

# Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope



## TAKE HEART, *Give Hope*

The troubles of this world are many. And, truth be told, countless millions of women endure a disproportionate amount of its trouble simply because they are women. In many societies abandonment, abortion and abuse are acceptable norms for women and girls. They did not choose their gender, but they are imprisoned by ignorance and despair. It is as if their stories are written off as having only hopeless ends. Many are alone in their pain. No one speaks up on their behalf. And so they cry out, “Does anyone care?”

Where cultures and circumstances have trapped women behind seemingly insurmountable walls of suffering, God has given TWR Project Hannah (PH) and the *Women of Hope* radio program to break through with voices of love. Every day, women are learning about the God written of in the Psalms: “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; He delivers them

from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Ps. 34:17-18). Every day, voices are lifted in prayer to the God with whom all things are possible. And, He is answering abundantly beyond all that could be imagined!

In less than 12 years, He took *Women of Hope* from one weekly English program to broadcasts in more than 50 languages over hundreds of stations worldwide, hundreds of times each week! He took 12 of founder Marli Spieker’s praying friends and raised up intercessors in over a hundred countries using PH’s monthly prayer calendar in over 40 languages! And, through the cross, He alone wrote a story of endless hope for each broken life. Marli has written a book, *When Hope Wins*, telling some of the incredible stories of women transformed by Christ’s victory in their lives.

May the excerpts from *When Hope Wins* shared in this issue call us anew to the role God has for us in giving His hope to the world. And, may their lives encourage us to take heart—in this world, there will be trouble; but Christ has overcome the world!





## Heaven's Joy Today

*Mara's story, excerpt from When Hope Wins*

Every week, I cranked the handle on my precious wind-up radio and listened to *Women of Hope*. It was a program just for women like me! The people in my village thought women were worthless, but the women on the radio spoke directly to us. It seemed as though they were sitting in my house; I felt they knew and understood me. They said I was 'precious!' They told us things I'd never heard before—how to stop a child's fever and how to feed children so they would grow strong and healthy. And, they talked about that man, Jesus who came to bring me hope, and about a beautiful, perfect place called heaven where I could live with Jesus forever without pain and without fear. They spoke about a kind of joy I could have . . . not only after I die and go to heaven, but today! If I chose to follow Him, I could live in peace with God, with myself and with others. So, I did exactly what the ladies said . . . I asked Jesus to come into my life!

It felt like the waters of a river were rolling over me and filling all the empty spots of my whole life! I began to feel a deep peace inside. The memories no longer hurt. Everything changed! How could this be? My family, my home and everything else was still the same, but I was not. My fear and sadness were gone. Anger was gone. Crying myself to sleep was also gone! I knew this was Jesus inside my heart, just like the ladies on *Women of Hope* had promised. I began to experience love for everyone around me. I would sing and tell my children the Bible stories I learned from the radio. The more I changed, the happier they became. And the more I learned about caring for them, the healthier they became too! My friends and neighbors also noticed the difference. But, what about my husband, did he notice?



## Stories of Hope

What other miracles did God work in Alpana's life? How did God use the persecution by her family to prepare her for the way He had chosen for her? How did Alpana's family continue to respond to God's work in her life?

How did Mara come to have such a difficult family life? And, how did her husband respond to her new life in Christ?

Through Project Hannah's (PH) *Women of Hope* program, God's Word and the truth of His love is proclaimed in more than 50 languages. How has God been using the broadcasts over the past decade? How has God been answering the prayers of so many praying through the prayer calendar each month?

In her forthcoming book, *When Hope Wins*, PH founder Marli Spieker reveals real-life stories of redemption, transformation and grace that only Jesus can provide. The stories of these women will increase our awareness so that we can pray more knowledgeably. And, they will stir us to take heart because hope always wins!

*To pre-order your copy, go to [www.twr.org/when-hope-wins](http://www.twr.org/when-hope-wins) or call 1-800-456-7897 (book to be published spring 2010).*

## Prayer & PRAISE

- Please pray for wisdom for Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* advisory team, (Ros, Fran, Peggy and Marli) as they work together with feature writers (Judy, Katharine, Marj and Kim) on the International English scripts which are used by production teams in over 50 languages.
- Praise the Lord that progress is being made adapting *Women of Hope* scripts for women in Afghanistan and other like-minded women.
- Praise the Lord for the work on a redesigned Project Hannah Web site which will include links to worldwide partners, audio of *Women of Hope* programs, more up-to-date prayer requests and answered prayers ([projecthannah.org](http://projecthannah.org)).
- Pray for the English audio team in the US, (Tammy, Carol, Marvin and Scott) who produce the *Women of Hope* programs which are heard in the Caribbean, Fiji, Liberia, Papua New Guinea and South Africa.

