

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 25 NO 2

expanding
hope's reach
in
Africa

Photo via unsplash.com

LISTENER STORY

“We praise the Lord for the ministry that took place during COVID-19. Thank you for not stopping your creation of content on social networks and for continuing to facilitate prayer groups. It is a blessing to me.” - LISTENER FROM CÔTE D’IVOIRE



TWR Women of Hope is a dynamic ministry that stretches across the globe. In the name of Jesus, our programs engage over **750,000** people each month, our teams have started more than **11,500** prayer groups, and the Lord has blessed us with **110,000-plus** intercessors, who faithfully and unceasingly lift up the ministry in prayer. We praise God as these numbers continue to multiply.

One region in particular that is expanding and flourishing is West and Central Africa. Our teams on the ground have been diligent

in work, imploring women on Christ’s behalf to be reconciled to God, as urged by the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:20.

In November 2021, this team launched the first French Prayer Gathering, led by Estelle Ametoglo, and at the beginning of 2022, the reins were passed to Charlene Ndoukou of Gabon. This team also have focused their efforts on translating materials so that they may reach more women in their region. Within 2022, two new members, from Gabon and Benin, have already been added to the French translation team. These wonderful ladies join women from France and the Faeroe Islands making up a truly international translation team.

In March 2022, TWR Women of Hope’s global director, Dr. Peggy Banks, was able to make a trip to

visit our faithful teams in two municipalities of Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire: Abobo and Yopougon. In each city she spent time with the TWR Women of Hope prayer groups and shared a message of encouragement and hope in Jesus to persevere in the midst of trials. She and those traveling with her were received with great appreciation and love, and they left feeling encouraged by the dedication of all involved in the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Côte d’Ivoire.

On the same trip the TWR West and Central Africa partners’ conference took place. Dr. Banks was able to attend and present on the ministry of TWR Women of Hope. Read about the conference on the next page and be encouraged by all that took place.

'Not us, but Jesus..'

By Marietjie Prollius, TWR Africa

West and Central Africa resonates with cultural and ethnic diversity. Hundreds of ethnic groups live and work together with a high degree of interaction. Traditional cuisine and beverages can be found throughout the region.

Despite political difficulties, poverty and the lack of resources, the people of this region hold on to vibrant cultural values that revolve around family and religion. The diversity of languages, religious beliefs and rich cultural traditions provide an African heritage that is celebrated and valued by its people.

It was in this multifaceted location that the first TWR West and Central Africa (WeCaf) Partners Conference took place in March 2022. The WeCaf staff hosted the conference at the TWR offices in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Regional guests included the three directors of West African national partners – Virgile Ouendo from Evangelical Media in Benin, Florence Ogechi from Evangile FM in Côte d'Ivoire, and Joshua Ironi from Victa Media, Nigeria.

One of the highlights of the conference was the signing ceremony of partnership agreements between TWR WeCaf and these three partner offices. Though the partners have been operating for years, agreements need to be renewed on a regular basis to accommodate changes and growth in the partnership ministries. This conference provided the perfect opportunity for such an event.

Central Africa was represented by the recently appointed TWR Central Africa coordinator, Jean Anath Ndoukou, and his wife, Charlene, TWR Women of Hope coordinator in Gabon.

The installation of Ndoukou in June 2021 has opened many new ministry opportunities in the region. In the nine months since he started serving with TWR, eight local FM stations have agreed to air TWR programs in French, and more may follow soon. Charlene, his wife, already works with 55 TWR

LISTENER STORY

"Life has not been easy for me in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Everything in my life makes me hurt. I have struggled with anxiety and nervousness and felt as if I could not control myself anymore, but this program gave me the opportunity to ask God to change everything in me. I want to become a child who honors the Lord. I want to be free of my past and move forward in my life with Christ. Thank you for helping me see that this hope is offered in Christ."

