

# NETWORK MAGAZINE

2009

*for women of faith*



**Hospitality**  
Preparing a  
place

**Single**  
and created in  
his image

**The purpose**  
of awakening

# Network Magazine

Published by the independent Christian organization "Network for Women in Ministry" which consists of:



Hanne Dalgaard  
Leader  
Salt & light,  
Copenhagen



Agethe Zimino  
Minister  
Korsvejs  
Church  
Copenhagen



Bitten Ingerslev  
Leader  
Christian  
Fellowship



Åse E. Larsen  
Leader  
Betlehem church  
Copenhagen

We believe in the bible as the Word of God and on Jesus Christ as our personal saviour.

The purpose of the "Network Magazine" is to create a forum, where women in ministry or leadership will be inspired, edified and equipped in faith and ministry. Furthermore that we can develop contact and relationships with other women from all denominations across the nation and across nations.

#### Vision:

- To support and develop women in ministry and leadership by creating a forum in which we will be inspired, edified and equipped in faith and ministry. Further more, we wish to support and help women going in to ministry.
- To form the basis of a network of ministry across all Danish churches including the local leader groups.
- To form the basis of a network of ministry between nations.
- To act as a catalyst for more unity among churches.
- To be intercessors for awakening in Denmark, and call to prayer.

**Editor-in-chief:** Hanne Dalgaard

**Editors:** Hanne Dalgaard, Åse Ellerbek Larsen

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**Contact:** Network Magazine  
c/o Hanne Dalgaard  
Oede Hastrupvej 65  
4000 Roskilde  
Pho. +45 29 700 104

**E-mail:** info@kvinder.com

**web:** www.kvinder.com



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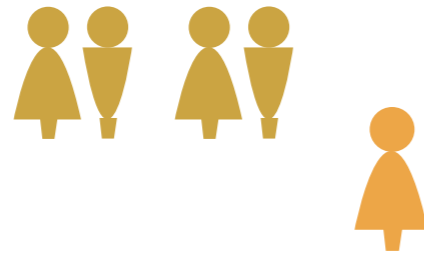
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# Single and created in his image



*Ruth Norris*  
norris\_ruth@hotmail.com  
England.



As a single woman involved in church leadership for many years, I am grateful for those who have welcomed and believed in me, enabling me to work hard with the gifts God has given me. At the same time, however, I have come to realize that, as a single woman without husband and children, it is all too easy to seek my identity in that ministry. I risk two dangers as a result: Firstly, I may give myself to ministry to such an extent (especially since I may be more available than married people) that I somehow lose myself in the process! Secondly, if my identity is in ministry then I will be in a sorry state on those occasions when, perhaps even because I'm a single woman, ministry opportunities may be closed to me. I've found myself asking afresh what it really means to live well as a single woman created by God, with a healthy sense of identity that is rooted in him. In the Genesis creation story I find some clues.

We cannot miss God's repeated affirmation in Genesis 1 that his creation is "good" (see 1:31). That

means that every part of our beings, created by him, is part of that goodness, including our physicality and emotions. It is important, then, that we honour and value the whole of who God has made us, taking care, not only of our spiritual well-being, but of our physical and emotional health also. Make sure you take the time to relish a great meal, sit and dangle your feet in a river, feel sand between your toes, smell a rain-drenched forest, and be in God's creation to truly look and listen. Through our physical senses our souls are fed and this is vital for our well-being as single women. This "goodness" of creation reminds us, too, that the whole ordinariness of daily life (not just those aspects we are used to calling "spiritual") may be sacred and a part of our ministry before God.

In Genesis we learn that we have been created "in the image of God," in his "likeness" (1:26-27); there are ways in which we get to look like God! And in the early chapters of Genesis we observe that God is concerned with much



**Ruth Norris: "Taking time to connect with God and ourselves enables us to connect well with others from a deep and true place, ministering to them throughout our daily lives".**

more than mere pragmatism and function. He cares about more than just getting a job done. Trees, for example, are created not only to provide food but to look delightful (Gen 2:9)! In his creativity, God is concerned with aesthetics; beauty matters to him. As single women, then, we need time for beauty, to enjoy it and also, somehow, to create it? That, too, is our ministry.

