

swedenbound

Prayer Requests:

- The Ministries of Smålands Baptistförsamling.—for growth and further outreach opportunities in the upcoming new year
- Please continue to pray for us to find a pastor for our church. Pray for a young man who is praying about the possibilities of missions in Sweden. He may be able to come and visit us at some point next year. Pray for wisdom and God's leading in his life.
- Ladies' Bible Study: B, U and Ba
- Writing Projects: Fruit of the Spirit series, - "Joy" is now online, "Peace" in the works
- Christmas Program recording
- Brochure writing—I just got my most recent brochure ("Alive!") printed.
- L. and J.—I have been able to spend some good time with L. these past months. J has moved to another town, but we are working to meet up for lunch sometime soon
- Some exciting new possibilities for outreach next year! Stay tuned for details.

Dear Praying Friends,

It's hard to believe I've now been back in Sweden longer than I was in the States for my furlough! Time has been flying. Christmas is just around the corner, and I'm not entirely sure where fall went.

While Thanksgiving isn't really celebrated here in Sweden—though, oddly enough, they have really taken to the whole "black Friday" thing—our church likes to have a harvest/thanksgiving service each year.

It's great to be able to take the time to reflect on God's blessings and provision through the year.

I'm so thankful for my amazing family back in the States, but I'm also thankful for the people here in Sweden who have become like family to me.

I'm thankful for the opportunities to serve and live in this country. I love it here, and I'm thankful for each open door God gives for witness and outreach. I'm thankful for our church family. I'm thankful for my friends and neighbors. I'm thankful for reliable transportation. I'm thankful for technology that (generally) makes things easier to accomplish.

Ladies' Bible Study

I'm thankful for the ladies who continue to come each week for our Bible study as we work our way through the Gospels. I'm thankful for each person's participation and interest. I mentioned Ba in my last letter. She started coming faithfully

that next week! But pray for her as she just had to have a hip surgery and is home recovering. She is hoping to join us again in the new year! Please pray for her salvation.

Thursday Coffee Times

I'm thankful for our gatherings on Thursdays. We have had several new people come off and on, and God continues to provide clear opportunities to share Christ with those there.

Fruit of the Spirit series

I'm thankful that we were able to get the 3rd story in our series out last month. "Joy" (Glädje) is now uploaded on our website/on youtube.

The story for "peace" is also written. I just need to do some translating, editing and orchestrating before we start recording that one.

Our Christmas program—which uses the same characters as our Fruit of the Spirit series—is almost finished. After I get the last few voice recordings, I'll be able to get it mixed, edited and uploaded, Lord willing, by sometime next week at the latest!

Church

I'm so thankful for our little church and for the use of the gym which continues to be a blessing. I'm thankful for the Oskarssons and all that they do to keep us going—and keep us encouraged!

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we start looking at next year's calendar and the potential opportunities there.

Thank YOU!

I'm so very thankful for each one of you who takes the time to read these letters and pray for us here. Thank you so much for your faithfulness and interest. Thank you for your diligence in bringing these requests before the throne.

Thank you to each one who has sent encouraging emails, cards, text messages or notes. You have been a tremendous encouragement to me. Thank you so much for your care!

Thank you to each church and individual who has helped with my financial support. Thank you for being such a help and blessing. God is certainly meeting needs through your generous giving. I'm thankful and humbled by each gift. Thank you for your faithfulness and help in this way.

Above all, I'm thankful to God for my salvation. I'm thankful for His grace and His love—and His message of hope that we can share with a world in need.

May God richly bless each one of you now and in the new year as you continue to serve our Savior!

Have a very Merry Christmas!

I'm thankful for you, and I'm praying for you!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

