



Uniting our hearts in
PRAYER

Educating, encouraging and equipping women to
pray, listen, learn, grow and give.

Join us in praying for East and Southern Africa

JULY & AUGUST 2023



Using the Most Effective Technology to Share the Hope of Jesus



Dear friends,

As we begin a new prayer calendar, we turn our focus to East and Southern Africa. In the article on pages 6-7, Lyn Burnett, TWR Women of Hope representative for Eastern Cape, South Africa, shares about the ministry to the Xhosa people. Because radio and internet reception, electricity and even batteries are unreliable or expensive, the South Africa team has found that the most effective way to share the *Women of Hope* programs is by loading them, along with an audio Bible and the prayer calendar in audio, onto solar-powered media players.

Having these media players means that Xhosa women have access to the gospel and biblical teaching anytime they want! They do not need to worry about the cost of accessing the content or whether the infrastructure is working. And by providing the prayer calendar in audio form, Xhosa women join us in praying through the TWR Women of Hope prayer calendar each month!

If you have been around TWR Canada for a while, you know that using the best technology for the audience is important to us. Romans 10:14 tells us *“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”* (ESV) Providing the gospel message in a format which is accessible for the audience means that they can hear of the One who has come to redeem them.

For the Xhosa people, that means using solar-powered players. But this applies around the world – think about the ways in which you access biblical materials and other content. Think about the ways your children or grandchildren and your friends and neighbours access media. Perhaps it is in print or audio, physically printed materials or digitally. Using the best technology for the audience we are trying to reach means that we can better share the gospel and equip the intended audience.

Praise God for the ways in which we can use the various technologies he has given us to share the hope of Jesus with the world! As we pray together for East and Southern Africa through July and August, may you see the many ways our TWR Women of Hope teams in this region are reaching women with the hope of Jesus.

Together in prayer,

The TWR Canada Women’s Ministry Team

JULY

1. Father, we pray that education for girls may be a priority in Tsholotsho, Zimbabwe and that they are not married off at an early age. (Prov. 9:9)
2. Lord, provide audio Bibles for women in Maasai land in Tanzania who can’t read but love to learn your Word. (Ps. 119:11)
3. Father, use the TWR Women of Hope ministry in South Africa to draw people to you and thereby change their communities. Give government leaders wisdom as they make daily decisions for this nation. (2 Cor. 5:17)
4. In you is true freedom, God. May those struggling with addiction in Malawi find their freedom in you. (John 8:36)
5. May the government in Kenya pass the bill on providing free feminine hygiene products for girls. Many girls miss almost 24 weeks out of 144 weeks of class due to lack of access to pads during menstruation. (Phil. 2:4)
6. We praise you, Lord, for the *Women of Hope* program in Ethiopia. The Word of God that is shared in the program has brought salvation and growth in believers’ lives. (Heb. 4:12)
7. As food prices rise sharply in Burundi, low-income families lack the money to buy food. God, please provide for their daily needs so these families will not go hungry! (Ps. 14:6)
8. Father, may the people of Zimbabwe rely on you alone rather than false prophets and false doctrines. (1 John 4:1-3)
9. We pray for the launching of ministry in September on Pemba Island, Zanzibar. Lord, please provide a radio station to air *Women of Hope* programs there. (Rom. 10:17)
10. God, we pray that you comfort women of South Africa who grieve loved ones lost to gang and drug violence, road accidents and natural disasters. (Ps. 23:4)
11. Lord, we pray for economic stability for those living in Malawi. Please supply their needs. (Phil. 4:19)



From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

- 12. Father, we pray that young girls in Kenya would not be sexually active or given in early marriage. Early childbearing disrupts her schooling and affects the long-term health of her and her baby. (Eph. 5:1-3)
- 13. Lord our provider, give our TWR Women of Hope leaders a strategy and donor base within Ethiopia that can supply ongoing funding for the ministry to women there. (Rom. 8:32)
- 14. Bring healing, God, to children with disabilities in Burundi. Their families use all their money for medical care and have no funds left to survive. (Jer. 17:14)
- 15. Father, we pray for those who destroy property and steal electrical cables in Zimbabwe. May they turn from their evil ways and toward you. (Eph. 4:28)
- 16. God, please provide food, clothing, and radios for women in Tanzanian refugee camps. May they be able to listen to the *Women of Hope* programs. (Lev. 23:22)
- 17. Father, give our leaders insight into the many ways of using small solar-powered listening devices to share our Women of Hope Xhosa programs in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. (James 1:5)

