

# Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope

A ministry of Trans World Radio's Project Hannah

## Hope DAWNS IN WEST AFRICA

Millions of women and girls living throughout West Africa face seemingly hopeless circumstances: unimaginable poverty, inadequate education, insufficient food and daily backbreaking labor, just to name a few. But soon, Project Hannah (PH) will have a wonderful opportunity to shine the light of Christ's hope into their lives.

This spring, Trans World Radio will begin broadcasting throughout West Africa from its new 100,000-watt AM transmitter in Benin. Because of the sponsorship of TWR-Canada, PH is privileged that a French version of its popular *Women of Hope* (WoH) program will be one of the initial broadcasts aired from this facility. Though West African countries have speakers of other local languages, French is the official language in many.

Last fall, PH Africa Coordinator Helena Silvano visited Côte d'Ivoire in preparation for the broadcasts to begin this year. She met with TWR's West Africa director, Abdoulaye Sangho, African French WoH producer Macy Domingo and several local prayer group coordinators.

"God has blessed PH by providing the ministry with capable, enthusiastic and committed people," says Helena, adding that Macy is an international professional radio and television producer with more than 20 years of experience. "I was amazed to see and hear about the preliminary work already done to promote PH and recruit the team."

Macy is excited to see how God will use her and the abilities He has given her in this new venture. "Since I gave my life to the Lord in 1993, I understood that during the past years the Lord prepared me for radio and television ministry for His great glory," says Macy. "Project Hannah reinforced and confirmed this conviction to me."

### *Potential Broadcast Coverage*

Where in West Africa can French *Women of Hope* broadcasts be heard?

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Senegal
- Togo



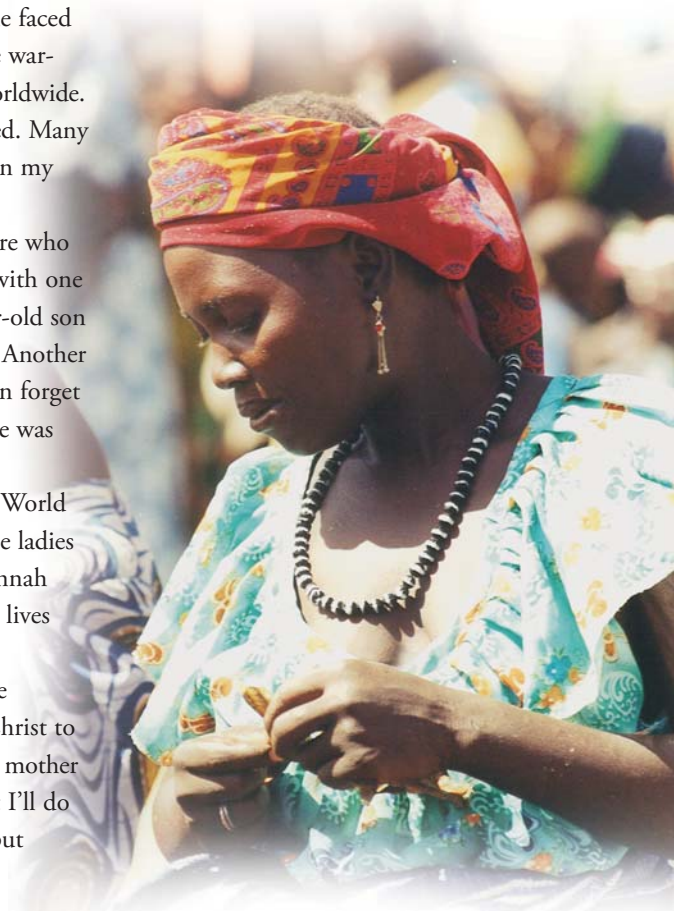
## The Purpose in Prayer

Helena Silvano, Project Hannah Africa coordinator, shared some of the struggles she faced in the early days of the ministry in Angola several years ago. Initially, women in the war-torn country were reluctant to join PH's prayer movement for the need of women worldwide. But after encouraging several to participate, Helena discovered their response changed. Many women testified: "I've learned to bring everything to the Lord. I've found purpose in my prayer life!"

Project Hannah now also has prayer partners in Mozambique and Cote D'Ivoire who not only pray for women around the world, but who share their personal burdens with one another as well. One unmarried Mozambican woman sought prayer for her 14-year-old son who steals from her and has already fathered two children, but does not want them. Another claimed an answer to prayer when her children, who work in South Africa and often forget about her, sent money home. Since her husband does not maintain a steady job, she was thankful for the income.

