



Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope

SAVING BABY HANNAH

“Project Hannah is God’s answer to prayer for many in Africa,” says Macy Domingo, *Women of Hope* (WoH) producer for Ivory Coast. The African French WoH program began airing on local stations in summer 2007, as well as from TWR’s new transmitter in Benin earlier this year. “God is doing so much healing and restoration,” she adds.

During one of the first prayer groups in the country, the monthly prayer calendar topic was on abortion. Women gathered weekly for one hour to worship and pray, and many often invited neighbors and friends. One woman who attended the meeting said: “Thank you so much for inviting me. I’m a Christian, but life was so tough.” She continued to share that she had gotten pregnant, but because her home life was so hard, she was not going to keep the baby. A friend gave her money to get medicine to induce an abortion and she tried it. But nothing happened.

“I was planning to go tomorrow [and get more medicine] and you just invited me today,” she said. “I heard the will of God and decided not to do that again. Thank you so much for saving my life. I will keep the baby and trust God to help us.” Today, they call her child “Baby Hannah.”

The Ivory Coast ministry is one of several PH African outreaches. *Women of Hope* also airs in Angola, Mozambique and Liberia. Because of the decades of civil war in Angola and Liberia, basics such as running water, proper sanitation and electricity are nearly nonexistent. Medical assistance and schooling for children are for the privileged few. Life often is challenging, but praise God that women and families in these impoverished nations are discovering new hope in Christ through Project Hannah. “Thank the Lord for blessing us with PH and the *Women of Hope* program,” a listener from Angola wrote. “Now I know where to direct my problems, needs, afflictions and difficulties. Because of that, I am strengthened daily.”

Reaching Women in East Africa

Beginning this year, women in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania will have the opportunity to hear Project Hannah’s message of hope. According to the World Health Organization, many women in East Africa face great health challenges. The maternal death rate in the country is among the highest in the world. Since 35 percent of Ethiopian women are illiterate, radio is an ideal way to reach them with necessary information about health and other issues.

TWR’s Norwegian partner, Norea Media Mission, already has been involved with PH since 2002, translating and distributing the monthly prayer calendar to 500 Norwegians and supporting *Women of Hope* (WoH) programs in Cambodia, Albania and Central Asia. Norea is currently working with TWR to broadcast *Women of Hope* in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. Since many in rural southern Ethiopia do not own radios, PH and Norea also would like to make a difference by distributing MegaVoices. These digital audio players are inexpensive and can be both solar and battery powered. Through MegaVoices, WoH programs and other important messages (such as from a local hospital) can be heard even in rural areas.

A Passion to Serve

by Kristina Valentova

“Statistics say that every sixth woman in Slovakia is abused, mainly [because of] domestic violence,” says Lubomir Vyhnanek, director of Radio 7 Slovakia. “Many times this form of violence is hidden, and that’s the reason we want to help, so that abused women won’t be afraid to talk about their traumas and will look for a way out of their situation. We want them to know that through the gospel they can get to a new place of spiritual freedom.”

In November 2007, Radio 7 Slovakia began weekly, 40-minute broadcasts of *Women of Hope* in the Slovak language. Behind this program is the creative team of Slovak women led by producer Lenka Zustiaková. Lenka was 11 when she committed her life to the Lord and dreamed of becoming a missionary. Her father, a Baptist pastor, was persecuted because of his faith on many occasions. “During the Communist regime in our country, we were active in our church. Once I was taken to the police station because they found a Bible in my purse,” she says. “It wasn’t pleasant, but I trusted the Lord.”

Lenka studied journalism and has been writing for several years. When she was 23, she married a young doctor, who also



Slovak *Women of Hope* Producer Lenka Zustiaková

became an evangelist and pastor. Together with her husband and three children, Lenka serves the Lord.

“Ministering to women is my biggest passion,” she says. “When I was given the opportunity by Radio 7 to prepare programs for women, my heart rejoiced.

