



Uniting our hearts in
PRAYER

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

Join us in praying for the Americas

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023



United in Prayer



What a blessing it is to be united in prayer with our sisters around the world! James 5:13 tells us: *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”* As we pray the requests and praise God for what he’s doing across the Americas and then across the world through the rest of the year, we join in prayer and praise with those who are suffering or cheerful. Together, we are united in prayer.

Here at the TWR Canada office, we pray for each day’s request when we gather for prayer at the beginning of each workday. Many of the women also gather once a month to pray through the requests for the month. We join the voices of prayer and praise around the world, knowing that God hears us when we pray: *“I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words”* (Psalm 17:6).

Perhaps there is someone you can join in prayer with to pray through this calendar. We encourage you to do so! While God hears our prayers whether alone or together, it can be such an encouragement to pray together.

Together in Prayer,

The TWR Canada Women’s Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

As we begin a new year of prayer for the ministry of TWR Women of Hope around the world, we start with praying for the Americas. From Canada through to the southern tip of Chile, the ministry to women is vast. One aspect of the ministry, though, covers the whole region and extends around the world: prayer.

At the most recent count, TWR Women of Hope distributes more than 61,800 print copies and over 6,900 emailed copies of the prayer calendar in more than 100 languages each month! These prayer calendars go to 110,000+ prayer intercessors around the world – people just like you!

JANUARY

1. God, may Uruguayan women value themselves and not allow others to use them as objects of pleasure in exchange for money. (Ps. 34:5)
2. We praise you, Lord God, for the people of Bonaire who share their testimonies on our Facebook page. May their witness give hope to others. (Ps. 66:16)
3. Lord, may the *Women of Hope* messages on media players distributed from Canada to countries around the world bring listeners peace, healing and a relationship with you. (Isa. 55:10-11)
4. Lord, use our YouTube channel, which has weekly devotional videos in sign language, to draw more women in Brazil to you and to help them grow in their faith. (2 Pet. 3:18)
5. God, grant our Paraguay team’s desire to extend its radio coverage in the interior of the country through programs in Spanish, German and Guarani. (Isa. 54:2)
6. Father, bring volunteers who are passionate for you and for reaching others to help the U.S. regional team with the work you have given them. (1 John 3:18)
7. Lord, we pray for your mercy on the women in Honduras who suffer domestic violence. Please provide a way out of their ordeals. (Isa. 25:4)
8. Father, we pray for female inmates in the Dominican Republic to hear the gospel message, be reconciled with you and find freedom in their relationship with you. (Acts 3:19)



Susie Pek

From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

9. Lord, bring peace to women in Honduras who are left alone as their children and husbands migrate to other countries to escape the poverty and crime in their homeland. (Phil. 4:6)
10. God, we praise you that the men and women of Bonaire are experiencing a deeper relationship with you because of the ministry of TWR Women of Hope. (Prov. 3:5-6)
11. Dear God, please provide strong support networks for Brazilian single mothers who need to work and take care of their families. (Gal. 6:2)
12. Father, we praise you for answering our prayers and enabling the Paraguay team to bring your Word to the young women at a correctional facility for minors. (Gal. 6:9)
13. Father, give the team in Canada the ability to see and carry out the new opportunities you are providing to reach out to women in their country. (1 Pet. 4:10)
14. God, we pray for teenage girls in Uruguay who are considering suicide. May they find in you a reason to live. (Ps. 42:11)
15. Lord, give wisdom to our global team leaders as they begin planning how to develop and produce *Precious and Beloved*, our new TWR Women of Hope program. (Prov. 2:6)
16. Father, please raise mature, godly women in Brazil to encourage other women in their walk with you. (Matt. 28:19-20)
17. Dear God, may young Colombian women and girls who are experiencing identity crises embrace your heart and design for themselves. (1 John 3:1)
18. Father God, the people of Bonaire know good leaders come from you. Please give them discernment to make wise voting decisions. (Matt. 20:26)
19. We praise you, God, that the Paraguay team are now sharing your Word through one-minute Guarani-language videos on social media. (Matt. 4:4)



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!"*

From a listener in Brazil: *"I learn a lot from the Women of Hope program. I never miss it."*

From a listener on Bonaire: *"I do not listen frequently, and I am not a Christian, but each time I listen to the program it is perfect. The topic speaks to my heart and, in the message, I find a solution for my circumstances."*

From a family of listeners in Uruguay: *"Hello! Our family listens to Women of Hope. We love all the programs because we are nourished by the topics."*

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

From a listener in Brazil: *"Good morning! I enjoy listening to the 'conversation' of Women of Hope! It's a great way to start the week. I wish you and everyone listening a blessed week!"*