"[I now] know how to pray for the women of Africa in a new way," says Trans World Radio missionary Debbie Blosser after a visit to Mozambique last fall. "Meeting these ladies showed me some of the difficulties and issues they face on a daily basis. Project Hannah prayer groups have given these women hope and encouragement as they share their lives with one another and pray for one another."

Prayer partners in Cote D'Ivoire are also intent on pouring themselves into one another. A high school music teacher said: "I desire to help my younger sisters in Christ to trust the Lord and prevent them from making the same mistakes I made." Another, a mother with three children, added: "I want the will of God to be fulfilled in my life so that I'll do what He asks me to do—fulfill the Great Commission. I want my sisters to really put themselves in the Lord's hands, where they really belong."



## KINGDOM BUILDING *Passion*

Deeply entrenched in tradition, the people of northern Mozambique, Africa, are surrounded by animistic and non-Christian influences. While other parts of the country have been historically Protestant or Catholic, this section has remained antagonistic to the message of Jesus. Adding to the difficulty is a high illiteracy rate. These people, especially the women who often receive less education than the men, must learn the Gospel by hearing, or may never learn it at all.

They number over five million souls, making them the largest people group in Mozambique, but broadcasts in the country

have, historically, not been in their language. They are the Makhuwa people. It is TWR's passion to speak to individuals in their heart language, so a program was created two years ago, to reach the people of Mozambique in the Makhuwa language. While it is not a Project Hannah program, it provides an excellent foundation. God has demonstrated amazing work, as more than 400 churches have been organized as a result of this program. Seeing how effective broadcasts in Makhuwa have been, it is our desire to make a Makhuwa version of Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* program.

*Thank you for joining with Project Hannah (PH) through prayer. Since God began PH with a season of prayer and fasting, He has continued to use the prayers of His people to mobilize workers and the work for His Kingdom through PH and Women of Hope. Whether you are reading about us for the first time or have prayed with us faithfully for the past decade, please join with us now in asking God for the people and financial resources, not only to launch WoH in Makhuwa, but to cover the first two years of air time to these precious women in Mozambique.*

## *Prayer* & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord with us that He uses Project Hannah's ministry of prayer and radio to reach out to those who live a long distance from a church and to those in prison who desire to know Him more intimately. "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3).
- Give thanks that one of our European partners expanded their financial support for PH. They will be sponsoring *Women of Hope* Bengali for India. Please pray that production will go smoothly so these women will soon hear of God's love and care for them.
- Please pray concerning the preparation for a *Women of Hope* Producers' Conference to be held in Europe this year. Ask that the time would be a blessing for the producers and those leading the conference.
- Please pray for young girls who have been forced to marry much older men and are many times abused by these men and their other wives. Pray that these girls would be released from this bondage and find freedom and dignity through Christ Jesus.

## FOLDED HANDS, UNFOLDED *Hearts*

Five years after Project Hannah established its outreach in war-torn Angola, its prayer ministry continues to flourish. More than 2,600 attend 166 prayer groups in nearly a dozen cities throughout the country. Some men and youth also participate. "The mothers say, 'We need to teach our young people [starting] now that prayer is important,'" says PH Africa Coordinator Helena Silvano.

From these PH prayer groups in Angola, outreaches to prisoners, orphans and hospital patients have blossomed. The *Women of Hope* programs and personal on-the-ground ministry are introducing the light of Christ's hope to many living in darkness. "I never thought the handcuffs would give me the opportunity to set free my soul," says one inmate. "My life in prison [has become] abundant." Women from the PH cells visit prayer groups in the prison and help provide fabric and training in needlework to female

inmates in need of a source of income. They also supply food, clothes and toys to children in orphanages and provide entertainment through storytelling.

Angolan PH volunteers also pray with hospital patients and distribute food, toiletries and linens to them as part of a patient adoption program. "Because of the war, hospitals do not provide these for the patients—not even meals. The family has to take them to the patient," says Helena. Project Hannah prayer partners tangibly demonstrate God's love by providing such necessities to patients who have no family or friends to care for them while they are in the hospital.

