



TWR STAFF PHOT

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

Do you have peace in your life knowing that God is in control?

The dictionary definition of peace is "a freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility." Is it possible to find quiet and tranquility in chaotic or challenging times?

To find our peace during challenging times, it is so important to remind ourselves that our God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the God of peace (Rom. 15:33). I believe we remember this truth about God's character most vividly during times of prayer and thanksgiving.

The topic of prayer and thanksgiving is very important for TWR Women of Hope. Over the last 22 years of ministry, we have seen God doing miraculous things to bring hope to women around the world and across generations. Each month, every prayer request is translated into more than 100 languages. We have over 100,000 intercessors praying with us across all the major

regions of the world. Many women, every day, are finding a new life in Jesus through the TWR Women of Hope programs and prayer groups.

This month as you pray with us through the prayer calendar, lift up your prayers of thanksgiving for God's goodness and grace. Let us join our hearts together giving thanks that Jesus is our Savior, our Provider and our King. Pray that more women will know Jesus and experience his peace in their hearts and lives for all eternity.

Check out "Exploring Hope Today" in this issue for some additional personal thoughts on this topic of God's peace.

In him our hearts rejoice,

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

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

- PSALM 42:1-2

Join us in praying for

JULY Thanksgiving

AUGUST Praise



JULY

THANKSGIVING

1. We rejoice that the prayer teams in Serbia enthusiastically lift up women and girls around the world, identifying with their struggles and empathizing with their pain. Thank you for making us one family united in prayer. (Phil. 2:1-2)

2. Thank you, Lord, for bringing talented and committed volunteers to help the Nepal TWR Women of Hope team. Churches and local women's ministries are uniting to minister more effectively to the women there!

3. Thank you, Father, for loving and caring for your children during the coronavirus pandemic and in every difficulty we face. We join our Polish team in claiming you as our refuge and strength during a time of global fear. (Ps. 46:1)

4. Thank you that the love of Jesus is being displayed through the Indonesian team as they share health information and assist village women in getting micro loans to develop their small businesses.

5. We express our gratitude to you as Jehovah-Jireh, our provider, for supplying the Canadian team with faithful financial and prayer partners. (Gen. 22:14)

6. Thank you, Father, that our team in Norway is broadcasting a new 90-second audio devotional three times a week titled *Tapas for the Faith*. These short biblical segments of encouragement give a taste of the Word of God and make listeners want to "eat more."

7. Thank you that when our Bonaire team gets discouraged and feels alone in the ministry, you lead listeners to tell about how the program has blessed their lives. God, you give the team the strength to obey and carry on! (Ps. 9:1)

8. We thank you for your faithfulness and blessing as TWR Women of Hope prayer groups celebrate their 20th anniversary in Finland. Thank you for calling women to prayer while uniting and strengthening their fellowship. (2 Tim. 2:13)



9. We acknowledge you, Lord, for supplying our teams with talented volunteers who provide practical information to our *Women of Hope* audiences. (Phil. 4:19)

10. Thank you, Father, that you are changing people's lives as women share their testimonies of your love on Ukraine's *Women of Hope* programs.

11. We thank you, God, that the coronavirus crisis has drawn the people of France together. May their actions of meeting one another's needs continue even after this emergency ends.

12. We are grateful, Lord, that you have given our Romanian team compassionate hearts for women, creativity for use in projects and inspiration for writing new scripts. Please use their daily Facebook devotional to bless women.

13. We thank you, God, for the funds you have supplied our team in Germany, where TWR Women of Hope's work has been supported for almost two decades.

14. Lord, thank you for the TWR Women of Hope prayer groups that are actively interceding during these difficult times. Bless them and give them wisdom as they pray for their own nations. (Eph. 6:8)

15. God, thank you for bringing Christian unity within our local prayer groups. You

join our hearts in a closer bond of love for each other and for our TWR Women of Hope family around the world. (Col. 3:14)

16. Thank you, Father, that the Serbian *Women of Hope* programs are changing lives, providing true spiritual refreshment and helping women on their journey to know you.

