

Carlsson, Carin (1911–1991)

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Yvonne Johansson Öster, M.Phil. (University of Lund, Sweden), M.A. in religion (Andrews University), is a retired college teacher and pastor. Her numerous articles on Adventist history include a biography of pioneer missionary Hanna Bergström (Skandinaviska Bokförlaget, 2013) and an anthology of Swedish missionaries (Skandinaviska Bokförlaget, 2019). Johansson Öster also contributed an article about the Adventist church in the *Encyclopedia of Swedish Free Churches* (Sveriges Frikyrkosamråd och Bokförlaget Atlantis AB, 2014). Currently, she is writing a complete history of the Swedish Adventist church.

Carin Carlsson was born Carin Gille in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1911.¹ Her mother was a Seventh-day Adventist. Carin was baptized in 1928 by Carl Oscar Carlstjerna. She studied at Nyhyttan Mission School from 1928 to 1932² and became a Bible worker. Carin married Pastor David Carlsson in 1934. Together, they founded the Växjö Church during the years 1934-1936. She worked with her husband in pastoral ministry, especially in youth work at Camp *Västeräng*.³ Carin Carlsson developed a pathfinder program for the younger children. She wrote a manual for *Solstrålarna* (The Sun Beams). She also produced materials to be used in children's Sabbath school and collected stories for a weekly leaflet, *I Livets Vår* (In the Springtime of Life).

Carin was keen on giving children an understanding of good literature, so she asked her daughters to read and comment on children's books, among which were Christian biographies published for youth. These book reviews were distributed through the youth and family department. Carin always involved her children in her work. She asked for and listened to their opinion. As a result, they all gained a lifelong interest in working with children as sabbath school teachers and pathfinder leaders.

Carin wanted the Sabbath day to be a day of joy. The children's favorite food was served. Since David was often preaching in other places on the Sabbath, Carin was left alone with their children. So, on Sabbath afternoons, she invited other families with young children to come together, frequently for a walk in the forest. From early childhood to their late teens, Carin's children were encouraged to ask their friends to spend the Sabbath with them. Carin's wise and warm personality and the family's limitless hospitality in spite of meager means gave many the encouragement of a true Christian home as a haven for all who came there. David's and Carin's four children were all to serve in the church in various capacities,⁴ as well as some of their grandchildren. Carin Carlsson died on April 13, 1991.

SOURCES

Albinger, Ingrid. "Saligt är det folk, som vet vad jubel äe." *Ungdomens Budbärare* (Messenger to Young People), June 1932.

Wiklander, Gösta. "I vår Herrens tjänst." *Adventistsamfundet*, 2000.

NOTES

1. Information in this article is based on the author's personal knowledge; from meetings with Carin Carlsson in Stockholm in 1963; and from that obtained from her daughters Birgitta Kazen and Kerstin Christiansen.
2. Ingrid Albiner, "Saligt är det folk, som vet vad jubel äe," *Ungdomens Budbärare* (Messenger to Young People), June 1932, 21.
3. Gösta Wiklander, "I vår Herrens tjänst," Adventistsamfundet, 2000, 21.
4. Ibid. See also "Carlsson, David Emmanuel (1897-1981)" in this encyclopedia.

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