



# Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope

## CONSOLATION BRINGING *Joy*

Although approximately half of Nepal's population is female, in their society, their value is not equal to that of men. Violence against women is common. Many are trafficked and forced into prostitution or bonded servitude. Others endure, even accept, various forms of abuse, ranging from emotional to psychological to sexual. Beyond that, Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Water contamination presents a whole slew of complications, and bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, encephalitis, malaria, and dengue fever are common problems for many Nepalese.

Through prayer groups, on-the-ground mercy ministries and the radio program *Women of Hope*, Project Hannah's ministry of compassion has had a tremendous effect on the lives of women living in desperate circumstances worldwide. Since September 2008, TWR-Nepal has tailored these pillars of Project Hannah's vital global outreach to fit their unique culture. Through *Women of Hope (Nari Asha)* in Nepali, suffering and isolated women find comfort, consolation and encouragement. The program features relevant topics that address spiritual, physical, psychological and social needs.

A group of regular listeners said that through the program they learn about how to raise their children, care for their family and meet the emotional needs of their husbands. Another group reported being regularly sick because of the dirty water, but after they learned about the importance of clean water on *Women of Hope*, they took steps to keep their drinking water safe.

In addition to the effective programs, on-the-ground sewing and literacy classes provide outreach opportunities while equipping women for their daily lives, and many have expressed their thanks for these holistic ministries. Please join us in praying for the women of Nepal who ask that God would continue to console them with his joy, despite their circumstances.



## Precious in the Eyes of God

“My name is Krina, and I’m 25 years old. I work for an organization in Nepal that helps fight women trafficking and domestic violence. My three sisters and I were raised in the Hindu culture. My parents were very devoted, and completely against Christianity. My mother would fast five days a week, and

we all went to the temple daily for peace and joy in our family, but nothing ever changed.

My father never took care of us, simply because we are girls. He wanted a son, not three daughters. I saw the violence in my own home, so I always wanted to help prevent it in other homes. I thought that I had no value because I was a woman, and became depressed.

My uncle helped me to attend school, and I later had an opportunity to work for a social organization, fighting against violence. I would encourage victims to rise against it, but I felt guilty as I faced the violence in my personal life. My father treated us horribly, and still my mother supported him. I sometimes thought about leaving home, but I never went through with it.

One day, I heard a *Women of Hope* radio program. I had never heard such a program. They talked about the value of women, and I came to know that God’s love is amazing. He can look past all the ugliness in our lives and see beauty. We are his valued child, regardless of our past. Though I’ve struggled with many things in my life and have felt unworthy, I know that God loves me and his love endures forever.

Even though my home situation remains the same, my life has been changed. I am precious in the eyes of God. Thank you, TWR Nepal, for producing a wonderful program and for giving me new life through the Word of God.”

## Adopted by a Loving Father

Namaste is a 32-year-old Nepali woman, born and raised in the Hindu culture. When she was 21, she was given by her parents in an arranged marriage. At first, their marriage was good, but after five years of trying, Namaste was unable to bear a child. According to Hindu culture, children are the door of heaven. Namaste believed this saying, and thought that there was no place for her in heaven. Even her family turned against her.

Namaste fell into a deep depression. She tried everything she could think of to get pregnant, but nothing worked. She couldn’t concentrate on her housework, and her family grew angrier with her. Though her husband loved her enough to move away from their abusive families, it did not end her pain.

One day, a Christian lady came and visited Namaste. Namaste poured out her heart and shared her problems. The kind woman then told Namaste a testimony of a lady who had similar fertility problems. When she placed her faith in Jesus Christ, she finally experienced true peace and happiness. Inspired by this testimony, Namaste began attending church.

Namaste was introduced to the pastor’s wife, who reached out to her. As they talked, Namaste learned that the pastor’s wife was also a new volunteer of TWR’s Project Hannah (PH) ministry. She advised Namaste to listen to PH’s radio program, *Nari Asha*, and gave her the schedule.

Namaste soon fell in love with the program, and was greatly touched after hearing the adoption story of Moses. It is also through that program that Namaste learned what it means to be adopted as sons into God’s eternal family. She placed her faith and hope in Jesus Christ, and her life hasn’t been the same since. She and her husband are currently trying to adopt. Please pray that their family will accept this decision.



## Prayer & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for his goodness during Project Hannah's 13 years of ministry. Give thanks for the hundreds of women working with Project Hannah ministries to provide the *Women of Hope* program in over 55 languages and the monthly prayer calendar in over 40 languages.
- Praise the Lord that *Women of Hope* Oromo (Ethiopia) and Umbundu (Angola) went on the air July 1, 2010.
- Please continue to ask God for his guidance and wisdom as decisions are made concerning the development of a discipleship program and new languages for *Women of Hope* programs (Bambara, Dari, Kannada, Marathi, Tanzania Swahili, Telugu, Ticuna, Turkish, Zulu and others).
- Pray for those involved in Project Hannah Mercy Ministries, who touch women's lives in prisons, refuge homes and hospitals through skills training, counseling and acts of kindness.

