

[this letter in Swedish]

In this letter: Lillemor Hallin has gone home to the Lord, more than 10,000 people worshipped Jesus in Kungsträdgården, Stockholm, Report from the international meeting of charismatic prayer groups in Rome: The spiritual gifts do not belong to history, they are for the present, Ecumenical week in Stockholm 18-24 August, Support CHARIS

Lillemor Hallin 1934 - 2025.



Lillemor Hallin fell asleep peacefully on the night of July 31 at the Bridgettine monastery in Djursholm. Her life has been characterized by tirelessly encouraging people to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and make the church a more vibrant and healing community, something she took over from her mother who was a convert with roots in the Mission Covenant Church in Sweden.

At the age of 17, she suffered from a fatal blood disease, but after her mother's intercession, she was miraculously healed. In a near-death experience, she sensed a voice that said: "You will return to life and seek the love that breaks down all walls". This experience came to characterize her entire adult life and spiritual orientation. She describes her childhood and youth in the autobiographical book *When the Walls Fell - My Catholic Childhood*.

She studied at a School of Art (Konstfack) in Stockholm with a focus on textiles and worked as an art teacher, but over time she let the church and spiritual commitment take an increasingly larger place. She and her friend Kerstin Jonsson understood that they had a calling to "live and pray together" and lived in a community in Täby where people were received for ministry and prayer, something that developed in the ecumenical organization "Helhet genom Kristus". They served in the parish, built up a prayer group, and with the active support of the parish's priests, a

flourishing ecumenical cooperation developed in Täby and Danderyd from the 1970s that included evangelism, social work, regular meetings for priests and much more. She describes this work in her most recently published book *God calls ordinary people to build up his kingdom – On the spiritual renewal in Danderyd and Täby 1970s - 1990s*.

Lillemor had no idea about charismatic renewal, but after meeting with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and its spiritual advisor Cardinal Suenens in Belgium, she understood that what they were doing belonged to this current of grace within Christianity. She tells about this in the anthology *About Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Sweden 1972–2007*:

THEY CALL US "CHARISMATICS." WHAT IS THAT?

We seemed to have a calling. People flocked from all directions, and the prayergroup just grew. One day an elderly couple arrived. They said happily: "How nice to meet charismatic Catholics." – "Oh, how?" we said in surprise. – "Yes, you believe in the Holy Spirit." – "Of course," we said. – "Yes, but then you are charismatic." – "No. We have never heard of anything like that." – "But then you must come with us and meet your leader, Cardinal Suenens." – "What! "No, it's not necessary."

In 1975 in the summer, Kerstin Jonsson and I went to our first charismatic conference – in London, arranged by the Fountain Trust. It was amazing, the presence of God, the cheering... The conference was Anglican and was led by the famous priest Michael Harper, but one of the speakers was Catholic – Francis MacNutt. He led a four-five-day seminar on prayer for healing, in which we participated.

Once back home we started, with P Clyde and two other people, a similar course in the parish. We then continued with ten St Bridget sisters. Then P Clyde handed over to the two of us to start a school. For several years, we trained people to pray for the sick – over 100 people – priests, pastors, nuns, deacons and laity from all churches in Danderyd and Täby and the surrounding area. Our priests were always there to support us...

*But the old couple who wanted us to go to Cardinal Suenens, did not give up. Their names were Siv and Robert Pellén and they were determined Pentecostals. In 1976, Jim, Kerstin and I went to the seminary in Malines, Brussels, where the cardinal conducted his annual week-long seminar on the Charismatic Renewal with 35 Protestants from all denominations and 35 Catholics. The professor at the German Catholic seminary in Paderborn, Heribert Mühlen, and Rev. Arnold Bittlinger, leader of the Protestant renewal in Germany, taught together about life in the Spirit. The cardinal and other specialists dealt with various subjects, such as the gifts and fruits of the Spirit and Mary. It was an experience to spend a whole week with a man of the Church who so naturally spoke about and exercised the gifts of the Spirit himself. In 1977, we conducted the first Life in the Spirit seminar in our own church based on Mühlen's book *A Charismatic Theology*...
(*About Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Sweden 1972–2007* p8-9)*

