

Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope



Beauty from Ashes

The country of Angola has seen very difficult times. After going through a decades-long war, the nation's citizens now face rebuilding, infrastructure and social challenges. In spite of these hard circumstances, however, Project Hannah (PH) has been able to help, particularly Angolan women. Below you will find a report written by PH's Angolan coordinator, Alice Efraim Rodrigues, on the work that is being done:

In June 2009, Project Hannah celebrates its eighth anniversary in Angola. One year after PH prayer began in Angola, the peace treaties were officially signed on April 4, 2002, since that time we have lived without any armed conflict.

Although experts may talk about economic growth, poverty in Angola is an endless reality. Angola is a nation in need of healing. Women suffer more than any other group for many reasons. Members of their families don't want anything to do with Jesus, not to mention the lack of sanitation, electricity, potable water and unemployment.

Marriage and family life has also been an intense battle ground for spiritual warfare. Many family members turn to alcohol, drugs or occultism to alleviate their pain and despair, instead of running

to the throne of grace. Even though God has already provided the remedy for all infirmities, few people use it.

Despite the barriers that prayer groups have been facing, they are fighting to bring hope to many women. They are helping reach families for God and experience transformation. Dignity is being restored, families are being reunited and prisoners are set free. These results have been encouraging intercessors to pray with faith and cry out to God in the name of Jesus. With Him nothing is impossible. Our confidence is in God for the transformation of lives in Angola.

Please pray that these women may understand how much they are loved by God. These prayers will be answered and will affect the next generation.

God's Touch through Human Hands

Project Hannah's on-the-ground ministry initiatives into the spiritually needy African countries of Angola and Mozambique continue to flourish. "We consider these vital efforts as 'ministries of mercy,'" explains PH founder Marli Spieker. "Our prayer groups and in-country volunteers function as the hands and feet of Jesus to prisoners, orphans, hospital patients and others who are hurting or downcast."

Here are some real examples of how God is using PH to touch lives for Christ and make a lasting difference:

- In Angola, PH volunteers provided training in cooking and decorating so that the ladies can earn income for their families.
- Members of prayer groups in Maputo, Mozambique offered prayers and encouragement from the Word with ladies who were hospitalized.
- Angola's largest hospital recognized the spiritual value PH volunteers provided to patients and asked six of the volunteers to serve as advisors to the infirmed and their families.
- A Portuguese-speaking prayer group near Maputo started a micro finance program to help women in the group



open their own businesses and provide for needs within the group.

- The director of a radio station of Lubango, Angola shared with us, "I was sentenced to 10 years of prison. I was weak and 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, and we do cell group prayer in our house."

Praise God for how He is using PH volunteers and prayer groups to share His love in Africa!

The Daughter I never had



"My husband passed away some time ago, and I have one son. Last year my son gave me a grandson and brought his wife to our house, which was nice at first. But after some time I started having problems with my daughter-in-law." This Mozambican woman grew more and more depressed due to the conflict and tension she was experiencing with her

daughter-in-law. Eventually it got to the point where her son said that they would have to leave her home.

During this difficult time, she turned on the radio and heard PH's *Women of Hope* (WoH) program in Portuguese. This program is produced in Mozambique and aired in the capital city of Maputo. As she listened, it seemed as though the voice on the program knew exactly what was happening to her! She says, "I discovered that I was the one with the problem and not my daughter-in-law. I was the one who interfered in their life."

"The radio voice said that it was understandable what I was doing because I love my son, but I had to ask for forgiveness in order to be at peace with my family." After asking her son and his wife for forgiveness, a great peace washed over their family. They still live together and are very happy. "Thanks to the WoH program, my daughter-in-law is like the daughter that I never had. Thank you very much!"

Prayer & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord! *Women of Hope* is now on the air in over 50 languages! Amharic (Ethiopia), Berber-Kabyle (Algeria) and Romanian are now on the air! Please continue to pray for Project Hannah's production teams, prayer teams, support staff and listeners around the world.
- Praise the Lord for His continued provision for the needed finances from donors, partners and TWR regional staff around the world.
- Please pray for the fast-growing Project Hannah ministry in Nepal. Pray for the volunteers and for Shanti as she helps start prayer groups, visits listeners and produces the *Women of Hope* Nepali program. Pray for the women of Nepal who suffer many hardships, violence and neglect but who also rejoice in the opportunities to learn to read and hear God's Word through radio.
- Pray for the *Women of Hope* listeners and production teams in India (Bengali, Hindi, Indian English, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi and Tamil) and for those in other Asian countries.

