



Uniting our hearts in
PRAYER

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

Join us in praying for the Americas

MARCH & APRIL 2024



Speaking Hope to Paraguayan Women



Dear friends,

For nearly 25 years, TWR Canada has partnered with TWR Women of Hope to bring the hope and healing of Jesus to the women of the world. Much of our partnership has taken place in Africa, and today, we're excited to share with you a new area where we are working together to speak hope to women right here in the Americas.

Located in South America, the landlocked country of Paraguay is recognized as a Christian country, yet there is no real understanding that Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Women often have no hope and no direction in life, and violence against women is a reality. For two decades, the TWR Women of Hope team has shared the hope of Jesus with the women of this country through *Women of Hope* in the Spanish and Guarani languages,

social media initiatives, and life-skill training and intentional relationships with imprisoned women.

This year, we are excited to partner with the TWR Women of Hope team in Paraguay to grow their ministry! Our work together is in its early days, and we look forward to sharing with you the impact this ministry has on the lives of women in Paraguay. To learn more about the ministry in Paraguay, we invite you to read the included report.

As you read and pray through this prayer calendar, you'll also have the opportunity to learn more about the multitude of ways TWR Women of Hope is sharing the hope and healing of Jesus across the Americas. Right across this region, God is at work!

Just like here in Canada, women across the Americas face differing circumstances. However, one thing unites us all: our need for Jesus. As we pray through this prayer calendar, may you be reminded of the ways God saves and may you join us in prayer that God will continue to work in the lives of women across the Americas, speaking hope and bringing healing in Jesus' name.

Together in prayer,

TWR Canada's Women's Ministry Team

MARCH

1. Lord, bring unity in Christ's global Church through your Spirit. Transform us so we may love you above all else and one another as members of the body. (Eph. 4:2-3)
2. Lord, please give women in the Dominican Republic a boldness to proclaim the gospel in their workplaces and schools and among family members, friends and neighbours. (1 Pet. 3:15-16)
3. Father, comfort the hearts of Brazilian mothers who have lost their children to the violence in large cities or are missing. (Rev. 21:4)
4. Lord, help women released from the prisons in Paraguay to be properly reintegrated into society and not return to a life of crime. (Gal. 6:1)
5. God, enable young women in Uruguay to embrace biblical principles and desire to remain sexually pure until you guide them to a faithful and loving partner. (1 Cor. 6:18)
6. Lord, we pray for the government leaders of Bonaire. Give them wisdom in making decisions for their island as well as in balancing time between work and home. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)
7. Father, we look to you to heal the minds and emotions of young women in the U.S. May they find their identity, source of truth and meaning for life in you. (Phil. 4:6-7)
8. We praise you, God, for supporters of the ministry across Canada who faithfully intercede for women around the world using the prayer calendar each month. (James 5:16b)
9. Father, help the women in the Dominican Republic to become spiritually mature so that social pressures will not distract them from following you faithfully. (Heb. 5:14)
10. Lord, we pray for the liberation and salvation of Brazilian women living in prostitution. May they find healing and true freedom in you. (John 8:36)
11. God, we ask that the growing trend of femicide in Paraguay be stopped. Help the churches and government take the correct measures necessary to assist these women. (Ps. 138:7)
12. We are grateful for the opportunity to record prayer requests for the radio in Uruguay. Thank you, Lord, for the women who pray with us as they listen. (Eph. 1:16)



