

Hannah's Heartbeat

touching hearts, instilling hope



FOOD THAT *endures*

Acute food shortages are one of many hardships endured by the people of North Korea. Pregnant women are often so malnourished their bodies simply cannot bear the physical stress of carrying a child to full term. Sadly, miscarriages are common. Mothers lacking the nourishment to produce milk find themselves unable to nurse their children. These underfed children are left in nurseries so the mothers can work to afford food. There is no freedom of choice when it comes to jobs available. Such is the existence of North Korean women.

Project Hannah team members in South Korea feel for their sisters in the north and produce a *Women of Hope* program tailored just for them. The program not only offers spiritual encouragement but also educates, providing information on topics such as child care and nutrition. Meeting with listeners is impossible, as is

receiving listener letters to find out what the audience learns from the programs. But the radio broadcasts can still reach the hurting women of North Korea with weekly messages of God's love and eternal hope.

The power of prayer also reaches across the border. And the South Korean ministry team shares a deep conviction about the importance of both personal and corporate prayer. For the past year, the team has been working to engage more South Korean women with Project Hannah's global prayer network, asking these women to commit to using the monthly prayer calendars and to pray for women not only in North Korea but also globally. Please join them in prayer for the broadcasts reaching across barriers into North Korea. Pray that no barrier will keep North Korean women from the gospel message of food that endures to eternal life (John 6:27, 35).

Adapted from an article by Serene Yang of TWR-Asia

Learn more and see photos of Marli's recent trip to South Korea at projecthannah.org/marliinsouthkorea.



*Project Hannah
team in South
Korea*



A Beautiful BEGINNING

The 30-minute radio program *Women of Hope* began airing weekly in Arabic on Jan. 7, 2012, from TWR's transmitter reaching Middle East countries. Project Hannah's Arabic prayer ministry started in July 2011 with 100 intercessors and in barely six months had grown to 300 intercessors in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

This beautiful beginning is indeed a reason for praise! The vision for Project Hannah Arabic has always been to expand until all of the countries in the Arab world receive the radio signals carrying *Women*

of Hope. The next step is to secure funding for weekly broadcasts via our outlet reaching across North Africa (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and more). Covering all 20-plus Arab-speaking countries across the expansive Middle Eastern and North African region involves use of multiple high-power AM transmitters. The technological tools are available. The team is in place, translating and producing programs, doing follow-up and coordinating the prayer ministry within the region.

The need is before us: tens of millions of Arabic-speaking women facing a variety of cultural, economic and social challenges. For example, collectively, the Arab countries have one of the world's highest illiteracy rates for women. Nearly 50 percent of women are illiterate compared with 30 percent of the men. In all but four of the Arab countries, fewer than 80 percent of girls go to secondary school. This lack of education contributes to a number of unhealthy lifestyles that result in high maternal mortality rates and higher rates of disease in general. Most of all, though, Arabic-speaking women share the universal need for forgiveness and peace, which only Jesus can give. Radio is a perfect medium to reach women who do not read, as well as those who do!

Join us in praying for Project Hannah's Arabic team, asking that God would continue to give its members wisdom and strength, keeping them faithful on the journey to which he has called them – reaching women across the Middle East and North Africa with the message of God's love.

Based on excerpts from an article by N.O., Arabic ministry director

Learn more and download a perpetual calendar to join us in praying for Arab women and for Project Hannah's ministry among them at projecthannah.org/pray4arabwomen.



LISTENERS RESPOND

"I cannot tell you how much I am blessed by Women of Hope programs. They are like a ray of light shining through the clouds in the sky. The message I hear in them gives me hope, and the truth of God's Word fills my heart with joy."

– A listener in Albania

"We know you by your names and thank you for your ministry. We are listening to you constantly. We like everything [about Women of Hope]. There is so much edification. You also give good corrections. The Holy Spirit is touching me. Praise the Lord

for this opportunity to listen to you. At times we would just love to talk to you about things after the program, and so we just sit together and talk and pray and thank the Lord and ask Him that not only we but many others would hear this and come to repentance."

