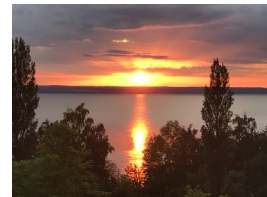


# swedenbound

July-September 2020



Dear Praying Friends,

2020 has certainly been an interesting year. It seems at times that the craziness just never ends.

I know that many, if not most of you have been greatly impacted by the pandemic along with its corresponding quarantines and other restrictions. Some of you may even be affected by the violence that has erupted in so many cities across the United States.

You are in my prayers. I know that this hasn't been an easy year, and a lot of people are hurting right now in one way or another. But my prayer is that God will use the chaotic circumstances to bring people to Himself and to bring glory to His name.

While Sweden has as yet avoided many of the harsher restrictions and quarantine measures, there has still been the need for adjustment and flexibility of plans in ministry.

Thankfully, throughout the summer, we have been able to continue with tract/brochure outreaches. I was able to continue to have weekly outdoor Bible studies with a woman in my apart-

ment area. We continued with outdoor neighborhood coffee times. We also continued with Bible club. I am excited to share that L and J have come to church with me a couple of times in the past couple of months! We have had so many good conversations. The Gospel has been clearly presented. Please pray for these girls and their need of salvation!

I have also been able to meet and connect with some new people in my neighborhood. Please pray for each of these new friendships and opportunities to share Christ with those around me.

I did have a scary incident happen this summer. A guy broke into my apartment in the middle of the night. He had climbed up the scaffolding they had up from removing asbestos from the window frames in prep for new windows to be installed. He broke the latch of my kitchen window and came in. I heard a noise, went to check it out and met this man in a motorcycle helmet standing at my bedroom door. Riley barked at him (he's a very good dog!), and the man took a step back. To make a long story short, it turns out that the man

was looking for someone—thankfully not me—and he ended up just leaving after a couple minutes of dialogue in my hallway. I called the police—and my neighbor. My neighbor said immediately that God must have been watching out for me for sure. I truly believe that she was right. I am so thankful for the Lord's protection in the situation. I know things could have turned out very differently. As it is, it became an incident well-discussed in the neighborhood (news travels fast around here), and I was able to use the experience to point people to Christ. So, for that opportunity, I am thankful.

I am also thankful for your prayers. That night the man broke in, I just kept thanking God for everyone who has been praying for me. I felt those prayers that night. So thank you. Thank you for your care and support and love. You are all a blessing to me.

I pray for you and ask God's blessing in service to Him!

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

For Christ Alone,  
Melissa Carlson  
Jer. 32:27

Have a fun day!

Your pal,  
Riley



## Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

I hope you are having a great fall! I have enjoyed walks in the woods with my human and my dog friends. We saw a moose while we were hiking last week! My human didn't let me chase it. It would have been so fun, I'm sure!

I have tried to be helpful this summer. I have helped my human hand out tracts. I helped some friends move to a new apartment. I even helped my human when the scary man broke into our house. I barked at him, and it made him nervous.

Thanks for praying for us!

## Prayer Requests:

- Ministry of Smålands Baptistförsamling
- Tracts/brochure outreach, Bible clubs, Neighborhood outreach
- Pray for L and J—that they would continue to come to church; pray for their salvation.
- Pray for M and S—new friends in my neighborhood. Pray for their salvation.
- New outreach project in the works



## Praises!

- Kristian and Yuli are celebrating the birth of a beautiful baby girl
- J and L have come to church a couple of times
- A family from the Netherlands (who live in Sweden) visited our church
- New friendships being built in my neighborhood—new opportunities for outreach
- Safety during the break-in in my apartment