

Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope

On Shaky Ground



The people of Haiti have long stood on shaky ground. They are far too familiar with political violence, high HIV/AIDS infection rates, vulnerability to flooding and hurricanes and the highest poverty rate in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti's spiritual ground has also been shaky, for although over 80 percent of the population claims to be Christian, over 50 percent openly practice voodoo.

In January 2010, Haiti experienced the greatest disaster of its modern history, as a massive earthquake flattened the capital of Port-au-Prince and destroyed the lives of millions. Now impoverished Haitian women, who already had very little, must provide for their families with even less.

But a voice of comfort was already becoming a friend to Haitian women: *Neges de L'Esperance*, the Creole-language production of *Women of Hope*. The program has been on the air from local station 4VEH for several years now.

"Of all the 4VEH programs, *Women of Hope* is one of my favorites," says Rose, a paralyzed woman who listens to 4VEH every day. "Why? It is good for women – young girls, teenagers and adults. All women should listen to *Women of Hope*."

Yotaire, who translates *Women of Hope* into Creole, writes, "When I am translating the material, it is like I am in a seminar. They are wonderful, very practical."

The shock of the earthquake has moved many to turn to God. One *Women of Hope* translator, who volunteered as a chaplain near the epicenter, saw 400 conversions in two weeks. But 4VEH Station Director, Brett Bundy, asks us to continue to remember Haiti in prayer. He writes, "The strong emphasis on the church right now in the aftermath of the earthquake could lead to renewed spiritual attack." Pray that Haiti's women, men and children will find stability in Jesus, the Rock of our salvation.

“Sister, Please Give Me Help”

In Venezuela, a Christian woman visited our Spanish Project Hannah Web site. She wrote to our Spanish program producer saying, “Sister, please give me help.” She had always struggled with fear, and five years earlier she had experienced a panic attack. On our Web site, she not only found a way to contact our Spanish program producer, but she also found articles discussing fear and how to combat it. The articles encouraged her, and she printed them out so that she could read them again and again in her continual spiritual fight.

Increasingly, Spanish-speaking women in the Americas region are taking to the Internet to find answers to life’s difficulties. These women can now find hope and help through proyectoana.org, where audio of the episodes themselves is provided, along with articles created from program material and the latest prayer calendars.

When Sonia Larossa, executive producer of *Women of Hope* in Spanish, is preparing to write scripts for the program, she thinks about e-mails like this one. Though their messages are sometimes short and simple, their needs are great and they are relying on Project Hannah for friendship and guidance. Sonia says that e-mails now surpass regular mail in listener responses.

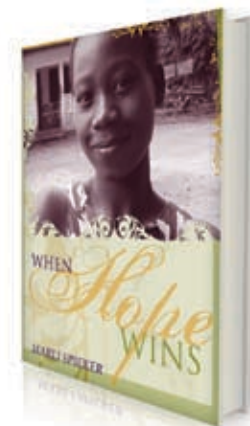


The Spanish *Women of Hope* (*Mujeres de Esperanza*) is not only blessing Spanish-speaking women, but women from other languages as well. The Spanish scripts provide the foundation for translation into Quichua, Guarani, Nivacle and Lengua. Though these producers in Ecuador and Paraguay cannot read English, they know Spanish and the scripts give them the content they need to reach women in their own languages who are pleading for help.

Stories of Hope

When hope wins, there is restoration and healing, love and life, truth and grace. *When Hope Wins* is a testament to the transforming love of Jesus, and how TWR’s Project Hannah ministry has spoken into the spiritual darkness, giving women the light of Christ. If you have not yet ordered *When Hope Wins* by Project Hannah founder Marli Spieker, please call us at 1.800.456.7897 or visit the Spiritual Resources section of our newly redesigned Web site www.projecthannah.org to order your copy today (Canadian Residents: for book availability, please contact the office of TWR Canada by calling 1-888-672-6510).

I have loved reading this book. I have learned something from each and every testimony. I am in awe of these women—the ones you are going to read about. But more than that, I am in awe of our gracious God who uses our experiences and hardships to bring about good in our lives. Thank you, Marli, for sharing these stories with us. Thank you for encouraging me—again—as you always do, to keep serving and trusting our good God. Our hope is in Him!



from Gracia Burnham’s forward for *When Hope Wins*

Prayer & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for the way He is using Project Hannah's awareness, prayer and radio ministry to change the lives of so many women, men and children around the world.
- Rejoice and give thanks with us for Ruth Mbennah, Project Hannah's new Africa Region Coordinator. Pray for Ruth as she directs the fast growing ministry in Africa.
- Please pray for obstacles to be removed so that *Women of Hope* Bambara (Mali) and Umbundu (Angola) will all be able to go on the air soon. Also, pray for the team working on the production of *WoH Oromo* in Ethiopia.
- Please pray for preparations of Project Hannah's first Americas Region Consultation to be held in Brazil in September.

