

# Hannah's Heartbeat

volume 17, number 1

touching hearts, instilling hope



## Come Over & Help Us

Everywhere in the Arab world, women are crying, “Come over to us and help us” (see Acts 16:9).

For two years, TWR has given Arab women the help they need most through Project Hannah and its *Women of Hope* program. Generous donations from across the U.S. provided for training in 2011, production and airing costs leading to the January 2012 launch, and then for expansion to a second transmitter in 2013, ensuring that women in 22 countries can be reached.

If your impression of the average Arab woman is someone who feels shame and faces rejection, the Arabic *Women of Hope* producer says you are correct. Though many are well-educated, the vast majority of Arab women are in desperate need of hope. Unstable conditions over the past several years only made life worse for Arab women. Thousands are losing their husbands, sons, and daughters in war. They're leaving their homes for life in tents in a strange country. They are being raped. Some in refugee camps are even

resorting to marrying off their young daughters for money.

Each day, TWR broadcasts several hours of gospel messages in Arabic, and the women of the Middle East need radio. TV does not work as well for most of them. Radio is safe, cheap, and private. Many women write to TWR telling how they listen to *Women of Hope* and other broadcasts: in the bathroom or by putting a receiver under their pillow before they sleep. ***If anyone tells you radio is outdated, tell them, “No, it’s not.”***

Project Hannah's global prayer movement of more than 40,000 intercessors includes Arab women and undergirds the Arabic *Women of Hope* broadcasts. The Arabic prayer ministry started with only 10 women in July 2011. By the end of 2013, it included more than 500 Arabic women from across more than five Middle Eastern countries. Though it would not be unusual to see that kind of participation in many other countries where prayer ministries are active, it is a surprisingly large number for the Middle East. *[Continued on page 2]*

*[From Page 1]* Why did Project Hannah start with a prayer ministry in 1997, and why is it so strong across the Middle East today? Because we pray to Jehovah in the name of our Savior, Jesus. We pray to a God who listens, not to a stone god with ears that cannot hear. So our prayers can move mountains, and this gives people hope.

TWR receives many testimonies about the good effects of the Arabic prayer ministry. The Arabic prayer coordinator herself shares, *“I am deeply encouraged to pray for my sisters worldwide. I feel sad when I see the great need. But at the same time, I’m happy to know that my God is a mighty God to save. Women need each other in prayer more than anything else because prayer can take them through things even having money cannot fix. Women worldwide are troubled, confused, bewildered, depressed, and oppressed, but God will hear our cries when we stand in the gap*

*on their behalf. God will come to rescue them from the power of the enemy because He cares. Prayer will change their situations and open doors for them. They will feel loved and not alone in this world. God will hold them, He will be with them. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul encourages us that our work is not in vain. God promises that our labor and prayer, our sweat and tears, are not useless or wasted or in vain but will fulfill His purpose and bring Him glory. When we pray for others, we leave a legacy for future generations to follow. So keep up the good work, even if we don’t see results [with our own eyes]. We can be assured that God is working everywhere. The Lord is doing His will, and He is looking for someone to stand in the gap [in prayer].”*

**Adapted from presentations given by two Arab women who serve in Project Hannah’s Arabic ministry.**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 NIV

## PRAYER & PRAISE

- Ask that the women producing *Women of Hope* Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Kurdish Sorani (Iraq), Pashto, Somali, and Turkish would grow daily in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Pray for physical and spiritual safety for these teams.
- Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of those in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and North India who are able to hear programs from TWR’s new PANI signal. Pray especially for Dari and Pashto *Women of Hope* listeners.
- Praise God for his provision of people and funding to reach women with the gospel through Project Hannah for the past 16 years. Ask for God’s continued provision, especially for more people to join the prayer movement.

# AFGHANISTAN

*Taking the world's ONLY HOPE to the world's worst place to be born a woman*



- The great majority of Afghanistan's population lacks access to safe water or sanitation. Diarrheal diseases and tuberculosis are chronic threats to public health.
- Three and a half decades of war have devastated Afghanistan and its medical infrastructure, and the nation's health challenges are most serious for its women and children.
- A UNICEF and CDC study found that when an Afghan mother of a newborn infant dies, the child has only one chance in four of surviving until its first birthday.
- A UNICEF study found Afghan women suffered from one of the highest levels of maternal mortality in the world. Despite great efforts, the numbers overall show little change.
- In homes where wives had died during childbirth, literacy rates for both the husband and the wife were particularly low.
- Less than 30 percent of the adult population of Afghanistan is literate (43 percent of men and just over 12 percent of women).

How will the Afghan people, particularly the women, hear the truth of the gospel, finding strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow? TWR's new powerful PANI transmitter will soon be on the air! After years of faithful praying and fundraising, AM broadcasts to Pakistan, Afghanistan and North India (PANI) are ready to begin. Because of generous giving from across the U.S. in 2013, one of the first programs on the air in 2014 will be *Women of Hope* in the Dari language. And because of a generous provision in the final days of 2013, *Women of Hope* Pashto will soon follow!

AM receivers are cheap and very common in the region. One survey indicated that 40 percent of the Afghan people listen at least once a week to programs on AM radio. Pray with us for the teams producing Dari and Pashto *Women of Hope* programs and for a work of grace in the heart of each woman who will hear the programs.

**Learn more at [projecthannah.org/afghan](http://projecthannah.org/afghan)**





# LIGHT THE DARKNESS: *The Call Continues*

*by Marli Spieker  
Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director*

I was shopping that day in Singapore when the automatic door swung open and a couple walked in. The woman was dressed in black from head to toe, with only a little peephole for her eyes. I imagined how she must feel under her black burka in Singapore’s suffocating heat and humidity. I cried out, “God! How can this be?”

But I sensed God asking me, “Did you see that black veil? It is not only clothing over her head. A veil is over her mind, her heart, her family, her spirit — her whole life! This woman lives in darkness!”

I answered, “Lord, whatever You want me to do to bring her into Your light I will do it!” That’s when Project Hannah was born. I knew the power of radio. Its waves can go where missionaries can’t! It penetrates any barrier, whether geographical, political, ideological, or religious.

For countless women, the world is still a dark and dangerous place. Traveling the world, I have seen broken women producing broken children who grow into broken adults who produce broken societies! The spiritual darkness in which these women live is even greater than their physical plight. Worldwide, women disproportionately number among the least valued, the least fed, the least educated and certainly the least reached with the gospel.

From the beginning I knew that women’s suffering is not just a problem of gender or culture or economics; it is a deeply rooted spiritual problem that can be dealt with only through spiritual means. I knew that the only way to go about releasing women from darkness was through prayer — corporate, informed, earnest prayer! I never imagined that God would take my small prayer group of 12 Chinese women in Singapore and turn it into a massive international prayer movement of more than 40,000 praying in more than 70 languages in more than 120 countries! Together, we use a simple but powerful prayer calendar to storm the gates of hell on behalf of hurting women. Each month we focus on one country or people group, or on an issue of special significance to women – for example, the effects of war, domestic violence, poverty, women prison inmates, illiteracy, or physical and spiritual bondage.

I believe you are reading this now because God wants to challenge you anew with the importance of prayer. To our faithful Project Hannah intercessors, will you continue with us? If you are new to Project Hannah, will you give a couple of minutes a day to stand in the gap and pray for women in your community and around the world? The work of sharing the gospel with women – who, by the way, make up more than half the world’s population – is far from done. But our God is more than able! I pray you’ll join Him as I did. Believe me; it will take your breath away!



## 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.

## CONNECT WITH PROJECT HANNAH®

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