

Hannah's Heartbeat

volume 17, number 2

touching hearts, instilling hope



Alone but Not Alone

Alone. Unlucky. Such had been the story of young Becca's life by the time she turned to the *Women of Hope*® Tagalog team for help. With neither parent able to hold down a permanent job, they could not even provide three meals a day let alone afford to send Becca to school. Seeing no way out of their poverty, they sent Becca to work as a servant for her relatives when she was 12.

For five years, the Filipino girl did the work of a full-grown woman: Washing and ironing clothes, cleaning the house, and washing the dishes were among her many tasks. The environment was one of humiliation as she endured being yelled at for every mistake. By the age of 17, Becca began to envy her peers who were attending school. So she enrolled in school during the day and continued to do her full day's work each evening. She studied and worked for three years, but it eliminated the little time she had been able to spend with peers.

Even her desire to go to church was thwarted by her sister, who became angry each time Becca stayed out too long at a service. Work, work, work — that was the only expectation Becca's family had of her.

But as she did her work, Becca listened to the radio and she loved *Ilaw ng Pag-asa* [Tagalog *Women of Hope*] because parts of each program applied to her daily life and situations she faced. But the good devotionals about God — those seemed like a fantasy to her. When she compared her life to others', everything seemed unfair. She did not feel special. Becca could not reconcile the loving God she heard about with how her family treated her: "Is it true that God the Father loves me? Why am I very lonely? Why do I need to work so hard? Why doesn't anyone love me?" These were the questions she kept asking the Tagalog-language Project Hannah team.

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[continued from first page] The words of the Tagalog *Women of Hope*® team were the balm her soul needed to believe in the God that their programs told her about: “You are a very strong woman. Move on from your past knowing that God is watching over you so nothing you do is in vain. Someday, you will see the reward of your hard work.” Surprised that they saw strength in her determination and hard work, Becca thought differently of the Father God they spoke about and how much He loved her. Ilaw ng Pag-asa remains

a source of comfort, encouragement, and strength for which she is thankful. Becca’s life is still difficult and filled with hard work. But she now knows finishing her studies will help her change a life of poverty. More importantly, she now believes there is a God who changes hearts.

Stay connected to how God is working through Project Hannah around the world — receive Project Hannah’s monthly email updates! Sign up on the main page of projecthannah.org.

Pure Spiritual Food

I am thankful to the TWR Myanmar Project Hannah team for sending me the monthly prayer calendar and giving me the opportunity to pray through the requests.

Even though I read the Bible, I found it difficult to understand everything the Bible meant. But listening every night to TWR’s Burmese radio programs has helped me understand each Scripture verse I hear about as well as the themes Scripture teaches. I listen to all TWR Burmese radio programs always.

One of the Burmese Women of Hope® programs talked about food. Fruits and vegetables should be eaten every day, and eating many vegetables helps strengthen both a person’s body and mind. It is necessary to have at least three meals each day. Water is the best drink for us, and we shouldn’t eat much food that is made by adding sugar. The same program taught us that just as the right food is important for our physical health, we have to read and study the Bible for our spiritual health. By reading the Bible, we learn God’s command to love everyone, and showing godly love is a good example of a healthy Christian to others. The Women of Hope® hosts gave Scripture references with their message, and I am especially thankful to the producers of this program.

from a Burmese Women of Hope® listener in Myanmar

Within the past decade, Myanmar has been impacted by two significant natural disasters – the tsunami in 2004 and Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Even as the people of Myanmar try to recover a sense of normalcy years after the disasters have passed, there still exists a void that only God can fill. They need Jesus to bind their hurts and make them whole again. TWR is reaching out to the women of Myanmar with prayer and the Word of God through Project Hannah’s monthly prayer calendar and its *Women of Hope*® radio program, broadcast via shortwave from TWR’s transmitters on Guam.



PRAYER

Praise God that daily broadcasts from TWR’s new PANI outlet began on March 24, 2014! Pray for God to draw many in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and North India to Himself through programs from this powerful AM signal. The Dari *Women of Hope*® team is producing programs that will air from PANI this fall. Pray for their protection.



