



Uniting our hearts in PRAYER

BRAZIL TWR WOMEN OF HOPE TEAM

Educating, encouraging and equipping women to pray, listen, learn, grow and give

Happy new year, dear friends! I always love the beginning of a new year. So many possibilities, so many new thoughts and horizons to discover.

As you know, every year I spend a few weeks seeking God for the “word of the year” to be used by TWR Women of Hope. God is always faithful to lead me to a passage and give me a word that will envelope the whole essence of the ministry for the year.

This year, our word is “build”!

There is so much to build upon for TWR Women of Hope. We have had more than 24 wonderful years filled with God’s grace and mercy as we have brought hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations. The wisdom is endless!

However, the wisdom that we truly stand upon comes from Jesus and his Word, which we look to for leadership and guidance every year. We seek to learn more about his will for us - women in every walk of life around the world - and for the materials and programs we produce this year. It’s all very exciting!

This year we are doing something a little different with our prayer calendar. We will be highlighting the regions in

which TWR Women of Hope serves and providing prayer requests, stories and testimonies from our own leaders in their respective regions. We hope it will give you a better picture of what God is doing in each region of the world to bring spiritual growth to the lives of women.

In January and February, TWR Women of Hope intercessors are praying for the Americas. We pray that as you read along you will get a bigger picture of God’s grace and projects in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. As we join together in prayer, may we each continue to seek God for guidance as he builds up the ministry and as we build up each other to live lives that truly reflect God’s image (1 Thess. 5:11).

For some additional personal devotional thoughts on “a godly house is built by wisdom,” please check out my article “Exploring Hope Today” in this issue.

In him our hearts rejoice.

Dr. Peggy Banks
Global Ministry Director, TWR Women of Hope

By wisdom, a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
PROVERBS 24:3-4

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022
North America, Latin
America and the Caribbean



JANUARY

1. God, enable the young women of Latin America to understand and stand strong in their true identity in you. May this truth silence the opposing voices they will hear, especially during adolescence. (Ps. 139:13-14)

2. Lord, as Venezuela continues to face economic insecurity, give women your wisdom and discernment in how to provide food and basic necessities for their families. (Matt. 6:31-33)

3. Father, may the families in Mexico that have been forced to stay home during the pandemic find their help in you. Bring healing to the families where domestic violence has occurred. (Jer. 33:6)

4. Prostitution is abundant in Latin America's international border areas. May poor women here have access to education and good jobs so they will not have to resort to prostitution to support their families. (Rom. 8:32)

5. Father, protect Colombian girls whose families are victims of drug traffickers from being abused. May they and their families hear about Jesus. (Ps. 91:1-16)

6. We thank you, God, for opening doors for the Paraguay team to resume their ministry in the House of the Good Shepherd women's prison. Reveal your love and holiness to these women. (Ps. 68:5-6)

7. Father, give women in Panama great discernment so they will not be deceived and accept job proposals that offer good salaries but that are really fronts for prostitution and sex trafficking. (Eph. 5:6-10)

8. Lord, comfort the Christian women of Uruguay who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. In their sadness, may they look to you to renew their strength. (John 16:22)

9. Father, may immigrant women in Spain and Latin America learn the languages and essentials of the cultures where they now live so they can face the challenges of their new lives. (Phil. 4:13)

10. Lord, we pray that you place a shield of protection around the single-parent



families in Latin America. Grant the single parents everything they need to embrace their families with love, attention and care. (Isa. 54:17)

11. Dear God, we ask you to provide for women who are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Phil. 4:19)

12. Father, we pray for guidance and wisdom for the people ministering to addicted women on Bonaire. May these servants of yours uncover the root of the women's problems so they can be set free indeed. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

13. Father, we pray for women who are victims of domestic violence in the Dominican Republic. Many have been battered and some even murdered by their partners. (Isa. 41:10)

14. Almighty God, please give the government leaders in Bonaire wisdom to balance the challenges they face as they split their time between home, family and work. (James 1:5)

