



Uniting our hearts in
PRAYER

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

*Join us in praying for West and
Central Africa*

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024



Loved by God

Dear friends,

Recently, a listener in Côte d'Ivoire shared, "I am calling to thank you for the Woman of Hope program which has opened my eyes to God's love for me. I did not receive any love from my parents, and when I got married, I hoped to receive some from my husband and in-laws. Unfortunately, my in-laws rejected me and my husband began treating me badly. I told myself that I was made for suffering, that joy and love were not made for me. Listening to your program made me realize that love does exist. I want to give my life to Jesus who can give me true love without conditions. Thank you!"

Praise God for the ways he is at work in the lives of women across West and Central Africa, our prayer focus for the next two months! Through the *Women of Hope* radio program, listener groups and prayer groups, women are finding hope in Jesus and discovering that they are loved.

Our life circumstances may be different from those of this listener and women like her in West and Central Africa, but perhaps you, too, have doubted whether you are worthy of love. Just like this listener in Côte d'Ivoire, we can come before Jesus and abide in his love for us.

The Bible is full of reminders of how much we are loved by the God who



created us. One of the most well-known Bible verses reminds us of this: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Take a moment and read that again. You have likely heard this verse many times, but when was the last time you paused on it and soaked in the truth that God loves you so much that he sent his Son to die and be raised to life, in order to redeem you and bring you into relationship with him?

Take a moment today to remember and abide in the truth that you are loved more than you can understand. As you pray through the requests in this calendar over the next two months, we encourage you to pray this same truth over the women of West and Central Africa, as well.

Together in prayer,

The TWR Canada Women's Ministry Team

NOVEMBER

1. Lord, may your Spirit strengthen the relationships among organizations battling human trafficking so they can have a greater impact. (Phil. 2:2)
2. God, strengthen women in Benin who are persecuted for their faith and have been abandoned by their husbands and families. May they hold fast to you. (1 Pet. 3:14)
3. Father, may husbands in the Central African Republic who have abandoned their pregnant wives return to care and lovingly lead their families. (Eph. 5:25)
4. God, may single women in Côte d'Ivoire gain skills and find stable jobs that provide sufficient income for their family needs. (Ps. 90:17)
5. Lord, please give Gabon's leaders wisdom so they can properly manage the country's natural wealth and sustain its resources. (Prov. 2:6)
6. Father, raise up believers in Liberia who will spiritually encourage widows, lead them to emotional healing and help them gain economic independence. (Ps. 68:5)
7. Lord, please inspire Christians seeking marriage in Mali to wait for godly spouses. May their marriages glorify you. (2 Cor. 6:14)
8. Father, deliver Nigerian youths' sinful pursuits to get rich. Help them desire the true riches found only in you. (Matt. 6:19-21)
9. God, may church members in Senegal embrace TWR Women of Hope and join in using these calendars to pray for women globally. (Col. 4:2)
10. Father, break the chains of alcohol, drugs and fornication that bind many women in Benin. May they find spiritual freedom in you. (Ps. 72:12)
11. God, may women in the Central African Republic who are treated like slaves in their marriages find freedom and strength in your presence as they trust in you. Restore their souls! (Ps. 23)
12. Lord, please give wisdom to the professional women in Côte d'Ivoire to both do their jobs and care for their families. (Prov. 3:5)



From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

13. Father, may there be harmony and unity among the citizens of Gabon, enabling them to resolve their differences peacefully. (1 Pet. 3:8)



14. Lord, we pray for economic stability in Liberia. May its people look to you for wisdom, peace and provision of their needs. (Phil. 4:6-7)

15. God, we ask you to provide the people of Mali with an end to wars, natural disasters and other factors contributing to food insufficiency. (Phil. 4:19)

16. Father, deliver the church in Nigeria from false prophets and teachers who deceive gullible people for selfish gains. (Matt. 7:15-20)

17. Lord, raise up Christians in Benin to help homeless women. Bring real solutions to these needy women. (Matt. 25:35)

18. Father, we pray for peace and healing in the homes of women who suffer from domestic violence in Côte d'Ivoire. (John 14:27)

19. God, enable Christians in Gabon to stand for Jesus and boldly proclaim the gospel so your Word will spread through the nation. (Eph. 6:19)