## Worshiping the One True God

*Alpana's story, excerpt from When Hope Wins*

As a little girl, I heard people in our village talk about the 'one true God.' I was intrigued . . . why was my family worshiping so many gods and goddesses, if there is only one true God?

When I was 16, my father purchased a radio. One day I found a Christian program in Hindi. It was talking about that one true God—at last I was getting answers about Him! I could not get enough of that program and listened everyday. The teachings from the Bible were so clear to me. My salvation did not depend on my efforts, but on God's power to forgive me, an idol worshiper and a sinner. I wanted to worship this God, so when the pastor prayed, I did too.

This true God gave me something I had never received from any of the multitude of gods I had worshipped for years—peace and joy. I gave myself totally to Jesus. I learned to pray for my family that they too would find this one true God. I desperately wanted a Bible so I could read about God for

myself. I prayed for a miracle and gladly accepted a Bible when the radio station offered one. I studied it in secret. I learned that eating food my family offered to idols was wrong, so I did not eat it anymore.

After five months, I mustered the courage to tell my family all about my newfound faith. They did not like it at all. One by one they turned against me. My father was furious! He locked the radio away in a box. I was not allowed to touch it or speak about this new religion. My parents took me out of school and tried to isolate me from everyone and everything important to me. They threatened to marry me off to an older Hindu man. I was determined I would never stop worshipping the one true God. But, the persecution within my own family intensified and life became a nightmare! My only solace and comfort was in praying to God. He never left me, even for a moment.

## 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 the *Women of Hope* program my strength is renewed for the next day."

—A listener in Angola

"I have listened to *Women of Hope* for one year. I get to know more and more from [it] such as: education of the children, decision making, prayer and fellowship with God. I like this program so much."

—A Cambodian listener to the Khmer program

"I felt like I was not worth anything, and my circumstances were eating me alive, but just then I turned on my radio and began to hear words from God about life and encouragement (on Spanish *Women of Hope*). I learned that everyone, especially if they are Christians, should leave their problems with God for Him to take care of them. May the Lord bless you and fill you each day with wisdom, grace and love."

—A listener from Cuba



## When Hope Wins

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director



### 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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Project Hannah's (PH) *Women of Hope* radio program speaks God's hope to women in more than 50 languages! Life-giving, sustaining, comforting hope!

I never cease to marvel how Jesus, "the hope of glory," releases women from sin and shame, binding up their broken hearts and restoring their dignity. No one falls too deep or too far from the reach of His grace. His death "crushed the serpent's head!" It opened the way to God. The hope He provides is indeed winning the spiritual and emotional battle in women's hearts all over the world!

It's not an easy fight, though. Women live in a war zone without knowing who the real enemy is. The evil men who mercilessly abuse their bodies and crush their spirits don't know that they too are Satan's captives. PH is helping women understand that their real enemy is not man. It is Satan himself. This is not a gender issue, but a deeply rooted spiritual one! "I will set enmity between you (Satan) and the woman," God said, "between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel" (Gen. 3:15). That's the reason why historically women have been the victims of domestic violence, abuse, incest, abortion, sex slavery, discrimination and even murder.

But God sent the "seed of the woman"—Jesus Christ, His very son. His mission: "to destroy the devil's work (1 Jn. 3:8b)." The women led by Jesus from the heat of the battle to His victory are a testament of God's power. I have compiled some of their miraculous stories of deliverance into a book, *When Hope Wins*.

Mara, an African teenager, suffered unimaginable abuse from her addicted old husband. From listening to *Women of Hope*, she learned to pray for his deliverance. That's when hope won her heart's battle replacing bitterness and anger with unconditional forgiveness.

Somwang was rotting in a Thai prison cell when he heard a *Women of Hope* program on the radio. Hope led him to genuine repentance and total transformation. Today he is a chaplain and a Bible teacher to thousands of prisoners.

All the idols of her Indian religion could not win the battle for Alpana's life—but Jesus and His love did! Today she is a member of PH's team in India.

Hope in God alone released Marie's life from seeking love and acceptance in sex and drugs. Today, serving in a church in downtown Stockholm, she rescues those living in the gutter of Sweden's almost "perfect" society.

This Hannah's Heartbeat is God's call to you. Join PH's ministry of compassion seeking biblical justice through prayer. As you do, you will become a catalyst of hope's victory in the lives of millions of women (and men). You will see firsthand that when hope wins, there is forgiveness, redemption and joy. There is love. There is light. There is life forever!