

Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope



The Golden Triangle—made up of parts of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam—is the second largest producer of opium in the world and the site of rampant human trafficking. Myanmar's people are sold throughout Asia to provide forced labor, domestic servants, and sexual slaves. Even within their own country, women are taken from their villages and forced to serve as prostitutes. Marli Spieker, Project Hannah's founder, met one woman in Myanmar who worked long hours in road construction. Her reward was meager: only eight cans of rice, not even enough to feed her family. But this woman gave of her poverty, setting aside one can of rice a week and selling it, so that she could give the money to Project Hannah.

Does this money make a difference? Perhaps not in a worldly sense, but ministries are built on the sacrifices of people who don't focus on what they lack, but rather on what they can give.

God uses small things to accomplish his goals, such as the Project Hannah prayer calendar. Each day, women's lives are being transformed from the inside out as they set aside their own worries for a moment and pray for the needs of others. The requests speak of the same burdens every wife and mother feels, and special suffering no human being should ever know. Through this daily prayer, God is changing women's perspectives, even if their own circumstances remain the same.

Project Hannah works to see things like illicit drugs and human trafficking end. We also seek to provide comfort to those who are hurting today, who are in need of guidance and have never heard that they can one day walk the streets of gold, instead of the Golden Triangle..

God, Protect Me from Anger

This was the prayer of Chanda, a Cambodian woman who understands the story of Hannah in the biblical book of 1 Samuel. Chanda's desires were simple: to get married and raise a family. When she came to the Lord, her neighbors ridiculed her and said, "Because you believe in Jesus, no one will ever marry you." For years, she remained single, but she prayed for her neighbors and asked God to protect her heart from anger.

The Lord provided Chanda with a husband, but when years went by with no children, her neighbors rose up again. "You don't have any children because you believe in Jesus," they told her. She writes, "Whenever I heard these words, I was very sad and would cry and cry, but the Lord continued to give me strength."

Chanda endured one miscarriage after another. "I became pregnant again," she writes, "And, at eight months, I delivered a small boy. He had to stay in intensive care for a month.

The doctor told me there was no hope for this baby to live. I shouted to the Lord every day, 'You gave me this baby and



only you can save him!'"

God answered his daughter's prayers and healed her son. "Now my neighbors can't say anything to me because Jesus saved this child. My son is now seven months old and I believe that he will continue to live. God has encouraged me through my pastor, friends, and the *Women of Hope* program. I love to listen to it. May the Lord bless you."

Christmas in Prison

Last Christmas, Rev. Buakab Ronghanam, Project Hannah's Thai coordinator, preached the Christmas message to over 500 women in a local prison. Afterward, almost all of the inmates made a vow to walk with God and twelve women accepted Christ into their hearts for the first time. One thousand gospel books were given out to men and women prisoners, adding to the nearly 30,000 books that have been sent out to prisons throughout Thailand.

Voice of Peace, a Thai radio ministry which partners with TWR, has representatives in 45 prisons and sends teams regularly to visit, in addition to letters and books they send through the mail. In one prison, 200 inmates, 60 of which are women, meet weekly for Bible study. Last Christmas, 154 prisoners were baptized there. Each inmate received a warm jacket in preparation for the cold winter, so they could sleep well at night. A Laotian woman imprisoned there sang a Christmas blessing song for them, causing tears to run down their faces. The prisoners said, "We have never had an experience like this before."

In addition to the Thailand prison ministry, Project Hannah teams also visit prisoners in places like Paraguay and Angola. Through ministering to the sick, the grieving, and those recovering from disasters, Project Hannah's workers are showing tangible love to those who need to know the unlimited love of Jesus Christ.



Prayer & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord that Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* program began airing in five new languages in 2008 (Malayalam, Makhuwa, Nepali, Swahili and Danish) and is now reaching women and their families in 49 languages by radio, the Internet and on cassettes/CDs. Pray for those producing these 49 programs, and other languages that hope to go on the air soon, to be able to adapt the English program so that it is understood by their listeners and meets their specific needs.
- Praise the Lord for Project Hannah's intercessors in over 100 countries as they use the monthly prayer calendars in 40 languages. Pray that these intercessors will experience a profound and meaningful relationship with Christ our Savior and share His love with others.
- Please pray for Project Hannah's workers in closed countries and difficult areas, that God will protect them from harm and set in their hearts the words He wants to speak to their listeners.
- Pray for God's wisdom and strength to be on Project Hannah's International staff (Marli, Peggy, Ann and Tina) as they serve the more than 300 staff and volunteers around the world empowering them to give hope to women and their families. Pray that they will all experience God's peace in the midst of life's struggles.

