

Uniting our hearts in  
**PRAYER**



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

*Join us in praying for West and Central Africa*

**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022**



# Reaching Women and their Communities with the Gospel



Dear Friends,

Our year of praying around the world for the ministry of TWR Women of Hope is coming to a close. In these last two months of the year, we are praying for one final region: West and Central Africa.

Throughout this region, TWR Women of Hope is coming alongside women who are facing displacement, poverty, injustice, forced marriage, war, and more, to provide hope and healing in Jesus' name. We at TWR Canada have been partnering in bringing hope to the women of this region for 15 years: in Côte d'Ivoire since 2007 and Mali since 2009.

In Mali, *Women of Hope* is not just changing the lives of women but is changing communities. Pastor Elie, director of Radio Banikô, recently shared the following with us: *"We thank God for the program Women of Hope. Men and women all listen to Jeanne's teachings with admiration, and health care workers feel that the show supports their work because it provides health care knowledge."*

*"Our radio station covers a 250 km radius and this program has opened the doors for the proclamation of the gospel in our region. Several pastors have testified to this! We know of 70 people who have accepted the Lord as a result of this program! It has also facilitated peace in families throughout the region."*

*"Because of this program, we created an association called 'Amour' (French for 'Love'). We had 443 people gather as part of this association: men and women from all stages of life, including representatives from all levels of government, pastors, and even Imams. We thank you for Women of Hope which brought all these people together and brought peace to our communities."*

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of TWR Women of Hope in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire! Together we are changing the lives of women and their communities with the hope of the gospel. As you pray through the requests over the next two months and read the articles included in this prayer calendar, we hope that you see the many ways in which God is at work across West and Central Africa.

Together in prayer,

The TWR Canada Women's Ministry Team



## NOVEMBER

1. Father, grant our team favour as they seek to develop unity and partnerships between the TWR Women of Hope ministry and the churches in Côte d'Ivoire. (Phil. 2:2)



2. In some societies, widows are forced to marry the brothers of their deceased husbands. God, we ask you to defend and provide for these women. (1 Cor. 7:39)

3. Many women in Nigeria's displaced person camps have received Bibles and radios. Lord, encourage them to listen daily to our *Women of Hope* broadcasts and draw them to you. (Rom. 10:17)

4. Father, may those who are committing ritual killings in Liberia be stopped and

punished. Protect the people of this nation, and may they find their peace and hope in you. (Ps. 23)

5. Other religions and sects are using the present reality of poverty in the Central African Republic to try to win the hearts of the people. Father, open the doors of provision for Christians in this nation. (Lev. 26)

6. Lord, we pray for the TWR Women of Hope team members in Mali to have wisdom as they answer questions from the women to whom they minister. May they depend on you. (James 1:5)

7. May the gospel so transform believers in Cameroon that they share the message of salvation with those around them in your power, God. (Mark 16:15)

8. Lord, may the church in Gabon rise up to cover her nation in prayer so injustice, crime and paganism would cease and the church would present itself holy and blameless in your sight. (Ezek. 22:30)

9. God, change the hearts of fathers who follow traditions where a daughter is forced to get married because of the money the parents receive. (Eph. 6:4a)

10. Father, grant due process to all who are unjustly being held in prisons throughout Liberia. May your hope and peace help them in their suffering. (Ps. 68:6)
11. Lord, encourage and strengthen the zeal of our teams across Nigeria. Raise up volunteers to translate the prayer calendar into many of the 500 dialects of this nation. (Josh. 1:9)
12. God, we pray for the mobilization of financial resources and the creation of income-generating activities for the many women in Côte d'Ivoire who live in unstable financial situations. (Deut. 8:18)
13. God Almighty, we pray for the people who are starving because of war and the impossibility of harvesting crops in parts of Mali. (2 Kings 6:25-27)
14. Heavenly Father, we pray that the Holy Spirit would bring complete unity of the body of Christ among the churches in Gabon. (John 17:20-23)
15. Lord, deliver both the nation and people of Cameroon from evil. May people be set free in Jesus' name. (Matt. 6:13)
16. Certain occult practices in Africa result in women

being put to death as human sacrifices. Father, bring an end to these evil practices! (Lev. 20:2-3)

17. Lord, we pray that adolescent girls and young women in Liberia will trust you and wait for you to give them suitable life partners. (Ps. 118:8)
18. Violence in the north and other parts of Nigeria has caused homelessness for many women, including widows. Father, motivate officials to take determined action against the deadly unrest. (Prov. 21:1)
19. Lord, give our TWR Women of Hope team wisdom as they desire to create listening groups in the rural areas of Côte d'Ivoire. (Prov. 2:6)



**"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."**

**- 1 JOHN 5:14-15**

Dear friends,

Have you ever had a hard time believing that God does hear our prayers? Can we really know that he hears us? What are some ways that we can know this truth?

We have the assurance of salvation when we give our lives to Jesus. But we also have the assurance that God hears our prayers and that what he requires of us is our faith – faith to believe what the Bible says is true.