20. We praise you, Lord, that our ministry in Liberia is offering education and skills training to women there. Please provide so the ministry can further develop. (Prov. 9:9)

21. Heavenly Father, we ask you to provide supplies and spiritual support for flood victims in the towns and villages of Mali. (Ps. 93:4)

22. Father, please raise godly leaders in Nigeria who will rule in fairness, shun corruption and alleviate the sufferings of the people. (Exod. 18:21)

23. Lord God, we pray that couples, especially Christians, in Côte d'Ivoire would seek reconciliation instead of divorce. (1 Thess. 3:12)

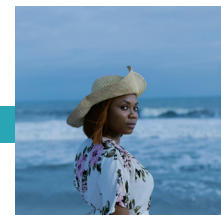
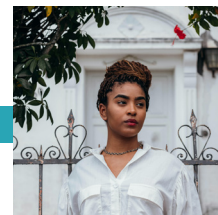
24. Father, give wisdom and creativity to Gabon's leaders and citizens for economic development so its people may live in dignity. (Jer. 29:11)

From a listener in Mali: "I was desperate and despondent, but when I listened to the Women of Hope program, my eyes filled with tears because I saw that God, seeing my pain, helped me through the message of this program. I found my joy, hope and strength in Jesus Christ. I bless Women of Hope with my whole heart."

From a listener in Côte d'Ivoire: "Today's program has taught me a lot. The story of the beam in the eye has had a big impact on me. Before, I used to like to make fun of people and judge everyone, blaming my parents and loved ones for anything negative that happened to me. Today, I have realized that I should no longer judge, blame or criticize others because I am not as good of a person as I pretend to be. I really want to change. Please pray for me."

From a listener in Mali: "I am a faithful listener of Women of Hope. The program has increased my desire to serve the Lord. Through my listening, I felt a strong desire to deepen my knowledge so that I can teach others God's Word. I felt God's call, but I hesitated. Women of Hope gave me the courage and clarification I needed and my doubts and hesitations went away."

From a listener in Côte d'Ivoire: "I do not usually comment, but today I have to because I listened to your program at a crucial time in my life. I did not know what to do and I was in anguish. Your program helped me. I will never stop thanking you!"



Amid Turmoil, God Is Still at Work

By Sphiwe Nxumalo-Ngwenya, TWR Women of Hope Africa regional coordinator, and Victoire Fayé, Côte d'Ivoire national coordinator

Côte d'Ivoire, one of 23 countries in West and Central Africa, has been relatively stable since recovering from its own civil war in 2011. During the last several years, however, the overall subregion has encountered complex and protracted crises: brutal violence, political instability, climate change, weak governance, chronic poverty, a fraying social fabric and internally displaced communities. Daily survival is extremely challenging for the 63.5 million vulnerable women, children and men who live in the region.

Many displaced people from this subregion, particularly women and children, are being absorbed into Côte d'Ivoire's population across the nation but more extensively in Abidjan, its economic center. We praise God that the TWR Women of Hope ministry is widespread within Abidjan and has recently extended to the nation's capital, Yamoussoukro.

Recently, Macy Domingo, the first national coordinator for Côte d'Ivoire, shared about the ministry's humble beginnings.

"We had nothing - no place to meet and no office," Domingo says. "We only had a passion to serve the Lord believing that he answers prayer. After vigilant and persistent prayer, God opened an opportunity - two prayer groups were established, and the ministry began."

Since 2007, the ministry has grown to have several prayer groups and listener groups on different platforms, with participants spanning generations. Women meet to pray in person across the city of Abidjan, as well as through social media platforms. On Facebook, there are over a thousand members distributed across the country. Others are on WhatsApp, which covers an even wider area of the nation.

TWR Women of Hope Côte d'Ivoire continues to reach women who have faced trauma, displacement, isolation and abuse.