FOR THIS LIFE & ETERNITY

The women who lead Project Hannah Ukraine say it's impossible to paint a generalized portrait of a *Women of Hope*® listener. A "typical" Ukrainian listener is a mother of many children, a lonely widow, a young bride-to-be, a grandmother surrounded by grandchildren, a lady overflowing with praise, a woman consumed with criticism, and even a father writing down program advice so he can better influence his teenage daughter. "We thank God for every listener," the team writes, "We see them from their letters. We praise God for the opportunity through the radio programs to direct the women of Ukraine to Him who is ready to give His mercy in this earthly life and in eternity."

Broadcast since 2002, the primary audience of *Women of Hope*® Ukrainian is believers, but the producers work hard to ensure that each program is also interesting and useful to listeners who do not yet know God. The past three years, taking the time to include a quiz question in about one program a month has proved very popular with listeners. "Some wrote that with the help of [the quiz question] they began studying the Bible more deeply."

The Ukraine team also writes, "We value in a special way those who help with prayer and are responsible for prayer groups in the worldwide ministry of Project Hannah." The Ukrainian team came to realize that regular, independent prayer requires a special kind of personal sacrifice. So in the process of answering listener letters, they look carefully for sisters whose letters reveal they are gifted in praying fervently for the women of the world. When such a woman writes, the team invites her to join Project Hannah's worldwide prayer movement (Ukraine uses the Russian translation of the prayer calendar). "They are thankful for the opportunity to support the ministry in prayer and [to support] the women of the world going through difficult times. We are still seeking for sisters to take part in the prayer ministry and hope the Lord will broaden our prayer borders."



The Most Important Thing We Do

by Marli Spieker

Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

From the mountains of Nepal to remote villages in Vietnam, deep in the heart of Africa or high in Central Asia's mountains, in the isolated Chaco of South America or in bustling cities of this world: How do you serve isolated women living in hard-to-reach places? Both radio waves and earnest, corporate prayers can reach women right where they are, regardless of their circumstances!

Project Hannah's *Women of Hope*® program is broadcast in more than 60 languages over hundreds of radio stations but also on the Internet, cell phones, CDs, and MP3 players

from different places and to different demographics! Women in Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam and Cambodia are hard to reach for a variety of reasons. In partnership with other Christian groups, thousands of CDs, solar radios, and even our scripts are distributed. Workers there have been persecuted, some physically assaulted — especially up in the mountain areas. But courageously, they keep going back to share Christ's love with our listeners and with their persecutors!

Two-thirds of all illiterate people in the world are females. Often, if a family cannot afford to send all their children to school, the boys will be fed and sent first – not the girls. In addition to the high rate of illiteracy for women globally, nearly one-half of the world's population prefers oral means of communication to pass on information. Radio is the perfect medium to reach out to such audiences.

Because women are denied an education, poverty continues to have a female face across the planet. The worst poverty, however, is the spiritual inability to feel loved and valued. Praise God! Project Hannah's global prayer movement is awakening hope and bringing healing, peace and salvation! Using a monthly calendar that is translated, printed and distributed in more than 70 languages, Project Hannah's intercessors in more than 120 countries pray together one prayer request for each day.

But how do you keep encouraging people to pray if women continue to face barriers just because they were born females? Can our prayers make a difference? Yes, they can and they ARE! We've seen this powerful, God-given resource pulling down many barriers!

God is answering our prayers. Entire families are being transformed. Healing and freedom in Christ is redefining women all over this world: from weak to strong, from worthless to more precious than fine gold, from victims to victors. Prayers do not evaporate into thin air; they are the most important thing we do to destroy strongholds and the schemes of the devil – the real enemy of women.

Through His spoken word and through the power of prayer, God the Father is dismissing Satan's lies, tearing down walls, and restoring women's dignity. Take heart, dear praying friends: Even when the issues we pray for are too difficult or too foreign for us to understand, our corporate prayers touch the heart of our prayer-answering God and He touches the hearts of millions of women with His love!



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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