The Power of Prayer

PH's Women of Hope (WoH) program airs in Northern Mozambique in the Makhuwa language. Below you will find the testimony of a Makhuwa woman whose life was greatly touched through the PH prayer ministry.

My husband abandoned my son and me. Before he left us, I used to attend church, but I soon gave up on it. Not long afterward my son became ill, but the doctor didn't know what was wrong. I was so worried. One day, I heard my neighbors singing and making a lot of noise. I was frustrated because it was so early, and my son was finally sleeping. I went over to complain, but they invited me in to pray with them. I didn't know that this was a PH prayer ministry meeting. I saw women crying their problems out to God, and some of the problems were a lot bigger than mine. I didn't know how to pray, but at the end I asked if I could keep joining them. I told them about my sick son, and they said I should trust in God because He is powerful and asking for His help is the only way to truly solve our problems.



About a week passed, and then the doctor discovered that my son had malaria. He gave him medicine, and soon he was much better and even went back to school. When I told my new friends, they said I should start attending church again, which I have. A month ago, my husband started calling me. He even sent us some money and said that he wants to come back home. No matter what happens, though, I love my Jesus, because He works miracles.

Listeners Respond

What joy and happiness I experience when I tune into *Women of Hope*. I thoroughly enjoy when you share the word of God and the wonderful advice that you offer in each program. I believe this is a ministry through which the Lord pours forth many blessings onto the listeners. Thank you very much for the literature you send.

—Elia from Cuba

Thank you so much for sowing wonderful seeds into our souls. May God give you health and wisdom for your ministry that's not always easy. I am a constant listener. I soak in every word and pray that the program will touch people of all ages. I am deeply thankful that the Lord introduced me to the prayer ministry of PH.

—Mrs. Z. L.,
coordinator of a prayer group in Ukraine

Dear sisters of the program
Women of Hope,

I wish you the greatest blessings from God. Your programs are a blessing in my life. When you talked about impossible things, God spoke to my heart. Continue on, because God will reward you. I listen to TWR from Bonaire, Netherland Antilles, during the evening programming. May God's peace always surround you.

—Susana from Cuba



Dear Friends

For this issue, I invited a precious sister in the Lord, Shannon Irwin, to share how she has seen the Lord reach out to African women.

Shannon traveled with me across that great continent. She loves Africa and it shows, but most of all, her love for Jesus shines as a pure ray of “Sonshine.” I praise God that after two short-term commitments to TWR Africa, Shannon has returned again to serve there.

As you read her story and the stories of women in Angola and Mozambique, I pray you’ll listen closely for how God is speaking to you.

Your fellow servant in His vineyard,

Marli
 Marli Spieker
 Global Ministry
 Director and Founder



Shannon Irwin with Liberian woman

In His Presence

Many years ago, Jesus had a personal encounter with a Samaritan woman. When He met her, she had a limited understanding of who God was. But Jesus crossed cultural and geographic barriers, and took the time to meet with her right where she was. Jesus patiently revealed who He was: the Messiah. Her Messiah - who knew everything about her, yet was still offering her the gift of eternal life, and revelation to worship God the Father—in Spirit and in truth. And as she shared about her truth-revealing encounter with Jesus to others in her village, many more people came to believe that “Jesus is indeed the Savior of the world” (John 4:42).

About 15 years ago, God began to reveal His truth to me in a similar way. It was 1994, and I was working my way around Australia. Although I had grown up with a basic belief in the God of the Bible, this was the first time in my life that I sensed God drawing me into His presence. As I sat on numerous buses and trains, and strolled new neighborhoods, God began to reveal truth to me—truth about Himself, truth about me, and truth about His divine plan for my life. As I began to see myself from God’s perspective, I felt broken in my shame. Yet God, in His marvelous grace, began to transform me into a new creation, and I knew that His redemptive work in me was good. I praise God for rescuing me from a life that was void of His amazing truth, love and guidance.

God continues to meet with His daughters. All around the world, God is revealing His truth to women, one by one. As I have served with Trans World Radio these last four years (first in Canada, then for a year and a half in Africa), it has been an absolute joy for me to learn about women’s personal and life-transforming encounters with God. Traveling with Marli in Africa and meeting many of our Project Hannah sisters firsthand was a special learning highlight. The jubilant expressions of worship, beautifully expressed through harmonious songs, ever-ready testimonies and heartfelt prayers were a tremendous inspiration to me.

Praise God for His ongoing gift of redemption in our lives, and that He can use our testimonies to lead others to believe that Jesus is indeed the Savior of the world!



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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