

# Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope



## A Dream Come True

Too often, opportunities for better livelihoods do not result in better lives. Sadly, this has been true for many Romanians after their country joined the European Union. Parents could seek better incomes in other countries, but it meant husbands leaving families behind. And sometimes, the mothers also chose between earning income in another country and living with their children. Camilia from TWR-Romania saw this recent nightmarish choice for families compounding the struggles Romanian women, and thus their children, have faced for years. "Most of the letters from women (listeners) were about marital problems, violence in the homes, raising children or even about abortion. We saw that there was a great need to make a program for these women, and I'm truly grateful that God has made it possible for us to broadcast *Women of Hope*." It has been a dream come true for Cami and her colleagues.

A few years ago, Cami began to translate the

English scripts to fit the culture and heart of the Romanian woman, and at the same time she began prayerfully gathering a production team. As a diverse team of four women, these ladies combine gifts and talents that truly compliment each other. After they personalize their parts in Cami's translated scripts, the programs are recorded. But provision of godly people to do the production is always only half the battle; Cami also trusted the need for funds to pay the production team and airtime costs to the Lord. And God provided this past January through TWR's partner in the Netherlands who will fund the production and half the air time. A dream turned into reality in March 2009 when *Women of Hope* ("Hope for Her" in Romanian) went on the air. Please join us in praising God for His provision and in praying that women will hear the programs and be drawn to the One who came that they may have life, and have it to the full.

## *Living on the Edge*

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Becoming a Christian put Rebecca\* on the edge. Although she wanted to give her entire life to Christ, her father prevented it. He wanted her to behave like a proper woman, which meant being home before sunset. He was violent with her and her sister, though she felt protected by God's presence. Her father didn't know she was engaged to a Christian man. She had to wait until they had enough money to buy an apartment. Once married, she would be under the protection of her husband and be able to attend Christian gatherings. Also, she could tell her father about her new life in Christ.

Where spreading the gospel might cost them their freedoms or even their lives, three brave women live on the edge of danger to produce radio programs which speak the truth of God's deep love for Kabyle women like Rebecca. These brave women, Taous\*, Sara\* and Rita\* are the *Women of Hope* team in Algeria. Working from a small apartment, they translate, adapt, and write scripts and then record and edit the audio programs. Taous oversees it all, training the younger women to carry on if she is prevented from doing so (by societal or personal circumstances, such as health). Like Taous and other believers in their country, Sara has had to overcome many hardships. Having been delivered from despair, fears and even anorexia, Sara speaks from personal experience as she tells



women about God's marvellous power to change lives. Though Rita, recently married, is the newest team member she shares their passion for reaching her people through radio. Where living on the edge of danger is a way of life, radio may be the only way women will hear of God's love for them and learn how to live in the safety of His perfect plans for their lives.

*\*All names have been changed for privacy*



## *Oil in her Jar*

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*Women of Hope* producer, Vivi Agerbo Joergensen and her co-host, Anette Jensen have a heart for reaching the women of Denmark. Airing on internet radio since December 8, 2008, Radio Cafeen can be heard three times a week by women anywhere in the world who speak Danish!

Anette is a happy wife and mother of three, and she knows that God has guided her each step of the way. One of her jobs with Norea Radio Denmark is Project Hannah (PH). "Vivi and I have very good team work. We pray that God will make us useful so that we can bring the gospel to the Danish women, make them feel valuable and give them hope in Christ."

Vivi knows that her grandmother's prayers made a difference in her life. Working with Project Hannah is a happy challenge that God has brought into her life. God reminded Vivi of 2 Kings 4:1-7, where the poor widow had very little oil in her jar. God provided the miracle of completely filling each container she collected. When there was no jar left to fill, the stream of oil stopped. Seeing herself as this woman with only a small bit of oil, Vivi knows that she has this oil in her jar – the Holy Spirit. But before she became a Christian, she needed to be filled up. The other jars and containers that the widow collected are representative of all the women who need salvation. Vivi explains: "I know that God has called me to work with Project Hannah and that he will guide me with his Holy Spirit. Only by his mercy and the prayers of the PH prayer groups can I manage this challenging work."

## Prayer & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for the 28 women in Mozambique who so strongly desired to separate from their daily tasks and meet together for prayer that they traveled by bus, crossed a snake infested river and then climbed a mountain so they could pray with no interference. Another group of 22 women went to the mountains to pray for the end of the escalating number of rapes of women and children in their country.
- Praise the Lord for the many women and men who have been miraculously changed by God's power and have turned from witchcraft, alcohol abuse, gambling, superstitions, crime and other evils to lives filled with joy and peace as they listen to the *Women of Hope* program, and faithfully pray for women around the world who are suffering.
- Please pray for women who faithfully travel on foot, by bus, taxi, motorbike and bicycle to visit with *Women of Hope* listeners and prayer groups to encourage them in their walk with the Lord.
- Pray for the women who translate and contextualize the *Women of Hope* scripts and produce programs in 52 languages that touch the lives of women around the world. Pray also for those working on new languages and trusting God to provide the finances for these programs to go on the air.