After the storm

Cyclone Nargis, which struck Myanmar in May 2008, was the deadliest named cyclone to ever strike the North Indian Ocean Basin. Its effects can still be felt each day by *Women of Hope's* Sgaw Karen and Burmese listeners. At least 146,000 people lost their lives, breaking up families and communities along the country's river delta region. Although international response was quick and aid sent, government resistance caused further pain and loss of life as food and supplies were stranded, unable to reach those in need.

Project Hannah's coordinator in Myanmar and her household were spared the brunt of the cyclone's fury, but she reports that life has not returned to normal yet. Transportation is difficult as flood-washed roads were made impassible and the price of fuel has skyrocketed. Electricity is still out in one city TWR-Myanmar's team visited, and they have had difficulties keeping in contact with Sgaw Karen churches in the area.

Listeners Respond

"I am glad to know TWR-Myanmar's broadcasts. I am praying while I listen. I am also thankful that you are praying for women. Please pray for me and advise me. Pray for my husband who has backslid. He received baptism so he could marry me. Now, he is living after his worldly desires, gambling and playing with girls. He does not work, either. He turns his back on God and I quarrel with him every day. I cannot control my tears when I pray. Please tell me what to do."

—Myanmar



Among the people the team visited were two women who were pregnant when the cyclone hit. Now hospitalized, one had broken an arm during the storm and the other had broken one arm and a leg. Both had to have Caesarians, but praise the Lord that both babies are fine and their mothers are recovering.

Please keep Project Hannah's ministry to Myanmar's people in your prayers. Many thousands watched their loved ones die and are now left without homes or livelihoods. The hope and love of Jesus is greatly needed, but is hard to find national Christian workers to help with this long, hard work.

"My prayer group encouraged us to use the PH prayer calendar daily, but at first I was not interested and just kept it in my book. Then one day, my friend said, 'I never knew that other ladies around the world had problems like us. We should pray, because the power of our prayers will make them free from sin.' When I got home, I started using the prayer calendar and found the power of prayer, love from God and fellowship. Now I always use your calendar in my daily prayers."

—Cambodia

What Power is This?

by Marli Spieker,
Global Ministry Director 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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“We had been sharing the gospel at an Indigenous village, etched deep in the Amazon jungle,” a Brazilian missionary told me. “One day when we were dismissing the people I heard a woman’s voice at a distance. Painstakingly crawling on her hands and dragging her crippled body she came toward us. People told her about us and Jesus’ power. She was the embodiment of powerlessness—poor, alone, and crippled! It took her two days and two nights to get to us. During the night there was a tropical rain, but she kept crawling through the mud. Her hands and knees were bleeding due to rough stones on the roads. Invalids are believed to be a curse in her culture, so people spat on her as she passed by. There was humiliation, name calling, scorn about her disability, you name it. Her soul was covered with shame, and her body with pain and filthy rags. Exhausted, she raised her dirty arm and asked: ‘Is there still time for me to get your Jesus?’ Yes, yes! God says today is the day of salvation! Even though she was still trapped in her crippled body, her soul started to dance. Her spirit was running to the arms of Jesus, her Redeemer, and I asked myself, ‘What power is this?’”

What power is this that makes a frail woman go through mud, stones, cruel, hurtful disdain and ridicule? God’s power! It’s the power of the One who went through death to save her! Within us He places the power to live above our filthiness of sin and shame. In us, He is our Hope of glory! That’s the power, the essence, and the reason why Project Hannah (PH) exists: to proclaim the mighty power of Jesus’ love loud and clear.

Jesus’ compelling love is what empowers PH’s teams worldwide to strive seeing the invisible and achieving the impossible as they minister to listeners and intercessors everywhere: in prisons cells, the mountains of Thailand, the rice paddies of Myanmar, in garbage dumps and in AIDS wards of Cambodia. Through radio programs, prayer and tending to women’s physical needs, they are helping them reach their full potential.

PH teams have heard and obeyed Jesus’ command to go and bind up the brokenhearted and make disciples of all nations. Every time you pray and give to PH, you share Jesus’ authority and power, which triumphs over sin and hopelessness, with women in great need of it. Believe me, there is no greater joy than to join God in what he is doing as His amazing love transforms powerless women into trophies of His grace.