

THE heartbeat



WOMEN
OF HOPE

*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 24 NO 2

THE lord IS OUR refuge

The Lord is our helper. May we flee to him for our safety in times of trouble. He is our protector and defender. In our weakness he is strong. He offers to carry our burdens and be our comforter in every season of life, no matter the anxiety, sorrow or danger we may face.

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Photo: iStock.com

LISTENER STORY TANZANIA

Thank you for your radio program. I am a refugee living in Tanzania, and for years I have lived with bitterness and anger. I have vivid memories of what the soldiers in my country did to me. They invaded my home and took advantage of me right in front of my children. When the soldiers were gone, we ran to Tanzania to try to save our lives. I hoped that once we fled the home country, things would be better. I thought we would be able to save ourselves and start a new life, but I could not shake the anger I felt toward those men who abused me, nor could I forget the suffering we went through. Your program has made me realize that my hope was in the wrong place. Now I have found my hope in Jesus. For he is the one who saves our souls, and he has taught me to forgive the men who abused me. Please pray for me as I continue to lift my burdens to the Lord.

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Does any group of people in the world need this present help in the face of weakness, anxiety and danger more than refugees? According to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, 79.5 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes and millions of these stateless people have been “denied a nationality and lack access to basic rights such as education, health care, employment, and freedom of movement.”¹

In circumstances like these, is it surprising that refugees cannot escape an abiding sense of hopelessness? TWR Women of Hope desires to speak hope in Jesus to these refugees who have left everything in hopes of a better life. By partnering with churches and refugee ministries that are working to provide for their basic needs, TWR Women of Hope works to equip organizations with media devices that contain content addressing the life issues of these asylum seekers and share the good news of Jesus Christ in the exiles’



Photo via IIMB.org

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

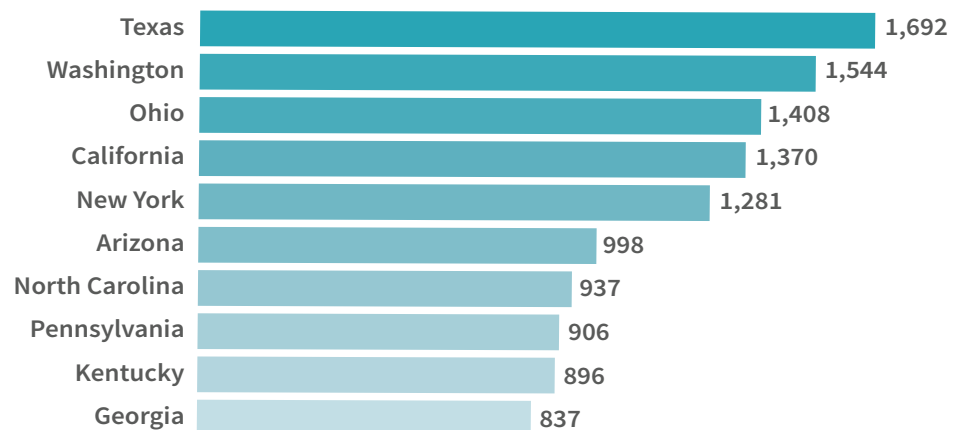
- PSALM 46:1

own languages and in a way that is culturally appropriate and relevant.

Your prayers and contributions are ever important and immensely appreciated as we continue our work to serve these women around the world in desperate need of the hope only Jesus can provide.

Where do refugees live?