From a woman in Paraguay: *"I am on house arrest and am deprived of my freedom. I learned to make embroidered slippers at a TWR Women of Hope workshop and now make them in large quantities to sell. I always thank God for the opportunity to participate in the workshop, because that was the beginning of my reconciliation with God. It was also a way to re-enter the job market and help me move on from my past."*



Meeting the Needs of Women Inmates in Paraguay

by Laura Diaz, national coordinator,
TWR Women of Hope Paraguay



Each week for more than 15 years, the TWR Women of Hope team in Paraguay has been serving female inmates. Currently, we are working with 50 women, training them in life skills and various sewing and craft trades. Our team ministers to their souls as well, sharing the message of salvation with these women and having a weekly Bible study with a smaller group of 10 inmates.

After one and half years of being unable to be with the inmates due to COVID-19 restrictions, the doors opened for us not only to resume ministry at the prison but also to begin new ministry at two additional prisons! What a privilege to be able to take the gospel message to one of the most forgotten and despised segments of society - imprisoned women. With the challenge of traveling to three locations each month, we praise God for faithfully providing the funds to continue this new ministry through the end of the year.

Another blessing is the partnership we have with the organization Diaconía, which provides us with everything needed to train the women in trades, develop workshops, purchase materials and locate the best people to teach the classes. Men from various churches are also partnering with us to teach the Bible at each meeting.

Long ago, God gave our team the desire to share the love of Jesus with teen girls. This past year God opened up the opportunity to work at a correctional facility for minors. We now have a group of five beautiful teenagers who are very receptive to biblical teaching and classes we provide them twice each month.

We rejoice that former inmates now participate in activities at our TWR Women of Hope office. This gives us the wonderful opportunity to follow up and bond with them as they navigate their new lives. TWR Women of Hope has also obtained the legal authorization

so that imprisoned women who enjoy a semi-free status can attend weekly meetings in our offices and hear teaching on the life and work of Christ.

We choose not to ask any details about the crimes for which these women were imprisoned. That way we do not judge them but love and serve them. In Christ there

are no unforgiveable sins - we all come to the Father in repentance and faith. Over the years, we have witnessed many begin walking with Christ, getting baptized, joining a congregation and sharing the Word with others. We praise God for the fruit of this ministry!

20. Father, may Panamanian women not be enticed into sex trafficking by deceptive offers of jobs abroad with good salaries. (Prov. 19:20)
21. Father, protect and heal the women and children in Uruguay who experience family violence. Change the hearts of those who hurt them. (Ps. 28:6)
22. Father, give women in Brazil access to education and good job opportunities. Draw them close to you and strengthen them as they care for their families. (Ps. 145:15)
23. Father, many women in Honduras suffer as they see their children involved in gangs. Please set these young people free from their misguided attraction to this life. (2 Cor. 5:17)
24. God, please give the U.S. regional team hearts that would always seek to glorify you and depend on you in all they do. (Isa. 41:13)
25. God, open doors and provide resources for the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Paraguay to reach women in prison there with the word of salvation in Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:58)
26. God, we pray that the women of Uruguay would encounter



you, understand that they are precious to you, and learn to value themselves. (Isa. 62:3)

27. Father, thank you for the many opportunities TWR Women of Hope in Brazil has to minister at women's conferences and events. May the women be strengthened and grow in their love for you. (Eph. 1:17)
28. Lord, bless the Paraguay team with volunteers and funding so that the prayer calendar can be translated and produced in the Guarani language this year. (Ps. 112:5)
29. God, we ask that Peruvian women hear the message of the gospel. (Rom. 10:17)
30. We praise you, God, that our Uruguay team can send prayer calendars through social media and meet together to pray over the internet. (Ps. 118:1)
31. Bring healing and restoration, Lord, to women in the Dominican Republic who are victims of domestic violence. (Isa. 33:2)

STORY OF HOPE

Hope and Help in God

by **Maribeth Hynnes Stevens**,
TWR Women of Hope volunteer

When I started volunteering with TWR Women of Hope, where I work with Lisa Hall, the global prayer coordinator, I had taken disability retirement from nursing because of mental health and emotional problems. I wanted to do something useful but had so much anxiety that I had difficulty leaving the house. I began to attend the global prayer gatherings and soon after offered to volunteer as a writer assisting with the prayer calendar. Even though I loved the work, my anxiety soon returned, and I began staying home again. Lisa and others bathed me in prayer, and I found I became eager to come weekly and do the best I could.



My first assignment was to write a "Story of Hope" for the prayer calendar based on listeners' responses to the ministry's broadcasts in various areas of the world. Reading stories from women with desperate lives who found hope through these broadcasts in turn gave me much hope that my life would continue improving as long as I looked to God for help. It also took my focus off the difficulties in my little world and gave me a global perspective.

