

# 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**

SPEAKING HOPE TO WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD & ACROSS THE GENERATIONS // VOL 21 NO 1



*“It’s great to see how the grace of God is spreading in so many countries through the important ministry of Women of Hope programs. So many people of God praying for the needs of women around the world [through the monthly calendar], for the women to find salvation in Christ, to learn about God’s care for them, and to know about peace and love toward each other. My dear sisters, it is a joy to fellowship with you through letters. All the songs and poems in each Women of Hope program are messages in miniature. I yearn for your programs, to take these valuable lessons into my life because they are living and working in the lives of women around the whole world.”*

In more than 70 languages, listeners are experiencing what this Ukrainian woman has found: the love of God and a deep connection with Christian sisters near and far. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



# Relationships Restored

**M**arriages are fragile and all too easy to break. Our loved ones fail us constantly, but Jesus never fails to hear the prayers of his church. Women in every country are going through the unfortunately familiar pain of failing marriages, and many are finding their refuge in TWR Women of Hope ministries.

“After listening to your *Women of Hope* program, I cried because your story deeply touched me. I was reminded of my own life, so I called to tell you my story. I had been abandoned, and my husband had taken my children away, not letting me speak to them. You recommended that I pray for him, no matter how great my bitterness, so that he would change his attitude toward me. I did, and little by little, the situation changed. He allowed the children to stay with me during the holidays, which I never expected before. I want to bless and thank you for your advice.”

Through the wise counsel of the production team and the listener heeding God’s command to pray, the *Women of Hope* French African program was the starting point for the

Lord’s restoration of this broken family in Côte d’Ivoire.

Elsewhere in this West African country, weekly prayer meetings centered around our monthly calendar provided the means of transformation for another marriage. An intercessor testified,

“I want to give glory to God for what he has done in my life. Since coming to know you, God has done many things for me in my marriage. My husband was a Christian, but he focused more on his parents’ family than ours. Every week, when I came to your prayer meetings, I would ask you to pray about this. Today, by the grace of God, we are closer than ever before. He told me, ‘From this year on, I will not watch after another person so much as my wife and children.’ Thank you, TWR Women of Hope!”

Relationships are being mended by God every day in Côte d’Ivoire and around the world because *Women of Hope* radio programs faithfully share his words and his people faithfully pray for one another.



## BECOME A PRAYER PARTNER

Sign up today to receive our monthly prayer calendar

[twrwomenofhope.org/prayersignup](http://twrwomenofhope.org/prayersignup)

## Valuable Life Lessons

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

Our *Women of Hope* programs couple practical life lessons with spiritual guidance and are produced by local teams with the needs of their communities in mind. And the radio programs are only the start of connecting women around the world to the life that only God can give. Follow-up teams provide the guidance, and friendship, needed through phone calls, texts, emails, letters and, where possible, visits. They join hands in prayer with women who are hurting, bringing them to the throne of God.

When you give to *Women of Hope* programs and join with the more than 50,000 people worldwide interceding monthly through the prayer calendar, you are an invaluable part of the global, multifaceted ministry to women that is TWR Women of Hope. Many of the women our programs reach have few or, in many cases, no other resources to give them help with even common health and family issues. And, more importantly, many have no other gospel witness in their language. Your gifts enable *Women of Hope* programs to speak life into the hearts of women, and your prayers keep their hopes alive.

For more stories of women finding hope in Jesus, visit [twrwomenofhope.org](http://twrwomenofhope.org)

# WAITING *in Hope*

Fadila\* had already waited seven years to marry the man she loved. They were engaged young, while he was still in school. Although jobs are hard to come by in their North African country, culturally it's expected that the man will have a steady job that provides a good wage before marriage. It's also customary for a couple's family to chaperone them before marriage, but Fadila's family took the extreme measure of not allowing them to talk privately even when family members were nearby. Fadila began to worry that her fiancé would grow frustrated and leave her for someone else. In this land where Christians are few, finding a suitable marriage partner who is a believer is very challenging.