In valuing our emotions as a good, God-created gift, do we take time to connect with what's going on deep inside ourselves, or do we race through life on the surface? Perhaps we could benefit from the daily "Examen" of Saint Ignatius, prayerfully asking the two questions: "What today has brought me the most consolation? What today has brought me the most desolation?" This prayerful reflection helps us to pay attention, naming our emotions, listening to what God might say through them, thanking him, and seeking any healing we need. Taking time to connect with God and ourselves enables us to connect well with others from a

deep and true place, ministering to them throughout our daily lives.

Scripture shows us that God does not exist in isolation; He is Trinity. Relationship and community are part of his essence. And in Genesis 1:26 we read: "Let us make human beings in our image," (TNIV; see also 2:18). It is no wonder, then, that we are fundamentally relational, social beings, created for community. The longing and loneliness which are aspects of our human condition, can be felt particularly and strongly by single women; the only relationship where a person truly gets to say, "here I rest," is a good marriage. True friendship, however, is a great gift, and vital for us as single women. One single girlfriend, living overseas, chats and prays with me each week

**"God does not exist in isolation; He is Trinity. Relationship and community are part of his essence"**

by phone; another, married, does the same over breakfast. We share deeply and journey together, pointing each other to Christ. And my dear brothers in Christ are also essential

for the balance I need. Of course, our relationships risk becoming needy and dependent if we look to them to meet needs that are satisfied only in God. Ultimately our desire for intimacy calls us to him. That is why prayer is the primary expression of friendship, between us and our Creator.

As God creates, he places boundaries upon the chaotic waters, instigates the rhythm of the rising and setting sun, and offers the gift of Sabbath (Gen 1:6-10; 14-19; 2:3). We are prompted to recognize our own need for rhythm and ritual. We are not to be ruled by the endless needs of ministry, by the pressure to try to do everything (including all the household chores that you may not have anyone to share with!), or the drive to prove ourselves.

Instead we may choose some godly rhythms for our living that will enable us to know Sabbath rest and live more fully as single women made in God's image.



*"The longing and loneliness which are aspects of our human condition, can be felt particularly and strongly by single women"*

All of this is missional (Gen 1:28), and intricately connected to ministry. Throughout Scripture we find the promise of a restored creation, which has already begun in Jesus. We, the Church, are called to live together this new-creation life, affirming the wholeness of each person as an image-bearer, demonstrating true community, showing and offering the beauty of Christ, and imaging God to a watching world.

Soren Kirkegaard, the 19th century Danish Christian philosopher, wrote to his cousin of "the busy, busiest

haste of busyness – busy with wasting time and losing oneself." Without someone (like a husband!) keeping an eye on us, the danger for single women of losing ourselves in work and ministry is very real. We are called, instead, to discover who we are in God, knowing ourselves firstly as women before him, created by him, deeply loved, seen and known by him (even when the loneliness threatens to overwhelm); in that, not in anything we do, lies our worth. It is in that dignity that we stand in those painful moments when we find ourselves slighted because we

are single women, perhaps finding certain doors to ministry closed. And it is in that dignity that we minister as women, God's image-bearers, throughout our daily lives, as well as in "church work."

Our primary ministry, then, is to the Lord, to seek, before anything else, to live in a way that pleases him, finding our identity in him, as those made in his image. That is living well. And the door to that ministry is always wide open. It is from that place that all other ministry should flow. May it be so!



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**Write to Iben**

You are very welcome to take use of the mailbox and write your questions or comment to Iben. Iben has been working with counselling for teen years and is about to end her study as psycho therapist. If you prefer you can write as anonymous. Use mail address above.



**Letter:**



***"Maybe I'm able to think the "right thoughts", but they are not reality for me in practice"***



*Hi Iben  
In the last Magazine I read about "singleness", and even though it sounded very good and encouraging, it seems like all the different girls was "in control" with the fact of not being in a relationship. It has left me back with some questions. What if you are still not able to find peace and consolation? Maybe I'm able to think the right thought, but they are not reality for me in practice. I still feel lonely and a little bit bitter (at God). I do want to find my self a Christian husband, so why is God allowing it so take such a long time, especially when I have the desire to follow his commandments? And then the big one: Who decide the standard for "how much" a man must be a Christian before the relationship can be counted as "legally"?*

Annie  
36 years

Dear Annie  
Thank you so much for your letter, it touched my heart. Actually I believe a great number of people are sharing these frustrations about being single than of those who seems to be in "control".  
I guess you can say that it is God who is "allowing" us to be single. But at the same time we have also chosen it, because we still haven't meet Mr. Right. And it's not a bad thing! You are keeping your self for the right person, and you know God sees that as well.  
Having said that, it's reasonable to believe that God can have other reasons to let us wait, and my experience says that he usually have good causes. It just might be something we need to experience or learn, and we will only understand later when we have "come through".

