

THE heartbeat



*I will give you a new heart and
put a new spirit in you; I will
remove from you your heart of
stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

— Ezekiel 36:26

BRINGING HOPE TO WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD & ACROSS GENERATIONS • VOL 26 NO 1

Growth brings welcome changes

Prayer answered

for Japan ministry





The last time we spoke, we were celebrating 25 years of TWR Women of Hope and the growth that the Lord has brought us through. And as our former director Dr. Peggy Banks said, “With growth comes change, and with change comes growth.” That is certainly holding true.

LISTENER STORY

“I heard in your program a story about a woman who was abused by her father. It brought back to me the pain I had felt as a child, which I had forgotten about. I remembered how I was severely hurt by the sharp words of my mother with unstable emotions and how I had closed my heart to her. Then, through your broadcast, I saw an image that I was walking with Jesus, the nails piercing my heart were removed and the nail marks were filled with his love.”

– LISTENER FROM JAPAN

As 2022 became 2023, Dr. Banks prayerfully passed the helm of global director to former Latin America and Caribbean coordinator Susie Pek, who has been with TWR for 14 years. New leadership and new circumstances provide new opportunities for women to encounter the hope of Christ. We serve a faithful God, and his Spirit is moving powerfully through women around the world and across generations.

One way we’ve seen the Lord grow TWR Women of Hope is in the translation of our program into Japanese. Just a few years back, we asked you, our faithful supporters and intercessors, to join us in praying for women in Japan and the development of a team there. Well, it’s been a little over a year that a team has been in place there, and programs have been broadcasting on 11 FM stations for several months! It’s truly humbling

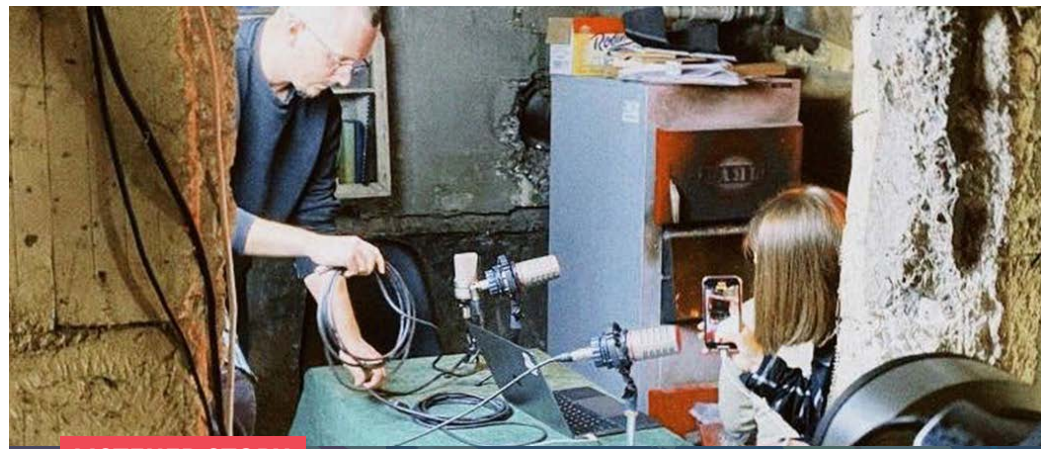
to see God bring something out of nothing, and we thank him for your faithfully sowing in our ministry and thereby blessing women everywhere.

Cries of the hurting spur us to respond

TWR Women of Hope's national coordinator in Japan, Minako Yamagishi, echoes this view: "I thank the Lord from my heart that God's grace has supported this ministry and guided us to this day. Thanks to everyone who prayed for *Women of Hope* Japan. Prayer is central to our work. ... We pray especially for women in Japan and around the world who are suffering and for those who are caring for them and ministering to them with the gospel."

The journey doesn't end here, though. There are still many barriers to the gospel throughout the region. According to Statista, Japan has some of the highest suicide rates among high-income, market-based democracies, affecting both men and women. For women, there are issues of sexual assault, underreported abuse and no laws criminalizing nonconsensual sex. Would you please continue to pray with us for our brothers and sisters in Japan, those who are overlooked and longing to be seen?

