

# swedenbound

## Dear Praying Friends,

The past couple of months have been tremendously encouraging in a couple of ways. I have had several really good opportunities to share the Gospel with a few 12 year old girls in my neighborhood. One in particular has been exceptionally open to the Gospel and has asked many questions about God, the Bible and what salvation means. Please pray for L—that she would soon be saved!! We are currently putting together some activities for this fall. Our first is a fall cookout this coming Saturday! Please pray for good attendance, but most importantly, for open hearts to the Gospel!

The Lord has also opened the door to new ministry and outreach opportunities. My desire and purpose in Sweden has always been to be able to help and support the ministries of local churches. And the opportunity has arisen for me to be able to help missionaries Karl and Masayo Andersson with their newer church plant in the area—Bottnaryd Baptist Church. Bottnaryd is a small community of a little more than 700 people about 15 miles west of Jönköping. I won't be moving, so I'll still be continuing with all of the ministries we are currently running in my neighborhood. My ministry itself will remain very much the same, though there will be new possibilities for outreach and ministry in surrounding communities. I am also looking forward to working with Don and Beverly Sixt as their family is planning to come and serve with us, Lord willing, starting sometime next year! I'm excited to see what God has in store for this new work!

As a part of serving with Bottnaryd Baptist Church, I have been able to put together a pamphlet/tract that we will, Lord willing, in the very near future be printing and distributing to each home in the town of Bottnaryd. Please pray for many opportunities to reach out with the Gospel, and that people would come to Christ!

I want to also mention that I will very soon begin scheduling for my upcoming 2018 furlough. The tentative plan is for me to head to the USA sometime mid-late April and then stay/travel through to the end of July or early August. I will be contacting supporting churches, starting with those couple I was unable to visit with last furlough! I look forward to being able to be with you all! Please let me know if you have any questions or such regarding my upcoming time in the States!

Thank you all so much for your continued faithfulness in prayer and support! Thank you for the encouraging notes and emails and texts that have been sent! You are all such a tremendous blessing to me! Thank you for being involved in the ministry here in Sweden! It's a blessing to be able to partner with you!

God bless!

For Christ Alone,  
Melissa Carlson  
Jer. 32:27

## Prayer Requests:

- Bottnaryd Baptist Church Ministries
- Tract/Pamphlets to be distributed to every house in Bottnaryd
- Masayo Andersson to get the papers she needs just now from the Migration board
- Don and Beverly Sixt to get the additional support they need so they can join us in the ministry here next year!
- Salvations—Especially for L, E and J!
- Bible club ministry—upcoming cookouts/activities with some of the pre-teen girls in the neighborhood
- Furlough 2018 preparation/planning—visiting supporting churches/Lord willing, visiting a couple of new churches for possible new support (I am currently about 94% supported and hope to be able to increase this to a full 100%)
- Mission Possible Missionary Retreat—30 Oct-4 Nov 2017, Rothenburg, Germany

## Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

How are you doing? I'm doing pretty well! I still enjoy going to the nursing home—I've made some good friends there! I also love visiting my neighbors. We were visiting a family from church this past month, and I was able to see real live turkeys!! I kept trying to chase them, but my human wouldn't let me. They were really cool! I liked them way better than the chickens! Though, the rooster was pretty fascinating too! He was bigger than me! I don't know why I wasn't allowed to go sniff him! I hope everyone will have a super fall!

Well, gotta go!

Your Pal,  
Riley