

hannah's heartbeat

volume 16, number 3

touching hearts, instilling hope



Connected to a Global Community

"I was traveling with my daughter when we came across a large group of women and men baking manioc [a potato-like staple in Vietnam] and listening to the Vietnamese Women of Hope radio program. My daughter and I stayed with them and listened. The lesson about the importance of our words was captivating. After it was over, everyone joined in a discussion about the program, with each of us sharing our own feelings and personal experiences. My daughter and I loved Women of Hope so much that we asked for lessons from other programs as well as for [Project Hannah] prayer calendars so that we could keep studying and praying. I am thankful God led us to this program and community of believers."

Geography and language barriers separate women around the world, leaving many isolated. Yet common desires to learn, grow, and bear each other's burdens unite women, even across literal borders. Distributed in more than 100 countries and 70 languages, Project Hannah's prayer calendar is a simple tool that connects more than 40,000 believers worldwide as they lift up the burdens of others by praying specific, daily requests.

In addition to creating a prayer community, TWR provides radios for listener groups in countries like Vietnam. Many groups simply form on their own to share radios and the learning experience of hearing God's Word. On behalf of each one connected to God and the global community of believers through TWR's transmitters and programs like *Women of Hope*, thank you for being a part of this worldwide faith family through your prayers and financial support.

Daughter of a Heavenly Father

Sharma's father would come home drunk and angry. Without reason, fights would break out between him and her mother. His treatment of Sharma and her siblings was no better. He was always sour and would provoke everyone to tears.

Sharma had been raised to worship and trust in idols to provide all she needed. Yet her Hindu family was always depressed. None of those idols helped free her from the pain that stemmed from her father's behavior. As she grew up, hurt and pain filled her heart because of him. "All men are just like my father," Sharma thought, and she decided to live a life alone.

At first, life unmarried and on her own was good. But as time passed, people started encouraging her to marry, and the inevitable thoughts of nobody loving or caring for her once she grew old crossed her mind. Soon, depression and poor health set in because of her worries.

In the midst of her pain, Sharma heard *Nari Asha* [the Nepali *Women of Hope* radio program]. She wrote, "The episode shared how birds do not sow, reap, or store but the Heavenly Father feeds them. It told how we are far more valuable than birds. God will care for our needs, too, so we need to trust in Him. I came to understand that God is perfect in all He does,



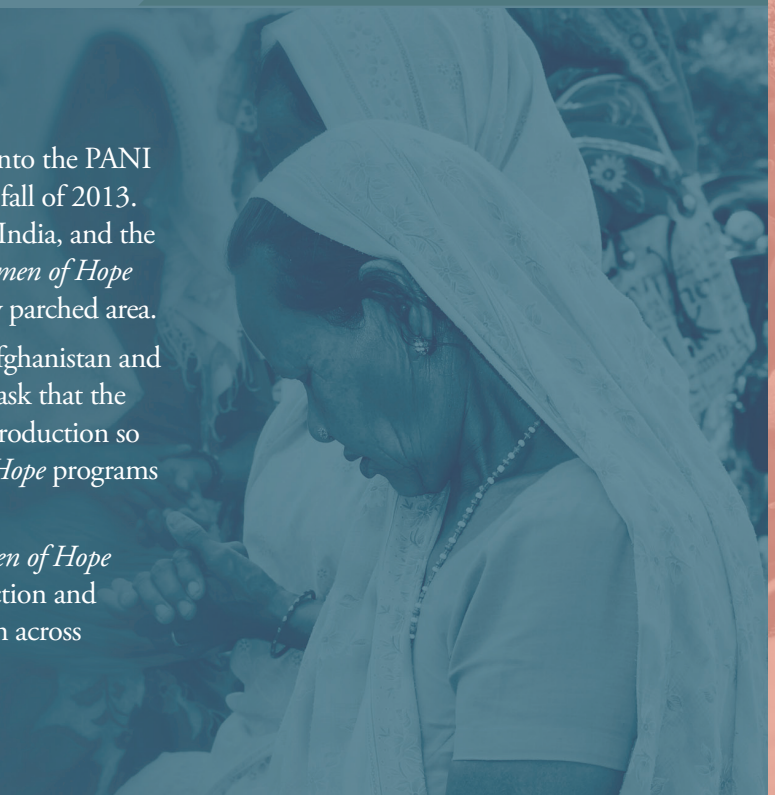
even when we cannot understand Him. That lesson touched my heart. I started to attend a nearby church, and my life changed."

Today, Sharma is 38 years old and unmarried, but she is happy with her life. Many women around the world like Sharma have been through, or remain in, painful circumstances. But it is for women like this that Project Hannah created its *Women of Hope* program. And, through the more than 60 languages broadcast during the 15 years that *Women of Hope* has been on the air, many women are hearing of God's redeeming love and placing their hope in Christ regardless of their circumstances.

Read more stories of changed lives in Nepal at projecthannah.org/nepal.

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Praise God with us that the last hurdles for TWR to broadcast into the PANI region were overcome so that programs can go on the air in the fall of 2013. The PANI area is made up of Pakistan, Afghanistan and North India, and the Hindi word "pani" means water. These new broadcasts, like *Women of Hope Dari*, will bring the living water of God's word to this spiritually parched area.
- Pray for *Women of Hope* production in Dari to the women of Afghanistan and beyond. Pray for safety for those working on the programs and ask that the scripts would first be a blessing to those doing translation and production so that the Dari speakers may also be blessed when the *Women of Hope* programs go on the air.
- Give thanks that donors in the U.S. funded the launch of *Women of Hope Dari* and ask God for ongoing annual sponsorship of all production and airing costs so that the program can reach Dari-speaking women across Afghanistan with the hope of the gospel.