A Voice of Hope

"For awhile I was not sure what I should do about producing more programs," writes Joyce Dyck, Canadian producer of *Women of Hope* in Low German. "Then while I was on a trip, I met women who have been ministering to other women in Bolivia."

That summer, shocking allegations had come out of a Low German-speaking Mennonite colony in Bolivia. According to BBC News*, seven members of the colony were detained over the alleged rape of 60 women, some as young as fourteen-years old.

Tight-knit and built on strict traditions, the Old Order Mennonite colonies in Bolivia are isolated and their affairs kept intensely private. When these allegations emerged, it shook the colony leaders, leaving uncertainty about how to handle both the perpetrators and the victims. One woman was raped while pregnant and almost lost her baby. Younger victims feared that they would be unable to find husbands in the

future.

When Joyce heard about this tragedy, she wanted to minister to the victims through *Women of Hope*, which was already on the air in Bolivia. But the sensitive subjects she wanted to present – rape, incest, abortion and domestic violence – could not be presented over the air.

The missionaries Joyce spoke to came upon a solution. "They thought it would be helpful for them if they could give CDs on the topics to women and girls. It can be done privately and listened to when suitable. That had occurred to me before, but now it seemed like confirmation."

Joyce writes of the ministry in Bolivia, "There is openness like never before, but much prayer is needed so that the Lord will open the hearts of many to the truth and give them new hope. Let us praise the Lord together for allowing us to have a voice of hope."

* <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8117905.stm>

Listeners Respond

"... Yesterday I listened to your program *Women of Hope*, and I liked it very much. You touched a very important subject. My dear daughter, who is 51 years old, is in a 'boiler' exactly as you described. I liked that you are giving the right advice, and I am very grateful for your priceless ministry. I am waiting for your programs the same way I wait for a holiday."

—A listener in Ukraine

"First, I want to thank God because Project Hannah came to show me the way to peace and to God. Before I knew this group, I did not even know how to pray or that prayer

could even help. Now I can pray in faith. May God be with you all. I pray that you will be able to help other souls like mine, which was lost."

—A prayer group member in Mozambique

I am the leader of a women's fellowship. I have been hearing this program [*Women of Hope*, Nepal] *Nari Asha* for 5 months. I like this program. It helps me a lot to teach to the women. Until now, I had not known many things about health and women's issues. I thank the team that produces such a good program for us.

—A listener from Nepal

The Smile That Illuminates the Skies

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

Seismologists tell us that worldwide, in the first quarter of this year there was an average of 35 earthquakes a day! Most left little damage, but who can ever forget the trail of destruction left by the mega earthquakes in Haiti and Chile?

I remember watching the miraculous rescue of a five year old Haitian boy who survived trapped under the rubble for 7 days. Understandably, he was terrified by it all, but the moment he was out, his skinny little arms victoriously went up in the air, and the biggest smile illuminated the whole area. The crowd cheered in triumph! CNN called it “a mile smile,” but I call it “hope’s victory smile!”

The scene flooded my mind with similar images of women miraculously rescued through Project Hannah’s (PH) ministry. Repeatedly I hear their heart-wrenching stories; women trapped under the rubble of prejudice, harmful cultural practices, hopelessness and fear. The majority of them were living shrouded in silence. But they survived, just like the little Haitian boy. I saw the “mile smile of hope” on their faces.

When natural or emotional earthquakes destroy our dreams and spirits and when tragedy hits home, we have a Rescuer who is able to lift tons of debris of pain and suffering off our lives and exchange it for His joy and hope. Jesus’ death on the cross caused a powerful spiritual earthquake across the world! His cross is the epicenter of God’s love, and the fury of a 1,000 full-blown natural earthquakes cannot compare with His power. He endured God’s judgment “to destroy the works of the devil” and rescue us from eternal destruction. That’s the message PH proclaims through the media, prayer meetings, bible studies and women’s empowerment programs.

Millions of women still live trapped under the debris this cruel world has dumped on them. They are gasping for every breath, hoping that someone will come to their rescue in this world that’s shaken and destroyed by the terrible consequences of sin. I tremble to think that if we, the church, fail to pray, speak up, and take action against injustices and all forms of abuse, we are actually allowing them.



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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