Victoire Fayé, the current Côte d'Ivoire national coordinator, says, *"It is our prayer that we can continue to serve women like Salamata, from whom we received this message: 'When the coup happened in my country which borders Côte d'Ivoire, I had to flee. I found you on Facebook and have been following your teachings, which have strengthened me to face yet another day. I have invited other relatives and friends who are also displaced to engage with you via Facebook or WhatsApp. I also share with some who are not on Facebook through short text messages.'"*

Each year, the TWR Women of Hope team in Côte d'Ivoire produces weekly programs that are aired on local radio stations and distributed through Facebook and to listening groups. Fayé asks you to pray for this Côte d'Ivoire ministry as they *"bring God to women who are in the middle of turmoil."*

NOVEMBER CONT'D

25. Lord, may your Spirit guide all those involved in the evangelistic campaigns in Mali this winter. May many come to know you through this effort. (Acts 28:31)
26. God, please aid women in Nigeria who are abused, marginalized and exploited because of their gender. (Ps. 82:4)
27. Father, please unite churches in Liberia to be of one heart and mind, working together to reach their country for Christ. (1 Cor. 1:10)
28. Lord, we ask that Mali would become independent of outside forces seeking to dominate it.
- May its people turn to you for direction, peace and hope as they wait for this. (Ps. 27:14)
29. God, grant increased wisdom and discernment to Christians in Gabon. Amid mandated church closures, may believers pray for church leaders and members. (1 Cor. 12:27)
30. Lord, change men's hearts in the Holi ethnic group of Benin who do not want their wives to be financially well-off and therefore try to impoverish them. (Ps. 103:6)



STORY OF HOPE

I Have a Very Big God

by Sphiwe Nxumalo-Ngwenya, TWR Women of Hope Africa regional coordinator



I ever have a child, I will treat them well. I ran away and became a domestic worker, but my life was very bitter and sad.

"Then I met a man who I thought loved me, and I got pregnant. The man disappeared, but I resolved to raise my child. At that time, I did not know God. I wanted my son to have a childhood different from my own. Thinking that spoiling my child would be showing love, I gave him everything he asked for and never once lifted my voice.

"One day I met a pastor's wife who invited me to her women's meeting. There they listened to the Women of Hope radio program, talked about women's issues and spoke of a Jesus who loves them. I wanted to experience that love and soon received Jesus' salvation and became a regular attendee of this group.

"While listening to a Women of Hope program on parenting, I was shocked to learn that I was doing it all wrong. After praying for forgiveness from God, I asked him to guide me to raise this son and show him true love. I pray that my son grows up to be a servant of God and a good citizen. I know I have a big God who loves me and hears my prayers. I know that man plans, but God directs the steps."

* Name changed to protect her identity

During a listener and prayer group run by one of the few evangelical churches in Yopougon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mariam* burst into a song and dance joined by the whole group of women. The song declares, "I have a very big God."

Mariam migrated from one of the areas outside Abidjan. Coming from a poverty-stricken home, her mother wanted her daughter to have a better life that included education. Mariam shares,

"My auntie took me from my parent's home at an early age and promised to take me to school, but after a few years she made me stop. She mistreated me and sexually abused me, but no one listened when I complained and shared my hurt and pain. I was not given food or even clothes at times. I told myself that if

Go Into the World

Abide, Unite and Go – Part Three

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
international prayer coordinator

Have you heard the call? God calls us to go into the world to bring his message of salvation to all people. We do not share Jesus with others out of guilt or to feel proud about having accomplished something for God. Rather, we do it out of our love for Christ. Humbly we go as his servants, in his power and with his message, resting in the fact that the results are up to God, for only his power can change a person's heart.

And heart change often begins with prayer. There are specific things that I pray when I bring the name of an unbeliever I am concerned about before God. I love to pray God's Word back to him because then I know that I am praying according to his will.

As I share these ideas with you, think of one person in your life that you desire to come to salvation through Jesus. Hold this individual before God right now, and join me in praying that they will experience:

- The fear of the Lord – for it is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 9:10).
- The Holy Spirit convicting them of sin, of righteousness and of the reality that judgment is coming (John 16:8).
- The Father drawing them to himself (John 6:44).
- Their eyes and ears being opened to hear and see God. Pray for the pain and strongholds that have kept them from accurately seeing God and understanding the gospel message to be removed (2 Cor. 4:4).
- The gospel being shared with them in a way that they can understand. (Neh. 8:8; 1 Cor. 14:9).
- The seed of the gospel not being stolen by the enemy but instead taking root and bearing fruit in their lives (Matt. 13:19-23).
- Receiving Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord (Rom. 10:9).
- Becoming a part of a Bible-preaching church that embraces them and disciples them to maturity (Matt. 28:19; Heb. 10:24-25).



