



NED Alliance Women

belong

February, 2022

Are You Going through the Motions?

Terri Groh
NED Alliance Women
Director

Going through the motions. We all do it at times. We get up, read a few choice words in our Bibles and make sure it's nothing too convicting. We pray for our needs. We might even pray for the needs of our friends.

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We go to work, smile and nod, and try to have a good attitude while ugly thoughts pass through our heads and sometimes out of our mouths.

We get up on Sunday morning and head off to church. We strike just the right pose while worshipping and listening to the preacher. We nod at the right parts and might get a useful word or two out of the message but more often than not, think critical thoughts about how he worded something or about Mary across the aisle. Then we go home and what we heard passes right out of our heads as we go through the motions all over again.

We wonder why God doesn't seem to answer our prayers or why He seems absent. We forget the fundamental truth that He doesn't want us to simply go through the motions. He doesn't want us to substitute ritual for relationship and rule-keeping for mercy.

Isaiah 58:1-8 (MSG) ~

“Shout! A full-throated shout!
Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout!
Tell my people what’s wrong with their lives,
face my family Jacob with their sins!
They’re busy, busy, busy at worship,
and love studying all about me.
To all appearances they’re a nation of right-living people—
law-abiding, God-honoring.
They ask me, ‘What’s the right thing to do?’
and love having me on their side.

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**NED ALLIANCE WOMEN
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

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Are You Going Through the Motions?—continued from page 1)

But they also complain,

‘Why do we fast and you don’t look our way?

Why do we humble ourselves and you don’t even notice?’

“This is the kind of fast day I’m after:

to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.

What I’m interested in seeing you do is:

sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on,

and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.

You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’

Does it matter to God whether we sing hymns or choruses? Sit in chairs or pews? Does it matter if we have perfect church attendance and are there every time the doors are open, yet criticize our neighbor? Does it please the Lord when we read our Bible every day just so we can say we did it, but take away nothing from the reading? If all these things don’t change us how can we point the finger at others?

Let’s work at not going through the motions. Let’s offer God our best, our truest, and our innermost being. I want to live my life so that God’s glory shines through. How about you?

Pray for our International Workers

Eikost, Mark & Kathy, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mark and Kathy Eikost

- Last month we asked for prayer for our head deaconess who had a tumor wound around her digestive tract. We are thanking God for a successful surgery which removed the tumor and a portion of her large intestine and colon. She has a follow up surgery in March and is waiting for results of the analysis of the tumor. Her doctor told her he expects she will need chemotherapy. Please join us in praising the Lord for a timely surgery and praying for complete healing for our dear sister. She is in her early 40s and her youngest is in middle school.
- We are also looking for a space to rent for public ministry in a local city where we have been ministering in homes. Having a public space would make it easier to reach a wider segment of the local population. Please pray for clear direction.

CAC Workers, K&K

We started our semester on Monday, Jan 10.

- We have started our Experience God nights this past week and will continue for the next 8 weeks. 2 of us are doing bible storying, both of us on an evangelism track, so you can pray the message gets through to our students.

- There are also 2 Discovery Bible Studies as well as our Almasira class trying to reach the majority religion. I would say we have about 30 students involved in these classes. God's Word is powerful!
- Also, there was a fire in the IDP camp and about 30 families lost all of their possessions, including their dwelling. We are working with them now to figure out what we can do for them. Thank you!

Hopkins, Walter & Laura, Tres Cantos, Spain

- We are now only SIX days from our departure date for Spain and we are entering our last week of our cross-cultural training at CIT. Thank you so much for all of your prayers for us!! Here are some things you can be praying for this week:
- Our field director will (hopefully!) be signing the contract and getting the keys to our new home in Spain on Monday, January 31. Praise the Lord! Please pray that all would go smoothly and that this will be a home that will be used as a launching pad for much ministry.
- Our home in NY is scheduled to close on Friday, February 4. Praise the Lord! Please pray for all to go well with that closing.
- We have one more week of training. Praise the Lord for a really meaningful and helpful time in these past three weeks and pray that our final week

will also be great! Pray also for good good-byes with our new friends.

- Please pray for the final logistics that we need to work out for the move. There are lots of last-minute details and we would appreciate your prayer for patience and reduced stress levels as we navigate these last few days.

Spronks, Wayne & Suzanne, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

- Suzanne has Covid, but thanks the Lord that it has not been too serious.
- Please pray for Gabonese doctors to be called to work at Bongolo and for the Lord to provide people to fill in when Dr. Wayne leaves soon for Home Assignment, followed by Dr. Renee.
- Pray that we can find a reliable vehicle in our price range or that more comes into our vehicle fund.
- Pray for our oldest son who is planning to move and look for a new job. Pray for our other three kids in college, especially Andre who has had difficulty with the transition.

2021-2022 National Project, “Belong”



NED 2021-2022 Goal—\$20,000.00

Year-to-date total—\$ 4,225.50



Pompidou Guest Home Needs

The Northeastern District Alliance Women is supporting in Libreville, Gabon, Africa. Libreville is an important city as this is where all team members entering and exiting the country travel to as a starting point. The Pompidou Guest House has many needs and we have decided to take this on as our district project.

Pompidou Guest Home Needs & 2021-2022 Goal:

Paint & Spruce up 3 upstairs bedrooms—\$1,500.00

Amount Raised to Date—\$ 460.00

Any extra that comes in over the \$1,500.00 will go towards new screens on a screened-in back porch, as well as furniture for the porch.

Short-Term Missions Scholarships Available

The District Missions Committee offers four \$250 scholarships to anyone 13 years or older interested in doing a short-term mission's trip to an international C&MA field or with a C&MA International Worker. This is a first come first serve opportunity.

If you are interested contact the Terri Groh at terrigroh@yahoo.com for an application and guidelines

HOST AN EVENT

If your church would interested in hosting a one day regional women's event, please send Terri Groh, District Director, an email at terrigroh@yahoo.com. We would love to help you organize it!

ALLIANCE
WOMEN



You Are Welcome
at the Table

**Alliance Women Spring Refresh
Friday & Saturday, April 22-23, 2022
Auburn Alliance Church
Keynote Speaker: Jen Vogel**



Jen is the national director for Alliance Women; she serves in a variety of ministry capacities, including on the President's Cabinet for The Alliance. She enjoys reading, travel, and completing the New York Times crossword puzzle daily. Jen and her husband, Doug, attend Dover Avenue Alliance Church in Orange City, Iowa.

Saturday Morning Breakout Sessions

**Connecting with our International Workers—Becky Mindek
Providing Soul Care for Women in our Local Church—Alice Lamb
Reaching Women for Christ in our Communities—TBD
Teen Breakout Session—Amy Carlson**

Worship by Auburn Alliance Church Team

Hear from our newest NED International Worker—"AB"

Shop Mercy Market Products, Coffee by Generous Roasting and Alliance Women Mugs

Retreat begins Friday at 7 p.m. and ends Saturday at 3 p.m.

Registration Materials on our website at www.nedalliancewomen.org under Spring Refresh