

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 2023



A God Who Hears and Acts



Dear friends,

Throughout May and June, we are praying for the women and ministry of TWR Women of Hope across Asia. This vast region of the world includes women facing inequality and poverty, as well as women who are educated and in life circumstances similar to us in Canada.

In Korea, the TWR Women of Hope ministry focuses on prayer for the ministry, much like here in Canada. One faithful prayer warrior recently shared: *"I cannot attend the TWR Women of Hope prayer gathering regularly because of work, but whenever time allows, I try to participate. When I join and pray with others, I feel more energized and gracious than when I pray alone. I distribute the prayer calendars to colleagues, who read it and say they can't believe there are still so many women around the world who are living such a hard life."*

Perhaps your experience is similar to that of this woman's colleagues. As you read and pray through the requests in these bi-monthly calendars, perhaps you are surprised by the situations that women around the world experience, and perhaps even discouraged. But take heart! God is at work.

First John 5:14-15 reminds us *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."* Our God hears us when we pray, and he acts. His Word tells us this, and we can hold fast to this truth.

As you read and pray through the requests over the next two months, may you not only see the hard situations in which women across Asia find themselves, but would you also see the hope they have and the ways in which they place their trust in God. May we join with these women, lifting up their requests to God, knowing that he hears our prayers and will answer us.

Together in prayer,

The TWR Canada Women's Ministry Team

MAY

1. God, may the listeners of *Women of Hope* programs in Cambodia make time and space in their lives to draw close to you and your Word, listening so that you may lead them. (Ps. 32:8)
2. Lord, bring change to the hearts and minds of those in China who do not value women. Raise up leaders to bring an end to domestic abuse and violence against women. (Isa. 60:18)
3. Lord, provide for all the needs of widows in India who lost their husbands during the COVID-19 pandemic and have no income to raise and educate their children. (Phil. 4:19)
4. Heavenly Father, thank you that over 80 radio stations air the Indonesian and Javanese *Women of Hope* programs. (Ps. 71:8)
5. Lord, we pray for the gospel message to be heard and embraced all across Japan. May those in darkness receive salvation in Jesus. (Isa. 9:2)
6. Father, may Korean teenagers experiencing stress from excessive competition and school violence find their rest, joy and freedom in you. (John 8:32)
7. God, many people are affected by poor health because of air pollution in Mongolia, especially children. May they all find healing in Jesus' name. (Jer. 33:6)
8. Father, may Filipino women who resort to prostitution to make a daily living find both appropriate employment and the understanding of their true value in you. (Jer. 29:11)
9. As women in Nepal listen to *Women of Hope* programs while attending sewing, literacy and other classes, may they come to know Jesus as they learn to financially help support their families. (John 17:3)
10. Father, may children growing up in dysfunctional families in Vietnam receive more attention and a nurturing environment from their parents. (Eph. 6:4)
11. Lord, we praise you for carrying the TWR Women of Hope Cambodian team through many difficulties and for giving them comfort and strength to not give up. (Phil. 4:13)



From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

12. We praise you, God, for providing a new producer for Chinese *Women of Hope* programs in the Uyghur language! Help him to learn the necessary skills quickly. (Prov. 4:11)
13. Almighty God, we ask you to help the wives in Maharashtra, India, who have been abandoned by their husbands and are without legal and financial support. (Isa. 41:10)
14. Lord, help our Indonesian team to raise funds locally so that they can follow up with and serve their program listeners in a deeper way. (2 Cor. 9:8)
15. God, please inspire the people in Japan to listen to the *Women of Hope* broadcasts, receive your love and forgiveness, and join in intercessory prayer using the monthly calendars. (Isa. 52:7)
16. Father, open wide the borders of North Korea so that radios may be distributed again and ministry resume after the COVID-19 shutdown. (Eph. 2:14)
17. Lord, we trust that in your timing we may soon broadcast the *Women of Hope* programs into Mongolia to comfort the women there and lead them to abundant life in Jesus. (Ps. 16:11)

18. God, may those without radios or in locations not reached by our broadcasts find and listen to our *Women of Hope* programming on the TWR Philippine website. (Ezek. 3:10)