- Sharing their testimony and the gospel message with those around them and, in turn, discipling others (2 Tim. 2:2).

Let's get very practical. Let's say that you want to share Jesus with your neighbours or co-workers. It is always best to saturate the relationships with prayer. God desires for us to have his heart of compassion and love for others. So through prayer, God can work in your heart as well as those who don't yet know him.

Because it is best to share the gospel in relationship, we need to be intentional in creating friendships with nonbelievers. As you build trust over time within these relationships, ask God to open up opportunities to have spiritual conversations with them. Ask God to give you discernment into their hearts. What do they believe? What are their fears? What do they desire? Where are they placing their hope? What lies are they believing?

These spiritual conversations may or may not turn into gospel conversations, but they are important so that you can understand who they are. These conversations are key for later explaining the gospel in a way that is relevant to their lives.

It is also helpful to listen carefully in your conversations with others, looking and listening for their felt needs so that you can pray specifically for them. God may even give you an opportunity where you can ask them, "Can I pray for you?"

Now, thinking of the people with whom you wish to share Jesus, do you want to develop these important relationships? Here are some ideas: Organize a neighbourhood gathering, invite people over for a meal or look for other opportunities to "do life" together. This is intentional Christianity.

In humility, we are asking God to give us the opportunity to express to others our love for them and to share with them the most valuable and important thing in our lives. This is not manipulating people. Out of genuine love, we desire their friendship and to be in community with them because we see them as valuable.

Is God calling you to develop a friendship with someone? How could you love and serve that individual and show that you care? What concrete steps could you intentionally take to develop community with nonbelievers?

DECEMBER

1. Father, embolden those working to free women from exploitation. You commanded us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. (Prov. 31:8)



2. God, may the people of Senegal have discernment to identify false religious leaders, be wise in choosing the groups they associate with and be set free from trusting in idols. (Col. 2:8)

3. Lord, bring peace, protection and safety for people living in eastern Nigeria. May the violence by unknown gunmen end. (Ps. 91:1-5)

4. Dear Father, we ask that you provide jobs in their chosen fields for the young people of Mali. Please give them hope while they are waiting. (Rom. 12:12)

5. God, grant courage and wisdom to newly elected leaders in Liberia. May those who are Christian use your standards in making decisions regarding health, jobs and education. (Ps. 72)

6. We pray, Father, for protection from disease for the people of Gabon. May all have access to good health care. (Ps. 103:2-3)

7. Lord, work in the hearts of leaders in northern Côte d'Ivoire who have the influence to stop the practice of female genital mutilation. (Prov. 31:8-9)

8. May the Holy Spirit bring revival to women in the Central African Republic. Use our TWR Women of Hope team to help women grow in Christ. (Eph. 3:16-19)

9. We pray, Lord, for the strengthening of women in Benin who are victims of forced marriage. May they come to know you and find inner peace. (Isa. 41:10)

10. Father, strengthen and protect Christians in northern Nigeria facing persecution by those of the dominant religion. (2 Tim. 3:11)

11. God, please intervene in the marriages of Malian Christians considering divorce. Please give these couples grace and

wisdom to work things out. (Matt. 19:6)

12. Thank you, Father, for the power of the gospel that has broken the strongholds of habits displeasing to you in the lives of disadvantaged youth in Liberia. (Rom. 1:16)

13. God, we ask that Gabon's leaders be fair, transparent and work together for the good of the nation and its people. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

14. In Jesus' name, please bind the spirit of suicide in Côte d'Ivoire. May those experiencing it be released and find true life in you, Lord. (Job 33:4)

15. Father, please protect the poor, single women in the Central African Republic who have been raped. Provide for them and the babies born to them. (Ps. 82:3)

16. We ask for jobs and provision for women especially hard-hit during the economic crisis occurring in Benin. Lord, meet their needs. (Ps. 81:16)

17. Father, deliver Nigerian people from a religious viewpoint too trusting in good works and local traditions. May they embrace a life-giving relationship with you. (John 4:24)