“Ever since we started to air *Women of Hope*, we have received feedback from Slovak women expressing their thankfulness,” adds Lenka, who hosts the broadcasts with her colleague Gabika. “They find it up-to-date and helpful for their daily lives. It is encouraging for me to know that, and gives me motivation for the upcoming programs that we are producing.”

Kristina Valentova is a journalist for TWR-Europe. She lives in Slovakia.

Because You Gave

Through *Women of Hope* (WoH), Project Hannah touches countless women worldwide in more than 45 languages. The cost to produce and air the broadcasts averages \$15 per minute—truly a “minute of hope” to needy, isolated women trapped in desperate circumstances. Your financial and prayer support enables PH to minister to women across the globe. Here are several updates from the last year.

- In February 2007, Project Hannah asked for your prayers and support for the African ministry, and God has answered! In addition to launching the French African ministry, Portuguese production in Mozambique joined the fruitful Angolan Portuguese work. And *Women of Hope* in Makhuwa began airing in February 2008. TWR-Canada has committed to increase its ongoing support of these PH African ministries.

- Your donations enabled PH Founder Marli Spieker to travel to Bulgaria in early 2007 for an extensive training week with several new and potential European teams. New programming currently is being produced or aired in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania.
- Vital ministries in Asia, such as in Vietnamese and Burmese, continue to flourish because of your prayers and gifts.
- A Central Asian Russian (CARS) WoH began airing in January 2007, joining five other languages in the region. Praise God that most of these six programs are fully funded by donations from TWR European partners and individuals like you, enabling Central Asian women to hear of Christ’s hope—perhaps for the first time.

Prayer & PRAISE

- Pray for wisdom for PH Founder Marli Spieker as she meets with TWR leadership concerning opportunities to air new versions of *Women of Hope* (WoH) in Europe, Africa and Asia. Uplift her as she travels to provide training to new production teams and prayer groups.
- Uplift Christians who depend on radio programs for fellowship, growth and encouragement because they live long distances from a church or other believers. Pray also for nonbelievers to find the message of hope in their heart language when they listen to these programs.
- Praise the Lord for continued opportunities for WoH to reach more women and help them experience God's great love for them and their families. *Women of Hope* now airs in more than 45 languages, with the recent additions of Malayalam (India) and Makhuwa (Mozambique).
- Praise the Lord for women and men who are listening to Spanish, Hindi, Tamil and other WoH programs on the Internet, no matter where they live. Give thanks that German listeners can hear programs on their phones when they call language-specific phone numbers.

From Despair to Hope



In a country where women are still subject to cultural discrimination and violence, and female babies are killed or abandoned in preference for males, Project Hannah is God's agent of change to transform the lives of many Indian women from despair to hope. Two years ago, Project Hannah initiated *Women of Hope* (WoH) programming in Hindi; today the broadcast airs in seven major Indian languages thanks to funding by TWR European partners and donations from PH supporters.

The programs air over various broadcast outlets, including shortwave, medium wave (AM) and local FM stations, as well as via Internet and CDs and cassettes. The Project Hannah team in India also often visits listeners and churches and hosts conferences and listener rallies, on-the-ground ministries that strengthen the program's impact.

Project Hannah recently received a letter from a handicapped Indian listener. She and her husband have two children. She wrote and said that every evening, she dreaded her husband coming back home because

he was violent against her and she had nowhere to turn. She even considered ending her life because she felt so hopeless.

One night, thinking she was going to commit suicide, she listened to music while waiting for the household to settle down. She chanced upon listening to *Women of Hope* in her language. The minute she heard it, she told PH, she felt something tug at her heart. She couldn't explain what happened, but she dropped the idea of ending her life, and listened to the program again the next week, and the week after. She committed her life to the Lord, started praying for her husband, and today he is also a believer. In her letter, she said she no longer dreads her husband coming home, and that God has transformed their family.