17. We give thanks to you, Lord, for the team of volunteers who give of their time and talents to enrich the ministry and bless women in Brazil. (Matt. 9:37)

18. We are grateful, Father, that you encouraged the hearts of our ministry team in Uruguay as listeners shared how the *Women of Hope* programs inspire and strengthen their lives. (Rom. 1:12)

19. We thank you, Lord, that many nations are embracing *Hidden Treasures* as a tool to bring healing to sexually exploited women. We pray for those who are translating and producing *Hidden Treasures* for new languages.

20. Our hearts are grateful, God, that TWR Women of Hope India organized the first women's meeting in the history of a village church and 100 women attended!

21. Father, thank you for the many intercessors spread around the world who express love by praying daily for people they have never seen. (Eph. 6:18)

22. Thank you, Lord, that we can use so many forms of media to minister hope to women in Latin America and around the world, even in the middle of a pandemic.

23. Thank you, God, that your Word and truth in Ukrainian *Women of Hope* programs minister to listeners “like drinking cold water in the heat.” (John 6:35)

24. Thank you, Lord, that the short, dynamic and practical devotionals our Romanian team is releasing on Facebook and WhatsApp are being received as “wonderful and encouraging meditations for our soul.”

25. You, Lord, are the source of our creativity. We praise you for the innovative ways you show our teams worldwide to reach out to women, bringing them truth, hope and healing. (Rev. 4:11)

26. We praise you, God, that our Turkish, Albanian and other TWR Women of Hope teams are praying for and ministering to women who are being treated in hospitals. Many respond to this kindness during their time of need.

27. Thank you, Lord, that you are reaching into closed countries with our *Women of Hope* broadcasts and are giving women hope and new life in Jesus. Please protect our teams and give them wisdom by your Spirit as they share the gospel.

28. God, it encourages our hearts to learn that many men in Africa are being encouraged and finding faith in Jesus through the *Women of Hope* programs. Your Word is changing lives and families!

29. Thank you, Lord, for using the Nepal TWR and Women of Hope team members to teach practical hygiene to women and children for their protection against COVID-19. (Ps. 32:7)

30. We thank you, Lord, for bringing TWR Women of Hope a new regional coordinator for South Asia. Please give her your wisdom and heart as she ministers to women in this region and learns her new position.

31. We are reminded, Father, that whatever we say or do, we are to do it in the name of Jesus with thanksgiving in our hearts. (Col. 3:17)

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Our praise and worship of God draws us into greater intimacy with him. As we all experience this global pause of our normal routines, it is as if God is calling us to quiet ourselves to seek him in a deeper way. He asks us to release our control and let him take the lead so we can discover what is real, stable and foundational. And when this time of crisis is over, God wants us to maintain this new normal of close communion with him. So, what does this intimacy with God look like for each of us?

In John Ortberg's book *God Is Closer Than You Think*, he describes seven spiritual pathways to God. It was so freeing for me to discover that “our individual uniqueness means we will all experience God’s presence and learn to relate to him in different ways, in ways that correspond to the wiring patterns he himself created in us.” Each of us finds that place of intimacy with God in a different way. In which pathway(s) do you see yourself?

Intellectual pathway: Do you draw closer to God through your mind as you study Scripture? Do you hear God best when you read, engage in deep thought and conversation, or sit under sound teaching?

Relational pathway: Do you sense God’s presence most when you are involved in significant relationships? Does God speak to you through conversations with others?

Serving pathway: Are you aware of God most when you help others? Do you feel God’s pleasure and experience joy when you serve?

Worship pathway: Do you feel deep inner release when you praise and adore our Lord? Do you experience the reality of God as you express your worship to him?