- LISTENER FROM CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Women of Hope (WoH) prayer groups. She provides the French WoH prayer calendar to these groups, sometimes via email or WhatsApp and sometimes in person. The calendar is often orally translated into a local language, Nzebi, during prayer meetings. The need is great for Christian ministry throughout the seven countries in Central Africa.

A number of international guests were on hand, led by Branko Bjelajac, TWR vice president for Africa, Europe and Central Asia. Joining him were Dr. Peggy Banks, TWR Women of Hope global director; Stephen Murray, Africa technical director, and his wife, Teresa, who serves as member care coordinator with TWR Africa's Human Resources department; and Marietjie Prollius, TWR Africa marketing and communications director.

The first day of the partners conference in West Africa started off with a devotional from Ouendo. He referenced the task Nehemiah was assigned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Amid many afflictions and opposition, Nehemiah refused to allow the adversities they faced to deter him and his team from the task God entrusted to them.

The same principle applies to the small but dedicated TWR team in West and Central Africa. Through many trials they persevere in their vision – to reach their region and beyond, through

mass media, so that lasting fruit is produced. Dr. Abdoulaye Sangho, a West African Christian pastor from a Muslim background, started the West Africa ministry almost 26 years ago by converting one of his children's bedrooms into a studio. There, he recorded the first *TWR Africa Challenge* program in French.

This program aired on more than 50 stations, teaching and encouraging Africans in vital and practical topics of African life. As the ministry grew, the TWR WeCaf office building was procured, and today TWR airs programs in more than 35 West African languages and dialects.

During the two-day conference, Bjelajac gave an overview on the functionality and purposes of partnerships. Dr. Banks shared the TWR Women of Hope vision and plans for new projects and content creation for women in the region and worldwide.

The three partners and Anath shared about their respective ministry activities and prospective plans leading to 2024. The task is enormous, but with God's help, much already has been accomplished, more than is humanly possible with the resources available. We praise God that the TWR ministry in West and Central Africa is expanding at a rapid pace, but as Ouendo humbly states: "It is not us; Jesus is doing it through us."



A picture is worth a thousand words

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

The simple and familiar phrase above captures how effectively one picture can convey many ideas, emotions, thoughts, and truths. This is true when we look at the photos chosen for this edition of The Heartbeat newsletter. The photos of the many women who joined us for worship, prayer and teaching are only glimpses into the complete picture of emotions, ideas and truth that touched my heart that day.

In March 2022, I traveled to West Africa for a time of ministry with our TWR partners and participation in several TWR Women of Hope meetings. As the week progressed, the day to visit our prayer teams arrived. Several team members serving in Côte d'Ivoire gathered to make the journey to our first meeting that day.

Although we arrived several hours late, when we stepped out of the car many women were lined up singing and dancing as they welcomed our team. The rejoicing in their voices and the hugs that we received were overwhelming. These women truly were worshipping a God in whom they believed and had found their strength and refuge.

They moved us down the road singing and dancing until we arrived at the outdoor meeting place. Chairs, drums, music, and a microphone and lectern were placed at the front of this outdoor church. Women started sharing testimonies of God's goodness and all they had learned from God, our prayer groups and our TWR Women of Hope team. They shared stories of learning how to make jewelry to sell to feed their families, stories of answered prayer and stories of the fellowship with one another that gave them hope. Then they provided us with gifts of clothing and jewelry, and my heart burst open into a thousand pieces of love for these beautiful women.

Each woman who shared her testimony faces giant challenges and difficulties every day. Every day in every way she makes a choice to be joyful and serve Jesus. It was humbling, to say the least. I will never forget the faces of the women who met us on the road that day. I'm thankful for the pictures we have to remember them and know that God sees each one of their faces and loves each one even more.

As we consider what God is building into TWR Women of Hope in 2022, may we remember that his power is perfected in our weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9). He gives us grace sufficient for whatever we need. I pray that we will allow God to build into us a life that is fully surrendered to all that he desires for us no matter what struggles we face on a daily basis.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

- 2 COR. 12:9-10



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.

CONTACT US

✉ info@twrwomenofhope.org

☎ 800-456-7897