

September 2015



My dear friend,

I will never forget my first visit to Zanzibar – a Tanzanian island off the coast of east Africa. We visited the only Anglican church building still standing there. Today 99 percent of Zanzibar’s population belongs to a different religion. Christians are constantly persecuted. At the altar, I saw the circle of reddish marble on the floor symbolizing the place where the slave whipping post for the island’s largest slave market used to be. It is a permanent reminder of the actual blood of innocent youth, men, and women that once stained the dusty ground. From Zanzibar, thousands of slaves were shipped around the world – but most to my native country of Brazil. The wooden cross was made from the tree beneath which the famous Dr. David Livingstone’s heart was buried. He was an ardent antislavery crusader and died on May 1, 1873, while searching for the source of the Nile.

I can’t help but notice a very beautiful, very personal thread that connects this inspiring story to what you and I do today. Seventy-two years plus a day after Dr. Livingstone’s passing, I was born in Brazil, that New World nation where so many slaves ended up. Like him, I became a missionary, and now I join you in proclaiming through Project Hannah that Jesus Christ gave his blood on the cross to free everyone who believes from the slavery of sin. A mighty river of salvation flows from his cross, defeating the power of poverty and injustice and the strongholds of this world’s “spiritual slave trader” – Satan himself!

A few months ago, I saw again the transforming power of the cross at work in all of East Africa. We went to Zoissa, a cluster of five villages in the heart of Africa. There, in this remote spot, we found 1,500 women and men praising, dancing, and singing with joy these words – “God heard the cries of the afflicted, and his grace came down to us through Project Hannah!” That’s what hope looks like, I thought to myself. Tears of joy filled our eyes as we saw hope dancing upon poverty and injustice.

Let’s pray with confidence for East African women because, I assure you, our prayers are making a difference. Women in bondage are experiencing the reality of Jesus’s statement: “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). So, let us pray without ceasing for these dear women in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and beyond. May they dance and praise and rejoice in God’s promise that “the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Believing with you,

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

Marli Spieker
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Project Hannah

Project Hannah

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Testimonies from Listeners:

Kenya:

Several ladies visited the Project Hannah office in Kenya to give thanks and share testimonies of answered prayers. One of them said that she was trusting God for her son's school fees and that, after prayer, she believed God would provide. She has been able to take her son to school. Another lady shared about her prayer group praying for one of the ladies to receive the blessing of the fruit of the womb. God graciously answered them. The woman they prayed for is expecting a baby. Project Hannah had already given the group a radio from the TWR audience department, so the members listen to the *Women of Hope* program together.

We have been able to begin two Project Hannah prayer groups in the central region of Kenya as a result of responses to the *Women of Hope* program. Many listeners from far counties, like Nandi Hills in the Rift Valley region, want to begin prayer groups in their regions, and we encouraged them to do so. But it is hard for us to participate because of the distance and financial constraints.

Listeners call us because they want to receive Jesus as their personal savior, and others rededicate their lives. During the first quarter of the year, more than 10 people, both men and women, gave their lives to Christ as a result of the live program.

Ethiopia:

B... is the mother of seven children, has prolapsed uterus and is malnourished. Her husband was addicted to alcohol and used to beat her. Since her operation, she has been able to work again to care for her children.

W... is 40 years old. She has five children and her uterus prolapsed after her second child. Her husband died, and she works hard, cleaning roads, to provide food for her children. She is waiting for an appointment for surgery.

Mrs. S... is a woman leader in her synod, and she is an active listener of our *Women of Hope* radio program. She told us that through our radio program she was encouraged to serve other women in her area. She also encourages them to listen to the *Women of Hope* radio program to learn more about God and how to help their families. The program is helpful in women's lives, guiding them about what to do and where to go when they face problems such as unemployment, financial shortfalls, and marital discord.

D... and her brother are active listeners of the *Women of Hope* Oromo radio program. **D...** is a young singer in her congregation and loves to serve God. She had no job after she finished high school and asked us to pray for her future. After we prayed for her, she received the opportunity to enter seminary to study for a B.A. in theology.

Tanzania:

A woman shared her need during a Project Hannah conference. She was trusting God to provide iron roofing sheets to build a house because she had no home. After praying at the conference, she said, a Good Samaritan gave her 30 iron sheets, enough to build her makeshift house.

We prayed for a woman whose husband neglected her and never provided for the family. She continued to pray for her husband every day. She reported that her husband now comes home daily with the money he earns and asks her to use it according to the family's needs.