

# Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope

## Eternally Changed

*"It's hard to describe the feelings I had when I heard Women of Hope on Christian radio speaking my language (Roma in Albania). I started crying. Since that day I have listened every week. I can say with all of my heart that this program has changed my life and made me a totally different person: a better wife, mother and friend.*

*For seven years my son and his wife were unable to have children. This is considered a great shame in our community. They went many times to the hospital and took many medicines, but nothing happened. Our family was under constant stress and both my son and daughter-in-law were completely desperate.*

*One day, the Women of Hope program shared the story of the woman with blood flow issues. She just touched the robe of the Lord Jesus and was healed. Inspired by this story, my son, his wife and I started to pray to the Lord to be blessed with a child. They stopped taking the medicines and simply trusted in God for a miracle to happen. After three months of praying every day, we discovered that my daughter-in-law was pregnant. God*

*blessed them with a beautiful daughter, Samuela, the answer to our prayers. And, because this occurred, my husband also came to know Jesus Christ.*

*We are so thankful to God for these blessings. I am so happy to have found Women of Hope, which has been such a great encouragement for me and my entire family. I am especially happy that it is in our own language so that it is easy for us to understand."*

While the details of the stories may differ, the underlying truth remains: in Christ, lives are eternally changed. God is using Project Hannah to speak this hope to hurting women worldwide. The lost are found, the blind see, the lame walk and the dead are raised to life. Christ conquers all circumstances with his hope, an anchor for every soul, firm and secure.

***Read more at [projecthannah.org/livesarechanged](http://projecthannah.org/livesarechanged)***

# Changed from the inside out

Elly's problems stemmed from the baggage of her past. Since her parent's death when she was 10, Elly lived as if she were a prisoner. Debilitated by mental illness and longing for a sanctuary, she went to Sweden, but her dreams for her future were shattered. There was no place for her. The asylum process was so long, it made her sick. The doctors gave her lots of medicine, but it didn't help. She found herself a lonely outsider in the place she came for freedom.

Starving for acceptance, she went to church. Though she had been raised in a secularized Muslim environment, she felt neither Muslim nor Christian. One day, a hidden picture from her past came to mind – she had seen *The JESUS Film* with her parents. She remembered that when Jesus was hanging on the cross, her mother cried and

said, "Look, they killed God." She asked to see the film and then watched it again and again. Realizing by accepting Jesus she would have true freedom, she prayed, thanking God that he received her as his child.

As she slept that night, she dreamed she was sitting in a dark garden, calling on God and asking why he did not help her. All at once the whole garden was flooded with light and in the open sky she saw Jesus. The next morning, she woke up healed from all her mental illnesses. She didn't need strong medicine or sleeping pills anymore. She continued to grow in her faith and was baptized.

Though Elly's difficult circumstances have not changed, Jesus changed her life from the inside out. Today, she walks with him and helps reach other refugees with the gospel.

She was the inspiration for 'Hannah's House' in Sweden. Though not a physical place, 'Hannah's House' is a gathering in locations like a coffee shop which provides a time of emotional shelter for refugees and introduces them to Jesus.

*The stories continue online at [projecthannah.org/sweden](http://projecthannah.org/sweden)*

## The most important work

"It occurred to me that women's suffering is not only a gender problem, or just a social or economic problem; it is a deeply rooted spiritual problem that can only be dealt with through spiritual means. I knew that the only way to go about releasing women from darkness was through prayer—the most powerful resource God has given to his Church. Corporate, focused, informed, earnest prayer!

The strategy for Project Hannah was given to me . . . when I not only saw the use of radio in a new light, but understood anew that prayer is the most important work we can do for these dear women. I am an eyewitness to his power-working miracles in the lives of women from many cultures and walks of life, as a direct result of our prayer and culturally-relevant radio programs. All the stories of this book testify to that. Project Hannah's massive worldwide prayer movement is the propelling force behind such miracles. In Project Hannah, we believe that

prayer not only supports the work—prayer is the work!"

*—Excerpt from Chapter 1 of When Hope Wins by Project Hannah Founder Marli Spieker*

"I always used to go to church but I could not follow God's commandments, and also had not yet experienced the power of prayer. When I came to this [Project Hannah prayer] group, my biggest wish was to be touched by God's power and for my husband to be brought back home. It was difficult and took a lot of time, but now he is back. He helps with the house expenses and even helps me in my business. I am very happy for that. My sisters, let's pray without stopping." —A prayer group member in Mozambique

**The stories continue online.** Visit [projecthannah.org/prayerchangeslives](http://projecthannah.org/prayerchangeslives) for more true stories of how God is rescuing women and involving those who join him through the work of prayer!



# In the **potter's hands**

## Prayer & PRAISE

- Praise the Lord that with the additions of Bambara (Mali) and Tanzanian Swahili, the *Women of Hope* program is now available in 58 languages.
- Praise the Lord for Ros Atkinson, Project Hannah's International *Women of Hope* Script Writer, and Fran James, who makes sure the scripts are theologically accurate and balanced.
- Pray for wisdom for Project Hannah leaders in deciding which new language groups to reach with *Women of Hope* in 2011.
- Pray for Marli's visit to Finland in May to work with Project Hannah's partner, The Messengers, inviting new intercessors and donors to join them in supporting *Women of Hope* programs in Cambodia, Indonesia and India.

