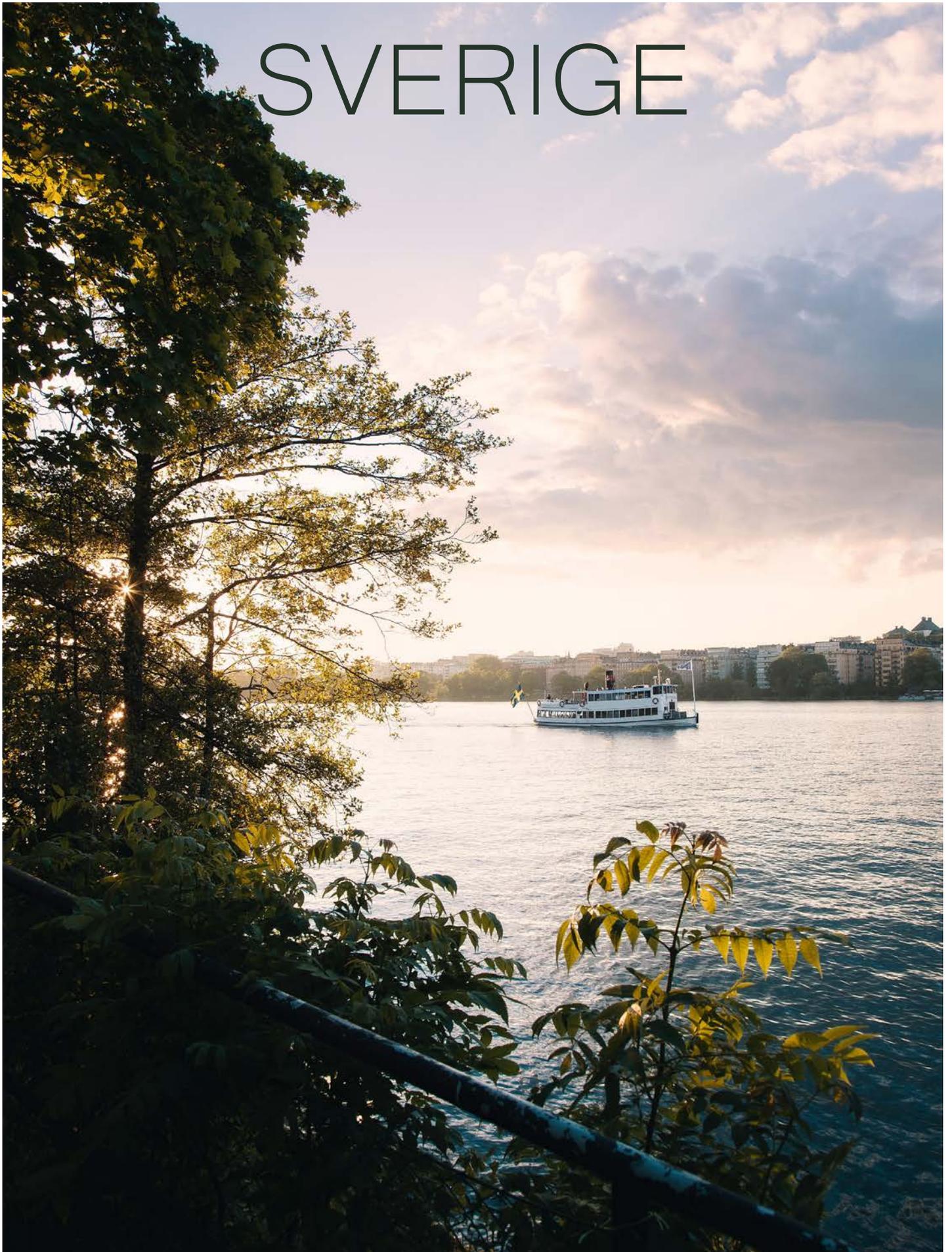


# SVERIGE



# Quarter 1

## 2019

As the leadership of Sweden reviewed the year end totals of 2018, going over how many recieved the Holy Ghost, how many were baptized, how many attended; I couldn't help but notice the improvements that have been made comparing the ending months of 2018 to the first few months of 2019.

The growth that has occurred, (and / or perhaps the increase in committment) has been astounding. Already this year we have beaten our attendance record with eighteen people on April 21st.

We have already had two baptisms take place this year (pictures not available as the families requested to keep them private). In the span of four weeks we had four first time visitors.

On Easter Sunday, after inquiring one of the visitors how he came to know about us, he replied "I had been to service already, but still felt that there was something more for me today. I wanted to go to church again. So I was walking on the street and saw this fine dressed man (pointing to Bro. Hillar), and I asked him, 'Where are you going?' As I thought to myself, 'He is dressed like a man who goes to church'. He replied 'I am going to service', so I said 'I'm coming with you!'"

We thank God for the visitors he sends us, he has truly been adding to the church as he sees fit.

While we thank him for what he has done, we must also look to the future, to plan for what is ahead.

In all honesty, some weeks are quite difficult. Not every moment is glory and miracles.

There are times when you feel the weight of what you are carrying. Times when you're praying for the church, praying for it's people, praying for yourself, trying to move and carry things forward, and sometimes it feels like, "who's praying for me?"