19. Many in Nepal who are financially desperate think life isn't worth living. Bind this spirit of suicide, Lord, and help them find meaning in life through you. (John 6:35)
20. God, make a way for missionary and evangelistic activity to still take place and be effective in Vietnam even if a law is passed to outlaw it. May your Word and love reach people there. (2 Tim. 2:9)
21. Father, comfort and heal the hearts of the family members of those who die in traffic accidents every day in Cambodia. May corruption be uprooted and justice be given to these victims. (Prov. 21:15)

From a listener in Nepal: *"Every time I feel weak, this program has helped and encouraged me. I was treated unfairly, as I come from a low-caste family, but thanks to the Women of Hope radio program, I learned that God truly does love me. Through the Word of God, the hosts convey the good news to the listeners of this program. It was helpful to me, and I think that programs like this can be helpful to many other people as well. So, whenever I have the opportunity, I share about Jesus with others."*

From a listener in Japan: *"My family and I listen to the program together over lunch. The atmosphere was very calm and peaceful, and I wanted to listen to it all the time. While listening to the thoughts and anxieties of ordinary people, the gospel of the Word was clearly spoken, and in some places I almost cried out in response."*

From a listener in Sri Lanka: *"I am a believer. I've been listening to this program for over three years, and I've learned a lot. This program assists us in learning not only about the Bible but also about many other topics in society. As a woman, I have faced many challenges in my life, and this program has given me tremendous strength during those times. That is something I thank God for. And I appreciate the program's efforts to change a corrupt society."*

From a listener in Pakistan: *"I listen to the Women of Hope Punjabi radio program on a regular basis. I am illiterate and want to gain social, religious and cultural knowledge, and these programs are aiding me greatly in that endeavour. I like the presenter, and it is my request that these programs be broadcast live so that we can discuss our concerns and learn more about the topics."*



Praying for Revival in Japan

By Minako Yamagishi, TWR Women of Hope Japan national coordinator

After I received a year of training in South Korea, the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Japan was launched in March 2022. We began with a prayer ministry, published a prayer calendar each month and uploaded those prayer requests each day onto social media. Recently, we have redesigned the calendar into a beautiful colour version, organized the prayer requests by country and included information from each country along with a regional map.

Transcending national and ethnic boundaries, sisters come together as one in the Lord for our TWR Women of Hope monthly prayer meetings. As we pray, we are on fire with the Holy Spirit and with God's love for each other and the world. The women are encouraged and feel the genuine power of our prayers. As we pray for each other and share our personal testimonies and requests, we connect and grow alongside one another.

One time we prayed for the health of a friend. Months later, the

friend became well and began helping our ministry and joined our prayer meeting. Praise the Lord! God indeed listens to every prayer. We are to be *"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"* the Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:18. Prayer is our main work, and we pray unceasingly for women in the world who need our God and for God to expand this circle of prayer.

In October 2022, the *Women of Hope* program began airing on 11 community FM stations throughout Japan as well as via YouTube. To commemorate this milestone, we held a worship service of thanksgiving in November with guests coming from South Korea. We had a blessed time of worship and fellowship with the hosts, program teams, volunteers and supporters.

TWR Women of Hope Japan has received many responses to the



program, the listeners saying they look forward to listening to it every week. Another shared, *"It is easy to understand. The content is excellent for evangelism and for personal sharing."* And another observed, *"I liked the theme about fear. I enjoy listening to different themes from women's perspectives."*

The translation, production and prayer teams, along with the program hosts, are active in

prayer, in their local churches and in personal evangelism. Our volunteers tell us that their faith is deepening and that their prayers are being answered. As we seek to do God's will, we work hard to expand the ministry and wish to further publicize the *Women of Hope* program.

Would you please pray for us and join with us in praying for revival in Japan?

- 22. Lord, give leaders in China the desire and wisdom to bring an end to sex trafficking there. May laws against sex trafficking be established and enforced so that victims may be freed and find healing through you. (Ps. 72:14)
- 23. Heavenly Father, we pray that women in the rural parts of India would get proper medical treatment and have good health during pregnancy. (Exod. 15:26)



- 24. God, there are millions of women in Indonesia who do not believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Bring them to yourself. (Acts 4:12)
- 25. Lord, we ask that the TWR Women of Hope workers in Japan be filled with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to serve with wisdom, grace and joy. (Isa. 60:1)

