

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 27 NO 1

SPOTLIGHT ON LATIN
AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Enlarging the shadow of his wings

“

**I would like to
thank you for
your program.**

I am a single mother
and the difficulties and
responsibilities of caring
for a child alone are
many. And I thank God
every day for giving me
the strength.”

— LISTENER IN
LATIN AMERICA



ENLARGE the place of your tent, **stretch** your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; **lengthen** your cords, **strengthen** your stakes. **-ISAIAH 54:2**

Isaiah 54:2 follows the significant chapter of the suffering servant, which prophesies the role of the Messiah and the sacrificial love he will pay for his beloved. The rest of Chapter 54 communicates a blessing for Israel filled with the assurances that God's covenant of peace (which we just learned the Messiah has purchased for us) will not be broken because the Lord is overflowing with compassion and kindness. In his infinite mercy and sovereignty, God provided our way of salvation and then promises that he will uphold his covenant with us – what a God we serve!

As a team, we in TWR Women of Hope are holding onto Isaiah 54:2 and believing God for great things in the year ahead! We saw him expand our ministry in so many ways throughout 2023. Here's a quick recap:

- Nearly 200 people were reached through our monthly Global Prayer Gatherings, in which we pray together each month for the needs of women around the world.
- We welcomed an old friend and new global director, Susie Pek!
- Training took place to equip more teams to produce the *Precious and Beloved* program in their heart languages.
- Two regional coordinators were established and added to the TWR Women of Hope team.
- With your help, we met our goal with the Hope Challenge – an initiative highlighting several projects we are hoping to launch or further develop in 2024.
- We launched ministry in Mongolia after years of prayer.

Dear friend, we thank you for your immense support of TWR Women of Hope. When we receive listener stories or even testimonies from our teams, we are reminded that this impact was made possible because of you! Thank you for faithfully sowing into the lives of women for generations to come.



GET TO KNOW US! INTRODUCING ... YICELL ORTIZ

As mentioned above, one amazing addition that God brought to TWR Women of Hope in 2023 was a new coordinator for the vibrant region of Latin America and the Caribbean, Yicell Ortiz.

Yicell is from the Dominican Republic, where she studied clinical psychology, completed a diploma in women's discipleship and received a certificate in biblical counseling. She is married to Jehiel, a TWR missionary. Together, they are passionate about God and his Word. In her free time, Yicell leads a women's study group in her local congregation and has written for the international blog LifeWay Women. You can find more of her writings at yicelldeortizblog.com. She, her husband and their two children live in the United States.

Favorite Scripture verse:

My favorite verse(s) are actually a chapter: John 6. I like that chapter because God is revealed as the one who satisfies our spiritual need. He offers himself as the bread of life so that whoever comes to him will never be hungry and whoever believes in him will never be thirsty!

Q Why are you passionate about reaching women?

A Because every woman deserves to know the grace that God provides through Christ. Sowing into, encouraging and building up the lives of each woman according to the Word of God is a passion that burns in my heart.

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

A That God designed them for very special purposes! Each woman was created to be an expression of God's grace and mercy. Also, to show them Jesus Christ as the one who can help them with their burdens and give them the peace that only he can provide! And to convey this to every woman fills my heart with joy.

REGIONAL FOCUS

Latin America and the Caribbean

From the lush rainforests of the Amazon to the white sandy beaches of the Caribbean, this region is known for its natural beauty and cultural richness. Amid such beauty, women face significant challenges to true freedom and healing.

Many women in the region struggle to balance multiple roles, such as mother, daughter, friend, student, professional, laborer, prison inmate or others. They experience the pressure of societal expectations, leaving them feeling invisible and unappreciated.

Some wives face abandonment by their husbands. Young girls are pressured to conform to society's standards of sexuality and live impure lives. Working women encounter gender inequality in the workplace. Students in Brazil have faced violent scenarios and, in some cases, have even gone missing. Human trafficking and prostitution are commonplace throughout the entire region as women seeking prosperity are deceived and coerced into exploitation. This is to say nothing of the many cases of gender-based violence that, sadly, many women are not strangers to.



Teams in: Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Uruguay (broadcasts into other countries), Brazil, Bonaire and more to come.

How are we reaching the millions of Latin American women with the hope of Jesus Christ?

Though we have official teams in just a few countries within the region, we broadcast our signature program from Uruguay into 20 other Latin American countries.

LISTENER STORY

"I have been an inmate for six years now. I have a radio in my room and listen to your program every week. I don't change the station. ... I met the Lord in this place, and now I live happily because Jesus changed my story. Inside the prison, we have a congregation of 300 inmates. ... I play guitar, and now I'm on the worship team. Today I have light behind bars!"

-LISTENER, PARAGUAY

Brazil produces its own signature program in Portuguese while our teams in both Brazil and Bonaire have a strong presence on social media to reach a widespread audience.

Last, but not least, Paraguay has a thriving prison ministry where our team visits and ministers to the women inmates there, bringing them hope behind bars. You can join us in praying for women in this region, and other parts of the world, by visiting: twrwomenofhope.org/pray.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

We are thrilled to share with you the latest updates on the incredible work of women worldwide, spanning different generations and backgrounds. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your partnership with us to make a meaningful difference. Your prayers, valuable time and resources are vital to our mission, and we assure you that your support is not in vain. We want to emphasize that nothing is ever wasted, and we cherish every contribution you make. Thank you for all that you do; we are truly blessed to have you on board.

- We have begun broadcasting the *Women of Hope* program in China specifically for North Korean refugee women. Until now, we had no way to get responses from listeners in North Korea, so we praise God for this opportunity!
- *Precious and Beloved* is starting in three new languages: Macedonian, Albanian and African French.
- *Hidden Treasures Part Two* is in the works! It will still focus on

ministering to sexually exploited women but this time through song and worship.

- The TWR Vietnam team can regularly visit *Women of Hope* listeners who live in remote areas, as well as provide training for church leaders in local villages. Through our program, new believers are discipled and built up in the faith into mature believers. Women are turning away from amulets and idols and placing their hope in Christ.

Find refuge under his wings

*Because you
are my help,
I sing in the
shadow of
your wings.*

-Ps. 63:7

What are the five most amazing experiences you have ever had? I say five because I imagine it is hard to pick just one. The options are endless – from skydiving to discovering parenthood! Every day has its share of wonderful events; however, some stand out and touch us in a unique way.

Last year, while I was in Central Asia, where I had an experience that quickly made it to my top-five most remarkable ones. Our team took a short trip up into the mountains. There we found domesticated eagles and hawks. I had never seen an eagle up close. And what an imposing fascinating bird it is!

Since we were face to face, I dared to touch it. I was dazzled by the softness of its feathers. In one of the villages, an eagle was placed on my arm, and to my surprise, it spread its wings over my head! How can I describe this moment? The curvature of its wings over my head was an invitation to get closer to its body. The feeling was one of warmth, protection and refreshment. For a few seconds, I actually found relief from the heat of the day.

I immediately thought of verses that refer to the shadow of the Lord's wings. "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will



Susie Pek Global Ministry Director

rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely, he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart" (Ps. 91:1-4).

As 2024 is underway, we can rest assured that daily we get to enjoy sheltering, protection and warmth under the wings of the almighty God. My heart smiles that because of your partnership with us in prayer and giving, women around the world and across generations also can enjoy this security.



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 learn, pray, listen, grow and give through media and group interaction.

CONTACT US

✉ twrwomenofhope@twr.org ☎ 800-456-7897

