

November 2013



Dear friend,

The season of praise and thanksgiving is here! This month Project Hannah's prayer calendar is filled with praises and thanksgiving for God's great answers to our prayers. For some this is a difficult thing to do. The question might be: "How can I be thankful reading about child brides, rape, human trafficking and the social injustices all around me?" This is a valid question. In this work of prayer, sometimes we are tempted to doubt the power we pray to.

In times such as these, we need to choose to obey Paul's command to the Colossians: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. ... And be thankful" (Colossians 3:15). Every time we use our tongues to utter praises and gratitude for God's love, in spite the evil around us, we choose to obey and praise him anyway. In turn, God fills our words and hearts with the emotion of true gratitude as he pours out his love, thereby breaking the spirit of our unbelief. John Piper said it well: "Thanksgiving with the Mouth stirs up thankfulness in the Heart."

Hannah, the woman from whom our ministry takes its name, thanked God when there were no reasons to – only shame and pain. In thanksgiving to God, she offered back the son she asked for, even before receiving him! And when God answered, she burst out in a song of adoration. She overflowed with thanksgiving to the Holy One, who reigns over all – she humbly affirmed, "God girds the feeble with strength and raises the poor from the dust."

Over the years I have met women who irradiate Hannah's courageous gratitude and joy simply because they have experienced how God, who lives in them, is stronger than any of their enemies.

So, dear friend, join me in this thanksgiving season pouring out our love and gratitude as we continue to seek biblical justice through prayer. And as we encourage, serve, and pray for women worldwide, we know that we are not alone in this battle – for God is with us. Let's bring him our sacrifices of praise.

I want to use this opportunity to thank you especially for joining us in the 16th annual rotational season of fasting and prayer for women as we plead for God to bring them to himself.

In his love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marli Spieker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marli Spieker
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Project Hannah

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Testimonies of Lives Changed

Ghana: Grace's testimony after joining Project Hannah. "After 19 years of marriage, my husband just left me for another woman. He simply said he was no more interested in me and threw me out. But now I feel a sense of belonging, and I know I am loved by JESUS."

West Bengal, India: Purabi's testimony. "I am a homemaker and my family is extremely poor. To make ends meet, I work as a domestic helper in homes because I am not qualified (I cannot read or write). Whenever I get an opportunity, I listen to this program and also take part in the *Ashamoyee Naree (Women of Hope)* prayer fellowship. I am unable to read the word of God, but when I listen to this program, I am blessed and my faith has started growing. I even learned how to pray! Recently my daughter fell very ill and my husband wanted to take her to the witch doctor. But I protested and put my foot down because I learned from your program that witchcraft is a sin. I did not allow him to take her anywhere. I was threatened with dire consequences if my daughter's condition worsened. I agreed to the challenge thrown at me, and I fasted and prayed for the healing of my daughter. Praise God! My daughter was completely healed, and the Lord honored me in the midst of my family. Now whenever I get an opportunity, I pray for the sick, which brings so much joy to me. I need your fervent prayers for the salvation of my husband and other family members."

West Bengal, India: Suparna's testimony. "I am one of the keen listeners of the program *Ashamoyee Naree (Women of Hope)*. I am a housewife from a remote village, and I attend the local church. Though I come from a Christian family, I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus, nor did I know the Bible. In fact I followed the practices and customs of another religion. I was living a life without Jesus and since no one corrected me, I thought I was living right! My family was no different – nominal Christians to the core. But I thank God for his immense love toward us. One day my pastor introduced your program, and I started listening regularly. My life has changed, and I am blessed richly ever since. Every time I listen, I learn something new from the word of God. I have taken the step and invited Jesus into my heart and life. Today, the Lord is enabling me to share the word of God with my family. Praise God!"

Zoissa, Tanzania: We women of Project Hannah greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior. We praise God for a day when we can talk about what God has done in our lives. Through Project Hannah prayer, we have seen God moving in our lives:

- Some women and girls can now use sewing machines to make dresses.
- Many women have reconciled with God and received forgiveness from Jesus Christ.
- Other women have received physical, spiritual, and emotional healing.
- Women are now experiencing peace in their marriages, and their husbands' behaviors have completely changed.
- Through Project Hannah, many women are spiritually strong.
- Two young men of Nolini village disappeared from home for about two years; nobody knew where they were.

But we prayed, and now they have come back to their families.

"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written"

(John 21:25).