

THE heartbeat

BRINGING HOPE TO WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD & ACROSS THE GENERATIONS // VOL 21 NO 2

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

the hardest questions

How do you deal with having been unwanted since before you were born?

No one celebrated your birth. Your parents dread your wedding day because your groom will expect to be paid. You may be discarded or killed by his family if the dowry is unacceptable.

What if no one wants to marry you?

A bride's value depends on her purity, but that can be stolen away. Failing to "avoid" being raped brings shame to your entire family. Just to avoid the risk, your father marries you off as early as 9 years old. Now you are someone else's problem.

What can you do when your husband beats you but the authorities believe that you deserve it?

Laws are in place to protect you from child marriage, rape and domestic violence, but if no one even thinks they should be upheld, what recourse do you have?

And what do you do when you become pregnant but the ultrasound says it's a girl?

Your family's future is at stake. They say, "Raising a daughter is like watering your neighbor's garden." A son is an investment, your whole retirement plan. A daughter is a burden and then gone. But who will help you with the burden of guilt after you've aborted that baby girl – or abandoned her in the streets?

Every day, women in India ask themselves these questions. They absorb rejection. They endure heartache. They plead before parents and judges and idols for someone to help and to care.

And it's not just the women of India. Women face realities like these everywhere, perhaps even right next door. **But there is a God who sees each one, who knows every name.** The question for us who know him is always,

“What would he have us do?”



INDIA

Bringing change in society

Like many women in northern India, Anju knelt before gods and goddesses, praying for her life to improve. When she found no peace, she tried to kill herself. Thankfully, Anju survived, and her sister came to visit her.

Anju's sister was a Christian and introduced Anju to TWR. In TWR's radio programs, Anju began to find answers. When she called the number given in the programs, counselors were waiting to help her.

"TWR programs changed my life," Anju writes. "And helped me know the true Savior. I accepted Jesus as my Lord. I started reading the Bible my sister gave me, and I was baptized. The *Women of Hope* program encouraged me, and God filled me with strength in times of difficulty. My sister, who sowed the seed in me, died after a time. My in-laws and husband discouraged me, but I did not leave my Lord. They told me not to fellowship with believers, read my Bible or share Christ with other women."

Then one night, Anju's husband suffered from severe back pain. Lying in bed, he heard a voice saying, "My son, do not worry about yourself. Everything will be OK." In the morning, his pain was gone. That voice was Jesus', Anju told her husband, explaining that she had been praying for him. After that, he stopped preventing her from sharing the gospel. Though there is no church in her village, Anju leads a Sunday fellowship of those with whom she's shared the gospel.

Anju* writes, "*Women of Hope* gives me information that is very helpful to village women, because we are not aware of matters we need to know. It helps me to guide women and tell them about diseases, cleanliness and other issues. This program can bring change in the lives of women, and that can change society."

**Listener names are changed to protect privacy.*

PHOTO BY VIGNESH MOORTHY ON UNSPLASH



Why join TWR Women of Hope?

Many women around the world live with eyes averted, head down, some with their entire bodies covered so that the sun can't even touch their skin! Through Women of Hope programs, the Son can touch their hearts and lift their eyes toward heaven, being valued beyond their dreams! They need to know Jesus is the lifter of our heads (Psalm 3:3)! Since I'm most grateful he lifted mine, I support TWR Women of Hope so other women can experience his amazing love, too!

- GINGER, KENTUCKY, U.S.

73
languages in which
Women of Hope
offers listeners
practical help and
spiritual solutions

Deeds of faith

In Romania, Christians have asked the same questions believers around the world ask: "What can we do?" They see abandoned mothers, sexually trafficked girls and impoverished families. Beyond the country's borders, they see a world of suffering sometimes so harsh that the more conservative among them can't bear to keep looking.

But the TWR Women of Hope Romania team has found purpose and direction amid their own struggles. "Through prayer, we believe that we can change the world for the better. Through radio

broadcasts, we can give our Romanian women encouragement and teaching. Through our deeds of faith, we can offer hope to those in distress."

The number of individuals receiving the prayer calendar each month nearly tripled last year. It hardly seemed possible when 70 intercessors joined the groups in one quarter, yet following that, 63 more were added in only a month. And every month, those Romanian men and women pray through those calendars, even praying for you, their partner in the faith.

"I love to pray for the Lord's ministries," says one prayer warrior. "The calendar helps me to receive updated and specific information about women around the world. I cannot go abroad, but I can pray for those who are doing the Lord's work. Through prayer, I can go anywhere. God sees everything, for the Earth is his, but he is looking for intercessors."

What many women face around the world is distressing, yet our walk is by faith. Even

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when you feel you can't bear what you see happening in this world, you can choose to travel on your knees in prayer.

Sign up today to receive our monthly prayer calendar at twrwomenofhope.org/prayersignup.

In a world where we are all so different, what unites us? Do you ever wish you could just press a reset button on your life?

Cut through the noise and learn from Dr. Peggy Banks, global ministry director of TWR Women of Hope, and Babbie Mason, singer-songwriter and author, as they share compelling stories from Scripture and their own lives. Our new *Hope Has a Name* podcast is available anytime via your computer or mobile device. Tune in today!



Just for you –
our new
podcast!

Hope
has a
Name

Love in action: prayer

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



Like the church in Corinth, we tend to value the gifts bestowed on us by God – our skills and abilities – more than we value the fruit of love that the Holy Spirit puts in us as children of the Father. Yet even before Paul addressed this issue in his revered 13th chapter of I Corinthians, Jesus made it clear that love is the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-39).

I believe that one of the most practical ways to love others is through prayer. Yet many times, difficult situations cause us anxiety, and we turn to other things to stop the stress before we pray. We see a better way, however, in Philippians 4:4-7.

Paul appeals to the Philippians to not be anxious about “anything.” He encourages them to pray instead of being anxious. What about us? How many times do we turn to prayer first when we are faced with difficulties? The very nature of prayer is trusting in God. When we practice communication with God in prayer, we find his peace.

So, how do we pray for the world – particularly for women? To offer

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.

- PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

meaningful requests and petitions, we ask ourselves, “What are the needs? Where are the problems?” TWR Women of Hope prayer calendars provide information already prepared for a prayer time in the form of one request a day. But simplicity in format does not erase the complicated feelings of distress experienced when reading about the suffering of women around the world. We need not let ourselves be weighed down in worry when we see

these difficulties, however. We know that the path to peace for our own hearts, as well as for those we pray for, becomes clear when we present our requests to God. That is why our prayer calendars’ daily requests go beyond sharing basic needs, additionally highlighting the very things that matter to God for women around the world and equipping us to pray his heart as revealed in Scripture.

Prayer is not complicated; rather, it is simple communication from our hearts to God. Every day, men and women around the world unite their hearts and voices around a simple prayer calendar. Each prayer is designed to extend God’s love to women who are suffering in very difficult situations. Now over 64,000 people are praying with us through the calendar each month!

Will you pray that women will know the truth about who they are in Christ? Will you pray that our teams will be encouraged daily in God’s Word? Will you pray from Scripture for the needs of women around the world, that they would know God’s love for them?



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**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.

TWR

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