



Uniting our hearts in
PRAYER

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

Join us in praying for Asia

MAY & JUNE 2024



Unified in Hope



them.” The hope that women across Asia have is that they have been saved by grace through faith, by a sovereign God who loves them. Regardless of the challenges they face, they can hold onto this truth and place their hope in God, going forth in the good works he has prepared for them.

And this is true for us in Canada, too. Our day-to-day challenges, spiritual struggles, and even traumatic experiences we may face all reveal that we need hope. While some of these challenges are different than those that our sisters in Asia face, some are the same, and we are unified in the fact that we all need hope. We are also unified in that hope. In Christ, we are all united as the family of God, and in Christ, we can all move forward in God’s plans and purposes for us and the world.

As we pray through the prayer calendar over the next two months, may this unity inspire us to hold fast to the hope we have in Jesus, remembering our sisters across Canada, Asia, and the world in prayer and to stand firm in hope as we face the challenges that come our way, trusting in God to lead us in the paths ahead.

Together in prayer,

The TWR Canada Women’s Ministry Team

Dear friends,

What does it mean to be a woman of hope, especially in a region as vast as Asia? As you read through the articles and prayer requests in this prayer calendar, you will see the very real hardships that women in this region face. From day-to-day challenges of life and spiritual struggles to traumatic experiences, Asian women need hope. The form these challenges take may differ from country to country, but the truth remains that hope is needed.

And what is this hope? Ephesians 2:8-10 tells us, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in*

MAY

1. Father, provide Christian husbands for believing Chinese women so that they will not give in to parental pressure and choose a partner outside the faith. Strengthen these women to say no to sex outside of marriage. (Heb. 13:4)
2. Lord, protect women in Afghanistan who face persecution and violence in their own homes. (Isa. 41:10)
3. God, may women in Myanmar have increased access to health services, thereby improving maternal health and decreasing infant mortality. (Jer. 17:14)
4. Father, bring many people into Japanese churches and enable them to maintain the unity of the Spirit, speak the truth in love and mature into being like Christ. (Eph. 4:1-16)
5. God, we pray for access to clean water in rural India. Provide good health and strength to women as they secure water for their households and livestock. (3 John 1:2)
6. Lord, help husbands and wives in Singapore to be able to afford having children and to share caregiving responsibilities. (Gen. 1:28)
7. God, we pray that young people in South Korea would follow the relationship principles you communicated through the Bible and get married rather than settle for living together. (Matt. 19:4-6)
8. Lord, bring cultural change that will stop marriage practices harmful to females in Pakistan. May honour killings, bride-price payments and the selling of daughters to become servants disappear into history. (Ps. 7:1-2)
9. Father, guide our Southeast Asia team as they plan to produce the *Women of Hope* program and bring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Malay language this year. (Ps. 96:3)
10. Strengthen marriages in Mongolia, Lord. Protect, provide for and comfort single mothers who bear the heavy burdens of family life due to divorce. (Ps. 68:5)
11. God, may women in Nepal have more educational opportunities to enable them to develop the skills necessary for personal and professional growth. (Prov. 16:16)
12. Father, strengthen and protect women in Cambodia as they face spiritual battles. May they stand firm in their faith and grow in obedience to your Word. (Ps. 28:7)



From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

13. Lord, guide our Indonesian team as they produce the *Women of Hope* program. Give them wisdom to use new technologies to expand the reach of the prayer calendar. (Prov. 4:6-7)



14. Heavenly Father, give wisdom to Filipino parents on how to guide and discipline stubborn children. (Prov. 1:8-9)

15. We praise you, Lord, for the opportunity to produce *Women of Hope* in the Hmong language to reach Hmong people living in Laos, northern Vietnam and Thailand. (2 Sam. 22:50)

16. God, may China's younger generation embrace you and receive your protection, healing and guidance. May they bring their relational, employment and other needs to you. (Matt. 7:7)

