

VIAJESUS

REACHING SCANDINAVIA BY WAY OF JESUS

Dear Pastors, Churches, and Praying Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support for our family and ministry. The sun is finally beginning to shine again here in Northern Europe! Winter time brings much beauty to Sweden with all of the snow and pine trees, but the spring weather is warmly welcomed. At the time of this writing, I (Don) am finishing up another language course. My comfort level with the Swedish language is becoming greater and greater each week. It is nice being able to read an article without a lexicon, watch a show without paying as much attention to the subtitles, or have a conversation without constantly stumbling over words! Sure it's not perfect, but I am about to the point in my language development that I have a pretty good grasp of the grammar and need only to increase my vocabulary and get a better grasp of context (in other words, how a Swede would express the same thought or idea). A transliteration from English to Swedish does not necessarily correspond to a proper translation, and vice versa. I believe this will come more naturally through talking and reading.

We are in the process of planning an upcoming furlough. As of right now, the plan is to travel back to the United States at the end of June and stay for about one year. There are two primary reasons that we are planning a one-year furlough. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for these!

1. We will have been in Sweden for three years at the end of June and simply need a time away and a time to visit family and supporting churches. A solid year will provide ample time for this.

2. We are unable to homeschool in Sweden. So our children are used to attending Swedish school, which has been a blessing in many ways. However, their Swedish language is not that developed yet and we are not sure if a Swedish school is the best option going forward. Furthermore, we do not want to switch schools midway through a school year, turning Swedish on and off and back on. A year in the United States will provide adequate time for our children's education to be assessed. It may be that our children would fare better in an English-speaking school here in Sweden. In an international English school, Swedish is also taught, of course. But the school itself operates in English and the education is administered in English. There are only 44 of these schools in Sweden and the waiting lists can be quite lengthy. Please pray with us that the Lord would give us wisdom concerning our children's education and that a door would potentially open for them to attend such a school.

Our son, Laban, turned 7 years old on February 2nd! He is full of energy, loves to learn new things, and is just such a blessing to our family. Thank you for your prayers for our children! Between now and our return to the States, we will continue to strive to steward our time faithfully and wisely. We will keep you informed as we know more about our furlough plans.

May the Lord bless you!

Don & Beverly Sixt
Landon, Laban, Caelyn & Carson

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