

*the Sixt family*  
**SCANDINAVIA**  
*Phil. 4:17*

Dear Pastors, Churches, and Praying Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support for our family and ministry. As mentioned in our previous letter, our furlough officially began July 19th. We praise the Lord for allowing us to share this time together in the United States. July and August came and went in what seemed like a blink of an eye for us. After living abroad for twelve days shy of three years, it was so nice to be able to see family members again, as well as friends and other acquaintances that we had not seen in awhile. The first few weeks were filled with rest, spending time with family, and preparing our children for school here in America. Thankfully, our children have gotten off to a good start to the school year. As you may recall, education was a major factor for us taking a furlough. Admittedly, there was a bit of hesitation in leaving Sweden. However, now that we have had an opportunity to sort through some things and get our children into school, we are glad that we made the choice to come back for a whole school year. Prayer for our children's education is something that we have requested time and time again. Although we really enjoyed and appreciated the school our children attended in Sweden (we truly think the world of the teachers, staff, and overall school experience), it became clear that it might not be the best fit for our family if we wish to remain in Sweden long term. Returning for this furlough has given us the opportunity to step back, take a deep breath, and prayerfully develop a plan to go forward in Sweden in such a way and manner that is healthy and beneficial for our family as a whole. This is an ongoing prayer request of great importance to us. Thank you so much for praying with us as we seek to not only raise our children to fear the Lord and love and serve Him, but also to give them the best opportunity to excel in their education.

Prior to our furlough, there was great anticipation building up in our hearts. We were excited to be on American soil again and embrace (albeit it for a season) all of the things that we missed. To the surprise of both myself and my wife, we actually miss Sweden much more than we expected that we would. This is not to say that we did not like or enjoy Sweden. Rather, it is simply saying that we are quite shocked at how much Sweden had grown on us and how much it began to feel like home to us. I don't think we would have ever realized this without taking this year to come back and step away for a time. As crazy as it may sound, especially coming from us, who are both patriotic to the core, we can't go anywhere or do anything without comparing everything to Sweden! I trust that this is rather normal in situations like this, and a good indication that the Lord used the past three years in more ways than we realize.



In addition to spending time at our home church, we have been able to visit several supporting churches since our return. This has been a tremendous source of blessing and encouragement. Thank you so much for your prayers for us.

Don & Beverly Sixt

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