17. Father, may ethnic minority groups in Afghanistan receive the gospel and know they are valuable because they are created in your image. (Gen. 1:27)

18. God, enable the government of Myanmar to protect women so they may work and live safely amid rising violence and insecurity. (Ps. 23:4)

19. Lord, may many women in Japan be saved through the *Women of Hope* broadcasts. Please raise up additional monthly supporters within this nation to help fund this ministry. (Isa. 52:7-10)

20. Father, protect women in India from kidnapping, assault, rape and other cruel acts perpetrated by their husbands and husbands' relatives. (Col. 3:19)

21. God, please bless the effort to raise funds to begin a Bible class in northern Vietnam for women who have graduated from secondary school and for wives of pastors. (Rom. 12:2)

22. Father, we pray for those who have defected from North Korea to South Korea. Grant them mercy as they settle into a new society. (Lev. 19:33-34)

23. Lord, we pray that the medical system in Pakistan would change so women would be included in clinical trials. May medical care be improved there, especially for women's health issues. (Ps. 139:13-15)

From a listener in Sri Lanka: "I am of a different faith. I have been listening to this program for a long time. I got a chance to listen to your program on the topic of looking after the mouth. It was a great blessing to me. This is very good advice and was very useful and timely. Thank you very much."

From a listener in Indonesia: "I love to listen to Women of Hope and hear the devotions and songs. It helps me grow spiritually. I own a bookstore and I play the program in my store in hopes that my customers will hear the Word of God."

From a listener in Japan: "I am also battling a mental illness, called PTSD. It's painful, but I'm trying to find hope. I believe it will get better. This program brought me happiness like a small piece of cake in the refrigerator."

From a listener in Nepal: "I am 59 years old. I am appreciative of the Women of Hope radio program. I've been attending church for more than 20 years, and I've been listening to this program for the past seven months. I wasn't expecting to learn as much as I did in these seven months! Every Saturday, I tune in to my local FM station to listen to the program. Every week, we also have a fellowship for women in the church. We visit homes and offer prayers for women. I have imparted what I have learned from the program to my friends. I recently acquired a media player with the program on an SD card, which I can now carry to that fellowship so that we can all listen to it wherever we are. Thank you and may God bless you all."



Create a Better Future

By Paulina Wulansari, TWR Women of Hope Southeast Asia regional coordinator



When you educate a woman, the next generation benefits. A well-educated woman is empowered to be a better mom, make decisions, raise her family's standard of living, create jobs and change society. Every woman has the right to an education. Unfortunately, millions of women in Asia do not have this opportunity because of poverty, social stigma, discrimination or lack of resources.

In South Asia, girls are at risk of being harassed, assaulted, abducted or even murdered while travelling to school, and they are not safe inside the school. As a result, many females drop out of school when they approach puberty. Girls who live a long way from school are especially vulnerable; the longer they have to travel to school, and the more remote the region, the greater the risk.

In Southeast Asia, many women have no skills, do not read or write, and live below the poverty line.

They must work to support their families but do not have many occupational choices - mainly working as food sellers, farm labourers and local maids with very low salaries. These women do not know how to care for their families or know the importance of nutrition, hygiene and education for their children.

Through the *Women of Hope* program, however, women surrounded by walls of hopelessness, fear and poverty can learn of ways to overcome these barriers in the person of Jesus Christ. Radio allows millions of women to listen to God's Word in their heart languages. Our teams help women through vocational training programs that equip women with sewing, handicrafts and agriculture skills, enabling them to generate income and improve their living conditions. Literacy classes, healthcare awareness workshops and counselling services also empower

women to make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

Meanwhile, in Northeast Asia, women have many educational opportunities. Even in Mongolia, women's education levels are much higher than men's, yet there are still problems. As a woman's level of education increases, her perception of gender conflict with men in society becomes stronger, with single women experiencing the greatest conflict. So TWR Women of Hope in Northeast

Asia wants to help each person live harmoniously according to the will of God, who created men and women in his image. We want to encourage women to embrace God's design of marriage and family.