15. Lord, please give Dr. Peggy Banks your vision for how to grow the global ministry of TWR Women of Hope. Grant her wisdom and discernment as she ministers to and guides our global leadership team. (Prov. 4:11)

16. Dear God, strengthen Latin American husbands and wives in their relationships with you and one another. Grant them grace in their marriages so they can stand together against everything that seeks to destroy their unions. (2 Cor. 8:7)

17. Lord, we intercede for justice in the face of femicide in Latin American countries, and we seek respect for women's rights. (Isa. 1:17)

18. Thank you, Lord, that in Uruguay, the *Women of Hope* program can be broadcast twice a week on the radio and via the internet. (Ps. 100:4-5)

19. Father, we ask that women in Bolivia will have access to education as well as good job opportunities. Draw them close to you and strengthen them as they care for their families. (Josh. 1:8)

20. Holy God, we lift up the Canadian women's ministry team as they share the global needs of women with individuals and churches across their country. (Acts 1:8)

21. Because 47% of the working women in Brazil have reportedly experienced sexual harassment at work, Lord, we ask that companies create safe environments for their female workers and punish those who are offenders. (Ps. 9:9)

22. Lord, as we record each program in Latin America, may we join the apostle Paul in asking that "words may be given me so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19). May these words change women's lives.

23. Lord, we pray for women who were victims of trafficking but are now being cared for by Christian organizations. Bring healing as they struggle with post-traumatic stress from the violence suffered. (Jer. 17:14)

24. Lord, please move in the hearts of your chosen women to step forward and lead TWR Women of Hope ministry in multiple countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. (Matt. 7:7-8)

25. We ask you, Father, to provide all the necessary resources to carry out each project of the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Paraguay. (2 Cor. 9:8)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR REGIONS LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

26. Father, we ask that more listeners of *Kuña Paraguai*, Paraguay's *Women of Hope* program in Guaraní, will be encouraged to share how the programs are helping them in their daily lives. (1 Cor. 15:58)

27. Father, may the TWR Women of Hope leaders on Bonaire show courage, hope, generosity and kindness to others. (Col. 3:12)

28. Lord, provide jobs for women in Colombia as the female population registers twice as much unemployment as the male population, a situation that has grown even worse due to the pandemic. (Jer. 29:11)

29. We praise you, Jesus, for the Uruguayan women who are listening to *Women of Hope* programs and have contacted us to learn more about God and Jesus Christ. (Rom. 10:17)

30. Dear God, we ask that Christian women involved in politics in the Dominican Republic would seek you for wisdom and guidance in carrying out their different roles. (Prov. 2:6)

31. We praise you, Lord, for the faithfulness of each of our intercessors who join us in daily prayer through the TWR Women of Hope prayer calendar. (Rom. 12:12)

FEBRUARY

1. Lord, we praise your name that the *Women of Hope* program in Spanish is celebrating its 21st anniversary and is going out across the Americas through radio, the internet and social media. (Isa. 55:11)

2. Lord, we cry out with relatives of women who have disappeared in Mexico due to violence. Comfort and strengthen the relatives in their pain and uncertainty. (Ps. 23:4)

3. Dear God, we pray for young Colombian women and girls who do not understand their value and identity in you. May they learn and embrace this, becoming women according to your own heart and design. (Gen. 1:27)

4. God, we ask that the women in Peru would be educated in and understand the importance of preventive health care. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

Stretching over 7,000 miles from Mexico to Argentina, Latin America is a region that embraces a wide range of cultures and traditions. From mountains to tropical landscapes, it is a varied land of tremendous beauty. Latinos are known for their warmth and inviting spirit toward friends and strangers alike, and this hospitality often includes dancing and an abundance of flavorful food.

The impact of Spain and Portugal on Latin America cannot be overstated. According to Study.com, most of the countries within this region had been colonized by these superpowers until the early 1800s, and their influence reaches deep into the culture to include religion, language and even food. While Spanish is dominant in most of Latin America, with variations among countries in word choice and pronunciation, Portuguese is the majority language of gigantic Brazil. The current population of Latin America and the Caribbean is 661,376,607.