Activist pathway: Do you have a passion to get involved in every good cause? Do you jump in and work with zeal to fix problems for God’s glory?

Contemplative pathway: Do you love large blocks of uninterrupted time alone? Can you sense God most in the silence when all the distractions and noise of life are removed?

Creation pathway: Are you revitalized and energized by experiencing God’s creation? Do you see God in both the grandeur and minute details of nature?

No matter your preferred pathway, I encourage you to use it to commune with God. He has created each of us uniquely in his image and calls all of us daily to a path of intimacy with him.

AUGUST PRAISE

1. We exalt you as **Savior!** Christians have been emboldened to share their faith and hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ during this crisis, when people are contemplating life, death and eternity.

2. Father, we praise you for your **faithfulness** and **protection** during the coronavirus crisis. While under lockdown, the TWR Women of Hope India team poured out their hearts before you daily from 11 a.m. to noon. (I Sam. 1:10-11)

3. God you are our **provider!** Thank you for bringing a woman devotional writer to the Norwegian TWR Women of Hope team. They have recorded 80 devotionals, which are broadcast three days a week through Spotify, on their website and by phone text.

4. You are the God of all **hope**. In times of anxiety, we overcome our fear as we trust in you. You fill us with your joy and peace. (Rom. 15:13)

5. We worship you as the God of all **wisdom**. Even in difficult circumstances, you draw us to yourself and call us to repentance for your way is always good.

6. We praise you, Lord, as the one who brings unity among your children. Thank you for bringing Christian unity to the TWR Women of Hope prayer groups in Nepal and for enabling them to find their identity, value, rest and hope in you. (Ps. 62:5-8)

7. We glorify you, Father, as the **merciful one** for allowing more time to stand in the gap on behalf of people who do not know you. May we use this opportunity to pray for those who never responded to your invitation and for those who need their relationship with you restored.

8. In times of change and uncertainty, you stand as a God who is **trustworthy** and a **promise keeper**. Your promises are our firm foundation on which we build our lives as women of hope. (Num. 23:19)

9. We join our Canadian team in declaring you as **sovereign Lord**. “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Col. 1:16-17).

10. God, we praise you because you are **good!** You enabled institutions, ministries and neighbors to provide food for the needy, supplies to the unemployed and shelter to the homeless.

11. You are the **rock of our salvation!** Thank you for using the Bonaire *Women of Hope* programs to draw people into relationship with you. When your Word is shared on their Facebook page, it lifts people up and draws them to you! (Ps. 95:1-3)

12. We worship you as our Father who is **present**. We bring you our pain from earthly family relationships and stand firmly on your promise, when you said, “Never will I leave you; never will I abandon you” (Heb. 13:5b).

13. Exalted are you, Lord, for **providing** sponsors for the Indonesian and Javanese *Women of Hope* programs since 1999 as well as local stations to air them. Millions of women have now heard the Word of God and been given health information.

14. May you be celebrated, Lord, as our **protector and refuge**. “He covers us with his feathers, under his wings we take refuge, his truth is our shield and armor” (Ps. 91:4).

15. We join our Finnish team in praising you as the God who **works all things together for good**. In the crucifixion of Jesus, we see you revealing the mystery that hope can be found in the darkness and suffering of our lives. (Rom. 8:28)

16. As women of hope, we declare, Father, that you are our **worth**. We embrace our identity in you, for we are your daughters, made in your image. (Gen. 1:27)

17. We honor you as **sovereign Lord**, who used a global crisis in which all normal activity was paused to cause us all to contemplate life, death and spiritual issues. This allowed us to reflect on and evaluate the importance of our relationships with you and others.

18. We praise You, God, that even when our team in Poland could not meet as believers face to face, you **united** their hearts in online prayer and enabled them to record the women’s program *You Are Precious*. (Rom. 12:5)

19. Lord, you are our **peace**. “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation” (2 Thess. 3:16a).

20. During this time when people are open to spiritual conversations, may we be faithful to share our testimony of how you have saved us, for you are our **forgiving Father!** (Eph. 4:32)

21. We worship you, God, as the **Creator** who inspires us, your creatures, to serve the women of Ukraine through our *Women of Hope* programs.