- 26. Father, may the 34,000 North Korean refugees in South Korea hear the gospel message and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. (Eph. 1:13)
- 27. God, give wisdom to Mongolian government officials in how to use the country's public money to best benefit its people. (1 Tim. 6:9-10)
- 28. Lord, enable the Filipino listeners of the *Woman of Hope* program in the Cebuano, Ilocano and Tagalog languages to experience strength, wisdom and intimacy with you. (Isa. 55:11)
- 29. Many *Women of Hope* listeners in Nepal desire to join the church but need their husbands' permission. God, move in the hearts of husbands to support their wives and embrace you. (Ezek. 11:19)
- 30. Father, protect China's teenagers amid concerns about reports of missing young people. Bring peace to worried families. (2 Thess. 3:3)
- 31. Father, may working mothers in Singapore who struggle to balance work and family find true rest and peace in you as they strive to earn enough to meet the high cost of living. (Matt. 11:28-30)

STORY OF HOPE

Hope for the Indian Mother



develop in. The child, perceiving her love, reciprocated and attempted to respond to her attempts to help him.

Prabavathy, who is herself the mother of a disabled child, was touched by the way the story realistically portrayed the mother's exhaustion and depression from not knowing how to care for her child. The program encouraged her to not give up hope and to seek God's help in identifying the right methods for connecting with and nurturing her child. She spoke with our audience relations team and thanked them for being God's answer for her struggling family.

If you were to converse with typical mothers in India, you would often hear how overworked and underappreciated they feel. That no one understands or cares for their needs is a common sentiment resonating among mothers on social media.

Desiring to bring hope and comfort, the *Women of Hope* television program in Tamil discusses the issues that mothers currently face. And their responses coming from these discussions have been truly encouraging.

Prabavathy's* life was transformed as she watched our program that featured a family with a child who was disabled. The story spoke of a mother who understood her child's struggles and worked to nurture him in the areas that he was able to

Saridha*, too, found hope in God through our program that spoke of a woman who was unable to bear a child. Saridha was frustrated and aggressive toward her colleagues as most of their conversations centered around their children. She was losing hope, and her emotions were spilling out in unhealthy ways.

But her conversations with our audience relations team became the outlet she needed for her pain. As they counselled and prayed with her, Saridha found joy and a renewed sense of hope for her future.

Women in India have little access to godly help in everyday struggles. Please pray that the TWR Women of Hope ministry will continue to be their avenue to spiritually enriched, meaningful lives.

* Name changed for security reasons

A Message from TWR Women of Hope Global Director Susie Pek



Dear friends,

As I embark on this beautiful journey of caring for TWR Women of Hope and leading it into the future, I look back and ponder all the ways the Lord has led me. I wonder if you like to do the same when faced with changes. As we examine our pasts, we learn about ourselves, consider the changes in our lives and have the wonderful opportunity to make new choices. The best part is we get to be reminded of the Lord's goodness and faithfulness.

Just days before I started this new season, a situation took me back to when I first came to know the Lord. The short version of the story is that I was raised by a Christian mom and a non-Christian father. My dad never opposed church or Christian living but was very resistant to giving his life to Jesus. I didn't realize, however, that I was too.

I attended church and tried following some "rules." I knew in my head that the Bible was true and that Jesus was the Saviour of the world, but I had never really given my life to him. I heard people say Jesus had changed their lives completely, but I'll be honest: the thought of being transformed bothered me. I thought I was cool and did not want to run the risk of turning into a dull person.

My "coolness" successfully hid a lot of hurt and pain from the eyes of the people around me. My life was surrounded by people, but my heart was still lacking in love. How could someone possibly love me? I tried dealing with all that in my own strength. I thought that suppressing the memories of the abuses and feelings of rejection would be enough. It wasn't.

Also, I did not realize it, but I searched for unconditional love in all my relationships. I longed to be loved, accepted, appreciated and cared for, so I strived to be the best version of myself (within my understanding) to my family, friends, colleagues and boyfriends in the hope that I would earn their love.

In my first year of college, I was faced with a situation, and I knew that my response to it would be a turning point in my life. The choice I made would lead me to either a wonderful road or a terrible one. Deep within me, I knew Christ was the answer. So, I finally surrendered and gave my life to Christ. From day one, an intense transformation process started. The chaos in my inner world did not go away overnight; it took time. God's love had reached me, but I still could not fully "receive it."