From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

13. Heavenly Father, grant patience and wisdom to those working with drug addicts on Bonaire. May the root of these addictions be destroyed and long-term solutions embraced. (1 Cor. 10:13)
14. Father, help women in the U.S. to purposefully make time in their busy schedules to daily seek your heart. May their love for you be above all else. (Lam. 3:25)
15. Lord, bless and guide the initiative of TWR Canada in helping Canadian Christians know how to share the gospel cross-culturally in their communities. (Acts. 1:8)
16. God, please strengthen weary mothers in the Dominican Republic; enable them to be heard as they communicate their needs. (Isa. 40:29)
17. Lord, you tell us not to oppress the foreigner. May laws be created for the protection and support of women and children who are refugees in Brazil. (Exod. 22:21)
18. God, please give the women of Paraguay your wisdom and discernment so they will not allow themselves to be emotionally and physically abused. (James 1:5)
19. Lord, help teenage girls in Uruguay who are considering suicide to see their value and purpose in life. Restore their dignity and identity so they can work with you to build their future. (Jer. 29:11)
20. Lord God, may those in the Caribbean commit their lives to Christ and obey his teachings so they may have a promising future. (Prov. 16:3)
21. God, may the women in the Dominican Republic who work solely in their homes understand the benefit and blessing of serving their families. (Prov. 11:25)
22. Father, please grant the TWR Women of Hope team in Brazil your wisdom, creativity and inspiration to produce impactful, relevant content for the ministry. (Prov. 2:6)
23. Lord, provide for those elderly grandmothers in Paraguay who have been abandoned by their children, some of them even living on the streets. Touch the hearts of their children to value and care for them. (1 Tim. 5:3-5)



From a listener in Brazil: "Good morning! I would like to thank you for today's program. I am a single mother and there are many difficulties and responsibilities of taking care of a child alone. I thank God every day for giving me the strength and wisdom to teach my daughter the ways of God."

From a listener on Bonaire: "It lifts my spirit knowing that I have a Father who cares for me."

From a listener in Uruguay: "I have listened to you since I was little and living with my grandmother. She always listened to you. The program is a blessing and it's very nice."

From a listener in Brazil: "Hi, I love this program. I really like making plans. But, as mentioned in the program, our plans and objectives are not always the same as God's. And I know that he always has the best for us."

From a woman in Paraguay: "I just wanted to tell you that I learned to bake bread thanks to you. And, because of this, I can support my daughter and work from home without having to leave her. I am very happy and have many customers. Thank you!"



A Secure Hope!

By Yicell de Ortiz, TWR Women of Hope regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean and the U.S. Spanish Ministry

Latin America and the Caribbean possess a rich cultural and spiritual heritage. In these regions, as in others, however, the lives of many women are intertwined with suffering and hopelessness at every turn. As you can imagine, each woman longs for peace, security and hope.

Because we are the body of Christ, we must reflect on the condition of these many women and show them it is indeed possible through our Saviour to have the peace, security and hope that the world cannot provide. It is important to know that our hope does not lie in what we can do or achieve. According to the Word of God, our hope is in Christ Jesus, who gives everything meaning. We join David the psalmist in saying, “*And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you*” (Ps. 39:7).

TWR Women of Hope in Latin America and the Caribbean provides women with resources

to strengthen their faith through group training, radio programs and, above all, prayer. The ministry varies from country to country.

In Brazil, our teams produce impactful podcasts and devotionals and minister through sign language to the deaf community. TWR Women of Hope Paraguay features a large women’s prison ministry, while the Uruguay team has a far-reaching impact as it sends *Women of Hope* programs to over 20 countries. The Dominican Republic team has a robust social media ministry, as does TWR Women of Hope Bonaire, which uses social media and programming to encourage women’s hearts with Scripture and testimonies.

As women of faith in our region, we strive to:

- Show women the way to know Jesus so they may be transformed and embrace his desires for their lives.



- Encourage women that in Christ, they are valued, loved and created in the image of God with a unique and valuable purpose.
- Remind them that we are created by God to express his grace and mercy on earth, fulfilling the purposes he has given us.

By bringing the gospel and hope found in Christ Jesus, we can inspire every woman in our region to open her heart to him and live an abundant life.