22. We praise you as the God of **reconciliation**. Thank you for leading our families through trials that increase our trust in you and also strengthen our relationships.

23. Lord, we bless you as **Savior**. Throughout the quarantine, the gospel continued



to be broadcast to the people of France. May they see their need of you and turn from their wicked ways. (Jer. 26:3)

24. You, oh Lord, are “**gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love**” (Ps. 145:8).

25. You, oh Lord, are the **faithful one!** You have kept your promises to protect, guide and inspire our team members as they minister to women in Romanian prisons. (Ps. 117:2)

26. We praise you, Lord, for you are in control of the entire world and all humanity. “You are great, and your name is **mighty in power**” (Jer. 10:6).

27. For every person that recovered from coronavirus, Lord, we praise you as **healer!** Thank you for touching lives directly and for working through so many dedicated medical personnel. (Ps. 103:3)

28. Jesus, you are our **bread of life**. We praise you for the TWR Women of Hope team in Central Europe who are spreading this truth to people seeking to amass wealth to satisfy their souls. (John 6:35)

29. We receive you, Father, as our **comforter**. You have poured your grace, compassion and comfort on families all over the world who have lost loved ones in recent months. (Isa. 61:2-3)

30. We join the Serbian team members, who, even in difficulty, praise you as our **good God and the giver of peace and encouragement** through your Word.

31. We praise you as the one who has defeated death. You are the **resurrection and the life**. Whoever believes in you will live forever, even though they die. (John 11:25)

STORY OF HOPE

A Place to Worship

Chivy* was caring for cows in the fields of Cambodia when our TWR Women of Hope team first met her.

With excitement in her voice, she shared, "Through the *Women of Hope* program, God gave me a vision of having a place of worship right here in my village, where the good news of Jesus has not been shared."

Chivy and five women come together in her home each Sunday to worship and be encouraged by the Word of God as they listen to *Women of Hope*. In the evening she gathered the children to listen as well. But her desire was for land and a church building where her whole village could hear of Jesus.

"One day, one of my neighbors asked me to look after her cows, and she paid me. I started to save this money."

As Chivy continued saving her earnings, she also asked God to supply land for a place of worship. Finally her answer came. "The owner of some land near me put it up for sale, and I was able to buy it cheap!"

The TWR Women of Hope team was inspired by Chivy's story and decided to join her in holding a Christmas service on her new piece of land. Of the 40 women and men who came to celebrate Christmas, only five to seven were believers in Christ. They praised the Lord, played games, and shared about Jesus' birth and the salvation he offers, and then the group had fellowship over a lunch prepared for the occasion by Chivy and her friends.

"God has plans for this village," a TWR Women of Hope staff member shared.

Chivy is praising God, who is using her income from watching cows to realize a dream of bringing her village together to worship the Great Provider.

*not her real name

Exploring Hope Today

Devotional thoughts from the director, Dr. Peggy Banks



"Christ alone can bring lasting peace – peace with God – peace among men and nations – and peace within our hearts." -Billy Graham

In days of isolation, little communication with extended family and new ways to do our work, it can be hard to find our peace. Yet the Bible tells us that there is a peace available to us that will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. How can we get this peace?

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - PHIL. 4:4-7

Rejoice

The other day, I was dealing with some uncertainty in my life and took a walk to the beach in the early morning. I sat down, and my eyes filled with tears. There was a pain in my heart for the circumstances and suffering, but a deeper understanding appeared as I witnessed the beautiful sunrise in front of me. I realized this beauty was God's hand-painted beauty for me to see. I rejoiced in the peace that came to me knowing God's presence is all around me. I was able to rejoice in God's love and mercy even in my pain. He is there for you, too. Look around; where do you see God's presence? Find it in your heart to rejoice at his love and creation and to believe that God has not forgotten you.