Over the years, the Lord gently ministered his love for me through my quiet times, circumstances and people. It has been a journey of constantly receiving his love, knowing that he is the only one who is able to fill the voids in our hearts. He loves me in a way that nobody else does. He loves you in that same way. And his love enables us to receive love from others and to offer them love.

Although it took me a while to dive deeper into God's love, from the beginning of my relationship with him, that love changed the way I saw the world. I heard many testimonies about the impact of prayer and wanted to have my own experiences. I wanted to touch the world through prayer. That same year, I could not hold back the tears when I heard the news of a major development in a political situation. I had prayed for such a change to occur!

That same love led me to pursue preparation to go into ministry years ago. Since then, I had the honour of serving in different ministries. I clearly remember when I first heard of Project Hannah, the original name of TWR Women of Hope. The words "compassion and prayer for women" touched my heart. I thought to myself: "One day I'll work with that project." I shared it with my husband and prayed about it. About five years later I joined the project. What an amazing journey it has been. I'm so thankful to be able to pray for women all over the world. To speak hope to their hearts. To point them to Jesus, our living hope.

My prayer and heart's desire are that women around the world and across generations will "*know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*" (Eph. 3.19).

In our Saviour's love,

Susie

JUNE

1. Father, may laws be created and upheld to protect children from child abuse in Vietnam. Work in the hearts and minds of parents to encourage them to love, value and nurture their children. (Matt. 18:10)
2. We praise you, Lord, that many female prisoners in Nepal are listening to *Women of Hope* programs and coming to know Jesus! (John 3:16)
3. Father, please provide full-time staff for the TWR Women of Hope ministry in the Philippines to take charge of the programming, listener follow-up, reporting, and translation and distribution of prayer calendars. (Phil. 4:6)
4. God, we ask you to move Christian women in Mongolia to fulfill your plan by praying, meditating on your Word and sharing the gospel daily. (Mark 16:15)
5. Lord, we ask that *Women of Hope* broadcasts comfort North Korean refugee women in China and lead them to Jesus. (Ps. 119:49-50)
6. Father, bring intercessors to work beside our Japanese TWR Women of Hope team who will understand the ministry's vision and support it financially and through volunteering. (Eph. 6:18)
7. Lord, you are our refuge. Provide food and health care for the millions of women and children living in refugee camps because of natural disasters in Indonesia. (Ps. 46:1)
8. God use the Gujarati *Women of Hope* program and team members in India to effectively minister to needy women in this region. (1 Tim. 1:12)
9. As our team hopes to launch *Women of Hope* programs in the Uyghur language beginning July 2023, enable Chinese Uyghur women to hear the broadcasts and learn of Jesus. (Rom. 10:17)
10. Lord, provide for the financial needs of the TWR Women of Hope Cambodian ministry. You are Jehovah Jireh and their source of hope. (Gen. 22:14)
11. Father, you have called us to live an abundant life in which we understand our value in your eyes. May Nepalese women embrace this truth and reject the lie that they are second-class citizens. (John 10:10b)
12. Lord, may the church and government in the Philippines show sympathy, compassion and help to needy women in prostitution. May these women be freed from this kind of life. (Prov. 14:21)
13. Father, strengthen the existing Christian ministry in Mongolia. May those who hear the gospel be freed from Satan's bonds and receive Jesus as Saviour. (John 11:27)
14. We praise you, Lord, that listeners are responding to the Japanese *Women of Hope* programs on radio and YouTube and that volunteers and intercessors are being blessed through the ministry. (Ps. 103:1)
15. We praise you, God, for the faithful donors who supply the funding for the Indonesian and Javanese *Women of Hope* programs. (Heb. 13:15)
16. Lord, we pray for the women in North India whose sons and husbands are addicted to drugs. Please bring healing to these men. (Isa. 61:1)
17. God, give wisdom to women in Korea who minister in the prisons. Open the hearts of prisoners to hear the gospel and accept Jesus as Saviour. (Isa. 42:7)
18. Praise God for providing a volunteer to record the requests from the prayer calendar in Mandarin. Currently, the one-minute audio prayers are published online and will be inserted into shortwave broadcasts. (1 Pet. 4:10)
19. Father, bring salvation and deliverance to young women in Cambodia in bondage through forced labour, human trafficking and the sex trade. (Ps. 91:2)
20. Father, refresh, strengthen and encourage our Nepal team as they tirelessly serve suffering women. (Jer. 31:25)
21. Lord, strengthen the faith of Filipino listeners who face financial difficulty. May they trust you to provide for their daily needs. (Matt. 6:33)
22. God we ask that fathers in Mongolia lead their families responsibly. Also, please help single mothers to overcome the difficulties of parenting without husbands. (Prov. 4:1-9)
23. Father, give the next generation of Christians in Korea the wisdom and skills needed to expand your kingdom. (Matt. 9:38)