18. God, please provide for those who have lost spouses or parents to terrorism in Mali.

May the perpetrators be brought to justice and turn to you. (Isa. 1:17)

19. Heal, O Lord, girls in Liberia who have been exposed to drugs and sexual abuse in their families. May their parents respect, love and care for them. (Eph. 6:4)

20. God, may women in Côte d'Ivoire who listen to *Women of Hope* practice what they hear so their lives will be transformed. (Rom. 12:2)

21. Heavenly Father, please inspire lawmakers in the Central African Republic to pass laws to protect women abused by their husbands. (Ps. 10:17-18)

22. Father, rescue and bring healing to children and orphans in Benin who are mistreated and physically harmed. (Ps. 72:4)





EMBRACING HOPE

Celebrate the Most Precious Gifts of All

from TWR Women of Hope Global Director Susie Pek



23. Lord, inspire Christians in Gabon to pray fervently for peace and justice in their nation. May believers there spread your grace and mercy to those around them. (Mic. 6:8)
24. God, pour out your provision to families going through hardship and severe poverty due to high inflation in Nigeria. (Ps. 23:1)
25. Lord, we ask you to stabilize the sociopolitical and security situation in the Alliance of Sahel States, which encompasses Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. (Rom. 12:18)
26. Father, give wisdom and strength to Christian women in Liberia who help youth living on the streets with spiritual, physical and related needs. (James 2:26)
27. God, may the young people of Gabon have access to quality education and wise counsel so they will have hope and a promising future. (Prov. 11:14)
28. Lord, change the hearts of media creators in Côte d'Ivoire who make content encouraging immorality. Instead, may they create pure, life-giving content. (Phil. 2:15-16)
29. God, may funds be raised within Liberia for women who need solar-powered radios to listen to *Women of Hope*. (Matt. 7:7-8)
30. Wives and children of Gabonese soldiers sometimes face hardships and neglect. Father, please give our team access to minister to these precious souls. (Ps. 9:9-10)
31. Lord, we ask the Holy Spirit to inspire the women of Côte d'Ivoire to have a life of prayer and personal intimacy with you. (Matt. 6:6)

I can hardly believe another year has come and gone! What does this season look like in your country? In Brazil, our streets, malls and shops look very festive, reminding all of us that Christmas is just around the corner. There is a lot of excitement about the upcoming celebrations. And one of the main focuses is to find the ideal gift for your loved ones, which is not always an easy task. Now, if that mission is accomplished successfully, seeing the happy look on the faces of the ones we love as they receive the “perfect” gift is just priceless.

Speaking of which, what would you consider a perfect gift? I realize the answer depends on the season of life we are in. The kinds of things we wished for as a child are very different from the ones we wish for as adults. As we mature, we may still have a list of things we would love

to have, yet we begin to understand that some of the most precious gifts in life are not for sale in retail shops. Good health, nature, friends, a loving family are just a few examples.

In some countries, people put their presents under the Christmas tree. Wouldn't it be special, though, to place a jar containing a list of those more precious gifts under our Christmas tree and then to read the list aloud on Christmas Day? I think it'd bring even more joy to our celebration.

Taking the time to list those presents always fills my heart with thanksgiving and hope, both in my personal life and the life of the ministry. The Lord has given our TWR Women of Hope teams around the globe the privilege of participating with him in his work by bringing hope to women through our ministry. Our team in Côte d'Ivoire shared about one of these precious gifts: “A woman visiting our village was very hostile to the gospel; she pushed away all those who approached her to present the gospel. But she has just given her life to Christ after listening to the Women of Hope broadcasts.”

continued on the next page...

Celebrate the Most Precious Gifts of All, cont'd

This woman reminds me of Matthew 16:13, in which Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" He got different answers. It seems to me this woman was getting distinct answers about Jesus' identity. She may have perceived him through the lenses of those who see Jesus as a distant and scary God. But when she invited him into her life, she began to see him in a whole new light.

Today she joins Peter in his most beautiful declaration ever: "Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the

Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69). Nothing compares to the joy of knowing Jesus as our Saviour and God. He is our indescribable gift. In him, we have true hope for now and evermore.

I wish you and your loved ones a beautiful and meaningful Christmastime. I pray that the joy of the season lasts throughout the upcoming year as you abide in him.

In his amazing love,

Susie



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