MARCH CONT'D

24. Gender-based violence in Uruguay is widespread. God, touch the hearts of violent men who harm their wives and children. May they find salvation in Christ and learn to love their families. (Matt. 19:25-26)
25. Father, we ask you to protect single-parent families in the Caribbean. Guide the parents on how to love, give attention and care for their children. (1 Tim. 5:8)
26. God, help the women of the Dominican Republic to recognize and use the gifts and talents you have given them for your glory. (Rom. 12:6-8)
27. Lord, give great wisdom and discernment to female medical personnel in Paraguay as they deal with the rising number of patients with mental health issues. (Ps. 34:17-18)
28. Father, you created both men and women in your image. Change the hearts and minds of people to recognize and value Brazilian women equally in the workplace. (Prov. 31:16-17)
29. May Christian women in Uruguay stand firm in their convictions, Lord, and accept the responsibility of sharing the gospel with others. (Rom. 1:16)
30. Father God, please expose those in Bonaire who deal in human trafficking and bring healing to those released from captivity. (Ps. 82:3-4)
31. Lord, may communities and social institutions in Paraguay give compassionate support to women facing personal, emotional and family crises. (Rom. 12:13)



STORY OF HOPE

Hope and Comfort to Wounded Hearts



encounter. As she was washing her hands, she felt someone's arms wrap around her waist. The hug was accompanied by expressions of gratitude to God. For Juanita,* a listener to the *Women of Hope* program, it was a dream come true: Listener and presenter finally met.

Through tears Juanita said, "Praise be to God for allowing me to meet you. When I started listening to TWR and your programs, I had recently lost my husband. I was depressed, lost and had no direction in life. As I listened, it was as if you were talking directly to me knowing what I was going through and how I was feeling. God used you to help me get through this time. You are a friend and blessing to me. Praise God for the words you share and for allowing me to meet you."

As Ana looked into Juanita's eyes, they both began to cry and hug each other. Juanita's expressions of praise to God continued nonstop. In response, Ana couldn't find words to express how grateful she was to the Lord for allowing her to participate in and be used in his work.

Radio waves will continue to travel far. The *Women of Hope* program will carry words of comfort, hope and transformation. And the Lord will receive the praise.

* Names changed

Radio waves travel far. The *Women of Hope* program brings the message of hope and comfort to wounded hearts in distant places where our feet will never go. And as a constant companion to countless women, it creates a unity between listeners and producers.

At a conference in northeastern Brazil, Ana,* the producer and presenter of *Women of Hope*, experienced an unforgettable

EMBRACING HOPE

Jesus is incomparable

TWR Women of Hope
Global Director Susie Pek



"What is your name?" is one of the first questions we learn when we are studying a new language. Names are important. They identify us. Whenever we hear a name, we associate it with an image, a voice, a story or even a whole life!

A name is capable of evoking emotions within us. We may smile, get emotional or feel apprehensive at the sound of a name. We may even learn to love a name because of the person it reminds us of. What comes to your mind when you hear the name Jesus? I hope it makes you smile.

One of the first things I think of is that his name is the name above all names. Then my mind immediately goes to Isaiah 9:6: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* This verse brings so much hope to our days. We don't walk through life on our own; we count on a God who is much bigger than our minds can conceive.

Life is about decision making. We often need someone to talk to, someone who can shed some light for us. Jesus is our wonderful counsellor. He is capable of offering guidance for every circumstance we are faced with. We can go to him for his advice on any topic. He will listen to us and offer his guidance. Our Saviour is a mighty God. He is a strong warrior who walks with us. Nothing is too difficult or impossible for him. He is strong to save us. Jesus is our everlasting father, the sovereign Lord over the ever-changing years, the one who watches over his children in love, who heals and comforts them. He is a perfect, kind, gentle and merciful father. He always was and forever will be God.

Jesus is also the Prince of Peace. We have peace with God because of Jesus. *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Rom. 5:1). He is our peace amid trials. *"I have said these things to you, so that in me you may have peace."*

In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). He alone offers peace that surpasses all understanding and that can quiet our troubled, distressed or disturbed hearts in the most uncertain moments of our lives. The name of Jesus is beautiful! There is absolutely none like him. He is incomparable.