Lillemor came to be a driving force in Catholic charismatic renewal in Sweden for many years, a commitment that was completely ecumenical and she realized the potential of the spiritual gifts for the healing of Christianity. She encouraged all Christians to grow in faith in the Lord and work together. Her mission was for all Christians to find and affirm their own vocation in this process. In 1997 she wrote the book *Strömmar av liv – Om den helige Andens verk i vår tid (Rivers of Life – On the Work of the Holy Spirit in Our Time)*, which can be regarded as an ecumenical standard work in Swedish for those who are looking for an introduction to the life of the Holy Spirit in the church based on the Pentecostal charismatic stream of grace that has affected the whole of Christianity since the beginning of the 20th century. It describes how it is connected to history and the sources of the Christian life, and at the same time how it represents a hope for the future. The story is accompanied by rich source references.

In the book *Se Herrens härlighet (See the Glory of the Lord, 1991)*, she describes her miraculous healing as a 17-year-old girl and how God spoke to her, and how prayer for healing then became a life's mission for her. It was not just about individual healing, but about how the Christian community needs to be healed and the kingdom of God to grow in our divided world. The final words of the book read:

"Learn to trust the Lord more and more in a child's natural way. This does not mean that we should be childish, the opposite. As we grow in our trust in the Lord, we also grow as humans. We are becoming bolder. We have the strength to bear more of the suffering of the damaged creation. We understand more of other people's pain. We grow in compassion, and we grow in love. God is love. The centre and essence of Christianity is love (1 John 4:8). The way of healing is the way of love. May the Lord guide you and bless you in the way He has prepared for you! Blessed be Jesus Christ forever! Amen!"

In the book *Läkedom i Kristus – Den helande församlingen (Healing in Christ, 2003)* she further deepens the theme.

Lillemor Hallin has often been met with greater appreciation in denominations other than the Catholic Church and is widely known for her work with practical ecumenism, pastoral intercessory prayer and charismatic renewal [[Read article in Dagen](#)].

In her old age, she and Kerstin lived at the Birgittine Sisters' retirement home in Djursholm. The last years were characterized by an increasingly failing health. Despite this, she managed to complete the republication of her books, which are part of the spiritual legacy she leaves behind. [[All books can be ordered via this link, also an e-edition is offered](#)] or at a special price via [[CHARIS Nordic's bookshop](#)].

More than ten thousand worshipped Jesus in Stockholm

On August 2, there were 9 hours of [worship of Jesus in Kungsträdgården](#), Stockholm. The invitation was made by a large network of churches and organizations, including CHARIS Nordic. The organizers and also Kungsträdgården's management estimated that there were between 10,000 and 20,000 people on site at some point during the day. Many came and went, and the number varied throughout the day, but at any given hour, it is estimated that between 8,000 and 11,000 people were on site at the same time. "There is a hunger. It is eleven years since [the Jesus](#)

[manifestation](#) took place in Kungsträdgården. Since then, there has been a vacuum, Christians have not taken their place in the public space," says Patrik Sandberg, one of the responsible to Dagen. Many spoke of a strong and indescribable presence of God. "When the day was over, no one wanted to go home," said Christoffer Ahlbäck, who together with Patrik was in charge of the event.

There was also a prayer tent set up, and there was a queue for it all day. Some came to faith and converted to Jesus for the first time. The organizers concluded that there may be a follow-up to this next year. [["Sweden worships Jesus" may return in 2026](#)] [[Folk festival when Sweden worshipped Jesus](#)]

Reflections from meeting with charismatic prayer groups in Rome: "The spiritual graces are not a thing of the past – they are for the present. God wants to act today."

