



Dear Praying Friends,

Summer started out hot, but it certainly ended up cool and rainy. While June was dry, July brought rain in abundance. You just never know what the weather is going to do. It's kind of like life. You just never know what each day is going to bring.

These past few months have been busy, challenging in many ways, and also sad.

Ministry continues with all of its ups and downs. There have been many blessings and encouragements these months, but also times of discouragement, disappointment and weariness.

I lost my best pal last month. Riley was such a great blessing and friend. He may have been a dog, but he was family. I miss him so much. He was such a great help in the ministry here! (see page 2)

Church

We are grateful for visitors that have attended during the summer months.

S-Å, a neighbor, came to a service we had at my home. He and Kristian were able to spend good time talking afterwards. He gives a testimony of salvation, but is also struggling with doubts and uncertainties about things. Please pray for him!

We also have had some neighbor kids come to Sunday school at times. One Sunday, a father even came in with his son and stayed

for the kids' portion of the service. We are so grateful for every opportunity God gives to be able to reach out!

Brochures

Through a neighbor, I was able to get in contact with a print shop. That has helped tremendously in the process of printing and folding brochures. Please continue to pray for the opportunities we have to hand these brochures out as well as put them in mailboxes in the communities around us.

I have also been able to take brochures to a friend's bakery every Wednesday. I enjoy the opportunity to lend a hand to a friend, get to know the people of the community there and try to reach out with the Gospel.

Neighborhood outreach

Our Thursday coffee times continue, as well as our ladies' meetings/craft times we have each month. We are currently working on ideas for fall and winter projects. We have had some new people come by in recent weeks, so please continue to pray for these opportunities!

The Sixts

The Sixts have been on a furlough for over a year. The original plan was that they would return this past summer and we would take the next steps forward with the church plant, but unfortunately, plans have had to change.

For family reasons, particu-

larly concerning schooling needs for the kids, the Sixts are not going to be able to return to help us in the ministry here.

Please pray for real guidance for them as they seek God's will for their future and consider where God would have them be.

Please pray for us as a church here as well, that God would grant us wisdom as we continue to move forward and adjust through these changing plans. Please pray for growth and encouragement in the process!

Kristian Oskarsson has done a great job leading in the services. Please pray for him. And please pray that God would direct as we seek His leading in finding a new pastor for our little church.

Furlough 2024

I am currently scheduling and planning for my trip to the US next spring/summer. I am looking forward to being able to be with many of you! Please pray that God will continue to provide in all of the details and needs for this trip! It's all a bit overwhelming, but God can do it.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, support, words of encouragement and love.

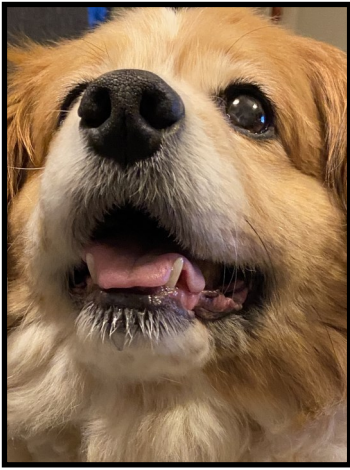
You are so appreciated.

May God bless you this fall and in all of your endeavors for Him!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

Prayer Requests

- Smålands Baptistförsamling— for growth, encouragement and wisdom
- Pray for L and J's salvation! I have been able to spend one-on-one time with them. These girls are all grown up now! I'm thankful that they still enjoy meeting with me, and that they are also still open to talking about the things of God.
- Pray for continued neighborhood outreach; coffee times, ladies' meetings, Bible studies
- Pray for Brochure writing/distribution /Fruit of the Spirit project work
- Pray for the Sixt family— for wisdom and guidance in their future, their kids and the needs in their family
- K's brother, P. He has been more and more open to the Gospel. Please pray for his salvation! We are also thankful that K has been so faithful in coming to our church services!
- Pray for salvation: G, E, N, T, U (and so many more) G and E have been struggling with a lot lately, but they are also so against anything God and church related. Please pray for them!
- Pray for B. She has been more and more positive to talking about the Bible. She tends to lean heavily on her childhood experiences in church, but she has been more open lately. Even asking to hear Scripture read.



In Memory of Riley 7 march 2011—18 august 2023 ❤️

It's hard to say goodbye.

Riley was such a special and faithful friend. He was family—and a partner in ministry. As I look around at the connections I have been able to make in my neighborhood, I realize that so many relationships had their start with Riley.

God can use anyone or anything in accomplishing His plan. He can even use a dog!

In fact, God used Riley even in his passing. L and I were able to reconnect a bit more through it. You've been praying for L. She is one of my gals from Bible club, but now she's 18 and in her last year of school. High school has been such a hard time for keeping regular contact with her as she has been so busy with everything else in her life. But she loved Riley, and his passing opened new doors of communication. And then, just a very short time after Riley passed, L's grandpa died. She reached out to me to talk about her loss—and to ask about mine. We had grief in common, and she wanted to talk. We have had more regular contact since that time. We were able to meet for coffee last week, and she was open once more to talking about the Gospel. I believe God is doing a work in her heart. Please continue to pray for her!

I hate that Riley is gone, but I'm grateful for the impact that he has had. He was very much loved by so many.

He helped open up opportunities for Bible clubs through his interactions with the kids in the neighborhood. He made it easier for me to connect with other dog walkers and with the older folks who just thought he was sweet and wanted to talk to him. Through these connections friendships were formed and many of our neighborhood ministries were started.

He absolutely loved visiting anyone in their homes! He gave joy to people in the nursing home.

He was a real help in putting brochures in mailboxes. A dog in a wagon is a good conversation starter! ;)

He was just a blessing and a joy, and I'm so very thankful for the gift that he was in my life. He is deeply missed, but his memory will be deeply treasured.

You were so loved, Riley boy. I thank God for the time I got to have with you.

❤️ You were such a blessing in my life. ❤️