The problems I had seemed minuscule compared with those who were left penniless when COVID-19 hit, were sold into slavery or were persecuted for their faith in Christ. While I spent time complaining about my situation, these women were thankful for every little bit they had. They depended on the programs to teach them proper health habits, good family relations and the ability to study the Bible, all things I took for granted.

I am thankful to be a part of this ministry that has a global impact on so many people's lives - including my own.

Change and Growth

EXPLORING HOPE TODAY

BY DR. PEGGY BANKS



“Unless change becomes the constant of our own lives, we’ll cease to be change agents in the lives of others.”

– David Timms, Living the Lord’s Prayer

Happy new year! So many possibilities, so many new thoughts and horizons to discover. Yet, with every new year, we find change. For me, the beginning of a new year is an opportunity to take an inventory of my life and identify the changes needed to help me grow closer to the Lord.

As a young adult, I had a small business, and I was always looking for ways to make changes in my own life and in the lives of those who would come to me for personal fitness training. Today, I feel that time is moving very quickly, and change is happening daily within all areas of our lives – our culture, families, relationships, jobs, careers, living conditions and locations. I’m reminded of something I heard years ago: “Nothing is permanent except change.”

However, with change comes growth, and with growth comes change. We have opportunities every day to grow stronger in our dependence on the Lord when change comes into our lives. When we choose growth in times of change, we will see our love for others grow as we learn how to forgive, receive grace, and show mercy.

So, my reading, contemplation and prayers have led me to offer this as our word for the year for 2023: grow! We will be looking at the many ways God wants to grow the ministry of TWR Women of Hope. We believe the harvest is ripe, and as we see the next generation of leaders coming into the fields of ministry, we want to be ready to help them grow. We also want to help women see how God’s Word provides so many opportunities that enable each of us to grow closer to him as we surrender our lives to Jesus.

“And [Jesus] said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”

(Mark 4:26-29)

While some change can be traumatic and devastating, change can also be lifesaving. Change can provide safety, rehabilitation, and a new purpose in life. Change can bring a new creation with new ideas, different and better ways of loving others and living out a life of service to the Lord and others. Change can bring transformation and give us a new life filled with hope for the future.

This year, I pray we will embrace the changes the Lord is making in our lives and commit to seeking God’s guidance in each decision. We believe God is asking us to trust him to grow the ministry of TWR Women of Hope and to commit to keeping our hands on the plow as we plant the seeds, water the plants, pull the weeds, and watch and wait for God to bring the harvest of hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations.

In him our hearts rejoice,

Dr. Peggy Banks
Global Director // TWR Women of Hope



FEBRUARY

1. Almighty God, please grow and develop the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Bonaire. Give the team wisdom in their roles and in leading people to Jesus. (Ps. 37:5)
2. Father, send your children to comfort and encourage the elderly in Uruguay who face loneliness and depression. (Ps. 71:9, 18)
3. Lord, we pray that the leaders in Brazil will provide good health care for women who need to undergo medical treatment. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)
4. Thank you, God, for allowing the women in Paraguay's prisons who have semi-free status to come to the TWR Women of Hope offices to attend Bible studies and training. (Ps. 90:17)
5. Lord, give wisdom to TWR Canada's new ministry partnerships launching in 2023. May they be effective in speaking into the lives of women around the world and leading them to know you. (Isa. 52:7)
6. Thank you, God, that the women of Uruguay find information, encouragement and salvation through the *Women of Hope* programs. (John 3:16)
7. Lord, may the U.S. regional team seek you first in love and obedience. As they do, please guide them and direct their steps for ministry. (Rom. 12:2)
8. Father, provide strength, encouragement and good jobs to single mothers in Latin American countries who struggle every day to care for their families. (Exod. 15:2)
9. Dear Lord, we pray that our Brazilian women will hunger and thirst for you. (Ps. 42:1-2)
10. Lord, enable our team in Paraguay to expand the reach of their prayer calendars using new technologies. Thank you for their Spanish and German prayer groups that use the calendars daily to intercede. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)
11. Father, we pray that the thousands of migrant workers who come to Uruguay seeking a better future would look to you to meet their needs. (Phil. 4:19)
12. Almighty God, may the girls and women of Guatemala come to know you, find their identities in you, and know that in you they are loved, forgiven and valuable. (Gal. 3:26-28)
13. Heavenly Father, we ask you to bring strength to every woman in Bonaire who is feeling weary. (Isa. 40:29)
14. God, your heart is for women of every generation to know and follow you. Raise up next-generation leaders and volunteers to work with each of our global teams. (Joel 1:3)
15. Father, we pray for young women in Argentina to have a close meaningful walk with Jesus. Use your people to reach them with the gospel. (John 10:10)
16. We praise you, Lord, that the devotional book *Hope Encounters* is being used in many women's groups in Brazil. May more churches use it. (Ps. 119:105)
17. We praise you, God, that our Paraguay team has experienced a 25 per cent growth in outreach to new women and that they can bring the good news of the gospel to them. (1 John 5:4)
18. Deliver from the ravages of sin and crime, Lord, the young women in Uruguay who are involved in using and selling drugs. (Ps. 68:20)
19. Father, we pray for the TWR Women of Hope team in Paraguay to create a team of wise, loving women for post-prison ministry and follow-up. (1 Cor. 3:9)
20. Lord, give wisdom, creativity and guidance from your Spirit to the Uruguay team as they write scripts for *Women of Hope* programs. (Gal. 5:25)
21. Father, we pray for more Christian shelters in Brazil for women and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse. May these be safe places where they come to know Jesus. (Ps. 27:5)
22. God, give wisdom and creativity to the U.S. regional team as they desire to reach the next generation of women with hope in Jesus. (Ps. 78:4)