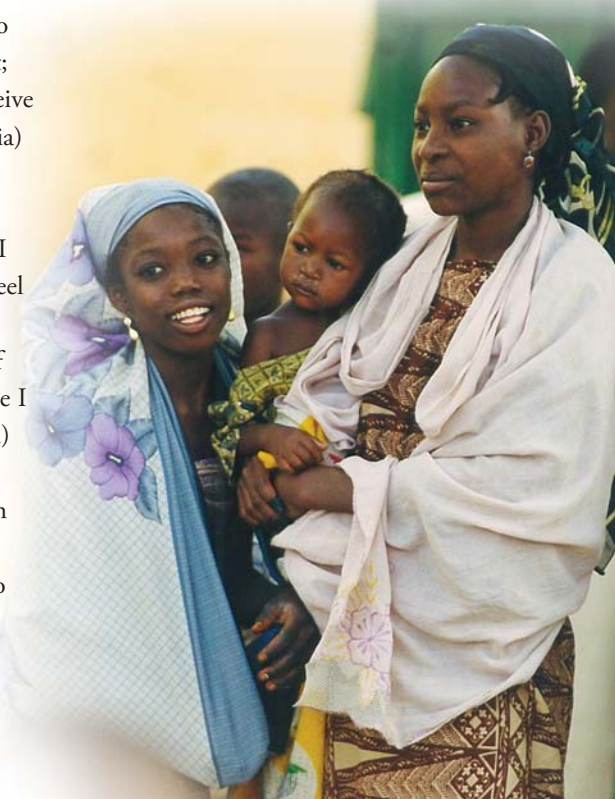
Through PH, Helena says, African women "grow spiritually and take part in the expansion of the ministry by feeding the hungry, comforting the sick and dying. [They are] being Jesus in the flesh."

## LISTENERS RESPOND

"I am a regular listener of your program *Asha Bhari Nariyan*. It keeps me glued to the radio. Your messages touch my heart; thank you for all the blessings that I receive through this wonderful broadcast." (India)

"I've been listening to you for a month now and love it! I'm a new believer and I do not know the Bible very well, but I feel a great joy to hear and see what you are doing. I pray for the suffering women of this world, for I was one of them because I did not know the Word of God." (Brazil)

"I gain a lot of spiritual strength through the Bible taught by your programs. The whole family gathers around the radio to listen, and I receive the light of God's Word by spiritual eyes even though my physical eyes are poor." (Myanmar)





# AFRICA *Needs Jesus*

by Marli Spieker,  
Project Hannah awareness advocate and founder



## 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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AUSTRIA

TWR's African director Stephen Boakye-Yiadom's strong voice has been echoing for decades: "AFRICA NEEDS JESUS!"

But, is anybody listening?

Although Africa's resourceful, beautiful, and delightful people are known for putting relationships above everything else, its families—the very core unit for nurturing those prized relationships—are degenerating. And the home—the very center for family life—has become the most dangerous place for African women to live. Africa needs Jesus not only to heal its families but also to heal the very soul of its societies and cultures which exalt the value of relationships even as they demean the majority of its people—women. And since the root of the problem is sin, not society, Africa needs Jesus!

Africa needs Jesus to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" (Malachi 4:6) so that no girl will be sold into sex slavery, mutilated, or valued for how many cows she will earn her father on her wedding day.

Africa needs Jesus to deliver women who have been the historical site of incest, violence, and exploitation and who have been kept as perpetual minors.

Africa needs Jesus to change the minds of most men—and many women—who agree that, "a man has a right to beat any woman when she 'gets out of line'."

Africa needs Jesus to free women from oppressive cultural practices, witchcraft, and demonic religious rituals, saving them from living in hell here and certainly from living in hell for eternity.

Africa needs Jesus to "heal the broken-hearted and comfort those who mourn." Millions have been decimated by AIDS, war, and starvation—the majority being women and children.

But Africa also needs Jesus to awaken His Church, causing a sense of moral outrage and sincere spiritual concern for the hurting as well as the lost. This battle must be fought on our knees. It will tip the scales of history, bringing about joy and salvation. God-empowered prayer can push back the forces of darkness, storm hell's gates, demolish oppressive spiritual strongholds, and bring the peoples of Africa into the kingdom of light.

We've seen Jesus in flesh and skin through the dedicated work of Project Hannah's (PH) Africa team. We've seen the miracles in answer to their vibrant PH prayer movement, effective radio programs, and compassionate mercy ministries—to prisoners, to those in hospitals, to orphans and to so many more! We've seen broken relationships and whole families healed! African women, even hundreds in an Angolan women's prison, are learning how to raise children in His ways, how to forgive their oppressors, how to pray, and most importantly how much God values them and wants them to be His daughters . . . now, that's powerful!

As we pray, Jesus is healing Africa's wounded soul. He's fighting the battle for us and for them (2 Chron. 20:15), rescuing the broken-hearted and giving them "beauty for ashes."

Africa needs Jesus, but Africa needs you and I to introduce Jesus to millions of women as we carry His gospel on the wings of our prayers and sacrificial giving. Africa needs Jesus; but are we listening?