I've never heard of anyone who found each other by standing still and wait. But they did so as they were taking opportunities in faith and embracing life. Could be new tasks, Christian net dating, tours or a focused prayer, that all can be an eye-opener for a new relationship.

Only one can set the standard, and that is you – you are the one who are supposed to live with him.  
When we ask God, "is this

him"? I think he is asking you the same question. God is part of the process but the choice is yours. How "Christian" he is supposed to be, is something that has to be decided in the relationship between you and God.  
I've seen many variations of relationships over the years, and how couples are functioning individually in there spiritual life, and I don't think there is only one "right" answer. But I do believe it is very important that we as individuals and Christians is holding your values in perspective and not compromise on that. Even though relationships are all about compromises, you must in your choice of partner make sure, that you compromise wont be too "expensive" in order to keep the loneliness in a distance.  
So Annie, keep your values up high and get up on the horse, because good men is to find in good places.  
Be focused in your prayer for a partner and what you want, be ready to break some boundaries - and seek contact.

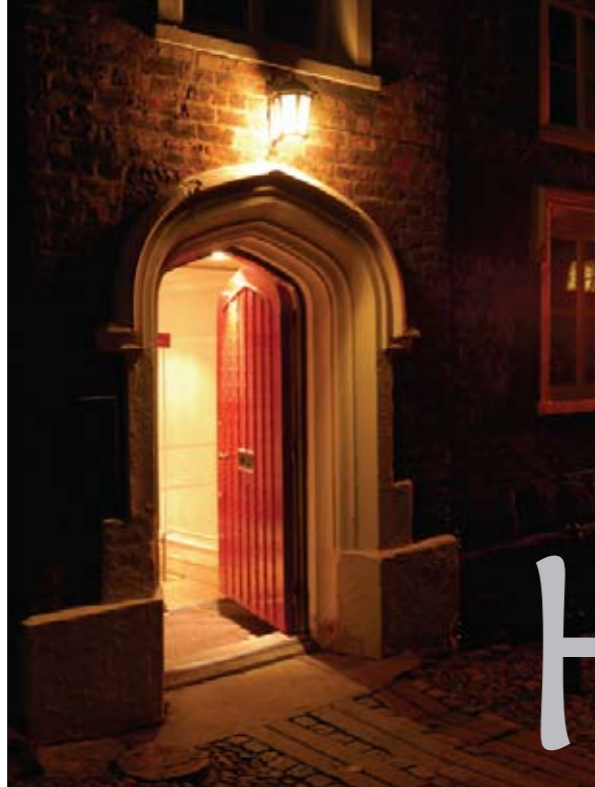
Thank God that he will lead you in your freedom being able to choose the partner you are aiming for.

Every blessing  
Iben



*Chris Richard*

England. Work in the board of "Care For the Family" [www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk)



# Hospitality



One of my happiest childhood memories is travelling 7 hours north to spend two glorious weeks' holiday each summer with grandparents and uncles and aunts. Auntie Maisie and Uncle Jack never locked front door, sitting around the kitchen table where a teapot would always be warm and there would inevitably be gales of laughter. Home-made custard tarts, apple pies and Victoria sponges would eagerly be devoured with endless cups of tea. Something lived in their end of terrace house all of their life and were known by all the neighbourhood. As a child I remember streams of neighbours trickling through the took root in me as I soaked up the atmosphere in that home....I wanted my front

**„Hospitality wasn't about what I had, but more about how I felt about people coming into our home.“**

door always to be open to neighbours and friends and I knew from an early age that hospitality wasn't about what I had, but more about how I felt about people coming into our home. Little did I know how important that inspiration was to be in my life.

We perhaps can't physically leave our front doors open these days, but how do we see our homes? Do we see them as a resource where we can be a refuge, a retreat, a place where people can be refre-

hed or provide the basic need of a bed for the night? Or do we think our homes are solely for ourselves?

### Entertainment or hospitality?

We have stayed in beautiful homes that would happily grace the front pages of glossy magazines and felt very unwelcome. On the other hand I have been near to tears when those with so little have given everything they had to make us feel welcomed. I remember sitting on the bed (There were no chairs) in the mud hut of a poor villager with her tin bath hanging on the wall. On the simple wooden table she had put some wild flowers in a jam jar in honour of me visiting her. These sorts of experiences put things into perspective.