Pray

There are times in our pain when it is hard to pray. Maybe we don't have the words, or we are afraid of feeling

the pain all over again as we tell someone about it or speak it to God. Years ago, as I was living as a new believer in Jesus, I could see many areas of my life changing. Everything I knew to be good was falling apart. My relationships, my business, old friendships and my new church family were all changing. The pain of loss was so great I couldn't even put it into words, and the deep pain in my heart was always bringing me to tears.

Many times, the pain lasted for hours, days and weeks until I found peace. However, I have realized that God heard my cries when new friends came into my life, healing came to my heart and I found a new church home where God's people showed love to a broken world. God's Word, his peace and his people were healing my heart of the pain, betrayal and confusion.

Maybe you are in this same place today, searching for this peace in your times of pain or confusion. Find a way to tell God of your loss, fear, loneliness and pain. He is near and hears your cries for mercy (Ps. 6:9).

Be thankful

Every day, I write out a gratitude list before the Lord. I begin with my gratitude for salvation, surrender and safety. It is in Christ alone that we can find our peace each and every day. It's not always easy. Actually, there are many days that it's not easy. But when we have a thankful heart, in Christ, we are able to find God's peace.

Here is an example of a thankful prayer that you could pray with me today:

Lord, thank you for giving me hope when I was hopeless. Thank you for strengthening my faith when I was filled with fear. Thank you for helping me know my purpose even in my pain.

A word of hope

Encouragement from Philile Bhengu, TWR Women of Hope
Regional Coordinator for Southern & Eastern Africa



We have seen God doing wonders and answering our prayers. Some of our supplications and petitions seem so urgent, but the One who never sleeps nor slumbers watches over us day and night and faithfully pays attention to our cries.

It takes little effort to thank the Lord when we think of all he has done for us. In the words of the old hymn, if only each of us had a thousand tongues to sing his praise! His deeds are beyond imagination. If we try to figure them out, we fail to comprehend God's ways. Giving thanks to God refreshes us irrespective of what we are facing in life.

It is easy for us to thank God when things are going well, but I have learned to admire him during the tough times. Challenges have helped me to put all my trust in him who is the author and the finisher of our faith. After every test I have encountered, I find new ways of

serving him. One of the ways I serve him is as a worship leader.

People of Africa, especially women, know how to render their gratitude to God. You can hear the response of their hearts from their way of singing. Women can write new songs based on the situations they experienced; they sing victoriously, not worried about what tomorrow might bring. Is it not exciting to hear that?

Even when our background is very challenging, we have learned to offer our thanks to our Creator, almighty God. Because we were well raised, we learned how to show respect to others. In fact, some of us unwisely continue to show respect and deference to others even when they abuse us.

Some women today are very bold to share their stories, but there was a time when many of them did not have that confidence. We at TWR Women of Hope reach out to women to teach them their identity in Christ.

As a young widow, my mother raised all her children on her own. We are now grown and serving the Lord. My family is planning a celebration to express warm appreciation to God for my mother, who will be 61 years old this year. We have learned from her that nothing is impossible in him, and we are grateful to God for that.

According to Psalms 150:6, "Everything that has breath praise His holy Name." There is no excuse or reason for not acknowledging and honoring the Lord's goodness to us all. He is the reason we breathe in and breathe out. Everything came into existence because of him; it all depends on him alone, the one who created everything in order to subdue all unto him.

All humankind is in a void seeking to serve or worship something. In Africa we create awareness in women so that they can learn ways to give praise unto our Father. All we need is to continue to give praise to God as he is the one who loves us unconditionally.

counselor provider
comforter creator hope
sovereign lord WE PRAISE YOU AS OUR faithful one
savior healer protector
refuge wisdom rock
peace