

Dear Praying Friends,

We certainly live in interesting times. It's good to know that we serve a God who is always present and always in control. We don't have to live lives of fear in uncertain times because our trust is in God. We can have peace in the midst of the panic. And we must be pointing those around us to the God of peace. The world's greatest need is still the Gospel! Our task remains unchanged.

Sweden has been hit by Covid-19 like just about everywhere else. We are trying to be smart and take the necessary precautions, following the guidelines laid out by the government here. Some aspects of ministry may change for a time (such as nursing home visits), but there are still plenty of opportunities to reach out and serve.

This winter has been very strange in that it hasn't been much of a winter. We have had very little snow and more than enough rain! The dreary weather combined with the usual lack of sunlight has left those around here longing for spring and brighter days. Any day with sunshine is a blessing indeed!

I have continued with tract distribution in our general target area. I am currently working on

handing out Easter brochures to all the homes in the town of Gnosjö. After I finish there, I hope to, Lord willing, also hand out the brochures in the town of Hok. Please pray for good response!

The brochures I have been working on have led to some good conversations and witnessing opportunities these past few months, especially with those in my neighborhood.

I've also had some great open doors with my Bible club gals! For example, we were talking the other day about funerals, and it led to a good talk about life and death and what happens after death. Please keep praying for L. and J! I've also enjoyed being able to do some individual outings with the girls—getting to visit with them one-on-one has been a blessing. Please keep them in your prayers. They are truly going through a lot. Pray especially for their need of salvation!

I had a great talk with a neighbor the other day while we were both out walking our dogs. Pray for B. He is usually a very quiet individual, but whenever he's had a beer (which you can tell by the smell on his breath) he just opens right up and wants to talk—and always about deep topics. We have had quite a few interesting discussions the past couple of years. He knows why I'm here in Swe-

den, and he always asks my perspective on various issues. He's asked about church policy, moral issues (such as couples living together, what the Bible says about homosexuality, etc.), baptism, legalism, how to treat those who disagree or believe differently, swearing, etc. One really never knows what he may ask. But I have had good opportunities to share the Gospel with him as a result. This latest talk even led to an hour long phone conversation afterwards with another neighbor who had been outside with us and a part of some of the conversation. Please pray for wisdom and understanding in these opportunities!

Some sad news, my friend C. passed away last month. She had been a neighbor and had come when able to ladies' Bible study. When she wasn't physically up to coming to Bible study, we met one-on-one in her home to talk about God's Word and to pray together. It was sad to hear that she had passed away, but C. had trusted Christ, and I'm so thankful that I will be able to see her again one day! We spoke on the phone the week before she died. She was an extra blessing and encouragement to me in that conversation. She will be missed here on earth, but we will meet again!

Her funeral was this past week. Please pray for her family.

At church, we were blessed to have a family visit us from

Ireland. The man is from South Africa originally. We sang "How Great Thou Art" in 3 languages that Sunday: Afrikaans, English and Swedish. That was a neat blessing!

And pray for C. He owned the pizzeria near me before but sold it for health reasons. I ran into him at the grocery store this past week and was able to reconnect a bit. He wants me to come visit his family sometime soon. He has 2 girls who loved Riley and fed him lots of ham pieces when we would go to the pizzeria. Haha! Riley loved that!

Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support and encouragements. Be safe, be alert, but be trusting in the God of peace! Let's keep each other in prayer! May God bless you in your service to Him!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

Guess what! I'm 9 years old now! I just had my birthday, and I was properly spoiled by my human and my friends. :)

It has been a rough winter. Too much rain!!! But it snowed today, and I like the snow!

Thanks for praying for us here. I like to help my human when I

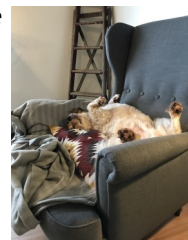
can. She says I sometimes help just by going outside on a walk. Sometimes I help her dog sit for a neighbor—even though it means fewer belly rubs for me while the other dog is here. Hey, I can share! I even like helping her hand out tracts/brochures in mailboxes. Last time we were out it was drizzling a little bit, but I didn't want to stay in

the car. I wanted to help (and sniff all the new smells in the new area)!

Hope everyone has a great weekend!

Take care of yourselves!

Your Pal,
Riley



Helping at the bakery

Prayer Requests:

*Ministry of Smålands Baptistförsamling

*Tract distribution

*Sunday School teaching (we ladies rotate) — always a real blessing! I love going to church and hearing the youngest boy (nearly 4) dramatically explaining/acting out the Bible lessons he is learning from Sunday School!

*Bible club gals—L. and J.

*C. and family—opportunity to visit with them soon

*Neighborhood outreach: Pray esp. for B. Pray also for those who come to our coffee times.

*Those facing health challenges—esp. with Covid-19