Hospitality has nothing to do with how big a house we have or the china we serve our food in; rather it's about welcoming, sheltering and feeding, done in love for those who come to our door. Isn't it interesting that "Hospitality" is listed amongst the qualities of an elder? (Titus 1:8) It's to do with our heart towards people, a mark of love and service. Paul includes it as a mark of Christian living in Rom 12:13 "Seek to show hospitality"

### Cost or blessing?

Well, both really. Changing rooms around, cleaning, shopping, finances, loss of time alone and sheer hard work are certainly part of the effort but I have found that the rewards far outweigh the cost. I felt trapped into having a family from South Africa stay for a few days. The worries increased as the time drew near. Our children were small, I had to change all the rooms around, kids on the floor. The family had two teenage boys "What on earth was I going to do with them?" It was winter and we may not be able to get outside... AND ANYWAY...I DIDN'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE. WHY SHOULD I HAVE THEM?" The few days with them not only went well, we became instant friends and we ended up begging them to stay longer! I learnt an invaluable lesson about receiving strangers into the home and the blessing of meeting some wonderful people. Isn't the Old Testament full of reminders to open our homes to the stranger, the traveller and those in need? Hospitality is kingdom business and has its own reward.

Why not look at some of these Scriptures and catch afresh God's heart for welcoming people into our homes?

Luke 24:13-32 The travellers on the road to Emmaus

Josh 2:12-14 Rahab harbouring the spies

1 Sam 25 Abigail's attitude compared to Naboth's

2 Kings 4:8 The Shunammite woman. Look at the reward!

### Preparing a place

In the last "Focus" we saw that hospitality was about having a heart of welcome and that blessing was at its core.

This time we're looking at practicalities.

### Preparing our hearts:

Above food preparation and room preparation, is heart preparation. The most important gift of welcome says "I care, I love you and I have prepared a place for you" If this is in place, the practicalities will follow and even if things go wrong, your guest will still receive something of the welcome of God. It's helpful to pray about the time with guests before they come. Pray blessing on them and for energy and wisdom for yourself. I often pray for God's blessings on all the practicalities as well. If you have young children, pray they will be

blessed out of this time.

"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without grumbling" 1 Peter 4:8

### Preparing a place:

To create a sense of welcome, prepare a room. Even if it's the junk room, put something in there that says "I've been thinking of you. There's a place here for you." Your guest will feel welcome.

Some essentials:

- Clean room
- Hanging space
- Coat hangers
- Clean (Decent sized)towels
- A bit of surface space

Some Extras

- Fruit, nibbles, water
- Spare toiletries
- Bedside lamp
- Clock
- A welcome card especially from the children in the family
- Map of the area if they don't know it/books/magazines

"And she said to her husband"Look now I know this is a holy man of

**- "Hospitality is kingdom business and has its own reward"**

God who passes by us regularly. Please let us make a small upper room on the roof and let us put a bed for him there and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be whenever he comes to us he can turn in there" 2 Kings 4:9

**Preparing food:**

I had nine girls stay here last weekend and out of the nine, four had special dietary needs and one liked loads of sweets! It's becoming harder to cater for people's needs.

- Check beforehand about diet
- Use the web or ask friends for suitable recipes if you need help in knowing what to cook (my phone number is in the book!)
- Use favourite tried and tested recipes unless you want to take a risk. This may not be the best time to experiment.
- Share the workload with a friend; one provide B&B and another the meals.
- If possible get meals done ahead and in the freezer.

- Keep things simple. Your peace of mind is more important than an exotic dessert.

**Preparing the children:**

It's important that our children learn from an early age how to receive guests. Your attitude will affect theirs, so

- Speak positively about people coming. It's wonderful when kids of all ages greet you with a welcome! (Open the door to you, present you with a drawing they've done or show you to your room if it's their bedroom)
- Let your children help prepare the room or food for guests
- Encourage them to make a welcome card for visitors, draw a picture, or make something.
- Teach them to show guests around or offer a drink
- You may need to teach them to give guests some space and quiet!
- When guests have left, rehearse the good things about the time they had with you.

- Praise your child for all they did to give a welcome

**And finally...**

Martha was so focused on the practicalities that she became anxious and resentful but she was missing the joy of having Jesus in the home. She missed engaging with her guest. (Luke 10:38) It's so easy to do this. In all our practical serving, let's find time to enjoy being together and sharing our lives with each other.