Please pray that with the help of *Women of Hope*, women in Asia can overcome challenges and create a better future for themselves, their families and communities. May their faith in Jesus Christ grow stronger each day.

MAY CONT'D

24. God, heal the hearts and minds of women in Cambodia who have experienced trauma and hardship. Bring them peace, comfort and emotional restoration. (Ps. 147:3)
25. Lord, guide leaders to improve the healthcare system in Papua New Guinea, which is underfunded and overwhelmed with high rates of malaria and diabetes. (Jer. 33:6)
26. Many young Mongolian girls are having premature births or contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Lord, help them to see your wisdom in remaining chaste until marriage. (James 1:14)
27. Father, provide opportunities for women in Nepal to deepen their relationship with you and find solace in their faith journeys. (James 4:8)
28. God, enable our Indonesian team to raise sufficient funds in the country so they can establish a follow-up ministry to provide spiritual guidance to program listeners and respond to their needs. (James 1:27)
29. Father, may Filipino families look to you as their sovereign provider and guide as they face difficulties in health, finances, relationships and employment. (Prov. 3:6)
30. Father, we pray for improved health care in Nepal so women there would have resources to address both physical and mental-health needs. (Jer. 30:17)



STORY OF HOPE

Choosing Faith



As Sumarni praised God for the *Women of Hope* program she shared, *"I felt blessed and strengthened and I know now that I must remain strong in faith and not give in to despair."* She also discovered that no matter what she experiences in life, she must continue to have hope in Jesus, who will always provide strength and guidance. She added that she not only received spiritual help from the program but also learned important practical health information that was useful to her.

After listening to *Women of Hope*, Sumarni realized that God is working out a plan in her life through the difficulties.

She said, *"God also wants to refine and improve my character so I can be a better woman, wife and mother. I must learn to reflect on the things I need to improve."*

She wants to work on building good communication with her husband so that their marriage and family will be blessed by God.

Sumarni ended by saying, *"I am truly grateful to listen to this program. I believe many women are blessed, just like me."*

* Not her real name

God continues to use TWR Women of Hope to impact women's lives around the world. Recently, our team in Southeast Asia received a testimony from a listener of the *Women of Hope* program in Indonesia.

Sumarni* wrote, *"I am in a difficult situation. My husband left me and my children, which happens every time we have marital problems. This time he has not returned. Honestly, as a woman, I feel very tired of dealing with his behaviour. Moreover, I also have to work to support our young children, and of course, I have to take care of them. The burden of life is very heavy for me and there are times when I feel I can't handle it anymore."*

EMBRACING HOPE

Lord at Work

TWR Women of Hope
Global Director Susie Pek



In recent years, home renovation shows have become increasingly popular. Each episode features clients who hire capable professionals to find fixer-uppers with the potential to become someone's dream house. Typically, the first part of the show consists of a search for the right house to renovate. Once the clients choose their home, the contractor and designer start the arduous work. The team must keep the renovation under budget and within deadline. More often than not, they are faced with structural problems and other unforeseen challenges, which make things more interesting!

Watching these shows is fun. The before-and-after reveal is usually breathtaking. And the most common remark is: "I can't believe it's the same house!" It always amazes me how a residence whose future looks hopeless turns into what many would consider a dream house after going through some carefully planned hard work.

This format can easily be applied to our lives. These houses were once perfect. When they were first built, everything was new and working properly. Over the years, however, they deteriorate for a number of reasons.

Before sin, humankind was perfect. God created man and woman in his likeness. They were stunning, perfect "houses." After sin made its way into the world, everything changed.

Humankind was no longer the analog of perfect houses; worse yet, the connection to the builder was broken. And all the "houses" built after that inherited the same glitch, which means we all desperately need some good remodelling. The first step in the restoration process is making sure the house is reconnected to its builder, something that can only be carried out through Christ: "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself" (2 Cor. 5:18a).