It can be pretty discouraging reading the news, looking at the world around us and even reading about the terrible things women go through as we pray for them. But then we are reminded of who our God is! That changes everything. *"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"* (Heb. 4:14-16). When we come before his throne of grace, we are approaching an awesome God.

How often do you take time to "gaze upon" the beauty of Christ? May I encourage you to make this a part of your devotional life? Nothing and no one compares to him.

In our Saviour's love,

Susie



APRIL

1. Father, help older women in the Dominican Republic support and guide younger women in how to live a life of wisdom and dependence on God. (Titus 2:4-5)
2. God, we pray for provision, strengthening and renewal for mothers in Brazil who have disabled children and have been abandoned by their husbands. (Deut. 31:6)
3. God, provide healing for women diagnosed with cancer in Paraguay who are not receiving proper medical treatment due to the lack of resources in the country's health care system. (Jer. 17:14)
4. We praise you, Lord, for the positive listener responses to the *Women of Hope* program that airs twice a week in Uruguay and daily on the internet and social media. (Ps. 105:1-2)
5. Father, we pray for protection, healing and a place of safety for the women and men of Bonaire who experience domestic violence. (Ps. 9:9-10)
6. Lord, uproot the stronghold of fear in the lives of U.S. women. May they trust in you and learn to rest in you for their protection and provision. (Ps. 34:8-10)

7. God, may the people who receive media players, which contain *Women of Hope* programs and are sent from Canada around the world, come to know and be changed by you. (2 Cor. 5:17)
8. Lord, please give wisdom and courage to women in the Dominican Republic who, along with their husbands or life partners, are raising teenagers. (Deut. 11:19)



9. We praise you, Lord, for the lives of the entire TWR Women of Hope Brazil team and volunteers for their willingness, dedication and love for you and the ministry. (Philemon 1:4)
10. Father, strengthen and heal the hearts of mothers in Paraguay who suffer because their children are involved in drugs or are in prison. Help their children find freedom in you. (Gal. 5:1)

11. Lord, in Uruguay's 2024 elections, help voters to choose and appoint just, honest and compassionate leaders who are sensitive to the people's needs. (Rom. 13:3-4)
12. Lord, we pray that those listening to *Women of Hope* programs broadcast from Bonaire would accept Christ as their Saviour and have joy. (Ps. 73:28)
13. Father, you are a God of relationship. Help our young women in the U.S. to desire and learn how to have meaningful life-giving relationships that please you. (1 Cor. 13:4-7)



14. Praise God for the new ways that TWR Canada is partnering with TWR Women of Hope in 2024 to share the hope of Jesus with women around the world. (1 Cor. 3:9)

15. Father, help women in the Dominican Republic to be able to successfully manage their work schedules around what is best for their family and marital relationships. (Ps. 90:17)
16. God of mercy, rescue Brazilian girls and women who are victims of sex trafficking. Bring healing and new life to them. (Jer. 33:6)
17. Heavenly Father, may Paraguayan women have equal access to education, and may barriers to academic and professional development be removed. (Gal. 3:28)
18. Lord, may women in Uruguay find peace in Jesus and realize the high price you paid for them. Deliver them from drugs and from those who wish to harm them. (John 14:27)
19. God, we pray for you to strengthen marriages in Bonaire and protect them from the destructive plans of the evil one. Give these couples grace and direction. (1 Cor. 16:14)

20. Eternal Father, please help women in the Dominican Republic to trust that you will help them fulfill their role as wives in a godly manner. (Prov. 3:5-6)