- 23. Lord, please raise up godly women in Latin America and the Caribbean to lead the TWR Women of Hope ministry. (Matt. 9:37)
- 24. Dear Father, may the TWR Women of Hope team in Bonaire be so filled with your Spirit that they bring truth and encouragement to the women around them. (1 Thess. 5:11)
- 25. God, as Venezuela faces economic insecurity, enable women there to balance their budgets so they can buy food for their families. (Ps. 32:8)
- 26. It is the hearts' desire of the Paraguay team, Lord, to grow in your wisdom, patience, love and service and to be useful instruments in your hands. (Rom. 12:11)
- 27. God, we praise you for the faithful people in Canada who pray each month for the needs in the prayer calendar. (Col. 4:2)
- 28. Father, in times of political division, hostility and pride in Brazil, we cry out for unity around Christ. May your Son be the mediator of our hearts. (Matt. 5:9)



A Note from the TWR Canada Women's Ministry Team:

At the end of December 2022, Dr. Peggy Banks will be stepping down from the role of Global Director of TWR Women of Hope. She shares that it has been a joy to serve in this role for the past 6 years and to see God's faithfulness in the lives of women around the world. Dr. Banks will be joining a ministry that helps persecuted Christians around the world.

Please join us in praying for Dr. Banks and for TWR Women of Hope during this transition. TWR Canada's commitment to reaching women with the hope of the gospel around the world remains unchanged and we look forward to sharing updates on the ministry with you throughout 2023!

The Gift of Prayer

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
International Prayer Coordinator



and beloved children whom he welcomes to talk to him about everything.

I'm so thankful that God desires these conversations because I need to talk to him. I'm a verbal processor, so I need to talk things out in order for me to analyze and arrange my thoughts and plans. I figured out very early in life that God was real, told the truth, was faithful and could be trusted – and I began to talk to him. But I wanted to hear from him too. And so I began reading the Bible and conversing with him about everything I was reading.

As I studied the Word, I saw how much God cared about people, how they felt and what they were going through. In chapter one of 1 Samuel, Hannah pours out her soul to the Lord longing for a child. Her grief and anguish were so deep and outwardly visible that the high priest thought she was drunk. But God heard her desperate cry and reached out to her. He sees us in our pain. How has God heard your cries to him and answered you?

I saw the heart of Jesus as he wept over the death of Lazarus, had compassion for the sick and gave respect to women. Not only does God see our hearts and come alongside us, but he also longs to share his heart with us. How often

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The Gift of Prayer, cont'd

do we stop talking in prayer and ask him what is on his heart? We must learn to listen, too, if we want true intimacy with him.

When our first reaction to every circumstance in life is to take it to God immediately, he can help us gain perspective – his perspective. When we choose to invite him to have access and control of every aspect of our lives, we discover the beauty of abiding and remaining in him (John 15). When he is in us and we are in him, we will feel his strength. His peace can fill our minds and hearts.

This year we will look deeply into what it means to pray. Together we will discover the power of praying

Scripture and God's promises back to him. As we study the names of God and the "I AM" statements in the Bible, we will pray with greater clarity and power when we understand the characteristics of the God to whom we pray. We will also look at prayer as worship, praise, warfare, confession and intercession. And I am excited to look together at the ancient paths of Lectio Divina, which involves listening prayer and reflection.

Prayer is our communion with God. In what ways are you seeing the need to connect with and commune with God in your own life? How is God asking you to come to him in prayer for our world?



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**WOMEN
OF HOPE**

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