

January 2014



Dear friend,

Thank you for praying and fighting the Lord's battles with me! God will reward you! Good to know that we belong to the One who breaks the powers of darkness with His wonderful light! Let's pray this month for Southeast Asian women and girls who are in great need of God's hope.

I remember walking in Singapore's parks downtown on Sunday afternoons and seeing thousands of beautiful young women – mostly from the Philippines – gathered in small groups enjoying their free time. They were nannies and housemaids – some 35,000 of them! They worked hard to support their families back home. I remember how they loved to receive the CDs of Tagalog *Women of Hope* programs we distributed to them. Life was not easy, but they were thankful for a good paying job.

Many women and girls in Southeast Asia are not so lucky, though. I remember vividly a group of beautiful Indonesian veiled teenage girls I met at Manila airport. They were going to “work” in a Middle Eastern country. In spite of the language barrier, giggling like little girls, they let me take their picture. When they saw my Brazilian passport, they were ecstatic! Their leader showed me their tickets ... and the picture of the man they were going to “work” for. Some of the girls, though, had fear and sadness in their eyes – certainly that trip was not their choice.

We hugged, and I ran to catch my plane. All of a sudden it dawned on me: All the tickets were only one way! My mind started racing: Will they ever get back home? What kind of “work” will they do? In tears I prayed for God's mercy for these innocent girls, soon to be trampled over like flowers on the ground, victims of exploitation in a culture that discriminates against them simply for being born females!

Fifteen years have passed. Today many Southeast Asian women still continue to suffer a lack of dignity, of resources, and of respect. That's why Project Hannah proclaims in every possible way how amazingly precious women are to God. That's why we continue to broadcast *Women of Hope* in 10 Southeast Asian languages. There is Good News for the afflicted, liberty for the captives, and freedom for the prisoners through faith in Jesus Christ. And that's why we need to never give up praying. God will act on their behalf!

Thank you!

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

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Listeners Responses from Southeast Asia

Indonesia:

I am from Ngadum, Central Java. I have listened to the Javanese *Women of Hope* program since 2004. I listen to the program through CDs that are sent by TWR Indonesia through my church. I like the program because it gives spiritual insight for me personally. Day by day I feel that I grow in my spiritual life, especially in dealing with my family. Thank you for the lessons on how to educate children. Now I can understand more how to educate my children and how to handle my problems. Through the programs I also learn a lot about how to be a role model for my children.

I am a housewife with one little child. I was born in Kendal, Central Java, 29 years ago. I am a faithful listener of *Women of Hope*. This program gives me a lot of guidance dealing with health and the words of God. The program also encourages me to be a doer of God's word in society. I realize that to be a doer of God's word is not easy. There are many challenges that I have to face, even when people hate me. But I do not give up. I want God to continue using me to be a blessing to others. I like to listen to *Women of Hope* because it always gives new lessons. I want to bless others with my words, my action, and my behavior.

Thailand:

I listen to your program on the TWR Thailand website. Your program is very interesting with a very good message. I want to know more about Jesus. Please send a radio to me. I want to listen daily to the radio program.

I was sick 10 years ago, and since then my left arm does not work. I have felt so desperate. You came to visit me and prayed for me, and I was very encouraged. My arm is now moving a little. I'm very happy and pray for God to help me. Thank you for coming to visit and pray for me. I hope you can come again.

Vietnam:

With the *Women of Hope* program, my family has become closer, trying to learn about one another's lives and to love one another more. My husband quit smoking, and he began treating our family better. Now he is a good father, helping me a lot in taking care of the kids. In the past the neighbors hated him. Now they respect him. Seeing all the changes, I am overjoyed. Hence, every Saturday I always go to my garden to get some green tea leaves or sweet potatoes to give to sisters who come to my house to listen to the *Women of Hope* program. I give thanks to God for He has brought a huge number of nonbelievers back to Him.

We have been doing our best to bring a lot of listeners back to God. There were eight women in the group; now we have 43. We did not count the young people. Gathering in a big group in one house has put Mr. Ly in trouble with the local committee. We think that this program is very helpful for us in building up a tight bond by which we can help and encourage one another. Thanks to the *Women of Hope* program, they are changing in positive ways, avoiding doing bad things, and keeping good health and fitness. They also learned to pray for one another in everything. Thank God for all He has done for us, and thank you for your program.