"Despite improvements for many women living in India, it is still common for those living in rural areas to believe that domestic violence is something they deserve to receive," says TWR-India CEO Vinita Shaw. "Praise God that through *Women of Hope*, He is teaching women and men that this is not truth."

Listeners Respond

"Your programs change me spiritually. Jesus said: 'You are the light of the world,' and I believe that you and your broadcasts are this light for those who strive to know the truth of God." (Ukraine)

"I like listening to your programs because I get insight into many things which equip me

as a mother and wife. Your broadcasts also bring me closer to my Lord so I can handle the temptation which often comes to my life." (Indonesia)

"I am 49 years old and live in a rural area. I feel so encouraged because you transmit hope, joy and peace through your

program. I encourage you to continue forward and that your ministry be one of encouragement and spiritual healing for all women who, like me, need it so much." (Paraguay)

Destination: Hope

by Marli Spieker,
Project Hannah founder and awareness advocate



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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PROJECT HANNAH:

Trans World Radio
P.O. Box 8700
Cary, NC 27512 • USA
1-800-456-7TWR
www.projecthannah.org
hannah@twr.org

TWR-Australia
PO Box 658
Heathmont VIC 3135
Email: infoaus@twr.org
Phone: (03) 9870 3195
Fax: (03) 9870 4146

TWR-Asia Singapore
Blk 750C Chai Chee Road,
#02-16/17,
Technopark @ Chai Chee,
Singapore 469003
Tel: (65) 6444 8661
Fax: (65) 6444 3053

TWR-Canada
Box 25324, London, ON
N6C 6B1
1-888-672-6510
hannah@twrcanada.org

TWR-Austria
Postfach 141
A - 1235 Vienna
AUSTRIA

How would you answer this listener's question? "Is there any hope for a woman like me who is poor, uneducated, does not have skills to find a job, who is very weak and not beautiful? I am almost in despair." Can you hear the PAIN in her words? She lives in an ungodly culture dictated by men who have no idea of her God-given destiny, value and purpose. Because of this ignorance, many people will misuse or abuse her and others like her. This dear woman not only lacks money, education and strength—she believes that she is worthless! Nobody ever told her that she is highly esteemed by her Creator, so much so that He sacrificed His Son for her. She has no sense of destiny and she's acquainted with hopelessness and pain.

Unfortunately, she is not alone. Even many sophisticated, Western women are disillusioned by success, education, social security and technology while thirsting for love, significance and hope. Indeed, it is not easy to be a woman in the 21st century. I have seen the pain in their eyes as they face life totally oblivious of their value. Pain, not hope, has become their destination.

Pain is universal, but so is HOPE! Author Victor Hugo, recognizing that it is an important factor in human behavior, said: "Hope is the word which God has written on the brow of every man." And every woman! While many see women's plight as a hopeless end, we at Project Hannah (PH) see instead an endless hope!

To women everywhere, PH points tirelessly to a sure destination: comforting, sustaining, equipping hope that helps them brave life's storms. The Bible defines it "...as the anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). This is the hope of Jesus PH shares each week over 500 radio stations worldwide, and that hundreds of intercessors in more than 90 countries pray for women daily. Hope is the only effective antidote for universal pain. As Christians, we must acknowledge this and engage in serious spiritual battle on behalf of the "least of these."

It takes courage to have hope. It is not something for the faint of heart. But we hope in Jesus, who removes every reason for fear or despair and who sacrificed Himself to give us an eternal home with Him. He is the Redeemer, Sustainer, the life and light that every woman needs for the journey! God has written His name—Jesus, the Hope of Glory—not only "on their brows," but also deep in their hearts. In heaven, we will no longer need hope; we will live with Jesus forever!

Because of your prayer and support, PH is leading millions of women in the midst of suffering and pain to a sure destination: hope eternal. Reading about women in this issue of *Hannah's Heartbeat* who have found hope in God because of Project Hannah makes all the work we do worthy indeed! As do letters like this: "I used to live in sorrow and pain, but thank you; you have given me HOPE!"