I have been home in Winchester for a couple weeks now, and it is at this point in time in this letter that I would like to thank those of you who have come up to me and made mentioned of your prayer for me and the church in Sweden. It has been a great source of encouragement, and means more than you know.

While we are on the topic of prayer, I'll close this out with several requests.

For about the past ten-ish years, the Stockholm church has rented from the Salvation Army in order to have a place to hold services on Sunday. Leadership has just recently changed for the Salvation Army staff, and at one of the services where we were to have a baptism take place later that day, the new leader was in to show me the ropes on the new sound system. During discussion we began talking about our differences in beliefs, and long story short, I showed him the baptism tank and explained to him what we believe. He seemed quite interested in all of this and when taking his leave, mentioned that he was open to lunch sometime to further discuss our beliefs.

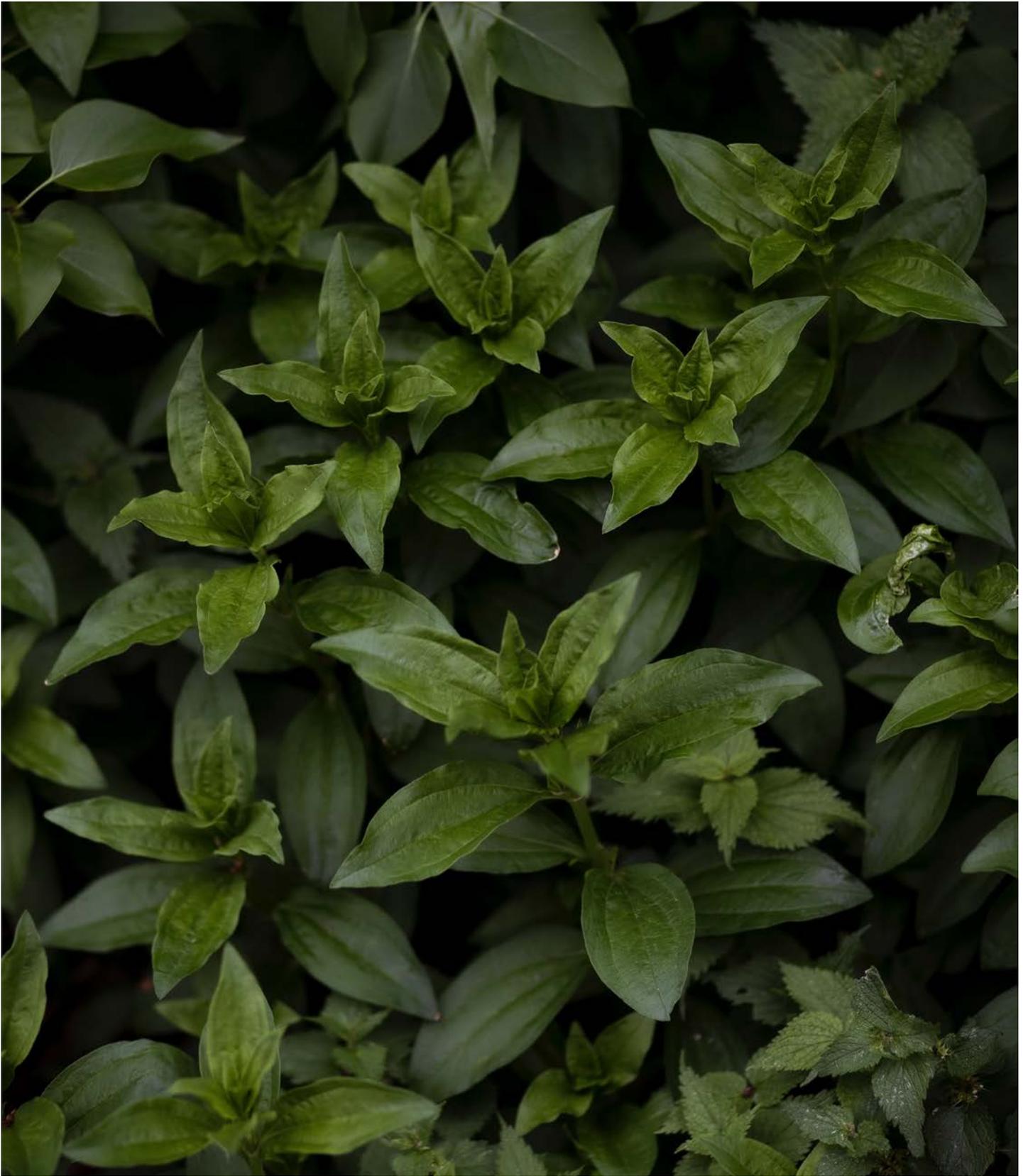
Fast forward to just two weeks ago, and Pastor Kelly recieved an email notifying us that the rental contract for the Stockholm Church was being terminated because of, and I quote "theological differences".

Therefore, we have until the end of June to find a new place to hold services. Join with me in praying for God's favor upon us, and that our new location would be in a place of increased foot traffic in the city.

Finally, as I previously mentioned, I am currently at home in Canada, making another attempt to secure a year long visa as my last attempt was denied. So that could use a touch of prayer as well.

Thank you all so much for your financial support, and for your prayers, you have a direct involment in building the kingdom of God in Sweden, and I am so grateful for it.

*Cris Cristoffersen*



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