**Bente Kjeldal**  
bente@kjeldal.net  
Denmark

**Prayer:**  
Lord, your earth is providing food enough for all. Thanks for the share you want us to have. Learn us how to set a table, long enough for everybody.

My background as cookery editor, is my passion for food, people and meals. It has even increased after starting a Profession Bachelor in health and nutrition.

we must give from our abundance instead of dying from it. To be grateful for our body and understand it is a temple...

Make temple food... this expression is taken from a English cookery editor, Nigella Lawson. Temple food is simple, refreshing and restoring for your body, when we have been at to many partyes, been eating and drinking to much and to poor. When we have been to busy and slept to little. It doesn't mean that we now must eat one kilo of carrots, but that we will have a passion for making food that strengthen and restore our self and others. What is your temple food?

Broccoli soup with spelt bread is one of mine. Soups has become very trendy as an alternative to fast food. You can by convenience food in any supermarket, so why make it your self? Because you are the only one who has control of what it's contains. Most of the convenience food is filled with "bad" fat and whit a minimum of vegetables. This broccoli soup is the opposite, and it's beautiful green colour reminds us of spring. Enjoy!



**Broccoli Soup**

Preparation: ½ hour  
4 persons

- 2 big onions, chopped
- 500 gr. broccoli
- 8 cups boiled water
- 1½ tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons boullion (loose weight - or one cube)
- 75 gr. pine seeds

**Procedure:**  
Sauté the onions in olive oil and add the broccoli stalk i small pieces. Add water and vegetable- flavored boullion, and let it boil at low temp. for 15 min. Add the broccoli in bouquets and let it boil further 5 min. Remove it from stove and blend the soup with pine seeds. Season with salt or extra boullion. Serve it immediately.

- Accompaniments:**
- Lime-cremefraiche: 1 dl cremefraiche, and blend juice and skin from a lime into it. Season with salt and sweet, fx cane sugar.
  - 4 slices of parma / turkey-bacon – dry fried on pan.
  - Pumpkin seeds

**Soup and bread**

Energy per. portion	2350 kJ (560 carp)	Recommended:
Protein	18%	min. 15%
Carbohydrate	57%	55%
Fat	25%	max. 30%

**Quick Spelt Bread:**

- 2 cups low fat milk
- 2 tablespoon oil-margarine
- ½ dl yoghurt, neutral
- 25 gr. yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cane sugar
- 3-4 cups spelt flour
- Topping: olive oil + fresh rosemary

Warm up the milk and the margarine. Dissolve the yeast into it and add the yoghurt. Add salt, sugar and spelt flour and stir it well. Role out the dough into a circle of 20 cm and 1 cm high. Brush it with a little olive oil, and sprinkle a little rosemary on top. Put it in a cold oven and bake at 220 degrees for 20 min. Sprinkle with some fresh rosemary just before serving.



# The purpose of the **Awakening**



*Hanne Dalgaard*  
info@kvinder.com

When we speak of awakening, I often find that the definition is somewhat unclear, if you are not quite sure of what is meant by awakening. So, do you have awaking in your congregation? You mean those who are recently saved? And how many people does it take before we can define it as awakening?

It is easier when we speak about the purpose of the awakening. Awakening is not a word the Bible in itself uses. To understand the word "awakening", we have to encompass expressions like salvation, renewal, conversion, transformation and to be on fire in spirit.

Every one of these expressions entails "awakening". If awakening is solely defined as a human being receiving Jesus as his personal saviour and is thereby saved, end of story, it may be the answer as to why so many redeemed people do not live in "the awakening".

Ok, that may sound a bit awkward.

Do we understand each other? Awakening is LIFE and is expressed in people's salvation, rehabilitation and in redemption of favours, in healing, in reconciliation and in transformation of character, yes in everything in which the life and spirit of Christ is revealed and gets to inspire people.

The Lord has promised awakening through the service of the Network of Women in Service. But he has also promised many others. Churches, towns, organisations and individuals' service. Which one will it happen through? Which of the prophecies are real? All of them of course! Awakening is not a competition. God's Spirit is free and

**There is a difference between having experienced an "awakening" and living in it. You might get the impression that awakening is something you have to wait for! Religious goals do not evoke neither rescue nor awakening. More like prestige and performance religion. Awakening is something that is available HERE and NOW through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who is therefore the purpose in himself for the awakening.**

both can and will evoke awakening in both Skagen and Gedser at once, and in different ways. It is not going to come from one side, one city or one service.