Following that comes sustained remodelling. Some malfunctions may not be so obvious to us. David was aware of that and prayed: "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24). I wonder how many times David prayed that prayer. I know it is a recurrent prayer for me as restoration is a lifelong process. I realize that all the breaking, smashing, fixing and changes that take place during the renovation are not always pleasant – some would say they are rarely pleasing at all. The result, though, is breathtaking.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:18)

Be encouraged even when things in your life are being smashed and broken: The Lord is at work.

In his amazing love,

Susie



JUNE

1. Lord, the illiteracy rate in Vietnam is still very high. We pray that women in this developing country will have more opportunities to learn to read and write. (Neh. 8:8)
2. God, we ask that you give wisdom and discernment to our ministry team in Cambodia so they will make godly decisions. May they love, encourage and support one another and be a light in their communities. (John 13:35)



3. We praise you, Lord, for donors and radio signals from KTWR on distant Guam and 80 local stations that enable millions of Indonesian women to hear the Word of God and be educated on women's issues. (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
4. God, we ask for increased economic opportunities for

women in Nepal, including fair employment and entrepreneurship, so they may be financially independent. (Prov. 31:8-9)

5. Father, may your truth for marriage relationships be taught in Mongolia. May husbands love and respect their wives and may wives respect and submit to their husbands. (1 Pet. 3:1-7)
6. Lord, sustain and comfort single mothers in the Philippines who are working hard to provide for the needs of their children. (Isa. 41:13)
7. Lord, we pray for women in Pakistan to be free from workplace harassment, unfavourable working conditions and low wages, which result in their being unable to remain in their jobs. (Prov. 22:2)
8. Father, we pray for North Korean students who became Christians while studying abroad. Please keep them safe as they return home and use them to transform North Korea. (Josh. 1:9)
9. God, give wisdom to the Papua New Guinea government as it combats violence and instability. May it protect women against assault, which has been increasing. (Prov. 2:6)

10. Lord, protect and provide for families in Myanmar affected by ongoing military conflicts and frequent natural disasters. (Nahum 1:7)
11. God, bring change to the conditions in India that contribute not only to a higher school dropout rate but also a higher death rate for girls than boys. (Prov. 18:15)
12. Father, a great majority of Japanese do not believe in you but embrace the gods of Shintoism. Cause a great revival of repentance and faith throughout Japan. (Isa. 45:5-6)



13. God, transform human hearts to bring about change in Malaysian law. May child marriage and gender violence end and equal pay be established for all. (Phil. 2:13)
14. Lord, we ask that females in Afghanistan who have been

- banned from having jobs, attending school and entering public facilities will have their rights restored. (Gen.16:13)
15. Almost 20 per cent of the people in China are aged 60 or over. Father, we pray for the mental health and well-being of older women in China. (Ps. 42:11)
16. God, empower the believers in Singapore to advance the kingdom of God and to find their strength and joy in you even through difficulties. Please provide for their needs. (James 1:2-4)

17. Praise the Lord that many women in Vietnam now know Jesus after listening to *Women of Hope* and recognize that they are precious in his eyes. (Isa. 43:4)
18. Father, may Filipino wives and husbands learn to communicate well to strengthen their relationships. Bring deliverance to husbands who get drunk and protection to wives who are abused. (Ps. 50:5)
19. Lord, provide safety and protection from violence and discrimination to women in Nepal. May they find nurturing relationships that contribute to their emotional and mental well-being. (Ps. 91:4)

20. May Mongolian Christian mothers and grandmothers be strong in their faith and witness as they guide their children and grandchildren according to the Bible. (2 Tim. 1:3-5)



21. As food prices rise sharply in Indonesia, poor families struggle to buy food. God, please provide for their daily needs so these families do not go hungry! (Phil. 4:19)

22. Lord, as infertility is a major issue for Pakistani women, please bless them with children. May girl babies be celebrated and not be seen as a burden. (Ps. 127:3)