This beautiful and diverse region still holds many challenges for its women. Although women are rapidly entering the job market, they face issues of salary inequity and harassment in relation to their male co-workers. Many women have earned university degrees and higher, but others still have little to no access

to education. Despite laws against domestic violence and sexual abuse, many women in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to suffer from these cruelties. While lockdown measures were deemed vital in stopping the spread of COVID-19, being confined to home puts girls and women at heightened risk of violence.

Our women need hope. Our women need the Lord. And so, through TWR Women of Hope, we bring hope to them through radio programs in five languages covering 24 countries. Prayer calendars in Portuguese go to Brazil and Africa, while calendars translated into Spanish reach the U.S. as well as countries in Latin America, Europe and Africa. We touch women's lives through the prison ministry at Buen Pastor prison in Paraguay and through women's conferences, our newly launched devotional book, and even a Portuguese sign-language channel that ministers to the deaf community.

The next generation is being reached as our many teams, including a new one in the Dominican Republic, reach out through social media. It is our desire and prayer that more women will join us in bringing hope to Latin American and Caribbean women across generations.

– Susie Pek, regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

5. Lord, we pray for men, women, children and the elderly with high levels of poverty in the Dominican Republic who die in distress without being cared for by their families or government programs. (Deut. 15:7-8)

6. God, we ask you to provide new partnerships for the ministries in Canada and opportunities to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the women there. (Gal. 6:9)

7. Thank you, God, that the Paraguayan team has started ministry activities at the New Opportunity Home, where the convicted inmates enjoy some freedom within their environment. (Isa. 61:1)



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COORDINATOR

8. Dear God, grant single Cuban mothers great wisdom and discernment as they care for their families amid serious economic crisis and hardships in their country. (Ps. 119:66)

9. Lord God, as the population on Bonaire grows in diversity, help the people to be tolerant of one another, showing mutual respect as they work together. May they look to you as their model. (Matt. 7:12)

10. Dear Father, we ask that girls from immigrant families find balance in their struggle of living in two cultures at the same time. May they find their peace in Christ. (Phil. 4:6-7)

11. Lord, we pray for more Christian domestic violence and abuse shelters to be established in Brazil. May they be safe places where women and families can come to know Jesus. (Ps. 46:1)

12. Father, around 1.5 million young people don't go to school in Latin America. Please move in the hearts of those in authority so that education will be a priority. (Prov. 18:15)

13. Lord, we praise you that many women in Uruguay come together to pray each night as they listen to these prayer requests broadcast daily on the radio or read them on the internet. (Jer. 29:12)

14. Lord, please provide for the children who are orphaned as a result of the murder of their mothers or suicide of their parents. (Ps. 10:14)

15. Lord Almighty, may you open the doors for imprisoned women in the Dominican Republic to hear the gospel. May they find freedom and restoration in you even though they are physically confined. (John 8:36)

16. Father, have mercy on the women in Colombia as the rate of femicide is high and is worsened by the existence of few effective deterrents and a complex judicial system in remote areas of the country. (Isa. 49:13)

17. Lord, bring sensitivity and compassion to the hearts of believers so they will step out in ministry to COVID-19 patients in Latin America. (1 John 3:17)

18. Father, we pray that young women in rural areas of Paraguay would have access to formal training and education. (Prov. 4:13)



BONAIRE TWR WOMEN OF HOPE TEAM MEMBERS



PARAGUAY BAKING CLASS MINISTRY

19. Father, give those involved in TWR Women of Hope in the Dominican Republic your strength and creativity as they serve, write and participate in this ministry. (Isa. 40:31)

20. Lord, we pray that violence in families and specifically against children, women and the elderly would be stopped in Latin American countries. (2 Sam. 22:3-4)

21. Father, as our U.S. home office reaches out to the next generation, give our team wisdom in how to come alongside members of this group who are passionate about causes and to engage them in the mission of TWR Women of Hope. (Ps. 145:4)