Awakening comes where God has spoken a word and people act on it in faith. It comes where God has equipped his people with gifts of grace and use them in faith. Everyone who has received salvation has a gift says the scripture. The disciples are probably a testimony that awakening starts with the faith of the individual and the obedience to walk and act on a gift of grace.

Awakening, or harvest when it comes to souls, is not something we as Christians can produce in the sense that it is already available! Jesus says: Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. (John 4:35)  
It is God himself who is Lord of the harvest.

To me, this says more about disciples, the believers, redeem services (workers) than a prayer for a harvest. Jesus says: The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. (Luke 10:2)

Your thoughts are inevitably led to the individual believer's personal "awakening", and by this I mean awakening in the sense of a living, personal, fruitful relationship to Jesus Christ.

Many are frustrated that they may

have faith, but if they have to be honest, they do not suffer for something or somebody. Others would really like to serve, but do not know how or where. You might wish you were more holy, but you can not abide by it.

I think it has to do with our priorities and focus. None of us can produce "suffering" for others, because we do not have it in ourselves. We are taught through knowledge that we are supposed to be in distress for those not saved, and we may pray for this, but it is not the same as having the distress in our hearts, and to pray with faith.

Faith, holiness and true suffering is ONLY available through Jesus

***" Faith, holiness and true suffering is only available through Jesus in prayer and in the Word."***

in prayer and in the Word. For it is really HIS suffering and HIS holiness which is to be transmitted to us through the Holy Spirit. There, in fellowship with Jesus, does he share his thoughts, character and feelings which, should we accept them, flow into us so powerful that we transform to the image of Christ and simply overflow by ourselves.

He deeply wants our cup to overflow (Psalm 23:5)

That we may be filled with him.

We do not have to look frantically for a service either. To many of us, develop a stronger relationship to

our service than to Jesus himself. This desire is pious and not wrong in itself. However, it must not take priority which is the first and greatest commandment: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' (Matthew 22:37).

The priority, or order if you will, must be right.

But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. (Luke 12:31).

Jesus says: A student is not above his teacher (Matthew 10:24). I also believe this means that you and I do not stand above Jesus, and can find an easier way of God's power or revelation than Jesus could.

Jesus spend a lot of time near his Father and in prayer. We must also do this.

There is a longing and a thirst in my own life after more of Jesus. More than ever do I experience the need to be in the presence of God. The first meeting with Jesus created a revolution of "awakening" in us – and it was wonderful. We were transformed and saw everything in a new light. Are we still transforming? Or do we have the same opinions and level of insight as 5 years ago? A constant transformation is proof that we live near Jesus. Then we live in the awakening instead of just talking about it. Yes, the awakening IS Jesus.

# Let's pray!



By Åse Ellerbek Larsen

The prayer ministry is meant to be an encouragement to pray and a inspiration in prayer topics that will even increase knowing that many are praying on the same topic in the same period of time.

## To hear and love God

Jan. - March

Pray that we will have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches and to each of us individually.

Pray for forgiveness when ever we had our own agenda, in our personal life, in Church and in the society. Ask God to show you specific situations.

Pray that we will all have a hunger of belonging to his people.

Thank God that he has found you and will never leave you.

## The Body of Christ

April - June

Pray for unity in the Body of Christ - the Church

Pray that Europe will connect in a greater way, both Churches and ministries.

Pray for reconciliation between nations.

Ask God to protect His Church world wide.

Pray that God will let the Holy Spirit expose the work of the devil among His people.

## The women

July - Sep.

Pray that God will raise and release women into ministry.

Pray God will create a strong network between women ministries across nations and strengthen each other, spiritually, in finances and in practice.

Pray for women leaders in Churches and ministries.

Pray that all women will find there identity in Christ.

Pray for protection of marriages.

## The unsaved

Oct. - Dec.

Thank God that he will send more workers out for the harvest.

Pray for the missionaries that are now in "the field".

Pray for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for people to get saved.

Pray for the Evangelists that are preaching the Gospel on crusades and camps in 2009/10 world wide.

## Information

You can now download/read the *Network Magazine* from our website: [www.kvinder.com](http://www.kvinder.com)

You can also download/read the brochure about *Network for Womens interdenominal local leader groups*



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