21. God, please grant access to quality health care and exams for poor Brazilian women and those in regions with limited medical services. (Ps. 140:12)
22. Father, provide protection and security for women in Paraguay facing domestic or gender-based violence. Help them find refuge and support to overcome these difficulties. (Ps. 10:17-18)
23. Lord, you said, "Let the children come to me." In Uruguay, 21 per cent of children are born into poverty. We pray for your mercy on the children; may they come to know your love. (Matt. 19:14)
24. God, we pray that girls in Bonaire would know their true worth in you and not seek inappropriate relationships for comfort and security. (Prov. 13:20)
25. Lord, may women in the Dominican Republic give their hearts to you, seeking salvation. Strengthen them to stay faithful. (Acts 4:12)
26. Father, help Brazilian women experiencing abuse or domestic violence to break free from their abusive relationships and find safety and protection in you. (Ps. 9:9)
27. Father, may single mothers in Paraguay who are raising their children alone and providing everything for their families find the support and resources they need. (Matt. 6:31-32)
28. Lord, we ask for jobs for thousands of migrants who come to Uruguay seeking prosperity but end up in prostitution. Have mercy on these women and girls. (Phil 4:19)
29. God, as there is great diversity in Bonaire, we pray there would be mutual respect so the people may work together for the good of the country. (Phil. 2:4-5)
30. Lord, bring healing to women in the Dominican Republic who are abused. Give them courage to seek the help they need to overcome and move forward. (Ps. 147:3)



The Paradox of Submission

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
International Prayer Coordinator



"Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

How do you picture God? What words would you use to characterize him?

As I pray to God, I often picture him just as he describes himself in the Bible. I see God as my Father, Jesus as the Good Shepherd or my teacher and the Holy Spirit as my guide. As I read the Scriptures, I imagine the words coming from God to me in conversation and we talk about them together.

I love the picture of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30. He is the gentle and humble master inviting me to walk beside him so that I can learn from him as we live out life

together. And being yoked to Jesus, in submission to him, is the key that I must embrace in order for this to work. It is God's divine order of the way things were meant to be. And the result? I will find rest for my soul! What a paradox: Submission to God actually brings freedom in my life.

If we are honest with ourselves, we fear and dislike the word "submit." It is in our human fleshly nature to not want to bend our knee to anyone or anything, wanting to be the master of our own destiny. Yet God calls us to submission. So why am I afraid to be fully submitted to him? Do I fear that it will be too difficult, that my dreams and desires won't be realized? Am I wrestling with the questions "Do I truly believe that God loves me?" and "Do I actually believe that God is good?"

No one would want to submit to a tyrant who does not care about you or who abuses you. But when we look at the character of God and what he has done for us, what do we find? When we look at the words of Scripture, we come to understand God as the good, merciful, loving, compassionate, gracious, slow-to-anger, faithful one who forgives our wickedness, rebellion and sin, yet is just.

So, what do we fear by surrendering to him? He has shown us his faithfulness and character. Do we

continued on the next page...

The Paradox of Submission, cont'd

think that once we submit to him that he will suddenly change? God is **good**. It is a simple but profound truth. His character is good, and all that he does is good. We may not always understand his ways, and they are not always easy, but they are good. What, then, should our response be but to fall at his feet in surrender?

Jesus clearly calls us to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow him. So why do so few of us actually follow in his footsteps? I believe it is fear. The call to submission that Jesus makes of us is actually the call to come to him and die. Die to self. Die to sin. Die to the hold that our enemies – our fleshly sinful nature, cultural pressures and Satan – have on us.

This road to sanctification and becoming like Jesus is a long and painful one, but the fruit that it yields is beautiful. It is the means by which the character of God is created and matured in us. It is a voluntary, willing submission to God's taking control over every area of our lives that produces peace, freedom and healing. I am discovering the peculiar reality that the more I submit and let him transform me, the more I am becoming myself – the unique daughter that God has created me to be.

Jesus calls out for us to trust him and relinquish control. His challenging offer in return is abundant life through our death to self. How will we answer him?



twr
**WOMEN
OF HOPE**

www.twr.ca/women

Unless otherwise indicated, scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Sign up for our weekly emails  www.twr.ca/signup

stay in touch



@twrcanada

TWR Canada
PO Box 25324
London, ON N6C 6B1

womenofhope@twr.ca
(888) 672-6510
www.twr.ca/women