- 18. We praise you, Lord, that you comfort those who mourn and grieve in Malawi. (Matt. 5:4)
- 19. We cry out for rain for the people of Kenya, God. This current drought is leaving so many without access to food and water. (Isa. 44:3-4)
- 20. Father, guide, comfort and bring peace to those who fled their homes during the war in Ethiopia yet are still having difficulty returning home and having stable, peaceful lives. (John 16:33)



- 21. God, strengthen the poor women in the remote areas of Bujumbura, Burundi, who work tirelessly to support their children and aging parents. (Isa. 40:29-31)
- 22. Lord, God, we ask that the men who are unemployed in Zimbabwe find jobs so they can provide for their families. (Ps. 23:1)

From a listener on Zanzibar in Tanzania: *“I am an Islamic girl, but I love listening to you because here in Zanzibar we women face a lot of oppression and this ministry is making us feel valued and loved. I am a victim of beatings and abuse from my husband but listening to you has made me feel the love of Jesus and know that it is true and real. Thank you for what you are doing for us.”*

From a listener in Ethiopia: *“I am a regular listener and am now in a difficult situation because of drought. My family is suffering a lot, some of them have evacuated to other places. Please remember us in your prayers. The radio program is very interesting and gives us hope when we are hopeless in life. It is very helpful and useful for many of us. Thank you very much for your great effort. As a family, we heard the message of hope from your radio program. Your prayer on the radio program is very interesting and encourages us. Be encouraged to work more and more. I will stand with you in prayer. And please pray for our country Ethiopia, because our people are suffering and facing a lot during this conflict. God bless you and your work.”*

From a listener in Kenya: *“This God is our God forever. He will be our guide forever. As women, it is good to follow the example of Christ and lead our children to Christ.”*

From a listener in Tanzania: *“I have been following you for two years now. You have been a blessing in my life. One day I will come to visit you and see you face to face, because through you, TWR Women of Hope, a lot has changed in my life. Next month I will be going abroad to pursue my university degree in Denmark. Please I need your prayers so that God will protect me, lead me and guide me through all the processes.”*



Bringing Hope to the Xhosa

By Lyn Burnett, TWR Women of Hope Representative - Eastern Cape, South Africa



South Africa, at the southern tip of Africa, has nine provinces and 11 official languages. The Xhosa-speaking people are the second-largest cultural group, mostly living in the poorest province in South Africa, the Eastern Cape.

As is the case among many groups in South Africa, Xhosa women are also victims of issues like domestic violence, rape, unemployment, poverty, and alcohol and drug abuse.

In 2018, TWR Women of Hope started producing the *Women of Hope* program in Xhosa to reach out to these women. The TWR Women of Hope team soon realized that many of the neediest women were living in rural areas where the illiteracy rate is high and access to health facilities, transportation and even water is inadequate.

Women in these areas find it difficult to listen to the *Women of Hope* program on radios, mobile phones or the internet because reception, electricity and even

batteries are either unreliable or expensive.

The *Xhosa Women of Hope* program together with the Xhosa Bible are loaded onto audio players (small handheld devices that are solar-rechargeable). The women listen to these when they meet in groups in their churches or communities. They also use the Xhosa translation of the prayer calendars to pray for women worldwide. These audio players are used very effectively in difficult-to-reach rural areas. Even though many audio players have been distributed in the Eastern Cape, many more are needed.

Two local FM radio stations in the cities are broadcasting the Xhosa *Women of Hope* program, and we are working with other FM stations to get them on board with us.

The women are tuning in and connecting with TWR Women of Hope! Recently, a listener cried out for help: *"Please pray for me. In February last year, I lost my son. He*

was 10 years old. Two months later my husband filed for divorce, and now a month ago, my father died. I am tired, I am hurt, I am lonely, and I no longer have the desire to pray."

