



"Brethren, pray for us." - 1 Thess. 5:25

Dear Praying Friends,

Please forgive my delay in getting this prayer letter out to you! I am so thankful for each one of you—for your prayers, your support, your encouragement and your heart for missions and the Gospel!

It has been a particularly challenging fall, both personally and ministry-wise. God is certainly stretching me and teaching me much about trusting in Him and resting on His plan/purpose, even when I don't understand the way in which He is working. Growth—both in ministry and in one's personal walk with God—is sometimes hard and painful. But it is what we strive for—to be constantly drawing closer to God. Striving to be more and more like Christ. Desiring to be all that God wants us to be so that He can be glorified in our lives—and in our ministries. We are not our own. And "our" ministries are in actuality His ministries.

It's encouraging to know that while our plans seem to sometimes fall apart, God is still in control! Nothing is a surprise to Him! He has a purpose in every difficulty that we face. And we as a church have faced some challenges in recent months. It has been difficult to see a couple of families leave our church, including our assistant pastor and his family. They have decided to start a new church in the area. I certainly wish them the best in their desire to reach out with the Gospel. But please keep our pastor in your prayers! The sudden absence of his help in the leadership of the church has certainly placed a greater burden on him. Please pray for his health and stamina. And please pray for God to send more laborers into this needy harvest field! Pray for Don and Beverly Sixt and their family as they are continuing to raise support in order to come and serve with us! Please pray that we as a church will continue to serve God faithfully in this city. That we would remain ever faithful to God's Word and that the light of the Gospel would not be hindered in any way! I just want to see people saved—to see people growing in their walk with God—to see an increased love for God and for His Word.

So, while things have been difficult, I am choosing to try to focus on the positive ways in which God is working! With God, there is always an abundance of blessings to be counted! And I have been greatly encouraged through His Word, through the encouraging notes/emails from friends and prayer supporters, through the faithful preaching of God's Word, through uplifting music/song, through fellowship with other missionaries and friends. I could go on! :) But instead, let me share a few specific blessings we've seen in the ministry these past few months:

We had a great week of Bible club back at the end of September! Thanks for praying for us and the kids! The week had its challenges, but the Gospel was able to be clearly presented! Pray especially for the 4 to 5 new kids that came at least one day of Bible club—kids whom I have had some contact with but hadn't yet come out to any previous Bible clubs! We had some trouble makers come early in the week who really tried to disrupt things, and we were unfortunately forced to send them away for the day. Thankfully, though, a couple of them came back later in the week and made a better effort to listen and behave! Please pray for these kids! They really need Christ!

In October, we had an activity for the older kids in the neighbor-

Prayer Requests

- Church ministry/Outreach
- For growth/revival in the church
- Unsaved. Pray especially for the kids in the neighborhood and their families! Especially M, J, L, and S.
- Monthly Sunday pm services in our neighborhood
- Bible Clubs on Thursdays/Coffee times for the community each month—*Praise! I was able to get the meeting room booked again for all of 2017!*
- Ministry opportunities in the community.
- Sunday 11 December—Christmas program / Sunday 18 December (pm) - Christmas service/fellowship in my neighborhood.
- Sixt family, deputation/support



hood. The weather ended up working against us, and what was supposed to be an outdoor event ended up being a game night in my apartment! Unfortunately, that meant no grilling hotdogs and smores, but we improvised! :) Smores can be made in the microwave! :) We had 3 kids come out and they seemed to enjoy themselves! Our pastor's son from Gothenburg came to share a devotional with the kids. The one girl that came hasn't come to anything like this before, and she really had a good time. She's even asking when we can do it again! She has also started coming more often to our Thursday Bible club times—occasionally bringing a friend! Please pray for J. Also pray for her mother and little sister as I've been able to have some really good contact and conversations with them concerning the Gospel! Definitely looking forward to further opportunities to reach out to the kids—and their families—in this community!

I was also really encouraged to be able to attend the Mission Possible Retreat in Germany back in the beginning of November! It was a huge blessing to be able to meet so many missionaries who are faithfully serving the Lord in Europe! The preaching, the sing-

ing, the fellowship—everything was a huge encouragement! It was such a refreshing week—just what I needed! Lord willing, I'm hoping to be able to attend again next year!

I thank you again for your faithfulness in your prayers for the ministry here! I pray that you will all have a wonderful Christmas and that God would bless as you serve Him in the mission field that He has called you to!

God bless!

For Christ Alone,

Melissa Carlson

Jer. 32:27

Riley's Corner

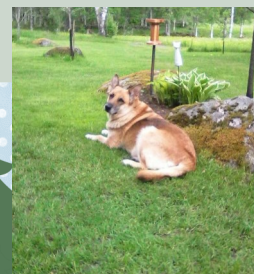
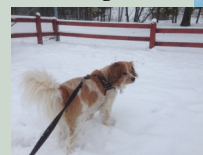
Hej friends! I hope you are all doing well! I have had a good few months—especially enjoying some fun snow at the beginning of November! But I also had some sad days. The dog friend that I usually walk with in the evenings unfortunately passed away. It made me sad. We were over to her house and I looked everywhere for her, but I couldn't find her. But her owner was there, and I love her! And she needed some extra hugs and licks from me because she was sad too. I'm glad I could—and can—help encourage her.

Also, another neighbor friend (a human friend—he's 94 years old!) was sick recently and he just wanted to pet me. I guess it helped him feel better! I'm glad to help however I can!

Have a Merry Christmas!

Your Pal,

Riley



October Activity



Bible Club—tic tac toe