

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

**VOL 26 NO 2 BRINGING HOPE TO WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD & ACROSS GENERATIONS** 

# Shining the light of **Christ**

### **Spotlight on Southeast Asia**



We are constantly in awe of the Lord. He is kind, faithful, holy and righteous. Nothing is too big or too small for God, for he is mighty.

One of our favorite reminders is that "Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20 God's Word Translation).

This year brought significant changes for TWR Women of Hope, but God has grown the ministry in ways we couldn't have dreamed up on our own. We are so grateful for his faithfulness, along with your own for faithfully praying with and for us.

There are new and familiar faces on our team along with new ideas and talents for programming that we can't wait to share with you. As our teams grow, we will (re)introduce our regional coordinators and provide you with a brief snapshot of what's going on in their corners of the world and, most especially, how our teams are bringing hope in Jesus to women there. Let's dive in, shall we?

#### INTRODUCING...

We couldn't be more thrilled to share with you that a longtime prayer of ours has been answered. The region of Southeast Asia has been without a ministry coordinator for years, so without further ado, we want to introduce you to **Paulina Wulansari**. We're so grateful for the Lord bringing her to our global team!



#### Get to know our team

Paulina joined TWR in Indonesia in 2005 after graduating from high school. She has worked in both the local station and public relations departments as an assistant to the international director of the region and as a producer and presenter for radio programs. She is a wife, and she is the mother of two children, a boy and a girl.

**Favorite Scripture verse:** Joshua 1:9 – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

## Why are you passionate about reaching women?

Women have a very important role in the family. From the beginning of human creation, women were created to be equal helpers to their husbands. The Bible also says that those who are called by God to be mothers must take that responsibility seriously. Mothers play a unique and crucial role in their children's lives. Being a housewife and a mother myself, the responsibilities are timeless – from generation to generation. Our words and actions will be taught to our children. Women, of all stages of life, need to be equipped to carry out their roles well wherever the Lord places them.

#### What do you want women in your region to know?

I want more women to have **A** the opportunity to listen to the Women of Hope program so that they'll be equipped in God's calling for their lives, regardless of the season they are in. Our program presents Jesus Christ so the listeners will learn more and trust in him. As women grow in their faith, I hope they become the instrument of God's works in their spheres of influence. There are messages about kindness, forgiveness, mercy, hope, bitterness, etc., along with insights on health, parenting and educational topics so that listeners will have knowledge and be prepared on how to handle problems in their families.

#### **Snapshot of Southeast Asia**

**Countries:** Brunei, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

Regardless of where they live, many women face certain challenges that remain the same: gender inequality, limited economic and leadership opportunities, and high rates of domestic violence and sexual harassment. In nations where poverty is high, resources – and hope – are scarce. In Indonesia alone, millions of women and children have been displaced because of natural disasters, and they lack adequate food and health care. Millions within this region do not know the hope that is in Christ Jesus.

Our signature Women of Hope program combines practical life



lessons about relationships, health education, emotions and more along with spiritual "soul" lessons that always point women back to Jesus. Our program has been translated into the heart languages of Javanese, Burmese, Tagalog, Ilocano, Thai and several more.



#### LISTENER STORY

"I told my stories to God our Father. I poured out my heartaches and questions to him. He made me realize that all the things that are happening would not happen without his permission. After I gave all my questions and concerns to our Father, he sent people to me whom he uses to help me. And TWR Women of Hope is one of them."

- LISTENER FROM THE PHILIPPINES



2023 HOPE CHALLENGE Connecting your passion with ours

Our passion is bringing hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations. We want women to know that they are deeply valued and loved by the God who created them and that there is redemption and healing in his Son.

Would you unite your passion with ours? If so, we have a unique opportunity for you. We'd love to introduce you to a few of our featured projects and help you connect with one that speaks to your heart. After you've made this connection, we are going to **challenge** you to partner with us in prayer, giving or both so that we, together, can spread the **hope of Christ**.

# So, are you up for the challenge?

For more information, visit twrwomenofhope.org/ hopechallenge.

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HOTO VIA IMB

#### **AROUND THE WORLD**

Beyond the borders of Southeast Asia, other women's lives are being transformed. Here are a few highlights of how our teams are responding across the regions:

- Equipped with over 11 years of production experience and with the global guidelines for production, Tanzania has produced 16 of 26 new Swahili programs. (Africa)
- Many women come to Northern Cyprus from various Middle Eastern countries to study and experience relative freedom for the first time; however, they tend to carry heavy trauma with them. We are reaching out with the messages of hope in Jesus and how true freedom and healing can be found only in him. Please pray for the brave team on the ground. (Europe)
- Brazil reached the milestone of 1,000 Women of Hope programs! The ministry's signature program has taken up different formats to accommodate our audience's needs while maintaining uniqueness and impact. Now the team is launching its third season as part of the ministry's 21st anniversary in the country. (Latin America)
- Our Arabic team continues to tackle relevant issues in the life of Middle Eastern women, such as finding one's identity in Christ, overcoming fear and anxiety, maintaining healthy relationships, building strong marriages, and empowering listeners through skills training, to mention only a few. (Middle East)

# Portraits of grace

his book *God Works the Night Shift*, Ron Mehl states, "Most artists I've heard about like lots of light in their studios," and he adds, "Yet, God creates His masterpieces in the dark, on the night shift. You are the canvas. The paint and brushes are your trials and pain. The portrait is His Son!"

I love the poetic way Ron used to describe the work that God does in our lives through the difficult circumstances we encounter. Art is guite a diverse field. Each type of art requires different skills. Some involve gentle and precise movements; others require strong hands. Every art piece demands time to reach perfection from the artist's point of view. It's fascinating how artists know exactly what they are doing. They have all it takes to transform a shapeless piece of wood into a gorgeous decorative item and a blank canvas into a masterpiece.

This topic was strongly on my mind as I was visiting our team in Paraguay. We spent a whole morning at one of the ministries in a local prison – Buen Pastor. What a special ministry they have there! First, they share a devotional and pray together. Then, they spend time teaching them how to make different kinds of art – paint, decoupage



**Susie Pek** Global Ministry Director TWR Women of Hope

and macrame were the lessons of the day. I could tell how proud the apprentices were of their creations.

As they were working, I heard some of their stories. A woman said: "If it weren't for this terrible situation, I would not have given my life to Christ." It reminded me of Psalm 119:71, which says, "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees." God is at work at that very dark place. He is painting awesome portraits of grace in the lives of the women there. Though they are still in "chains" of incarceration, in Christ they have found freedom. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves" (Col. 1:14).

God works the night shift. All his artworks are beautiful and unique. He is at work in the lives of the inmates of Buen Pastor as well as in the lives of women all over the world. As I think of what he is doing through our ministry, my heart is filled with gratitude for you! Thank you for joining us in taking the light of Christ to very dark places.



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, encorage and equip women to learn, pray, listen, grow and give through media and group interaction.

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#### CONTACT US

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