22. Lord, grant energy and perseverance to the ministry leaders on Bonaire as they compile a collection of worship and praise songs in Papiamentu, their native language. (Heb. 12:1)

23. Father, we pray that the young women in Argentina would closely walk with Jesus. Use believers to reach out to these young women and share the gospel with them. (Col. 2:6)

24. In Uruguay there is a lot of domestic violence and sexual abuse among girls and young women. Lord, we ask that the *Women of Hope* programs continue to strengthen women in Christ Jesus. (Deut. 31:6)

25. Dear Father, help the teams working with TWR's regional ministry and with our Paraguayan national partner broaden the reach of the programs broadcast on their intersecting radio networks. (Acts 13:49)

26. Lord, we pray that low-income women in Brazil would have access to essential hygiene items as part of basic health care. (Ps. 68:10)

27. Almighty God, we ask that authorities will be committed to implementing gender equality policies and to fighting against sexual violence in the Latin American region and the Caribbean. (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

28. Lord, may Spanish and Latin American women know they are valuable both to you and to their communities. Strengthen their minds, bodies and emotions; may they submit fully to you. (Eph. 1:3-5)



A godly house is built by godly wisdom

“By wisdom, a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge, the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”

– PROVERBS 24:3-4

Many years ago, I helped build a small house in the back of our home in Florida. It turned out that this space became a workout room, a woodworking studio and a place to enjoy the beautiful backyard filled with many oak trees and orchids.

This small space had electricity, running water and air conditioning along with beautiful windows and a huge door that opened to view the giant oak tree sitting in the middle of the yard. On the trunk of the tree were more than 50 beautiful orchids. Every morning, I was able to sit and smell the flowers, hear the birds singing and rejoice in the hard work and many months it took to design, create and complete such a project.

It was a paradise!

It took over six months to understand and plan all that was needed to complete the project. Weeks and weeks of discussions occurred with the builders, contractors, designers and workers who would be helping us build this small house. I wasn't a follower of Jesus at the time, so there was not a lot of seeking God for wisdom, understanding or knowledge regarding what precious and pleasant things should fill this space. It just came down to “What do ‘I’ want?” and “What will give ‘me’ joy?” Those questions aren't problems in themselves.

So, why is it different today, then, when we as followers of Jesus seek wisdom from God as we build new projects for TWR Women of Hope in 2022? What does it mean to seek God for wisdom, understanding and knowledge in this new year of development? What would

happen if we took time to start by asking God, “What is your desire as we consider writing new programs to educate, encourage and equip women to live a life pleasing to God?”

As I was seeking the Lord in the first three weeks of 2021, God revealed that our word of the year for 2022 would be “build.” (We always plan a year ahead.) As you know, our practice has been to allow this word to guide us in all our work for the year ahead, including our written, audio and visual materials as well as the themes for our leadership development and other events for 2022. We will *build* upon the foundation that is Jesus and the wisdom of God's Word as we *build* up our leaders and the women we are called to serve and care for around the world and across generations.

As we seek God's will for 2022, the Holy Spirit will give us the understanding and knowledge needed to determine everything that will go into this new house framed by our vision, values and mission. Godly mentoring will be a major theme for the year as we take steps to

intentionally raise up the next generation of TWR Women of Hope leaders.

I think we all have good ideas – maybe even amazing, incredible ideas. But if they are not God's ideas for the women whom he has called us to serve, we will not be building upon godly wisdom. Additionally, the projects won't impact the world the way God seeks to impact the world through TWR Women of Hope.

I pray that as we are considering the word “build” for 2022, we will be intentional not only to collaborate and generate new ideas and projects that will reach the next generation of women with the gospel but also to take time to seek God for the plans, purpose, design and workers needed to accomplish the tasks.

God is faithful and TWR Women of Hope is his ministry. So, let us lean into this new year with joy and hope knowing that God has a plan. God will help us build upon the solid foundation of Jesus, giving us understanding from his Word by the power of the Holy Spirit to have the knowledge of the precious and pleasant riches that will go into each project and new program we produce for 2022.

