

“Evening, and morning, and at noon,
will I pray, and cry aloud: and he
shall hear my voice.” - Psalm 55:17

April-June 2020



Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the ministries of Smålands Baptist Church
- Bible clubs—J, L, T, O
- Neighborhood outreach—some new contacts!
- Outdoor Summer Bible studies
- Brochure outreach—mailbox drops, meeting new people in new areas, writing new material
- The Sixts—continued adjustment, language learning
- New media project idea—finishing/adjusting a script now, hoping to eventually record it. Working on logistics/music.

Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

I hope you all are having a great summer! I hear things are pretty crazy in the world right now, but I guess dogs don't worry too much about that. As long as I have my human and my food and my friends and my toys, I think I'm doing okay!

I like that we're spending more time outside! It's nice sleeping in the grass while my human talks with our neighbors.

I was missing going to visit my good friend K-E at the nursing home, but I got to see him the other day!! My human plays in community band with a lady who works there, and she was able to get permission from her boss for me (and my human) to go and

visit! We visited outside, and my human had to stay a good distance away, but I got to go closer. My human even handed me over the fence to a gal who worked there so she could take me over to K-E. I'm glad he got to pet me! And guess what? The gal who carried me to K-E had just started working there, but I recognized her from when I was a puppy! She came to some of my human's first Bible clubs! Now she's a grown up! It was pretty cool to see her again.

That's all for now! Have a great day! Stay safe and healthy!

Your Pal,

Riley



Dear Praying Friends,

The world certainly seems to be rapidly falling into chaos these days. It can be easy to lose hope and perspective and courage, but there is one thing I know I can always depend on. God is still in control. I was just having this conversation with a neighbor earlier this afternoon. She was mentioning those she knows who are just so consumed with fear for their health and their safety. We talked about the hope we have in Christ. We talked about our temporal, earthly perspective in contrast to an eternal, heavenly perspective. I certainly don't know what tomorrow will bring, but I trust the One who does!

These have been unusual days. The coronavirus has definitely been a main topic of conversation all around the world. It has certainly been interesting

being here in Sweden during all of this. Sweden kind of bucked the crowd on the whole lockdown thing. They instead have given guidelines and instructions and have relied heavily on personal responsibility.

I am thankful that we have been able to continue with many ministries during this time. Because of the crowded nature of our meeting situation (in a family's home), and out of a desire to protect our testimony and show respect to the neighbors, we have done Zoom church services. We have discussed the possibility of meeting outside in the near future. I very much look forward to that day!

I have been able to meet with a neighbor woman outside each week for Bible study. We have also been able to hold our neighborhood coffee times outdoors! We still meet for Bible club. Keep praying for L and J who continue to come regularly. They have both recently turned 15. Teen years are tough. Please pray for them. They know the Gospel. But the world is a powerful temptation.

I've still been able to hand out brochures/tracts in mailboxes in various communities. I actually even received an email from one woman who was very thankful to have received the Gospel brochure on the topic of worry. I also had the opportunity to talk with (at proper social distancing, of course) a few people I met outside while handing out the brochures. People are worried. They are looking for hope. We want to be pointing them to Christ!

Swedes often say, "There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing." Well, we

put that to the test a couple of weeks ago! A couple of neighbor ladies and myself met for coffee outside—thankfully in a pergola. The weather was cold and rainy and windy. But it was nice to meet with the ladies. Then it started to hail. That caused a 9 year old boy to come take shelter in the pergola. He had come to Bible club a couple of years ago, but hadn't been back since. But he remembered coming and said, "Yeah, we talked about God and Jesus, right?" We talked a while, and he said that he wanted to come that week. And he did! He came that Thursday, and he even brought a friend with him! So, for maybe the first time ever, I'm thankful for hail! Pray for T and O.

As always, thank you so much for your prayers and support. I have enjoyed being able to connect with many of you via technology these past couple of months, whether by Zoom, Facebook messages, emails or cards. You have been a real blessing. Thanks for the encouragement!

I'm praying for you as well. I pray for your health and safety. I pray that God would give wisdom and peace and provision in these uncertain days. I'm praying for the USA. I pray that through all of this God will be glorified and that the Gospel will spread and that souls will be saved.

God bless!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27