



Hannah's Heartbeat

volume 18, number 2

touching hearts, instilling hope

MILLIONS OF WOMEN SUFFER IN SILENCE

...will you speak on
their behalf?

The facts alone are enough to make you weep in despair.

- Women and girls make up just over half of all people with HIV, and young women in sub-Saharan Africa are as much as eight times more likely than men to have HIV, according to a UNAIDS report.
- Seventy million women and girls in 29 countries have experienced female genital mutilation, according to UNICEF.
- Girls still are less likely than boys to be in school. Two out of three illiterate adults are women.
- Every 90 seconds of every day, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth.
- Violence against women and girls remains a global pandemic, violating women's rights and perpetuating harm in every country and community.
- Child marriage is a widespread practice that can tear girls from school and spur high rates of maternal illness

and death. Millions of women and girls face abuse in what should be the sanctuary of their own homes, according to a U.N. report.

As TWR's ministry to women around the world, we at Project Hannah find these facts and figures to be intolerable.

We believe two overarching truths impel Christian action on these problems. First, God has the power to change abusive social practices by changing the lives of the individuals making up that society. And second, just as much as they need protection from these abuses and inequities, women need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the same Jesus, after all, who defended Mary for neglecting her kitchen chores to hear him speak, who violated social norms to reveal to the woman at the well that he was the long-awaited Messiah, and who held up a notoriously sinful woman as an example of repentance because she treated him with love and dignity.

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The popular slogan “think globally, act locally” has a lot to recommend it, but we encourage you to keep the emphasis on action:

- **Act socially:** Invite friends to your home or a coffee shop to raise awareness, learning from DVDs and other materials about the plight of women. Share that month’s Project Hannah prayer calendar. Invite them to join you in receiving the calendar and praying through it each month. And consider together how you could pool your financial resources to help locally and around the world.
- **Act locally:** Volunteer at a pregnancy crisis center, at a women’s shelter or with a women’s prison ministry.

- **Act globally:** If you are already praying through the Project Hannah prayer calendar each month, thank you and don’t stop! If you are new to Project Hannah, consider joining our international prayer movement or seek other global prayer initiatives to get involved in. And give to missions that share the gospel with women in unthinkable circumstances.

In the final analysis, though, we would do well to remember that we don’t have to reinvent the wheel in the 21st century. The Bible set the standard millennia ago. Read and then live out the words of Proverbs 31:8-9: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Global Prayer Movement

Each month, TWR’s Project Hannah lifts up oppressed women by praying: for those trapped in slavery or who live as refugees; against cultural practices like child marriage; or over regions like the Middle East or Africa. Join more than 40,000 intercessors praying the same requests in more than 80 languages and more than 125 countries.

Sign up for the monthly prayer calendar (by email or mail):

 projecthannah.org/eprayer

View or download resources for each month or a day:

 projecthannah.org/monthlyprayercalendar

 projecthannah.org/prayeroftheday

Follow our social media posts to read daily requests:

 projecthannah.org/facebook

 projecthannah.org/twitter

Install the app to carry requests with you on your phone:

 projecthannah.org/app



PRAYER & PRAISE

Praise God with us that *Women of Hope* in Pashto started airing from TWR’s PANI outlet the last week of 2014! Pray for those who are listening to the program and ask that many more Pashto speakers will hear the broadcasts and be encouraged in their faith. Ask for God to protect the team and to guide them as they produce programs. Please also pray for God to raise up a Dari *Women of Hope* team so that Dari women in Afghanistan can hear as well.



Women of Hope

Programs Make a Difference. Your Prayers Matter.