In him our hearts rejoice!



HARMONY, LISA, BRIANNA, PEGGY

STORY OF HOPE

God Sees You!

Marina* was 33 years old when she attended a conference at which Susie Pek, our national coordinator for TWR Women of Hope Brazil, was the keynote speaker. After the conference, Marina emailed Susie and shared her story.

As a teenager, Marina had serious identity problems. She suffered many abuses in her childhood and believes they were responsible for leading her to a degraded life in her youth. Marina walked this path for many years until Jesus found her.

Her encounter with Christ led her to repentance for all her sins. She asked for forgiveness and found a new life – different and full of meaning. Marina got married and had two children. Despite having a beautiful family and walking a new path, after 10 years of marriage, Marina began struggling with her identity again.

Pain and conflict rose in her heart, and she suffered in silence. She was ashamed to talk to anyone and feared being misunderstood, not knowing how people would react to her crisis. The pain became so unbearable that she began to harbor suicidal thoughts. It was then that she arrived at the conference.

“Since your first lecture,” she wrote to Susie, “God touched my heart in such a way that it felt like I had risen from the ashes. ... At every word from you, my heart shuddered, and I cried. I was so broken up during those days that I could not talk to anyone. But as you said: God sees me! I’m not invisible. His love for me is so great that he brought you from where you were, thousands of kilometers from my town, to speak to my heart and, I believe, to the hearts of other women as well. Thank you for being such a wonderful representative of God here on this earth. I hope that one day I’ll have the chance to give you a big thank-you hug. ... God bless you!”

No matter what situation we are in, God always sees and meets us.

** Her name was changed to protect her privacy.*

A Word of Hope

From Lisa Hall, TWR Women of Hope
international prayer coordinator



Standing Strong in God Through Challenging Circumstances PART 1 IN A SERIES

Have you ever contemplated what it means to be holy? We know that God is holy, but what does it mean for us as humans? And how is holiness linked to the path of sanctification that God has for each of us?

Hebrews 12:10 says, “God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.” It also talks about accepting hardship in our lives as discipline. God does use discipline in our lives to show us our sin and the things that need to be removed. But what about the other part of holiness that has to do with the qualities that need to be built into us?

The passage continues, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (Heb. 12:11).

God disciplines us for our good and uses circumstances and relationships to build his characteristics in us. He knows that we can’t learn and embrace these all at one time. We learn these characteristics bit by bit over time through many types of relationships and circumstances. What would happen if we asked God to help us embrace what he wants to build into our character?

This path of sanctification is not an easy road. Aren’t you glad that God has promised that he will not leave us or forsake us? He is there to walk with us through the incremental steps of change needed. And God has also given us the body of Christ. When we are doing life together in authentic community, we can pray

for one another, helping each other to stand when those waves of difficult circumstances come. Friends can remind us of the truth, helping us to see that these circumstances have the ability to mature us and build into us the righteous character that we need.

I’m currently walking through such a time myself. God has gently but persistently been convicting me of pride. I know that this stubborn trait will not go away easily, and I’ve enlisted the help of a trusted friend. She is helping me take off pride, renew my mind through memorizing Scripture on humility and walk through the many difficult trials in which God is testing my sincerity in wanting to rid myself of this sin. I’m clinging to God’s constant presence through this painful time.

The beauty that comes out of these difficult circumstances, though, is not only the character of God in us, and the ability to stand firm, but also God’s peace. Again, Verse 11 says, “Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” God works in our lives over time to build in us the qualities we need: the purity, truth, faith, readiness, hope, constant prayer and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. And the culmination of gaining these qualities is the ability to stand in peace.

What would it look like for you to seek God for the change he wants in your life? What friend could you trust to walk alongside you in this? It is time to get strong and learn to stand. It is time to pursue holiness so we can stand no matter what circumstances come against us and so we may learn to walk in the strength and peace of God as we do.