Excerpt from Founder Marli Spieker's story told in Chapter 1 of *When Hope Wins*:

*...In that moment, my little car became a sanctuary. I felt as though God was sitting in the passenger's seat staring at me! I came to my senses. In tears, I relinquished all my rights, my plans and my will to him. 'Yes, I am the clay, Lord.' And in my mind and heart I knew that clay does not rebel; clay does not have plan A, B, and C; clay does not talk back to its maker! It simply abandons itself to the shaping of the potter's hands. I thought I was a flexible person. I was willing to go back and forth to Asia as many times as needed. We had sold our house so that we could use the mortgage payments to provide for my personal expenses traveling with Edmund. I had left behind family, church, personal comforts . . . but God did not want my "flexibility." He wanted my "pliability;" my total abandonment to his will and his skillful hands to shape me according to his plan—not mine! So, after thirty-two years of missionary service, I found myself surrendering my life anew to his sovereign will.*

*Since Project Hannah's beginning, we have strived to scale cultural, religious, social, and racial barriers using these two powerful tools—superpower radio and high-power prayer. God is using our efforts and taking women out of darkness into the light of Jesus . . . and hope*

*wins all over the world!*

*When Hope Wins* isn't merely the title of a book; we praise God it is the reality of what he is doing for suffering women through this media and prayer ministry he created! To order a copy of *When Hope Wins* for yourself or a friend, visit the Spiritual Resources section of [projecthannah.org](http://projecthannah.org) or call 1-800-456-7897 and ask for Donor Services (\$12, shipping included; only available in the US; Canadian Residents, contact TWR Canada at 1-888-672-6510).



## listeners **respond**

"I am praying according to Project Hannah's prayer calendar. I am glad for detailed prayer requests for illiterates [March 2010 monthly focus]. Before contacting TWR Myanmar, I was selfish by praying only for family and close friends. I didn't have concerns for some women of the world who are suffering pains in their heart. I am pleased to pray for every woman. Please don't forget to send the prayer calendar to me every month. God keeps his promises and knows our needs already. He gives to us in his time."

—A Burmese listener, Myanmar

"When I joined the sewing class organized by TWR Nepal, my life was changed. Everyone used to look at and treat us only as criminals and they hated us. But this ministry loved us and gave us an opportunity to learn something to help us survive in life. I am learning from my inner heart and now I am so glad to say that I can stitch my own clothes and there is nothing to worry about. All this credit goes to TWR who provided this wonderful opportunity for us. Thank you, and may God bless you all."

—A prisoner in Nepal

"I love your program. It supports me in all that I do with my family, but above all else, it helps me to continue to cultivate this love that was born in me for God, which I don't ever want to end. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I ask him to care for and bless you and to continue giving you this love that you have for us, which you pour out through your programs."

—A Spanish Women of Hope listener



# More than words

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

“Do you really think you can change women’s plight?” people often ask me. I answer, “Together with his church and by God’s grace – you bet I do!” I see it happening every day as I watch Project Hannah’s teams responding to God’s call to love as he loves, introducing Jesus to women everywhere!

God’s purposes and universal call to goodness echo in every human heart. But for his follower, there is even more – he lovingly prepares good works for us in advance. Project Hannah (PH) teams are walking in such good works and their efforts are magnificent, albeit difficult. They do this not because of the daunting need before them, but because of the “small voice behind them” leading the way. This holy exercise of trust, obedience and faith in God is rewarded with the joy of being his “agents of change” in these troubled women’s lives.

Jesus invites us to defend the weak and live out his love in humility, integrity and simplicity. We need to look beyond our sanitized lives and be willing to touch the wounds of this hurting world. Millions of brokenhearted women face unthinkable abuse and injustices. They gasp for hope, healing and real love with every breath. If we refuse to share with them in their pain, why do we expect them to listen to us when we share the gospel with them?

In my book *When Hope Wins*, I tell stories of God’s transforming grace through PH teams. But ten chapters simply can’t contain all God is doing as these women visit patients in AIDS wards in Angola; widow’s huts in Cambodia; fistula hospitals in Ethiopia; prisons in Asia, Europe and South America; filthy brothels in Nepal and as they teach life skills, set up micro-businesses and open ‘Hannah’s Houses.’ When women’s lives are changed, they change their environmental conditions and the cycle of hopelessness is broken. I’ve seen women crawl out of the pit of despair and walk with Jesus into a new life of dignity. Transformed by his power and the love of others, they become God’s agents of change themselves. Amazing grace, indeed!

Karen Mains’ call to the Church resonates deeply in my heart: “*Oh, that Christians understood that the Church is a birthing place, where life is encouraged in the middle of this death-camp world . . . a place where we can do spiritual labor within its shelter; a place where the agony of becoming is overseen by experts and awaited by concerned friends . . . a place where we participate in one another’s travail and where we share joy and exhaustion when our work is successfully accomplished. The Church must be a place where mercy is given before judgment.*”



## 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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