We want to reach out to even more women in South Africa using the radio program and prayer

calendars to give them real hope and to help them grow in their walk with the Lord.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

JULY CONT'D

23. Father, we pray for widows and orphans in Tanzania. Please provide them a way to receive the property they should inherit. (Ps. 146:9)



24. Lord, strengthen the prayer lives of women in South Africa; teach them how to commune with you and pray according to your will. (Ps. 25:8-9)

25. As the women of Malawi draw closer to you, Father, may you meet their needs and may they find their peace, love and hope in you. (Rom. 12:12)

26. Lord, we pray for changes in the cultural mindset and the elimination of harmful traditions that keep girls and women in Kenya from fully engaging in education, training and good employment. (Jer. 24:7)

27. Praise God for the funding and rebuilding of many schools that were destroyed in the war in northern Ethiopia. May school supplies be provided as well. (James 1:17)

28. Convict the hearts of husbands who have abandoned their wives and children in Burundi, Lord. Bring your love and restoration to these families. (Ps. 27:10)

29. Father, may violence be stopped in Zimbabwean schools, and may the country's leaders gain nonviolent conflict-resolution skills to help. (Ezek. 45:9)

30. God, help us to embrace humility and the valuing of others above ourselves. May we die to selfishness and pride and embrace your ways. (Col. 3:12)

31. Lord, we join the people of Ethiopia in praising you for the water and electricity of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which are so welcome after Ethiopia's history of limited resources and lengthy famines. (Isa.12:3)

STORY OF HOPE

What is in your hand?



by Lyn Burnett, Representative for TWR Women of Hope, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

What is in your hand?

That was the question put to about 500 Xhosa-speaking women attending a Baptist women's weekend rally last summer in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

I shared about the tools TWR Women of Hope has to offer the church, using the story of Moses. After his encounter at the burning bush, God asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?" (Ex. 4:2). I then showed the women various tools we are putting into their hands for them

to use for the Lord: the monthly prayer calendar in their language, and the audio-players with the Xhosa Women of Hope programs and the Xhosa Bible on it.

Afterwards, I handed out 20 audio players to the group leaders to use in their women's groups. They were so happy to receive them! Most of the women live in small villages deep in rural areas where access to data and even electricity is not guaranteed. And these solar-powered audio players suit their needs perfectly.

Then early this year one of those leaders, Hombakazi Shezi, responded:

"Women from our church in Libode, Eastern Cape have started listening to the audio player you gave me. It has helped so much. Every morning they meet at 7:00 and the audio player helps them be more diligent in reading (listening to) the Bible. And after they listen to the Scripture, some of them explain it. They are busy doing visitations to those who are sick and sometimes even use the audio player for those visits. And they are using the monthly prayer calendars and are so grateful to be part of praying with women in Africa. They pray those prayer items each day. Thank you so much for helping my church. May God bless you all."

Be Willing to Engage Transformation

TWR Women of Hope
Global Director Susie Pek



In a recent conversation with a friend about change, he said, “No one can honestly say they like change. It’s a process that is painful and uncomfortable. People may like the result it produces, but change is not always an enjoyable thing!”

While I agree that the process can be extremely unpleasant, I dare say I like changes. How about you? How do you feel about the topic? Perhaps you’ll join me in saying that you actually appreciate change, or you may echo my friend and say you don’t like going through it. Or maybe you’ll say that it really depends on the type of change.

The truth is some changes are unavoidable. Every day, the world scenario changes, technology advances, new products are launched on the market and some of our favourite ones cease to exist! Our own bodies go through changes daily. It is a natural process that involves aspects beyond our control or even our wills.

Although so many changes in the world happen without our “permission,” other fundamental ones will take place only if we get involved in the process. The renewing of our minds – and consequently, the transformation of our behaviour – requires an engagement of our wills. Without this engagement, we will continue to nurture the same mindset, which will lead us to the same feelings, actions and reactions. If we are honest, even people who love change face this issue from time to time: We are not always “willing” to go through the inconveniences of the transformation process.

I can’t help but think of Naaman. We can read about his story in 2 Kings 5. The chapter starts by describing him as a “commander of the army of the king of Syria, [who] was a **great man with his master and in high favour**, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a **mighty man of valour**...” (vs. 1, emphasis added). He was clearly a man of prestige!

However, as we read further, we find out he was faced with one of those inevitable life changes: “he was a **mighty man of valour, but he was a leper**” (2 Kings 5:1). We all know that illnesses not only affect our bodies but also affect our emotions. They usually require adjustments

in our lifestyles and schedules. In Naaman’s case, illness affected his prestige as well.

