

swedenbound

Jan-Mar 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you all so very much for your prayers! I want to start by sharing how the Lord is working through our neighborhood Bible clubs! It has been so exciting to see a spark of real interest in the Gospel. I have 3 12-year-old girls who come very regularly, with a couple of others showing up occasionally. These girls have, in recent months, asked a lot of questions, leading to some really great discussion! They have asked more and more about salvation, how one can know they are on the way to heaven, what heaven is like, what sin is, who Jesus was, what is hell, what the Bible says about homosexuality, etc. Please keep these girls in your prayers!! As I have expressed to them, it is my prayer and desire to see them accept Christ! Pray that they would truly understand their *need* for salvation. I think the hardest thing for them, as for so many others, is the issue of sin. They struggle with the truth that even people who live pretty good lives and only do a few, by their standard, bad-but-not-so-bad

things will go to hell if they never repent and by faith accept Christ. So please pray for understanding for L, J and E! Pray that their interest/questions will go beyond curiosity and reach into the heart!

We have had a couple of special song services in my neighborhood as a way of outreach. It was encouraging to see so many neighbors come out and join us! There have been so many open doors in my neighborhood, especially these past months! Our coffee times have seen, on average, 8 or more people come. There have been good opportunities through that ministry to share Christ with my neighbors in various ways.

It was also neat to have C (a woman who started coming to our coffee times and then began to come to our ladies' Bible studies) invite a new woman in our neighborhood to Bible study! And now that woman, M, comes very regularly! Please pray especially for M. She is a believer, but seeking fellowship and growth. She

also has a lot going on in her life at this time. I've been able to meet with her one-on-one a number of times now, so please pray as well for wisdom for me as I strive to encourage her in God's Word!

I'm so thankful for the salvation that God offers so freely! I was at the nursing home a couple of weeks ago, and a woman I visit, G, made a comment on how nothing in life is ever truly free. I was able to share that there *is* something in life that's free—the most important something in all this world—salvation through Christ! Please pray for G. She continues to be closed to the Gospel.

Thank you again for your faithfulness in this ministry! Thank you for your prayers and your encouragements and your support! Know that you are definitely a blessing to me and especially to this ministry God has provided! God bless!

For Christ Alone,
Melissa Carlson
Jer. 32:27

Prayer Requests

- Church ministry/outreach
 - Tract distribution in Bottnaryd this weekend as we look forward to Easter
 - Bible Clubs—pray especially for L, J and E
 - Neighborhood outreach/counseling opportunities—Pray especially for M and C.
 - Upcoming furlough—16 April—13 August
- Looking forward to seeing many of you! Please pray for safety in traveling!*
- Don/Beverly Sixt—finishing up deputation
 - Important unspoken



Riley's Corner

Hej Friends!

I have very much enjoyed winter! I love the snow so much! I almost hate for it to disappear, so I'm glad it's sticking around for a little while longer! We may even get a bit more snow next week! Most people here just want spring to come, though! The sun was

shining today, so that's always a good sign! The days are starting to get longer and longer! I hurt my back the other day when I slipped in the stairwell. I couldn't walk very well for a couple of days, but I'm much better now! And I enjoy having my human carry me up and down the stairs all the time! I may never get better! Ha! My human brought out my crate, so I

think a trip on an airplane is coming up soon! Please pray for me to do well on the flights and that I won't be scared! I love going to the airport, but I don't love it when my human leaves me with strangers!

Have a great day!

Your Pal,
Riley

