A good number of kids came throughout the month—even a few kids who had never been to a Bible club before! It was so encouraging to see them listening well and working hard on their memory verses! Please keep praying for these kids!

I won't say, however, that the weeks were without challenges! We had some difficult moments with some misbehavior—primarily from kids not a part of the Bible club who were trying to interfere/generally disturb our Bible times. But it's funny how God works things out sometimes. My neighborhood was having a "block party" of sorts a few weeks back, and I had been asked to help with the kids (making balloon animals/doing face painting). It was a great opportunity to make some more connections in the neighborhood! Anyway, as a result of this, I was actually able to spend some time with some of the very kids who had tried to cause problems for our Bible clubs in July! One little

swedenbound

September-October
2015

boy in particular seemed kind of interested and kept asking questions about Bible club. Please pray for him—as well as the others!

We also had a great week of kids' club at the beginning of August with a ministry team from Northern Ireland! It was a blessing to have the group here—they were so great with the kids! And most importantly, the Gospel was once again shared!

Conference

Our church Bible conference was this past weekend! It went really well—I think everyone walked away from the meetings challenged and encouraged in the area of evangelism. It was a blessing to hear from some of our own church men as well as from a Welsh evangelist who travels and preaches a lot here in Sweden and who has visited our church a couple of times in the past!

Pray also for a Chinese woman who came into the meeting on Thursday night. I'm not sure how much she understood as she didn't understand much Swedish or English (we had translation available), but she did leave her phone number with a lady in our church and they are planning to meet sometime soon!

Thanks for your prayers for the conference!



my friends R. and P. up in Dalvik. R is 101 years old and a believer.

Well, gotta go take a nap!
Have a great day!

Your pal,
Riley

Survey

Because our conference theme this year was evangelism, I decided to keep working on the survey up until then, sharing the results for the first time with the folks at church! Please see the next pages for a summary of the results!

Kids' Ministry

I don't have a lot of details to share just yet, but I have been trying for some time to expand the kids' ministry in my local neighborhood. And it's looking like an opportunity to expand may have arisen! I will certainly let you know more as I'm able, but for the time being would you please pray! I would really appreciate your prayers for wisdom and that the right decisions would be made! Thanks!

Again, I do apologize for the delay in getting this letter out to you—thank you for your patience! And thank you most of all for your faithful prayers and support!

Thanks for being a blessing and for allowing God to use you in furthering His ministry here in Sweden! God bless!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27



Survey: “How do you believe one can get to Heaven?”

The column to the left shows the different answers people gave. The top row shows the different groups by age. The numbers show how many in each age group answered with each particular response. The column to the right shows the percentages. Sadly, the greatest overall response was “I don’t care” at nearly 25% followed closely by “I don’t know at 21%.

<i>Age groups:</i>	<20	20-40	40-60	60+	
Religions	6	2	10	3	10,45%
There is no heaven or God	2	5	10	4	10,45%
Everyone goes to heaven	1	1	6	0	3,98%
Good works	9	3	12	3	13,43%
Faith in Christ	0	2	5	5	5,97%
I don’t care	14	17	9	10	24,88%
I don’t know	16	5	15	7	21,39%
I’m not going to heaven	0	0	3	3	2,99%
Other*	3	2	2	6	6,47%
Totals	51	37	72	41	

201 people surveyed

One thing I noticed was that basically every teenager I talked to shared that they hadn’t really ever thought much about heaven. On the other hand, a large majority of those in the 60+ category shared that that was something they had thought more about in recent days.

Percentages by age group.

	<20	20-40	40-60	60+
Religions	11,76%	5,41%	13,89%	7,32%
There is no heaven or God	3,92%	13,51%	13,89%	9,76%
Everyone goes to heaven	1,96%	2,70%	8,33%	0,00%
Good works	17,65%	8,11%	16,67%	7,32%
Faith in Christ	0,00%	5,41%	6,94%	12,20%
I don’t care	27,45%	45,95%	12,50%	24,39%
I don’t know	31,37%	13,51%	20,83%	17,07%
I’m not going to heaven	0,00%	0,00%	4,17%	7,32%
Other	5,88%	5,41%	2,78%	14,63%

The “other” responses:

* <i>Other</i> :	<20	20-40	40-60	60+
With airplane (joking)		2	1	
Heaven on earth– the environment			1	
Haven’t read about it much				1
Curious, will read	2			4
The Bible is too advanced and too old				1
Heaven is only an abstract thought.	1			

I could share many stories from the time spent talking with folks in connection to this survey, but there is one that I really want to mention here. It’s probably the one that affected me the most.

I was at the train station one afternoon and started talking with an older man. He shared with me that he had been Catholic for 71 years, but that just a few months earlier he met a young lady at a bus stop who invited him to her church. He went, and it wasn’t long after that he was baptized into the Mormon church.

Sometimes we may think that handing out a tract seems insignificant or doesn’t make much difference, but you never really know who is searching for something. There are plenty of people around us trying to bring folks into their false religious systems. But we have the Truth of God’s Word. We have the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We definitely need to be sharing this Truth with those around us!

And please pray for D. I spent a good bit of time talking with him, and I was able to share the Gospel with him. Unfortunately, he seemed more concerned about trying to follow all the Mormon rules than anything else.

Apparently he spends a lot of time at the train station. I’m definitely praying for more opportunities to talk with him!