## Project Hannah Make the Connection



[projecthannah.org](http://projecthannah.org)

At our revitalized Web site, [projecthannah.org](http://projecthannah.org), connect to what God is doing through Project Hannah to transform the lives of broken women around the world. Be encouraged each week by reading new stories of hope and redemption along with profiles of global workers and the countries in which Project Hannah ministers. Listen to *Women of Hope* programs on-line or listen on the go by downloading the MP3 files or using the new iPhone app. Connect with like-minded women through the many resources in the prayer section. Continue the prayer connection by sharing your requests as well as how



[projecthannah.org/app](http://projecthannah.org/app)



[projecthannah.org/facebook](http://projecthannah.org/facebook)



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God answers. And, connect others to Project Hannah and the suffering women we serve by emailing *Hannah's Heartbeat* PDF files to friends and sharing favorite stories on your Facebook page. Stay connected and keep the conversation going on Project Hannah's new Facebook page. The Lord's call to rescue those living in darkness is clear; be a part of shining his light—make the connection with Project Hannah today!

## Listeners Respond

"I have learned so many things through your program, including how to see myself as Jesus sees me. In our culture we have been told since we were children that we are worth nothing, so this program is doing for me what nothing else could do. It shows me I'm precious in God's eyes and he sent his only son, just for me. It was so special for me to listen to this program in my mother tongue."

—A listener in Albania

"We thank God for his provision, especially to poor and single mothers who are burdened with the load to

care for their children. The Lord has continually provided for me and my children. Since I joined this prayer group, I have learned to love and to trust in God all the time."

—A Swahili prayer group member in Kenya

"The programs presented by the women are very pleasing and they make me happy. It's as though someone is right there with me, offering advice. You programs bring me much joy. May God bless you."

—A Quichua listener in Ecuador



# Dangerously Noncompliant in a Broken World

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

A year ago I met Shanti, a courageous young woman whose life inspired and blessed me tremendously. Shanti is Project Hannah's (PH) young leader in Nepal. She told us about PH's ever-growing prayer movement, and how the *Nari Asha (Women of Hope)* radio program is changing women's eternal destinies. These fascinating stories are a poignant reminder that no one is out of God's powerful saving reach—not even women trapped in the most discriminatory cultures. Not a day goes by without Shanti being confronted with the ugly plight of her sisters. It's a striking contrast to the breathtaking scenery of this small country, nestled at the foot of the Himalaya region, not far from Mount Everest

Nepali women are said to be extremely religious. Nevertheless, they are plagued by fear of the spiritual world, facing "mountains" of ignorance and hopelessness. Their hearts cry out to the wind as the psalmist of old: *"I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from?"* Their religion and its complex practices offer no answers. They don't know their Maker, the true Defender of the weak. Shanti is determined to lead them to him no matter what it takes.

Though she's surrounded by impossibilities such as extreme poverty, a small and fragile Christian church and even personal tragedies, she does not relent. Three weeks after she suffered a miscarriage, she set aside her personal loss, sorrow and pain and was back on the rough mountainous paths visiting, teaching, and encouraging PH's listeners. She knows and rests on her "immovable, unchangeable, unstoppable" God. She has found the answer: *"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and Earth!"* With contagious enthusiasm, she sets out to empower women by teaching them sewing and literacy skills. She produces radio programs, leads Bible studies and mentors new Christians. She presses on, not counting the cost and ignoring opposition along the way. Firm and daring, she walks the road less travelled upon, bringing hope to women in remote villages, prisons and brothels.

This remarkable young woman reminds me of Dr. John C. Ortberg's definition of leadership: *"Leaders don't ask for comfort. They don't ask for ease. They don't ask for manageability. They ask to be given the burden of a challenge bigger than themselves—one that can make a difference in the world . . ."* He goes on to say: *" . . . The Spirit wants to make you threatening to all the forces of injustice and apathy and complacency that keep our world from flourishing. The Spirit wants to make you dangerously noncompliant in a broken world."* Shanti fits Ortberg's profile perfectly. With God's help, she chooses daily to be "dangerously noncompliant" in her broken world. How does she do that? She trusts and obeys the promptings of our God who "never sleeps nor slumbers!" PH is blessed with a new generation of noncompliant women like Shanti.



## 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.

## CONNECT WITH PROJECT HANNAH:

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