Our ministry grows in response to the cries of those who are hurting. Earlier this year, a significant earthquake leveled parts of Türkiye and Syria, with a death toll surpassing 50,000 people. A ministry partner in the region has reported the devastating conditions that both nations are facing: War-ravaged Syrians feel extreme isolation from the world and from God. Our colleague said, "Without hope, people are walking on the earth, yet they're dead on the inside." Similarly, Turkish people are searching for their loved



LISTENER STORY

"We are sincerely grateful for your work because your radio programs are like a sip of living spring water in difficult times of trials. It is spiritual food that gives energy and the desire to know the will of God. Glory to him and gratitude to you."

- LISTENER FROM UKRAINE

ones through the rubble, some to no avail. Families have been separated, children are displaced, poverty is soaring and outbreaks of disease are imminent.

The conditions may be different, but warring countries Russia and Ukraine are facing significant challenges of their own. It has been a year and a half since the war began, with casualties estimated at 150,000 and refugees at over 8 million as of February this year. The people there are in dire need of humanitarian aid as well as psychosocial support after having faced immense trauma. As Russians and Ukrainians alike face their own mortality, they are seeking hope through media searches. Let's continue to pray for the people of this region to encounter the light of the world during such a dark time.

The reality can be that after these events hit the news, we mourn for a few days and then move on to the next tragedy. But through media we have a lasting impact! TWR Women of Hope does not forget the cries of those who are marginalized,

isolated and living in darkness. We stay connected with our teams so we can pray with and support them, and we work to produce encouraging content for radio programs and digital media that will point people to the hope we have in Christ.

Dear friend, we serve the one, true, living God, who reigns over the nations. Because he lives, we can face tomorrow, no matter our circumstances. Romans 8 tells us, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord," and that is good news!

Our ministry exists to follow the Lord's call in making this love known throughout the ends of the earth. We invite you to pray with us and support our programs around the world so that more women can experience hope and healing in Christ. **Would you join us in making a global impact today?**

The God Who Sees

*Hagar experienced
the invisibility crisis
millions feel today*

As we think of women around the world and across generations, a recurring theme seems to surface, one that I call “the crisis of invisibility.” It amazes me how often women experience this undesirable feeling.

The “crisis of invisibility” takes me right back to story of Hagar. She was a slave caught up in a very tricky situation. Her mistress, Sarai, could not have children and thought she could build a family through Hagar. Abram accepted Sarai's suggestion, and soon enough Hagar was expecting his child. When Hagar learned of her pregnancy, she started despising her mistress, who in turn mistreated her to the point of causing her to flee into the desert.

Can you picture the scene? A female slave – worthless in the eyes of the society – in the desert! She was lost, discouraged, afraid and alone. I don't think one can get more invisible than that. However, in this scenario something very powerful takes place.

“The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And he said, ‘Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?’” (Gen. 16:7-8).

I just love this. I wonder what crossed her mind. When she thought nobody cared, the Lord found her. And not only did he find her, but he also knew her name and cared enough to ask



Susie Pek
Global Ministry Director
TWR Women of Hope

her questions! Hagar engaged in the conversation and replied to his questions: “I'm running away from my mistress Sarai.”

The angel of the Lord carefully listened to her, even to the unspoken words of anguish of her heart, and gave her clear instructions. He told her to go back to her mistress and submit to her. He also told her she would have a boy and should name him Ishmael! Hagar's response is a clear indication of the impact that the encounter had on her: “She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’” Hagar went from feeling lost and invisible to knowing she was seen and cared for.

We realize that there are millions of Hagers around the world – women who feel hopeless, lost, unappreciated, uncared for, worthless. It is our deepest desire to share the hope we have in Christ with them. We want them to know that the creator of the universe sees them and takes the initiative to engage them. We pray that they too will see the one who sees them. I am so thankful for your prayers and love for these “invisible” women. Their lives are being touched and transformed because of you.



Connecting women's hearts to each other and to God, TWR Women of Hope has built a global prayer movement and media outreach that address unique physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

VISION

To bring hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations.

MISSION

To educate, encourage and equip women to learn, pray, listen, grow and give through media and group interaction.

CONTACT US

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