

# Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope

## Healing Wounded Hearts


By her own admission, Cecilia was “drowning in depression.” Though her marriage was fine, she hid her depression from her husband, who was in the military. But this Chilean mother of two could not escape from the memories of her past.

She remembered every beating she received from her father, an alcoholic. Her mother and six siblings were also abused, and as a preteen, Cecilia was sexually abused by an uncle. Afraid of what people would think of her, she didn't have any friends. Her brothers and sisters, also suffering, offered no comfort.

Cecilia desperately needed someone who would talk with her, and understand. She discovered *Women of Hope* and began listening to the programs on the radio and Internet (proyectoana.org). Encouraged, she wrote in response to what she heard, and producer Sonia Larrosa began a correspondence with Cecilia.

As the next months passed, her depression eased and she felt more content. “I thank the Lord for the time you took to give me words of comfort and encouragement,” Cecilia says now. “Each day I trust God more. Thanks to your program, I realize that He is my best friend. He will never leave me.” She also told Sonia that her family was doing well, and that she was no longer angered when she thought about her past. “God is healing my wounds and He is making me live full of joy,” she adds. “Even if I have to go through many difficulties, He is there to strengthen me.”

Sadly, depression, domestic violence, alcoholism and drug addiction all are common problems for South American families like Cecilia's. But God is proclaiming His light into this darkness through Trans World Radio's Spanish programming, including *Women of Hope* (WoH). Airing since 2000, the broadcast is instilling hope in countless women across the Spanish-speaking world. Sonia says her passion for PH's ministry increases each day as she sees through listener response that the program is meeting their needs. She adds that she has seen how God's power works in each person devoted to Him. “He knows their needs and He works out the prayers of each.”



## Hannah in the Spanish-speaking World

*Women of Hope* in Spanish airs from high-powered transmitters on Bonaire and in Uruguay, as well as over 300 local FM station across the Americas.

Spanish-speaking listeners in more than 20 countries across Central and South America, Spain and the United States can hear the program.

Spanish prayer calendars are mailed across the U.S. and Central and South America. In the Dominican Republic alone, 1,000 calendars are sent monthly, and 150 names have been added to the e-mail distribution list in the last year.

PH's Spanish Web site (proyectoana.org) provides broadcast audio on demand, as well as articles created from program material and current prayer calendars.

## *Soaring on Wings of Hope*

“Gracia Burnham has eaten the bread of affliction through the kidnapping ordeal she endured with her late husband, Martin,” said Marli Spieker, Project Hannah founder. “But God does not waste our pain or our tears. He has turned Gracia’s into trophies of grace and glory.”

You no doubt know of Gracia Burnham’s yearlong nightmare as a hostage in the Philippine jungle, and how her faith enabled her to endure that hardship and the loss of her husband. Sadly, millions of women around the world suffer unimaginable physical horrors and are ensnared in spiritual bondage. They struggle to reconcile their dreams with the seemingly unending hopelessness of their present reality, unable to see the grace beyond their tears because they do not know God’s love.

When Gracia learned about Project Hannah, she wanted to help. After a speaking engagement in Boston, a woman asked Gracia how her prayer group could uplift her in prayer. Gracia replied that she had a burden for women entrapped by a certain world religion. “I don’t know what to do about it,” she told the woman.

“Have you heard of Project Hannah?” the woman asked Gracia, and then told her to look up the ministry on the Internet. Gracia did so. “[I read] about how you address heart issues as well as other issues that women would be interested in,” she said. “And you tell them about Jesus.” Intrigued,

## *The Power in a Piece of Paper*

adapted from a presentation given by Enkelejda Kumaraku, PH Producer and Executive Director of TWR’s partner in Albania

*Is there power in a piece of paper?*

When Project Hannah’s (PH) prayer movement began in Albania in 2004, PH Producer Enkelejda Kumaraku desired that prayer partners do more than just put the prayer calendar in their Bibles. “Through this, [I wanted] to impart a passion for women’s issues around the world and to impart a hope that together we can make a difference,” she says. So in addition to speaking with women’s groups and initiating prayer cells, she began meeting with pastors and church leaders as well as partnering with other Christian organizations in Albania.

The Lord continued opening doors; PH in Albania has participated in several national prayer meetings held in Tirana, Albania’s capital, and has held many listener rallies, including one in partnership with OM ministries on its ship, the Logos. “[During this rally,] I had the opportunity to share the gospel with the Minister of Education,” says Enkelejda,



Marli Spieker and Gracia Burnham

Gracia called TWR and asked about how her foundation could sponsor a year of broadcasts into the area where she was held hostage. Because of Gracia’s support over the last several years, women in the Philippines, Indonesia and Central Asia have had the opportunity to hear about Christ in their heart languages.

Project Hannah is a lifeline to countless women, and their testimonies echo Gracia’s own story—because of God’s grace and power, they can release their burdens and, regardless of their daily circumstances, soar on wings of hope.

*Visit the new [TWR.org](http://TWR.org) Web site to read more about Project Hannah and to watch the video of Gracia’s story.*

“and we donated 15,000 books to Albanian kids learning English and Christian stories.”

In May 2005, PH-Albania added a second radio program in addition to *Women of Hope*. The 10-minute On-Air Prayer Calendar airs daily. Initially conceived for Albania’s election year, the concept unexpectedly met heartfelt needs of the people, with believers and unbelievers calling in with requests. “With this program, we’ve had the possibility to witness to so many people,” says Enkelejda.

Today, 5,000 people participate in the Albanian prayer meeting events and 2,800 prayer calendars are sent monthly to the 85 prayer groups across the country. PH intercessors uphold each event PH-Albania participates in, whether it’s a children’s Christmas outreach, worship concert or prayer meeting. So, is there power in a piece of paper—a Project Hannah prayer calendar? As Enkelejda says, “The power of this piece of paper is in the heart that uses it.”

