

Swedenbound

▶ Jan-March 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

Spring came early here in Sweden. Of course, it then went away in a flurry of snow. But then it came back. And went away again. And came back....You get the idea! It's hard to know which coat to take each day! I'm just happy to see the sunshine on occasion again. I've missed it!

I want to start off by asking continued prayer for the Don Sixt family as we wait for word on their visa applications. Everything is turned in to the migration board, so all we can do is wait, and that's not always easy. But we are trusting God and leaving it in His hands. Please pray for patience in this process. We are so excited and anxious to get the Sixts here! We are looking forward to really being able to move forward with the church plant.

I have been spending time each week canvassing/handing out tracts in Vaggeryd, one of two towns we are looking at for a location for our church. After I finish with Vaggeryd, I will then start in Skillingaryd. The two cities are very close to each other, which makes the

whole area a good target area for outreach and ministry. I have also started a Bible study with a friend in Vaggeryd. She owns a bakery, and each week I've been taking stuff to work on from there. I have been trying to get to know the community, and this seemed like a good way to get started! Please pray for good opportunities! Riley has already found a friend in a little girl who lives there. We have seen this girl and her mom 3 different times at the bakery now, and this last time, the girl shouted, "Riley!" and ran over to give him a hug. Her mom says she talks about Riley a lot. So Riley is definitely doing a good job at meeting people in Vaggeryd!

I would also like to ask prayer for Måna and the Stråle family. Her husband Lasse has gone home to be with the Lord. Lasse and Måna have been a tremendous encouragement and blessing to me and the ministry here! They have worked a lot with translation work—particularly in translating/distributing "Our Daily Bread" in Sweden. Lasse was a tremendous servant of the Lord and he will be missed here on earth, but I know he is happily rejoicing in the presence of his

Savior! Please pray for the many who will be attending his funeral at the end of the month.

I was speaking with C. from the community band I play in, and we were talking about Lasse's passing. He was wondering how his wife could be experiencing so much peace and calm through it all. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel and the hope that we have in Christ! Please pray for C.

Thanks again for the encouragement of so many of you! Your prayers and emails mean a great deal to me. There have been some difficult times the past couple of months, but God always shows Himself faithful. And He is providing.

Thank you for your support, for your love, and again, especially for your prayers!

May God bless you in your service to Him!

For Christ Alone,

Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

Prayer Requests:

- Don and Beverly Sixt—For visa approval so they can join us soon!
- Church plant—Smålands Baptistförsamling
- Outreach: Tract distribution and contact building in Vaggeryd/Skillingaryd
- Bible studies
- English Lessons
- Måna Stråle/family—on the homegoing of Lasse.
- Bible Club—working on a couple of new projects (writing some new brochures revolving around teen issues as well as adjusting some previous writing/music projects to work with the gals that come) - Pray for J., L., E. and I.
- K.E.—a neighbor who had a fall and is now in a short-term care/rehab facility.

But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.—Ps. 59:16-17

Riley's Corner

Hello Friends!

Guess what? I'm 8 years old now! My birthday was Thursday, and I had a special day! Only thing I didn't like about it was that it rained. But I got bones to chew on, so all things considered, I can't complain.

There was one sad thing from this past month. My friend Snowy the rabbit died. I was so sad when I heard the news. L. was very sad, so my human invited her over and we hung out and I think it cheered her up!

I have gotten to go to a bakery just about every week!!

They have really comfy chairs and the people like to talk to me when they come in to buy some food!

I also like to help my human hand out tracts, but she sure does zig-zag across the road a lot! I prefer to just walk in the middle of the road so I don't have to change course

very much!

I hope you are having a good week!

Your Pal,

Riley