When his wife’s servant, a young captive girl from Israel, heard the news, she told her mistress that Naaman should go to Elisha, a prophet of the Lord. She was certain that this would be the path to healing. With his king’s blessing, Naaman set out to meet the king of Israel, who, it turned out, could not help him. But as soon as Elisha learned about Naaman, he said: “Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel” (2 Kings 5:8).

When Naaman finally made it to Elisha’s place, he was not received by the prophet but by his assistant, who brought him a message: “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean” (2 Kings 5:10). Naaman couldn’t believe his ears. He was furious! Up to that moment, he had put a lot of effort into looking for help. His will was engaged in this transformation process. But this instruction felt like an insult! Diving into the waters of Israel did not sound good to him. So, he decided to leave.

Naaman’s servants reasoned with him, saying, “Sir, if the prophet had asked you to do harder things, you would have done so, so why not give Elisha’s instruction a chance?” Naaman pondered this and re-engaged his will in the process by following the prophet’s directions. By the end of the seven dips in the Jordan River, Naaman was completely healed!

Naaman’s transformation process is very similar to ours. He really desired a change. However, when he realized that the process of transformation was very different from what he had in mind, and much more humiliating, his will was instantly disengaged. Happily, his servants encouraged him not to give up, because the process would eventually pay off. And it was worth it! His transformation went far beyond physical healing! Upon seeing that he was healed, Naaman declared: “**Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel**” (2 Kings 5:15, emphasis added).

I pray that we’ll find great encouragement in this story to keep our wills engaged in the uncomfortable transformation processes in our lives. By doing so, we, too, will experience God’s power and bring glory to his name.

In our Saviour’s love,

Susie

AUGUST

1. You are a father to the fatherless, Lord. May the government of Burundi care for and provide homes for children in the street who are hungry, homeless and begging for help. (Ps. 82:3)
2. Father, give Christians in Ethiopia strength and discernment to reject bringing tribalist political thought into the church. This impacts their social interactions and can undermine the faith of the members. (Col. 2:8)
3. Lord, provide a way for those in Kenya to raise the funds to resume production and airing of *Women of Hope* programs in the Nairobi broadcast coverage area. (Ps. 34:10)
4. God, we pray for increased access to education and opportunities for women in Malawi so they can develop skills and knowledge to improve their lives. (Prov. 1:7)
5. Father, create in our leaders in South Africa hearts overflowing

- with compassion and kindness to reach the people who do not know you while serving you in uprightness. (Ps.107:1)
6. God, we pray for the Muslims on Zanzibar who receive Christ through the *Women of Hope* broadcasts. Strengthen them to stand in faith in you. (Matt. 5:11)
 7. Lord, please bind the spirit of hopelessness that contributes to so many youths dying by suicide in Zimbabwe. Raise up counsellors to guide them. (1 John 4:4)
 8. Father, provide employment and basic necessities to the poor women and men in Burundi who have no means to survive. (Ps. 34:6)
 9. Provider God, please raise up believers to minister to and help meet the needs of suffering women in Ethiopian prisons. (Heb. 13:1-3)
 10. Give wisdom and strength, Lord, to the single women in Kenya who need to balance parenting, domestic and career roles. (Ps. 28:7)
 11. Gracious God, bring healing to victims of Cyclone Freddy in Malawi as most families and some entire communities lost loved ones and property. (John 14:27)

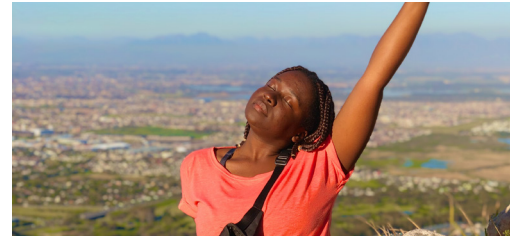
12. Lord, may women in the Eastern Cape of South Africa gain practical and spiritual insights as they listen to the *Women of Hope* programs in the Xhosa language. (Phil. 1:9-10)
13. God, please stop the cultural practices in Tanzania that bring harm to women, including corporal punishment, female genital mutilation and early marriage. (Eph. 5:25)
14. Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless the nation of Zimbabwe, restoring it to be the breadbasket of Africa. (Nah. 2:2)
15. Lord, we pray for the salvation of husbands in Burundi. Disunity in spiritual beliefs between unbelieving husbands and believing wives causes conflict within their relationships. (Acts 16:30-33)
16. Praise God as TWR Women of Hope works with other non-profit organizations to provide clothing and food to those in Nekemte, Ethiopia, who have been evacuated from their homes due to war. (Ps. 41:1)
17. Father, provide safety from gender-based violence and familial sexual abuse for the women and girls of Kenya. Transform the hearts of those who would harm these women. (2 Thess. 3:3)

