

August 2014



Dear friend,

“True prayer links itself to the will of God and runs in streams of compassion and intercession for all peoples,” someone said. When we pray, we are a bridge between God and the people we love. Through prayer we lift up countless women from many races and nationalities who share a culture of abuse, pain, and shame, and connect these sisters with the power of a compassionate God who can touch, heal, and save them. We boldly bring women suffering from harmful cultural practices such as fistula and female genital mutilation (FGM) to God. We pray for women in developing countries as well as in the West who are at risk of or already enduring devastating, debilitating, and denigrating consequences of these barbaric practices.

According to the World Health Organization, “FGM violates a person’s rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death.” My heart cringes when I read this testimony of a medical doctor working at the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa: “This beautiful patient, from the far north of Ethiopia, suffered permanent spinal damage during an obstructed labor that lasted for eight long days. Eventually her baby was stillborn. She will never walk again ...” She was probably a child bride, and her small body was not ready for pregnancy. Or it may be that her parents wanted to protect her virginity by performing FGM – a circumcision that cripples and denigrates women.

God is already at work! Our friends and faithful supporters from Norea Mediemisjon in Norway, concerned with fistula victims in Ethiopia, asked us to create a media component for their missionary work among the Ari people. So we are producing an audio drama series called Healing Voice. It will inform, educate, and effectively raise awareness of these inhumane cultural practices. Its format and content is designed especially for oral learners. Healing Voice will be placed on handheld devices and distributed along with audio Bible promises and special songs to women all over the Ethiopia.

Thank you for being that bridge between these dear women and God, who will answer our cries as we boldly and fervently pray for them.

Blessings,

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

Marli Spieker
Global Ministry Director/Founder
Project Hannah

Project Hannah

Marli Spieker, Global Ministry Director/Founder

PO Box 8700, Cary NC 27512-8700

telephone 919.460.3700 fax 919.460.3702 email mspieker@twr.org web www.projecthannah.org

Excerpts from Tanzania Report:

In May, Elizabeth and Merete from Norway; Anne and Eva from Finland; Yvonne from Ireland; and Brenda, Avril, and Ruth from South Africa traveled to visit Project Hannah ministry in six regions of Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Below are some excerpts from a few of the places they visited.

- Joyce, the Mererani Project Hannah coordinator, reported that *Women of Hope* teaches listeners how to bring up children. *Women of Hope* teaches them Bible verses and to pray, as a result of which the team has seen many families healed. In an area of 3 by 7 kilometers, the intercessors walk from house to house to pray. Doing so, they have added new members and friends who now also pray for one another. Their dream is to build a Project Hannah Center for prayer and handwork. A center of this kind would also encourage and guide women, whose health center is ineffective and insufficient because it has no medicine to dispense.
- The practices of circumcision and polygamy are still a part of the Maasai culture. Maasai men choose their future wives out of the womb. In other words, a Maasai man just “informs” a selected pregnant woman, “Your child is mine. If it is a boy, he will be my friend; if a girl, my wife.” This tribe values cows more than girls. The child bride stays with her family until she is 5 or 6, after which she moves to the husband’s house. The girls start working as soon as they can walk. If there is a school, the government tries to make the girls go there until they are 18.
- The Project Hannah meeting in one church featured over 600 participants from 12 prayer groups in and around Kiteto. Five pastors, their wives, and Bishop Chambala’s wife, Ezereda, attended, too. The magnitude of this meeting and the participants’ hunger to learn more took us by surprise. New groups kept arriving all morning. Therefore, it was decided that our team would stay a little longer than planned. And still, as we left, yet another truck full of women pulled into the churchyard.
- “Who doesn’t have Bible at home?” Everybody raised a hand!
- Project Hannah had arrived in Kiteto just eight months earlier (September 2013). They want to spread their ministry to near-by areas. There is a big need of help because of female genital mutilation, rapes, and both a lack of water and impurities in it.
- Some reported, “Unfortunately we cannot listen to *Women of Hope* due to a lack of radios.”