Fadila listened to *Women of Hope* regularly and found comfort in the program during this distressing time. One winter day, she called to confide in a *Women of Hope*

team member, who fervently prayed with her. As they prayed, our producer had a strong image in her mind of Fadila buying a wedding dress in the summer. Although we know from God's Word that he sometimes reveals himself and his plans in visions and dreams, the producer was at first uncertain if she should share this with Fadila. After continued prayer, she did tell Fadila the image that had come to her mind as they prayed and encouraged her to stay strong in her faith, no matter what. Her heart now filled with hope, Fadila continued listening to the program.

The next summer, the *Women of Hope* team heard from her again. With the message was a picture ... of Fadila in her wedding dress! The seven long years of waiting were over.

Calls like this encourage our production teams – a happy resolution for a

woman who turned to God through her ordinary, though distressing, struggles. But teams also routinely hear from many women in significant pain: women being abused, women desperate for help. Your prayers for our production teams are crucial. As you petition God for their wisdom and perseverance, they continue to minister to listeners like Fadila – and God continues to use them and the *Women of Hope* programs to fill hurting hearts with hope in him.

\* Program language withheld and listener name changed for security reasons. Though Arabic is spoken across North Africa, *Women of Hope* also airs in the common local dialects and languages of the different countries, ensuring that its messages will resonate with and be easily understood by listeners.

## What difference does your financial gift make?

The short answer – a world of difference! Through your support of TWR Women of Hope, God uses you to make a direct impact in the lives of tens of thousands of women who hunger for hope. As part of the most far-reaching Christian radio and digital ministry in the world, we reach women considered all but unreachable. We speak messages from God's heart to their hearts

in the languages of their souls. Your generosity today does more than cover the costs of translation, production, airtime, staffing, leadership development, materials and distribution. Your partnership with us brings the eternal hope of Jesus Christ to women in the uttermost parts of the earth.

[twrwomenofhope.org/give](http://twrwomenofhope.org/give)

Your gift speaks hope. Your reach is global. Your impact is eternal.

# A Refuge and Shield

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

*You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.*

PSALM 119:114

I've been meditating on this verse for several weeks and find it comforting that God is my refuge and shield. Another translation of this verse says,

*You're my place of quiet retreat;  
I wait for your Word to renew me.*

I like the idea that God is my quiet retreat. I remember the times when I have attended women's retreats and the quiet times were so good that I never wanted to leave. I long for more of those quiet retreats with the Lord.

Where do you find your quiet retreat? Where do you take refuge from all the difficulties in life?

I came to know Jesus when a friend invited me to her church. I remember hearing the pastor preach a message on Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." I knew I needed God to be my refuge because I was really in trouble and involved in a violent relationship. I gave my life to Christ that day in church, and my life was changed forever. I didn't need to hide in shame or fear anymore and started to find my refuge under his shield of protection.

Women around the world want to hide from the ignorance and shame that comes from never being sent to school. Women want to hide from poverty, disease, war, sexual abuse

and domestic violence. Women want a shield from forced abortions because their babies are girls. They want protection from abusive fathers, husbands and cultures. We search for places and people who will protect us and help us. My heart aches for women all over the world to know that they can have a safe place, a shield with Jesus. His Word is a safe place for them to find protection and hope.

Today, all over the world, TWR Women of Hope is providing a safe place, a hope in Jesus. Through media, our *Women of Hope* production teams offer women a refuge in Jesus. We provide a safe place for women to learn the truth about God's love and purpose for them.

My heart is filled with gratitude that you are joining with us to bring a message of hope to women around the world and across generations. You are helping us provide a safe place where women can connect with other women and connect their hearts with Christ. A place where they are being valued and loved by God.

Is Jesus your safe place? Are you finding refuge in him?

If his Word is your hope, will you please join me in reaching more women and girls with a message of hope so they can know Jesus as their refuge and shield?



twr  
**WOMEN  
OF HOPE**  
twrwomenofhope.org

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 pray, listen, learn, grow and give through media, small-group interaction and leadership development.

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