Top 10 U.S. states resettling refugees and the number settled in each, FY2018²

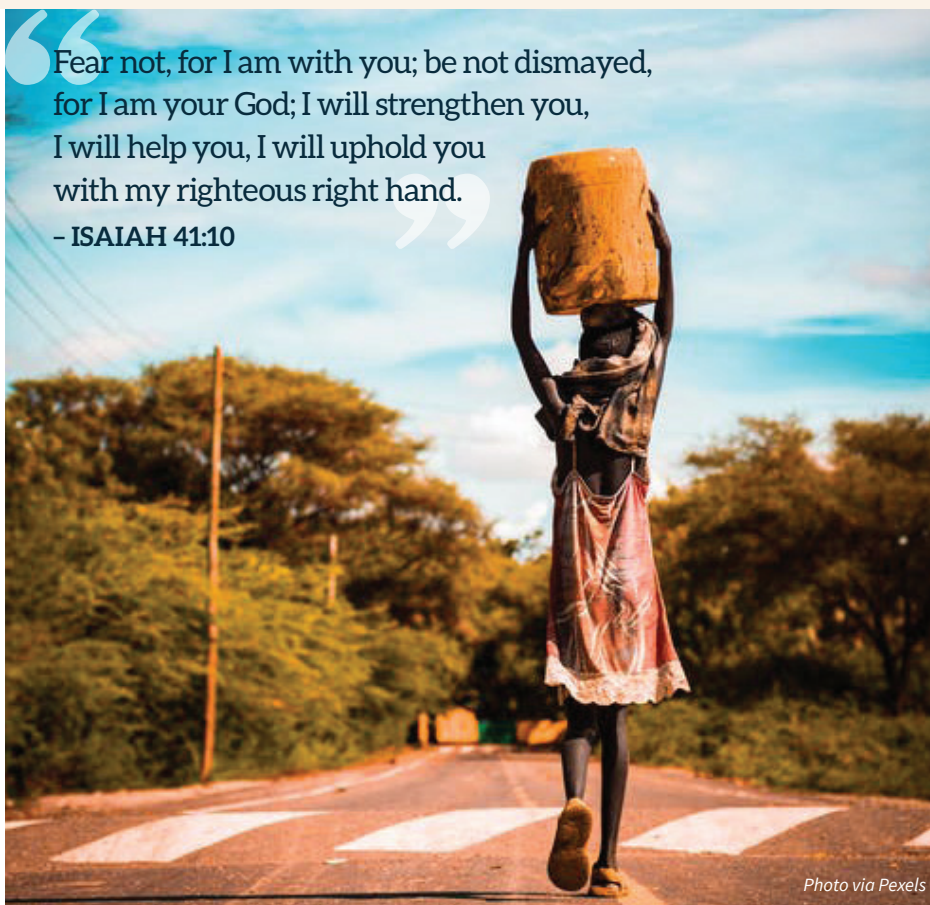


¹ UN Refugee Agency (unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html)

² Refugee Processing Center (wrapsnet.org); National Immigration Forum (immigrationforum.org)

“Throughout my life, I suffered from great anxiety as my family and I continued to live in poverty. At times, it became too much for me to handle, and I considered taking my own life. My husband is not a believer, but my mother is, and she encouraged me to come to her shop once a week to listen to your *Women of Hope* radio program and share my struggles with the Lord. Your program shared the truth of Jesus Christ with me, and that gave me a reason to live! I believe there are other women out there like me, so I would like to offer a donation to *Women of Hope* Nepal so that the Lord can continue to work through your ministry! It is not much, but I believe the Lord will bless it.”

-LISTENER FROM NEPAL

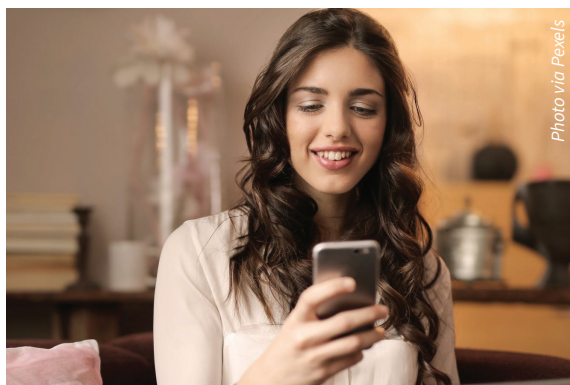


“Dear Women of Hope, I need your prayers. I am living in a part of Africa where it is very difficult to be a born-again Christian. There is no one on our side here, but my family and I listen to your program, and it helps us to grow in our faith in Jesus. It is a blessing to be reminded that he is our strength. Please pray for this place – that people’s hearts would be softened and their eyes would be opened to the truth of the gospel.”

- LISTENER FROM AFRICA

“I am a widow with four children, and I have never felt more alone. For years I have felt this overwhelming sense of hopelessness, but on Aug. 28, I started listening to your program, and it changed my life. Because of the truth your program shared, I have chosen to commit my life to Christ. I am still a broken woman, but Jesus is giving me new life. Thank you for sharing this hope in Jesus.”

- LISTENER FROM CAMBODIA



TWR Women of Hope is now offering a free email subscription to our newsletter *The Heartbeat*, as well as to our monthly email devotionals! If you would like to be a part of this email ministry, sign up today!

twrwomenofhope.org/signup

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'Lord, When Did We See You...?'

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

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" -MATTHEW 25:37-40

In Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew, we read an extended prophetic sermon in which Jesus is answering the disciples' questions about the sign of his coming and the end of the age. But for us today, we too can apply these truths to our lives, and they are relevant for all of us who believe in Jesus as our King and Savior.

You don't need a class or special training to bring food to someone. It is not something you need to learn in seminary as part of becoming a minister of the gospel. It's not hard to make a meal or provide food or

clothing for someone in need. All we have to do is decide to cook a little extra so a family of four living on the streets or in a shelter will have a meal for the day.

On one trip to Ethiopia, several of us were traveling back to our lodging from dinner with our local host. Some were carrying leftovers in boxes to have as a meal the next day. One member of our party thought she would just throw her box in the trash to avoid making a mess on the bus ride home. At one of the stops, however, our host pulled the box from her hands and gave it to a mother and children who were living on the street. We all sat in silence for the rest of the bus ride home.

I was so touched and convicted in my own heart not only that our host took the box from my colleague's hands and gave it to the mom but that it seemed to be the kind of thing he did every day. Yet he never ridiculed her for planning to throw it in the trash. The interesting thing was that this mom was so focused on making sure her young children did not run into the traffic that she was not begging for food or money even though hundreds of people were walking past her family during evening. (Women and children currently constitute more than

80 percent of the 40 million refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide.¹)

As we consider the number of strangers in our countries – call them foreigners, immigrants, refugees or what you will – let us be mindful of how hard it is for families adjusting to a new country and culture. Perhaps our churches can help them find a place to live, to work, to learn the local language. For a family fleeing from domestic violence, all it takes to help is for us to take a bag of clothes to a shelter. And for homeless families, how about cooking a few more helpings of your meal or picking up extra groceries and bringing them to a food bank?

I pray your heart is touched today as we find ways to show the love of Christ to someone in need. We are not saved by our works, but it is through our actions that others can see and come to know the love of Christ.

Martin Luther said it this way: "Salvation is by faith alone, but true faith never remains alone."

May God bless you!

¹wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/immigrantwomen.pdf



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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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