

Spring 2024

swedenbound

Prayer Requests:

- **Furlough**—Fly out of Gothenburg at **08.30 on March 14th**; layovers in Finland and Dallas before finishing up my trip in Portland, OR. Please pray for safety in travel, peace in the stress, good connections and timely arrivals. **Thank you so much!**
- Please pray that my time in the USA will be refreshing, productive and Christ-honoring. Please pray for God's continued provision. Pray for safety as I travel across the country and back.
- Continue to pray for the ministries of Smålands Baptistförsamling. Pray for Kristian and Yuli and family as they continue in the work. Please pray for our future—for growth, for God's leading in finding a pastor and a location.
- Please pray for G, B, P, L, L, J, L, E and others for salvation.
- Please pray for my voice. I have had some troubles with it after a recent cold.

Dear Praying Friends!

I hope this letter finds you well. Spring is in the air here, though, at this point that could change in an instant! Still, I enjoy the lengthening days and the glimpses of sunshine that push their way through the ever-persistent clouds.

Furlough 2024

My biggest update is, of course, my upcoming trip to the USA. I would very much appreciate your prayers as I wrap up last minute plans and details here and work on getting ready to take off, Lord willing, next Thursday morning (March 14th).

Please pray that my trip will go smoothly. I tend to get pretty nervous about the whole travel process, so please pray for peace and calm throughout each leg of the journey.

I am very much looking forward to spending time with family, friends and church families across the country. (Please check out my website for my current itinerary.)

Please pray for God's continued provision, protection and guidance and for many opportunities for service along the way!

Church ministry

As a church, we have been keeping our eyes open and considering locations for future reference. We were able to recently test out a local gym facility, and the place certainly holds a great deal of potential. There is another building that has caught our eye as well, so please pray for wisdom as we consider what would work best for our little church.

Recently, during a conversation on the way home from church, K mentioned that she is so thankful for the Bible studies and discussions we have so freely during our meetings. She went on to express dissatisfaction with the lack of interest in discussing the Bible during the activities she has been involved in with the Swedish Church. She is always hungry for the Word and loves to talk about God! Please pray for her continued spiritual growth.

Our Thursday coffee times continue. There have been a few good discussions as of late, allowing for further opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for G. She has been so turned off to church and really anything

concerning God and the Bible. Turns out, it stems back to one Pentecostal church service she attended many years ago. It really freaked her out, and she decided that that was that as far as she was concerned. She has, however, become more open to talking about things—or at least listening to things—in recent months, and this particular conversation allowed me to be able to share the Gospel with her once again.

Please continue to pray for these precious souls. God is at work! I believe it.

Thank you so much again for your prayers. Thank you for the many notes of encouragement. Your care and interest means so much to me. You have truly been a blessing. I appreciate each of you.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your love.

May God richly bless you in your continued service to Him both at home and abroad!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