24. Lord, provide physical and spiritual protection for Japanese single mothers, for women facing poverty and for families suffering from domestic violence. Be their refuge. (Ps. 34:7-9)
25. God, grant wisdom and joy to the Indonesian team as they produce the *Women of Hope* program and help the listeners grow deeper in their knowledge of Jesus. (2 Pet. 3:18)
26. Heavenly Father, we pray for the women of India who are barren. Please give them encouragement, faith and children of their own. (Ps. 113:9)
27. Thank you, Lord, for the amended changes made to the women's protection law in China. May these bring real change to those experiencing gender discrimination and sexual harassment. (Ps. 9:9)
28. God, bring unity between members and leaders within the Cambodian church. May they persevere together in seeking you. (Heb. 12:1)
29. Lord, bring complete restoration in Jesus' name to our Filipino *Women of Hope* listeners who need your healing touch from serious illnesses such as cancer and depression. (Isa. 53:5)
30. Lord, be the protector of women in Singapore and help them to not fear as sexual molestation and assaults increased in 2022. (1 Pet. 3:14)



Prayer in His Name

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
International Prayer Coordinator



A person's name is important; it identifies who she is.

In honor of both of my grandmothers, Elsie and Elizabeth, my parents named me Lisa. I longed to know more of my namesakes and was told I had so many of their qualities. But the meaning of my name was even more important to me. It was displayed on a plaque in my room:

Lisa - Consecrated One - "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, 'therefore, I will hope in him.'"
(Lam. 3:24)

Each day I was reminded that I was consecrated to God, set apart for him. And I desired to live out the meaning of my name.

In the Bible, God reveals himself to us through his names. They often tell us much about his character, describe his attributes and show how he desires to relate to us, his children. When we have an accurate view of God, it becomes the lens through which we view and live out

our lives. When we learn and pray God's names, we proclaim them and their truth over our lives and world. We are reaching out in faith to God, showing that we trust that he will act and be what his name declares.

When God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and Moses asked his name, God replied, "I AM WHO I AM... Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exod. 3:14). The Hebrew meaning does show self-existence, but it is more. It connotes that God is ever-present with his people, focusing his attention, power and grace on them. For the first time, God has shared with the Israelites his personal name, "I AM," which was written as YHWH in Hebrew. This is often translated as Yahweh or Jehovah, and Bibles often represent this name with capital letters: LORD.

We too can call on the name of Yahweh, the ever-present God who is near his people. Many times in Scripture, characteristics of God are combined with his personal name. We can pray to:

Yahweh Yireh - The LORD Will Provide (Gen. 22:14). What needs are you trusting God to provide as you live for him?

Yahweh Tsevaoth - The LORD of Hosts (1 Sam. 17:45). David defeated Goliath in this name.

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Prayer in His Name , cont'd

What giants are you facing in your life? Ask the LORD of angel armies to fight on your behalf.

Yahweh Rophe – The LORD Our Healer (Exod. 15:25-26, Ps. 6:2-3). Through Jesus, God desires to bring us physical, moral and spiritual healing. Trust him and pray to him for your holistic healing of mind, body and soul.

Consider how you can pray these names of God: **Yahweh Osenu – The LORD Our Maker** (Ps. 95:6); **Yahweh Nissi – The LORD Our Banner** – (Exod. 17:15); **Yahweh Tsuri – The LORD My Rock** (Deut. 32:4); **Yahweh Shalom – The LORD Our Peace** (Judg. 6:24), **Yahweh Tsidqenu – The LORD Our Righteousness**

(Jer. 33:16); **El Roi – The God Who Sees Me** (Gen. 16:13); **El Shaddai – God Almighty** (Gen. 17:1); **El Emunah – Faithful God** (Deut. 32:4).

My favorite passage is when God describes himself:

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty” (Exod. 34:6-7).

Be strengthened in your faith and grow in your intimacy with God as you pray to him using his many beautiful names!



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