18. May the women of Malawi have access to resources to help grow their faith and find comfort and strength in God. (Isa. 41:10)
19. Father, may those in South Africa who suffer know your mercy and kindness. Give them courage and hope to look beyond their circumstances and determine to serve you. (Ps. 31:19)
20. Lord, may couples in Tanzania love each other and live holy lives guided by your Spirit. Heal the violence, poor communication and other factors in these marriages that increase the divorce rate. (1 Pet. 4:8)
21. God, we pray for you to provide young girls in Zimbabwe with job skills so they may avoid resorting to prostitution. (1 Thess. 4:3-4)
22. Lord, defend the women in Burundi who are entitled to inherit property. Ensure that male members of their extended families will not take the property away from them. (Prov. 31:9)
23. Thank you, Father, for the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Ethiopia. Give strength, grace and wisdom to this team. (Prov. 2:6)



Growing in Prayer: Praying the Scriptures

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
International Prayer Coordinator



shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:11). And when we pray the Scriptures back to God, it strengthens our faith and affirms the truth of what God has said about himself, us and the world.

If we had a written transcript of the prayers that we pray to God day after day, we would see patterns emerging, the same themes repeated, the same words and phrases mouthed again and again. We can pray only based on what we know and drawing from our own experiences. When we praise and worship God, our finite minds often dwell on the characteristics of God with which we are most familiar, and we thank him for those. Yet our individual experience in prayer is limited.

But as we read the Scriptures and pray them back to God, we come across beautiful truths about him that we may not have pondered or experienced on our own. Throughout the Bible, there are jewels that describe God in ways that touch our souls anew. We can take these truths and proclaim them in prayer; we can use the very promises God speaks in the Scripture and stand on them as we pray them back to him. The whole of Scripture can become our prayer book.

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24. We look to you, Lord, for the protection of women and girls in Malawi from violence and discrimination. (Isa. 1:17)
25. Search us and purify us, O God. May our thoughts, words and actions please you. Transform us by the renewing of our minds. (Rom. 12:2)
26. Father, we pray for impoverished women in Tanzania. May they learn the skills necessary to be able to find employment and provide for their families. (Deut. 15:11)
27. God, we pray for peace in the homes of Zimbabwe and against violent behaviours that impact children negatively. (Isa. 60:18)
28. We praise you, Lord, that because of the current peace in Ethiopia, many students, from kindergarten through college, have experienced an environment conducive to learning. (Eccles. 7:12)
29. Father, give wisdom, courage and strength to the leaders of Malawi so that they may lead this nation well. (Josh. 1:9)
30. Father God, enable the unemployed women in South Africa to find creative ways to generate incomes to meet their needs. (2 Cor. 9:8)
31. Lord, we pray that you meet the needs of the teachers in Zimbabwe and reignite their passion to teach and help the students pass. (Ps. 32:8)



Prayer in His Name , cont'd

Here is just a sampling of how we can pray his Word:

Worship – “You are worthy, Father, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created me. I bow in worship and submit my life to you as my Lord.” (see Rev. 4:11)

Salvation – “I bring my loved ones to you, Lord. Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to yourself, so they can be forgiven and become your children.” (see Acts 26:18)

Intercession – “Thank you that I can come to your throne of grace

with confidence, Father. I need your mercy and grace to help me right now” (see Heb. 4:16). “Lord, I need your counsel! Instruct me and show me the way I should go” (see Ps. 32:8).

Confession – “I humbly confess my sin to you, Lord. Thank you that you are faithful to forgive me. Make me clean!” (see 1 John 1:9). “Search me, God, and reveal any sins of which I am not aware” (see Ps. 139:23-24). “Lord, help me to see your way of escape in this time of temptation. Strengthen me to be obedient to what you show me!” (see 1 Cor. 10:13).



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