

May 2016



Dear intercessor,

I've been thinking about a couple of questions lately: Why do we pray? Does prayer come easy for you?

Prayer does not come easy, and the idea of praying out loud can cause worry for many of us. However, God is so faithful to bring women together in times of difficulty and need through our Project Hannah prayer groups. Our prayer groups provide a safe place for participants to share their struggles.

One of the ladies who attended a meeting in South Africa expressed her appreciation for Project Hannah in that it encouraged her to come to the prayer group every Friday to pray with the other ladies. She shared that this has helped her in many spheres of her life and that some of her prayers have been answered.

Another Project Hannah prayer group in South Africa has been asking God to empower a new believer in the group. Mrs. S. is thanking the Lord that now she can see. She testified that she was blinded by evil spirits. She was putting her trust in her ancestors. In her heart she wanted to serve God, but she was trying to serve both God and her ancestors. Believers went to her house and prayed for her. Praise God that now she is serving the living God only!

I'm reminded today that when we look to the Bible we find many places that guide and encourage us in prayer.

- When we are afraid, prayer helps us find peace. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). "I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).
- When we are tired, prayer helps us find rest. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
- Prayer reminds us that we are not alone and God is near. "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).
- Prayer opens our eyes to the nations. "May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you" (Psalm 67:4-5).

Join us this month as we pray for our sisters in southern Africa. "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns!'" (1 Chronicles 16:31)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Banks".

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Praise the Lord for the courageous women who travel in southern Africa to invite other women to pray with us and to listen to the *Women of Hope* programs in their languages. Pray that funds will be available to support the ministries these women are working so hard to develop.

The following excerpts are taken from recent reports about visits to areas where Project Hannah is starting new prayer ministries as well as about the ongoing activities in established areas.

Swaziland:

The national coordinator for Swaziland, Khaboe, traveled with 16 women from Manzini to the Kandinda area. The visit to the women in the Kandinda area was organized by the chief.

“The chief’s wife welcomed us and was appreciative of our visit since they are in a rural area far from town. ... We had soaps, which we gave the women; and the soaps each had cards with Scripture verses. They were excited to receive these.”

Khaboe shared the Word of God, but before that she introduced Project Hannah’s ministry to the women of the area. They were so excited, especially about the idea of praying for other women worldwide. We taught about Dorcas, a woman who dedicated herself to kind and charitable acts to serve people in the community of Joppa (Acts 9:36–43). We should commit to helping others and giving to those in need. We encouraged the women to do good things and reach out to others, especially to those in need.

South Africa:

The national coordinator for South Africa, Lyn Burnett, flew to visit the Project Hannah team in the KwaZulu Natal province. The Project Hannah provincial team gave Lyn an update on the Zulu *Women of Hope* program being produced at the local TWR studio.

They also reported on some of the activities of their prayer groups and listener groups:

- The Umbumbulu group of about 20 is mostly widows with a deep desire to know and serve God.
- The Kwanyswa group gave a powerful testimony of a sangoma lady (witch doctor) who gave her life to the Lord. The power of prayer!
- The group near Valley Trust is still going. People in the group keep changing. As women get jobs and leave, new ones come along.
- The Molweni group is also mainly widows who listen to Zulu women’s programs on audio players and pray together.
- The Umlazi prayer house has three sessions of prayer every day.

While Lyn was there, she had the opportunity to travel with Zoe and Philile to meet with the Umlazi prayer group. Pastor Janet has been leading this prayer group since 1995. In the last couple of years, they have been using the Project Hannah prayer calendars and focusing on the prayer requests. They usually meet in a very dilapidated wooden shack. For Lyn’s visit they erected a tent, and there were about 20 women at the meeting. They had a wonderful time of sharing from God’s Word and spent time praying together. Their prayer meetings are held every day at 5 a.m., 10 a.m., and 6 p.m. The prayer group no longer has a meeting place, as their shack collapsed from the rain. They are praying for a new wooden hut for their prayer meetings.

Pray that more coordinators would be found for the Gauteng, KZN, and Cape Town areas. Give thanks to God for Verona, Avrille, Jay, Brenda, Eunice, Linda, Pumla, Ria, Margaret, Geraldine, and other leaders.