– A listener in Ukraine

"I listen to the program Asha Bhari Nariya [Women of Hope] regularly. It is a wonderful program for women who face grave issues and problems in their lives as it provides them the needed encouragement and counseling." – A Hindi listener in India



Listen now! PROJECT HANNAH

Listen to *Women of Hope* on the iPhone app and share the app with friends! Download it free at projecthannah.org/app. The Android version is in development and will be available later for download at the same URL, so be sure to check back soon!

The app is available in English and Spanish, with additional languages to be added.

Hungering FOR THE TRUTH

Dear friends,

You don't know how eagerly I anticipate your program [Spanish Women of Hope]. You are a great help to me. I have two children, 5 and 8 years old. And, when my husband must be away for work, I must live with my mother-in-law and her family. Every day I thank God a thousand times for you because every program edifies me, gives me strength and challenges me to give my best. I want to grow every day so that I can be useful in the Kingdom of God. Thank you to Sonia [executive producer], who always writes in response to me and offers me words of counsel. Continue moving forward and giving such words of counsel, because there are many of us that need them.

M from Cuba

There are only six government-run TV stations in Cuba, and satellite TV receivers are not allowed. Internet access is extremely limited. No Christian radio stations are permitted on the island. But Cubans do have Christian radio – TWR programs such as *Mujeres de Esperanza* [*Women of Hope*] are broadcast to them every evening from our uniquely powerful transmitter on the island of Bonaire! It's impossible to overstate

the importance of these programs for people who are isolated emotionally and spiritually from the rest of the world.

Atheism's grip on Cuba is loosening, and the people's hunger for God's truth is astounding. People in Cuba will do amazing things to ensure that they don't miss a TWR program such as Spanish *Women of Hope*. One 94-year-old woman, who has been listening to TWR since the day Bonaire went on the air in 1964, says she listens standing up every night. Her reason: She plans for the fall to the floor to wake her up if she nods off! Thank you for partnering with Project Hannah to connect the isolated women of Cuba with spiritual encouragement and truth via *Women of Hope* broadcasts from Bonaire.

The stories continue at projecthannah.org/hopefrombonaire.





BEYOND BARRIERS: *hope*

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

I remember well the early days of God’s call to start a new women’s ministry. One hot afternoon in 1997, I sat in Singapore’s Garden Hotel reading the Bible and asking God for his message to the women he wanted me to serve. Isaiah 49 verses 15 and 16 jumped right off the page! “Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands ...” These verses became a foundational message of Project Hannah.

As I share this passage with women their faces light up! When they understand that the extent of God’s love goes as far as engraving our names on his hands at the expense of his Son, they are overwhelmed. To women who have been ignored by their fathers, oppressed by their cultures and abused by those who are supposed to cherish them, this news is revolutionary! But Isaiah 49:16 continues, and it seemed totally out of context when I read it back then in Singapore, “[Y]our walls are continually before me.” Walls? Yes, walls of fear, inadequacy, inequality, poverty, segregation and more. Walls I have seen all too often in far too many places over the past 15 years. But to women trapped behind these walls, God says: I see them all. No matter how high or how great the barriers are, God sees them!

And it is for these women and against the walls that trap them that Project Hannah’s intercessors in more than 120 countries pray. Using a monthly calendar translated and distributed in more than 55 languages, they join together to pray for one request each day. Think of it: one person’s minute of prayer multiplied thousands of times as intercessors across denominations and cultures pray in unison. It is a wave of prayer around the globe: intentional, corporate, uninterrupted prayer in Jesus’ name!

These prayers undergird the *Women of Hope* radio programs as they reach beyond barriers in 58 languages. Production teams and listeners are covered in prayer. The radio waves coupled with earnest, corporate prayers cross any geographical, political or social barriers! My recent trip to South Korea was a vivid reminder of this truth. For 14 years *Women of Hope* has been broadcast to North Korea. Listening to foreign broadcasts there is sufficient reason for a death sentence. Understandably, we do not receive many responses from North Korea. But just as TWR reached behind the Iron Curtain into Eastern Europe for decades, we continue reaching women in hard-to-reach places like North Korea today. We continue using various media platforms, especially high-power radio, to tell hurting women about Jesus and his love for them. The truth is that no barrier – no matter how difficult, how tall or how impenetrable it is – NO barrier can stand in Jesus’ presence!



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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