

Karl and Masayo Andersson

Independent Baptist Missionaries to Sweden

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that wick was lost."

Luke 19:10

Tomelilla



January thru March, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ and friends around the world.

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Savior Lord Jesus Christ. As I had shared briefly with you in my last prayer letter, the end of last year was very hectic for us. Now that we have been down in the deep south of Sweden for three months, we are getting a little more settled in.

I would like to take some time to share some more details with you. First of all, I would like to take some time to share something about fellowship. After being a missionary in Okinawa and Izena for 21 years, and now back in Sweden, my home country for 3 years (trying to take the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to lost people), the one thing I learned through the years is that it is a lonely walk. There are not many opportunities for fellowship with brother and sisters in Christ of like faith. For me personally, one of the great priveledges of being saved in USA by the grace of God is, that I could go to a local Church and have fellowship around the word of God right away and get encouraged by Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Also, after God called me to be a missionary, one of the greatest memories in my life was the sweet fellowship Masayo and I were able to have with so many churches of like faith as we travelled around America during our deputation. Last year, when I visited the USA for five weeks, truly one of the great blessings was to be able to visit with my home church and 11 other churches of like faith. The reason I share this is because there is so many of you dear faithful supporting churches that we have not been able to visit for so many years. Our prayer is, by the grace of God, next year when Bodine BC is celebrating their 75th anniversary of "Holding forth the word of life", we would be able to be there and celebrate together with our home church. Also extend our visit, so that we may be able to be with some more of you dear supporting churches for the encouragement in the word of God and



Birthdays

Karl – February 7, 1955

Masayo – June 27, 1968

Joshua – April 3, 1995

Hannah – July 8, 1996

Maria – December 15, 1999

Anniversary – April 24, 1993

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have sweet fellowship with Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Will you please pray with us in this matter.

The second thing I would like to write to you about, is the necessity of a living place. Last year I had asked you to pray with us for a living place in the south part of Sweden so that we could start a new mission work and to live closer to my mother so that we would be able to help her more as she is getting pretty feeble. She is 93 years old. As we started looking for a new living place we found that every place we were looking at, had at least a three year waiting list just to rent an apartment. But what is impossible with man is possible with God. I am always amazed and humbled to see how God answers our prayer as we walk by faith. As we see it, the Lord opened up a door for us in an amazing way!

First: A house come up for sale next to my sister who lives in a town named Tomelilla. Second: An 86 year old man I had only met three times, promise to lend me the down payment with just a hand shake if we were able to buy the house. Third: Because we had no credit record in Sweden, the big bank we had been using, told us a flat "no" when I tried to get a loan. A small local bank in Tomelilla said they would help us if we came up with the down payment. Fourth: The owner was going to let us buy the house for less than the starting price even though there were still people bidding, trying to buy the house. At last I would like to thank all you dear praying friends and a special thanks to those churches and individuals who gave special love offerings to help us so that we were able to close the deal and pay back the man who lent us the money for the downpayment. The three room apartment we were renting in Jonkoping was \$800 a month. Now as a land and house owner, we have a four room, kitchen with dining area, one open veranda, built in sun room, fenced in yard, one car garage, paved parking area for four cars, laundry room and utility room, and we pay \$600 a month. I close this part with a word from Merrel Vories, a American who went to Japan to share the Gospel in the early 1900s. Before he married in 1919, he wrote this word to his future wife. "A home should be an instrument of service to the neighborhood, the nation and to God, rather than merely a place in which to live and a roof over their heads." Our prayer is that our new home be that kind of home. Will you also pray with us in this matter please.

The care of family. From six years of age until the Lord saved me at age 34, I had only seen my mother three times. I am very thankful now that I am 64, I live close enough to her that we are able to spend more time together. Mother is a tuff old lady, has been through a lot of hardship, worked hard all her life, but now spends most of her day in a wheelchair. Mother always agree with me when I share the word of God with her, but she has never made a clear testimony of salvation. My mother need a lot of care now, so we have been trying to get her into a nursing home but it is very dificult. In Sweden now days, it seems they care more for the refugees then the elderly. We would like to bring Mother down to our new home this summer if it is possible.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." This is the word of God, that gave me peace in my heart to ask Masayo to be my wife 26 years ago. She truly has been a good thing to me and so much more. That's why I am so thankful, that Masayo now has a place she can call her own. She loves her kitchen and her garden. She even has an apple tree that she always dreamed about. I am also thankful that when I visited the USA, Masayo was able to spend some time with our children in Japan. The last time our family was together was in 2016. All

three, Joshua, Hannah and Maria have made a profession of faith and been baptized, but they do not live for the Lord. It breaks our heart and our daily prayer is that they learn to fear, walk, love and serve the Lord. On March 24th Hannah and Ryan Martinez received their marriage license. Ryan is a young, serious American marine soldier who plans to go back to Fresno, California next year to become a Police officer. He does not know the Lord as his personal Savior. Please pray for our children and especially for Hannah and Ryan.

Outreach. Last year I shared with you that the man who promised to help us with the down payment on the house also told us that he would fix up an old piggery for a meeting place. It is a good location and he is fixing it up very nice. We were looking forward to using it for a meeting place. When I returned back from the USA, he turned cold turkey on me. We were only back a month or so, when he told me that he didn't want me to use the building. So I asked him why? To my surprise he told me one of the reasons was, "that he didn't like it when I would talk to people in public about salvation." On top of that he told me that God told him that he always will have money and that the place should be named new Jerusalem. This is the same man who said amen, when I told him our burden is to reach out to the people with the Gospel and start a Bible Baptist mission work. We thank the Lord for using this man, helping us to buy our home, but we will not compromise with the word of God, just to be able to have a meeting place. The sad part is, my sister and her husband are leaning towards following this man. If there is one thing I have learned here in Sweden, when you try to share the Gospel with people, so many of them seem to believe that if you only believe that there is some god out there, you will be alright, and the word salvation [Frälsning] in Swedish, is almost like a bad word.

I realize this is a long letter but there is one more thing I need to share with you. Last year a young American was killed trying to take the Gospel to a small Island. A journalist wrote in one of the big Swedish newspaper "Any missionary who is telling people that Jesus is loving them should be murdered". These are strong words. They call it freedom of expression, but if you open up the Bible in public and proclaim what God is saying about homosexuality, they can put you in prison. I am not trying to paint a black picture but that is the reality in Sweden now. So we follow our Lord, asking him for guidance, seeking to find sinners, so that we can share the Gospel and they can be saved. Because an immortal soul is beyond all price.

With love Brother Karl and Masayo

Because Christ loved us first