LISTENERS *Respond*

"Do not worry about the fact that you cannot see your [Women of Hope] listeners. Just know that your ministry is not in vain before the Lord. I pray for all the staff ..." **Mrs. S.I., Ukraine**

"Hi, I enjoy listening to your [Women of Hope] program. How can I hear the programs that aired earlier? I'm so touched that there is a program for women. Thank you so much!"

33-year-old non-Christian woman, Turkey

"The program Hope for You [Arabic Women of Hope] is like a well in the desert for the thirsty women in our Arab region. I listen to the broadcast every Saturday, and many women in my church listen to the program, too. We want many women to know about [Arabic Women of Hope]. We believe its impact will be big and will last through the years." **Listener in Lebanon**

Reborn: From Bitterness to Best Friends

Forced by her parents to marry a much older man when she was still very young, Rehema grew up bitter with him and her parents. Thinking it might ease the ache of her broken heart, she determined to treat her husband rudely. But worse, she offered herself to other men of her own choosing and started drinking, but nothing filled the void in her heart. Like too many women in her country of Kenya, Rehema thought of herself as a wretch who had to endure living until she reached the grave.

One day, a lady in a Kenyan Project Hannah prayer group took pity on Rehema. The lady reached out to Rehema and spoke hope to her weary soul. Today, Rehema is a woman and wife of noble character. She is now glad to call the man she loathed being married to for so many years her husband and best friend. They both attend church and Rehema is hopeful that he will come to know God, too. Rehema's testimony is proof that true freedom and saving grace are only in Jesus. "Thank you, Project Hannah. God had created me anew!"

Through its global prayer movement and the radio programming it supports, Project Hannah is rescuing brokenhearted women like Rehema and bringing them into faith families through a relationship with their Heavenly Father. Visit projecthannah.org to read more stories of women just like Rehema. And if you're not already praying

with us, sign up to join us at projecthannah.org/epayer. Millions of women are ensnared by many evils. Often, they suffer in silence. But you can speak up on their behalf by committing to pray one request every day.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9



The three articles in this Hannah's Heartbeat newsletter spotlighting Project Hannah in Vietnam, Nepal and Kenya were written by our summer intern, Melissa Norris. Visit twr.org/serve to learn more about (short- and long-term) opportunities for you or people you know to serve with TWR.



Tiny Ripples of Hope the Power Within

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

God gave women a gift that transcends generations – the power of influence. And we can never tell where our influence stops, can we? Julie Staveland, a Norwegian missionary to Brazil, after preaching on a street, led my spiritist grandmother to Jesus. This faithful missionary lived 100 years and saw her godly influence passed from generation to generation and eventually result in Project Hannah's ministry to women in 124 countries!

I met Bibi (Mama) Marge in a remote Tanzanian village deep in the heart of Africa. She couldn't speak English, but she spoke volumes through the broad smile that stretched across her leathery face, the result of years of working hard under the hot African sun. I will never forget – she burst into prayer thanking God for sending us her way. For Bibi, prayer was like breathing. Raised in extreme poverty, at 16 she gave birth to the first of her 14 children. Five died as a result of harmful cultural practices and witchcraft. When her 10th baby came, they moved away to save her son's life. At 60, she met Christ and became a prayer warrior, a strong voice of encouragement to women in the village.

I sat at her little tin-roof house looking at that uneducated, great "influencer." Her 10th son is Dr. Emmanuel D. Mbennah, TWR's international director for Africa. A leader and Bible and communication scholar, Dr. Mbennah writes: "My mom may not have preached a sermon or been able to read Scriptures, but she covered us all, especially me, with prayers. Her love for all people, her warmth, her sacrificial generosity, and great motherly stature will be a composite legacy without end." Bibi Marge's favorite song in her Cigogo language was "Jesus, Jesus, Lord where are you? You promised to come in the clouds – come quickly!" This past summer, she went home to be with Him. Through her son and daughter-in-law, Ruth, both of them regional leaders for TWR and Project Hannah, her influence is touching the entire continent of Africa!

It is all about "who we are" and not "what we have," isn't it? Man thinks that influence equals position, knowledge, and power. Not God. He "has chosen the foolish things of this world to shame the wise ..." (1 Corinthians 1:27.) No one is too lost, too poor, or too weak. Our weakness is the perfect channel for his sufficiency and power!

Bobby Kennedy's words ring true: "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. ... Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and ... those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Will you use your influence by praying with, giving to, and getting involved in what Project Hannah does globally? Have you sent forth your tiny ripple of hope yet?



MISSION STATEMENT

Project Hannah's purpose is:

- to raise awareness of and empathy for the plight of women worldwide.
- to pray for women who are being abused emotionally, physically or spiritually.
- to broadcast the gospel of Jesus Christ to women around the world, encouraging them to:
 - experience God's love, freedom and power as they face life's daily challenges.
 - embrace their God-given destiny and glorious inheritance in Christ Jesus, whatever their cultural, social or economic situation.
 - pass on to their children a legacy of faith, wisdom and godly character.

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