

April 2014



My dear friend,

Thank you for joining us in taking the challenge to boldly intercede for Russian and Ukrainian women this month. For 73 years, centuries of Christian influence were forgotten and suppressed under atheism's dominance. Two decades after the fall of the Soviet Union, the countries of Russia and Ukraine, along with neighbor Belarus, now hold the highest divorce rates in the world. The economy has been deeply wounded. And poverty and alcoholism are pandemic. Without God, what hope can a people hold? Many turn to religion, but it cannot transform – only Christ can. He is the sustaining hope, saving love, and transforming power we broadcast through Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* radio programs to Russian and Ukrainian listeners.

I remember walking in St. Petersburg praying for the women on the streets. Hundreds like these eventually leave Russia in search of a better life, but instead they find themselves sold and exploited. They are the slaves of the 21st century. We are reaching out to them through Project Hannah's Hidden Treasures Initiative in partnership with the European Freedom Network. Using real-life redemptive stories, this initiative will promote prevention, intervention, and, hopefully, restoration. It is a difficult, taunting task, which has sent us to our knees. A.T. Pierce said so well, "Intercession is most necessary in cases where man is powerless."

The Bible is filled with accounts of powerless men and women achieving powerful things as they prayed to the all-powerful and merciful God. Moses prayed, and the sea parted. Elijah interceded, and after three and a half years of drought, rain came down. Daniel prayed facing hungry lions – and lived. Samuel, the great prophet and judge of Israel, was the answer to the prayers of his powerless, barren mother, Hannah. The truth is that human powerlessness is the perfect match for God's unending sufficiency and power over impossibilities. No wonder Satan trembles when the weakest saint falls on her knees! He knows the power of a tiny-mustard-seed kind of faith – the key to unleashing God's transforming, redeeming power.

I pray we will take hold of this truth and intercede for our teams and radio programs. Pray for a powerful visitation of God's love over these great countries. For at the core of all societal problems, are the hearts of men and women –only God has the power to transform them. That's why we pray! That's why we ask you to keep your knees on the ground with us.

Believing in the impossible!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marli Spieker".

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Russian responses:

Ukraine: “I thank God for your [Russian *Women of Hope*] programs that are being heard here in the Ukraine and especially in our little settlement, Kolki. The reception is very good. My husband and I have four children, ages 8, 6, 5, and 2. He is a pastor in a village church with 60 members. Our children visit Sunday school, and they love Christian songs. May I ask you for children’s music, and also for the book *I Dared to Call Him Father*. I heard the announcement on the radio that you will send it. ... May God bless your ministry for Him. All the best to you.”

Central Asia: “Hi, I am praying alone. The Project Hannah prayer calendar is being given out to two groups. Each one of them is getting together once a week, a total of 13 people. I also send the calendar to my contacts. Here I find it hard to say how many. I even have a contact in Australia.”

Belarus: “Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! We have two prayer groups for Project Hannah. In one group there are elderly sisters, ages 52-58, about 11 persons. And the other group, ages 25-35, about six persons. We gather at homes on Mondays. Thank you so much for praying for our needs as well, especially regarding the registration of our church building and all the needed papers that come with it.”

Ukrainian responses:

We are sending the calendar to 26 addresses. Among them five groups that pray together. Also, in one church the Project Hannah needs are being prayed for at the church prayer meeting.

Ukraine: “I would like to thank you all for the Word of God from the Bible. My husband and I are listening. My husband is of the Orthodox faith, and I am a Baptist. We hurry up to finish work before 9 p.m. so that we can start listening. And in the program *Women of Hope* from Sept. 21, you talked about how we should lift heavy things. Our grandson is working hard, and his back is damaged. He often goes to the doctors to fix his ruptured lumbar disks. And that is painful. If you can, please send us the list with these exercises ...”

Ukraine: “I thank the Lord and you for the ministry and for your obedience to the Holy Spirit in bringing us the Word of God according to His will. The Word of God reprimands, it encourages us, it strengthens us, and it comforts us. I would like to be a doer of what I have heard and understood in your programs. Praise God, He gives strength and wisdom, and His Word is performing the work in our hearts. When I listened to your program on the budget of the family – about being satisfied, diligent, and generous – all of this was for me. I thank the Lord for reminding me about it. I feel the blessing of your program in my life when I do what the Word of God is asking me to do ”

Moldova: “I am grateful to the Lord for being a part of the prayer ministry of Project Hannah. Together – we are strong. I believe wholeheartedly that God will hear our prayers.”

Ukraine: “I am sincerely thankful to you that because of the prayer calendar I can see how great are the troubles, worries, and misfortunes of women around the world. Thanks to you, I can join many other praying women in raising my voice to God for those who happen to be in great difficulty.”