CHARIS England and Wales has a report from the meeting in Rome April 2025, which we reproduce parts of here: [["Charisms are not historical - they are current. God wants to act today." Reflections from CCR Prayer Group event in Rome](#)]

1000 people from 66 countries attended the first worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal Meeting of Prayer Groups in Rome on April 4-6, 2025, under the overarching theme of "*Joyful Witnesses of Hope*" (Romans 12:12) – a call for prayer groups to be dynamic, Spirit-led, missionary communities that courageously testify to the hope of the power of the Holy Spirit. It was a packed program with prayer meetings, conversations, teaching, worship, praise, prophecy, Mass and worship.

"If your group has lost the gift of praise, lost the miraculous, or lacked assignments, it may have lost its identity."

Pino Scafuro set the vision and tone: Prayer groups are vital, transformative and missionary in nature. Avoid becoming passive or isolated - Go where there is no map – let yourself be led by the Spirit to new places and people.

Andrés Arango spoke about the *identity of Charismatic Prayer Groups* and gave us a strong reminder to return to the roots (Acts 2:42-47): We must always preach Jesus. Jesus must be at the center. Emphasize praise, signs, prophecies, and preaching led by the Holy Spirit. Avoid routine; Rediscover awe and the supernatural. Focus on community, unity, mission and welcome.

Michelle Moran spoke about *Ministries in the Prayer Group* and reminded us to focus on mission and service: When CCR loses its memory, it loses its compass. Serve through preaching, music, and intercession. "*Let the most important thing be the most important*": the Holy Spirit and the mission. The preaching must be anointed, anchored in Scripture, and well prepared. Music should facilitate the Spirit, not perform. Intercessory prayer is listening to the Spirit, not enumerating needs.

"We are in a time of growth. Expand the space of your tent." (Isaiah 54:2)

"The charisms are not historical – they are current. God wants to act today." A wake-up call to manifest the gifts

Jean Christophe Sakiti spoke of the extraordinary charisms and gave us a wake-up call to manifest the gifts: If there are no signs, something is wrong. The gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) are for today, and they are necessary. Be accessible; God can work miracles - if we believe.

"Close the doors to the enemy. Open the doors of your heart."

Bishop Joseph Espaillet spoke of *charismatic prayer: a life of praise and worship*. He encouraged laymen to lead with authenticity: Life itself should testify. Where there are no streams of living water, it is because the water is stuck. We need a fresh flow of the Holy Spirit. Emphasized the urgency and real nature of the anointing.

Let the Holy Spirit lead: dynamically, powerfully, joyfully

Father Hayden Williams, speaking on the conference theme, *Joyful Witnesses of Hope*, gave a powerful call for evangelism and mission: Hope gives us a Spirit-filled vision. Evangelism is not voluntary; it is our identity (Evangelii Nuntiandi 14). Go where the Spirit leads—even to dark places. Evangelize with joy and give Jesus, not just material help, to the poor. Beware of focusing on internal issues – stay mission-oriented.

Summary of the conference: It was a catalyst for renewal, challenge and following the call of the Holy Spirit. Common denominators for the speeches were:

1. Return to Jesus and Scripture as the center.
2. Resurrect the charisms: prophecy, healing, tongues, discernment.
3. Remain mission-focused and outgoing.
4. Build loving, welcoming communities.
5. Let the Holy Spirit lead: dynamic, powerful, joyful.

Ecumenical Week in Stockholm 18–24 August, arranged by the Christian Council of Sweden

A whole week of seminars, church services, a public festival in Kungsträdgården, etc. [[The full program here](#)] Among other things: [[Ecumenical worship service in Storkyrkan, Stockholm on Wednesday 20 Aug at 18.00](#)]. Participation by Cardinal Anders Arborelius. (Arrive in good time!)

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/Bengt Malmgren, coordinator CHARIS Nordic