

**Mishkan** is a semi-annual journal dedicated to biblical and theological thinking on issues related to Jewish Evangelism, Hebrew-Christian/Messianic-Jewish identity, and Jewish-Christian relations.

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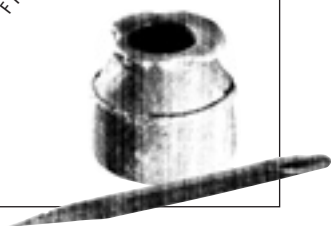
**Mishkan's** editorial policy is openly evangelical, committed to the New Testament proclamation that the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah is "to the Jew first."

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# When Pain is Part of Life

By Kai Kjær-Hansen

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



Life is not always easy. Neither is the life we live in faith trusting in the crucified and risen Messiah, Jesus.

Even when body language and facial expressions communicate suffering, many believers find it difficult to honestly say that they hurt. I'm not referring to physical pain, but pain no less genuine and debilitating. Believers have fears. Believers suffer from anxieties. The darkness of depression threatens to close out all light and life. Some suffer emotional trauma as a result of a physical disease like cancer. Others can't cope with the loss of a loved one.

Why is it so difficult for many of us to admit that there are times when life hurts – particularly the life we live as believers in Jesus? Is it because we fail to live up to a man-made image of what it means to be a good believer? Is it because in our congregations we have created a picture of a believer which no one – in real life – can live up to? Do we fail to admit that life hurts out of fear that if we do no one will trust us nor take us seriously? Are we afraid that they see us as someone in need of being delivered – from evil or even evil spirits?

As long as we remain silent about such issues our own faith is crippled and we cripple other believers who have nowhere to go and no one to talk to.

In this issue of *Mishkan* we will address the issue of the pains of life. We are glad to inform readers about different new initiatives taken within the Messianic community in Israel to break the silence and speak out.

In order to help – our hurting community ...