## Prayer & PRAISE

- Give thanks to God for granting new opportunities to air the Portuguese *Women of Hope* program on Angolan official and private radio stations in the cities of Lubango, Benguela, Namibe and Huambo.
- Praise the Lord for changing lives and families through Project Hannah's prayer ministry. An Angolan radio station director testified: "I was sentenced to 10 years of prison. I was desperate, but the PH women ministered the Word of God to me and prayed for me. After only 10 months, I was out of prison. Today my family and I are Christians. We have a prayer group in our home."
- Pray for the Cambodian PH team as they partner with a Christian organization that works with factory girls. Pray also for a group of ladies in a certain village who became infected with HIV from their husbands. "My husband died of HIV, and I have contracted the AIDS virus from him. I do not have enough food to eat; I cannot pay for my medication."
- Please uplift Lidija Edelinski, PH's coordinator for the new ministry in Croatia, and new Danish *Women of Hope* Producer Vivi Agerbo Joergensen.

## Listeners Respond

"Your ministry is well-known in our mountain village. There are 12 members in our church. Together with my husband, we rejoice over your programs. We get spiritual strength [from them]. I suggest to [others] that they buy radios and I will help them [listen to you]." (Ukraine)

## Instant Moment of Eternal Connection

by Astrid Frøysnes

I'm not afraid of flying, so I was eager to go with Marli to Central Asia and visit the producers there. I'd like you to join me on the tour of "instant moments of eternal connection," because that's what it was to me. Up there in the airplane, [I was filled] with a feeling of tranquility, and a voice told me: "Someone is waiting for you."

She lived by the dusty road. She had nothing. But she gave all she had: she offered me bread she had baked. We could not talk. But we could communicate. An instant moment of eternal connection.



Then we met the producers. The moment I saw them, I looked in their eyes, and it was another moment of eternal connection. One said, "I really want to help other women, but I'm so sensitive." When she was [recording] the program, the stories of the women were so strong that she cried. They decided to air her crying because, as she said, "It was as though I could see all the women of Central Asia crying together."

*Astrid Frøysnes is TWR-Europe partner Norea Norway's PH Coordinator.*

*This article is adapted from a presentation she gave at Project Hannah's 10th anniversary celebration in November 2007.*

There are a lot of challenges for Central Asian women. It's a patriarchal society and early marriage of daughters is a survival strategy. Domestic violence is common. One of the roots of that violence is the ancient practice of the bride price. Arranged marriages are still common, [but] now younger girls are trying to get out of [them]. Because women are so low [in status], other abuses [are common], and sexual abuse [contributes to the spread of] the HIV virus. Mothers often have to choose between their own health and the children's health because it's so

expensive and they can't afford to pay.

But despite these challenges, the Hannahs of Central Asia keep on baking bread. Through encouraging *Women of Hope* programs, and intercession by prayer partners across the globe, their strength is renewed by Jesus, the Bread of Life. These Hannahs now bake with hope for life and eternity.

"We like your program very much. We thank God for it and pray that He may continue to provide for your life. The WoH program gives the right advice at the right time." (Angola)

"I have listened to *Women of Hope* for two years. This program has helped

me know the value of being a woman, and helped me grow strong in the Lord. I have learned to be satisfied in whatever He gives me when times of trouble come to my family. We trust in the Lord and praise His name." (Cambodia)

# Created for Greatness

by Marli Spieker,  
Global Ministry Director and Founder



A relentless war is raging against Judeo-Christian values. Relativism, hedonism, materialism, individualism and other human philosophies are radically changing worldviews. But humanity's fascination and search for greatness remains. God's "breath" in us sparks a longing for the eternal, a yearning to "see the invisible, to touch the intangible and to achieve the impossible." We were created for greatness. We love to see ordinary people daring to step into the extraordinary, becoming heroes.

And so does God! He delights in using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He used a boy, five loaves and two fish to feed 5,000 people! He won a military campaign for Israel using a sling, a stone and a shepherd. And he privileged a teenage girl in an ordinary, dirty stable to bring into this world His Son, the extraordinary Baby, the King of Kings. We measure success by quantity; God looks for quality. While we choose charisma, cleverness, the bold and beautiful, He chooses "the foolish, the weak, the base and despised, and the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are" (1 Cor. 1:27).

Project Hannah's (PH) miraculous story is living proof of God's unorthodox strategy. He is the mastermind behind such a fast-growing movement, one that even has been adopted by non-Christian governments. Our teams of volunteers in Paraguay, Angola, Thailand and beyond are receiving recognition and support from prison officials and inmates alike. God is using many committed, ordinary women who are in total submission to His will. He uses PH senders –the faithful, obedient and generous people like you, as well as the goers –dedicated, obedient, sacrificial people in PH teams worldwide.

As Christians, we cannot remain silent during this war against morality. God desires for you to join Him in what He is doing through PH. As He used Hannah to produce the greatest judge and prophet of his time to change the destiny of a nation, He certainly can use us! I've seen simple women as mighty heroes engaged in anointed spiritual warfare, loving the unloved and honoring the despised. Words cannot describe the thrill of being God's voice, hands and feet as He takes women and girls from a painful reality to His extraordinary and amazing grace.

Will you give us one minute a day and pray for one prayer request, using PH's powerful prayer calendar? We need more PH senders; without the prayers and financial gifts of men and women like you, PH's global prayer movement and radio programs in more than 45 languages would not be possible. I have found supreme joy and fulfillment in abandoning myself to God's unorthodox strategic plans. In times of great joy or deepest sorrow, His mercies never fail me. That's the message we give to women in desperate need of Jesus. And that's the stuff of which heroes are made.



## 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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