Our very first Facebook friend told us that her husband had made a long rope to kill her. But she told him, "The love of Jesus is stronger than a rope." She went on to say, "We [Somali believers] are the testimony of Jesus." **From the Somali Women of Hope team**

Thank you very much for the Kurdish-Sorani program for women. Your [Women of Hope] programs are like a light in the darkness. Through these programs I have discovered that I am God's beloved child. God bless you! **A listener of the Kurdish-Sorani program, available for people in Iran, Iraq, and Turkey**

My group always gathers at 6 p.m. every Saturday for your radio program. Each one brings crushed wheat or some ripe bananas or jackfruits to the listening place to eat while listening to Women of Hope. After some time, we proposed changing locations each time so that we meet in the homes of different group members. In this way, we attract more listeners to join. Everyone acknowledges your program's benefits. Women of Hope has touched many sisters and even their husbands, who changed from addiction, alcoholism, and gambling to be good husbands and fathers and to build up the family, work together, and help the community. Thanks to God, thanks to your program! **A listener in Vietnam**

I like the Women of Hope program so much because it helps both men and women in our daily lives and in our spiritual lives too. Through listening to Women of Hope, it helped me to change a lot in my life as I bring more peace to my family. Please pray for my family to be able to learn God's Word and come to church every week. **A listener in Cambodia**

All of your programs have been a blessing to me. In the program Women of Hope, I would like to thank you for the simple greeting and calling us your "radio friends." The topics on violence, on anger are very up-to-date and speak to our experiences. During the program, tears flow down my cheeks – the Lord knows. ... The poem was very good. I believe that the prayer you prayed at the end was for me too. I prayed together with you. The Lord did some healing within me. Of course, I cannot write everything here and explain all that led to this condition. The words in the program about the "deep breath", which helps work against rising anger, helped me to remember: Prayer is breathing for a Christian. Too little prayer – too little strength; lots of prayer – much more strength. **A listener in Ukraine of Women of Hope Russian**



The Back Rows

by Marli Spieker
Project Hannah Founder and Global Ministry Director

“And who will feed the hungry souls on the back rows of this world?” That question resounded in the souls of men like Billy Graham and TWR’s

founder, Paul Freed, when they heard Oswald Smith preach in 1948 at the World Conference on World Evangelization. They went out and literally changed the world for Christ! Dr. Freed especially felt the burden to feed the spiritually hungry people in the “back rows” of this world. The unreached. The unengaged. The untouchables. The poor. The needy. And to this day that passion remains an integral part of TWR’s DNA.

Project Hannah, TWR’s audio and prayer ministry to hurting women worldwide, embodies that same passion and determination to serve the women in “the back rows” of the human experience; they’re the least fed and least valued and the last to be educated and last reached with the gospel in a way that they can understand. Millions remain shackled by cultural bias, poverty, and ignorance.

Through an army of intercessors, fieldworkers, and compassionate givers, God has enabled Project Hannah to use the “front-row technology” of high-powered radio, computer apps, and multiple other media platforms. The message is being broadcast to spiritually hungry and forgotten women in 69 languages. The responses we get are overwhelming. Thousands have come to Christ. Hope and joy and forgiveness and freedom have filled their hearts. They know that their deep neediness is the perfect

match for God’s limitless sufficiency. They have taken their rightful places in the front row – God’s beloved princesses.

Yes, their circumstances sometimes remain unchanged. They continue to hear the lies and to experience the oppression, but it does not hurt them anymore. For THEY have been changed!

I saw them again on my most recent trip, deep into the heart of Africa, as they sang and danced over their shame and pain in great victory!

No longer weak, but strong.

No longer hungry, but filled.

No longer unwanted, but adopted in God’s family.

No longer afraid of tomorrow, but courageously smiling at the future.

I wish you had been there with me to hear their stories.

And their children are the first beneficiaries of this transformation. They will be leaders and world changers!

That’s the power of the gospel message.

So tell me, in your sphere of influence, *“What are you doing to feed the spiritually and physically hungry people in the last row?”* Someone said, *“If we wait until we can do everything for everybody, instead of something for somebody, we’ll end up doing nothing for nobody.”* Come! Join Project Hannah’s prayer movement by getting its prayer calendar at projecthannah.org or using the free app to receive each daily request. Look around! Help single mothers and refugees, the lonely and the poor whom God brings your way. Feed the spiritually hungry. Dr. Freed answered the call ... and TWR’s worldwide ministry was born. Who knows ... God might be calling you to do even greater things for his glory!



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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