23. Father, amid the dramatic increase in dating violence in South Korea, may men learn to respect women and have their anger and violent tendencies transformed by your Word. (2 Cor. 5:7)

24. Lord, grant women in Cambodia financial stability through jobs, skills training, and fair wages. Help them to manage their resources wisely. (Eccles. 7:12)

25. Father, we seek safety for women in India who are vulnerable to crime, especially in public areas like subways and deserted roads. (Isa. 25:4)

26. God, help the earthquake victims in Noto Peninsula, Japan. Aid the churches in ministering to them physically and spiritually so that they may be saved. (Ps. 121:1-2)

27. We praise you, Lord, for our partnership with Wantok Radio Light in Papua New Guinea. May the Holy Spirit use *Women of Hope* programs to strengthen listeners who struggle with temptation. (Matt. 26:41)

28. God, bring peace and healing to women in Afghanistan who lost family members and property in the 2023 earthquakes. (Phil. 4:7-9)

29. Lord, strengthen and protect Chinese women who have experienced physical and emotional violence from their spouses. May the police stop treating domestic violence cases as merely a family matter. (2 Sam. 22:49)

30. Heavenly Father, please bless the plan of the TWR Women of Hope team in Malaysia to provide free sanitary pads to those who can't afford them. (Deut. 15:7-8)

Set Apart to God in Holiness

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
International Prayer Coordinator



"Oh, God, show me more of your holiness. Show me more of my sinfulness. Help me to hate sin and to love righteousness as you do. Grant me a deeper conviction of sin and a more thorough spirit of repentance. And make me holy as you are holy." - Nancy Leigh DeMoss in Holiness

What comes to mind when you hear that God wants you to be holy? I remember pondering that question many years ago and becoming discouraged. I knew there was no way I could be holy in my own power, and I wondered if I even wanted to live a holy life. If I pursued holiness, would God ask me to give up all the things that I enjoy?

Sometimes we don't understand what God is asking of us. If we don't accurately comprehend what holiness means to God, we miss out on joining him on a beautiful path that brings purpose and fulfillment

to our lives. Holiness is God's path to make us like himself. It is a process in every believer's life that God initiates but that also requires our cooperation. God enables us to obey him in love, but we must also choose to obey and follow his will. I'm so glad that I chose to say "Yes" to God's invitation to become like him!

The last few months we've been talking about embracing a lifestyle of brokenness, submission and being set apart to God in holiness. We are broken when we come to see our sin through God's eyes. As we deeply grieve our sin and see what it has done to our relationship with him, we determine to not commit that sin again. We then choose to submit ourselves to God and yield everything we are to him because we are so grateful for how he has forgiven, loved and saved us.

In this state of gratitude and love, we choose to be set apart to God in holiness. As we purposefully commit to keep our lives pure and to seek a life of intimacy with him, we are committing to God just as a husband and wife come together in a covenant relationship. We are preferring God and choosing him above all else. In doing so, we discover that choosing holiness actually opens the door to live the life that God created us to live! We begin to understand our

continued on the next page...

Set Apart to God in Holiness, cont'd

purpose in life, find true fulfillment and learn how to use our God-given gifts. So how do we live this life of holiness?

We make choices every day. Are we going to live this day for God, or are we going to choose our own way? To live set apart to God, he must have our hearts and our minds. The apostle Paul shared, "...set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Col. 3:1b-2, NIV). He also said, "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think" (Rom. 12:2a, NLT).

As we daily yield our hearts and minds to God, we are being united with him and he begins to build his beautiful characteristics in us. God will walk us through a process of removing certain things from our lives and embracing others – "seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator" (Col. 3:9b-10). God gives us the desire to embrace his godly qualities and to die to the things of our flesh.

As we yield to him our minds and hearts, God gives us the strength and discernment to choose his godly path. How do we live a life set apart to God in holiness? By following God in obedience one choice at a time.



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