## Free of Fear

God has been moving in exciting ways through Project Hannah (PH) in Portugal. Though sometimes, according to Betania, PH Coordinator in Portugal, the magnitude of what God is doing or the problems faced by listeners can feel overwhelming. She says: "It seems we face a new situation when we wake up everyday, and sometimes it is scary! Imagine receiving a call from a woman in Alentejo, a region south of Portugal. She was so excited about what she heard that she wanted to start a church! Once more the words of Jesus became so real: 'The harvest is great but the laborers are few.' These kind of responses make us want to do the work more effectively and to be light and salt through this incredible resource of radio that God has placed in our hands."

Another phone call came from a lady in Coimbra who was afraid to leave her house. For eight years she would only go out for doctor appointments and even then only if one of her sons accompanied her. Her best friend was her radio. One day while home

alone, she turned it on and heard *Women of Hope*; the kind voices were talking about what fear can do to you. Listening closely, she realized God could help her deal with her fear, so she prayed to Him. Knowing that she was not alone because God was with her, she opened her front door and went to a nearby café for a coffee. She told the PH Portugal team her story when calling to ask them for a Bible and literature to help her keep growing closer to God. Betina sees that each new listener and each new caller mean new challenges for PH in Portugal. But, looking back at God's faithfulness, they look forward to each new day—free from fear.



## Listeners Respond

"Your program brings relief, peace and comfort to my heart. I am a mother of 10 sons and my husband left home. Sometimes I do not have anything to give to my children, but as I listen to *Women of Hope*, my strength is renewed for the next day." —*Angola*

"I am a widow. My husband died several years ago, and the only daughter I have stays with her husband in another city, so I am very lonely. I praise the Lord because your programs give me joy and

hope. I know that the Lord Jesus is always with me, and he cares for me. Thank you for your contacting me. I would be very happy if you are willing to see me. —*Indonesia*

"Praise God! Through your program, God has saved my whole family from breaking. My husband connected with traffickers to bring women and children over the border. But since I listened to the program with my children and prayed for him, God changed him dramatically." —*Vietnam*

# Hope Spoken in 50 Languages

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah founder and awareness advocate

The old, rusty ferry could only handle pedestrians and their bicycles. Crossing the Mengkong River once again in the extremely humid and hot sunset, we were on our way to the last visit of the day. Looking to the peaceful waters, I kept thinking of the women of this country—so humiliated, despised, used and abused. Two of them stood next to me holding their old bicycles. They told us that they were working since daybreak at the rice paddies. They earned the equivalent of \$4 US for a whole day's work! I looked at their tired, smiling faces. Their thankfulness for the little they had taught me a great lesson.

When we reached the other side, we walked through a muddy, unpaved road to the "house church" where some enthusiastic listeners were waiting for us. One lady, fighting back tears said: "Thank you, thank you! Thank you for giving us *Women of Hope* (WoH). It has changed my life! Now I go from village to village helping women to listen to it on their radios. I also distribute WoH CDs with the PH prayer calendar as I teach them what I've learned from those programs, and many have been saved!"

Later, we learned that this dear woman traveled 93 miles on the rough roads by motorcycle just to thank us for this gift of radio. Another lady had ridden her beaten up bicycle 24 miles through the mud and rain, just to thank us. She explained how *Women of Hope* had changed her and her entire family.

That's the miracle of radio. That's the transforming power of God's word! That's Project Hannah's teams "going and making disciples" of all nations! *Women of Hope* is literally a lifeline for women of all ages, races, and walks of life. Many say: "You are the only friend I have. You understand. You give me hope and Jesus!" They also tell us about spiritual and physical healing by the power of God's word and the gift of faith they received through our broadcasts. As a result, worshiping communities are springing up all over the world.

It's fascinating how God works. A European caught the vision for PH in 1998 and sponsored the first six Asian languages. Today, 15 languages are programs aired across Europe! This year we're celebrating *Women of Hope's* 50th language on the air, over 700 radio stations worldwide, the Internet and other mediums! Behind this "success" are the fervent prayers of European Christians and many others—even the simple women I wrote about from Indo China! Their vision, passion, and fervent prayers are PH's life line! I pray thousands of compassionate Christians will join in what God is doing through PH, as they did, so that hope can be heard in 50 more languages soon.



## 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