*"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" (John 8:31-32)*

If we abide in God's Word, we can know the truth and that truth sets us free to believe that God does hear our prayers. As we pray for West and Central Africa, may we pray with confidence. May we pray with boldness and truth. God is listening for our voices and looking for women after his heart.

As we close 2022 and celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ministry, I'm excited to share with you that we will be adding some ministry updates in each prayer calendar. We are eager to keep our

intercessors informed about all that is happening with TWR Women of Hope, and we want to use this space to share these updates. I pray that you will see this as a way to stay connected and to be engaged even more in the ministry of TWR Women of Hope. In future issues of the calendar, therefore, I will not write this prayer letter myself but instead will ask several writers to provide ministry updates aimed at keeping you well-informed about how you can pray for the ministry.

Thank you again for the compassion you have for women around the world and for sharing the hope that we have in Jesus. I pray that your hearts are stirred every day with more knowledge and truth about who Jesus is and what we have in him.

For some additional personal devotional thoughts on what it means to be a woman after God's own heart, please check out my article "Exploring Hope Today" on pages 10-11.

In him our hearts rejoice,

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

# Highlights from our Region – West and Central Africa



Prayer is central. As we look at the TWR Women of Hope ministry in the region of West and Central Africa, one common theme is the team's devotion to prayer. It unites the women with God and together in community.

Our team in **Benin** works and prays with women intercessors in 25 partner churches for the spiritual development of women and the deliverance of those held captive by the occult and witchcraft. They visit widows, the needy, elderly, sick and those in prison to offer prayer and God's love and salvation.

In addition to visiting widows and orphans, the team in **Mali** broadcast *Women of Hope* programs to their own country as well as to Guinea, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. A listener shared, "These programs inform us, advise us, and bring peace and reconciliation to our homes."

Many women in **Liberia** are poor, uneducated, abused and without hope. But our team is bringing hope, encouragement and healing

to them through prayer, *Women of Hope* programs, leadership development, Bible studies and training in life skills.

Our team members in **Nigeria** are reaching out to communities with free health-care programs and provide practical training like soap-making to produce income. They minister to the spiritual needs of women by studying the Word with them and praying together using the prayer calendar. Also, Bibles and radios are provided to women in camps set up for people who have fled their homes because of the insurgency.

People in **Côte d'Ivoire** are now able to hear TWR programs and *Women of Hope* broadcasts in French from the capital city. Our team helps women develop a more intimate relationship with the Lord, praying together both in person as well as on WhatsApp. Together they share the good news of Jesus with the women of Côte d'Ivoire. Understanding the financial need of many of the women, our leaders also offer

training in entrepreneurship to help women develop income-generating activities to sustain themselves and their families.

The ministry in **Gabon** is both local and international. Our team members work among the women in the local churches providing prayer and support. Because of their fervent belief in the power of prayer, they have also branched out and begun a French prayer gathering on Zoom and WhatsApp that includes women from many French-speaking nations.

We praise God for the work he is doing among the women of West and Central Africa through the TWR Women of Hope ministry.



## NOVEMBER CONT'D

20. Holy God, we pray that you would manifest your power to destroy Satanic altars, strongholds and false gods in Gabon. (Judg. 6:25)
21. Lord, we pray for the increasing number of widows and orphans due to the conflict in Mali. Give them your hope and security. (Ps. 68:5)
22. Father, we thank you for the women who are saved through the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Benin. (Col. 2:6-7)
23. God, give wisdom to Liberian parents to raise their children with a sense of wonder, respect and awe for you, your power and your holiness. (Eph. 6:4)
24. *Hope Alive* is a new initiative in Nigeria to reach women in crisis areas who have lost their husbands, jobs and homes. May local believers support this ministry and keep the vision alive and strong. (Luke 6:38)
25. Pray for listeners of *Women of Hope* in areas of Mali occupied by religious extremists. The program is not prohibited, and some militants tune it in. May God speak to the hearts of all the listeners. (Zech. 4:6)



26. Father, please equip the TWR Women of Hope team in Gabon with what they need to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the women there. (Heb. 13:20-21)
27. Father, bring stability, fidelity and peace to families in Côte d'Ivoire. Many married women endure hardship as a result of infidelity and polygamy. (Heb. 13:4)
28. Merciful God, please be with the aged in West Africa who are abandoned by their children. Work in the hearts of these adult offspring to do what is right. (Eph. 6:2)
29. Father God, please intervene in the lives of Liberian women so they would receive promotions and high-ranking jobs for which they are qualified. (Prov. 31:31)
30. In Nigeria's 2023 elections, God, we ask you to lead the people to vote for leaders who embrace the kingdom of God. (Prov. 29:2)

## STORY OF HOPE

### *Entrapped*

by Maribeth Hynnes Stevens,  
TWR Women of Hope volunteer

The teachings of the *Women of Hope* programs reach people in widely divergent situations, yet many of their responses are similar. The following listener responses from Côte d'Ivoire reveal people in two types of prison – one behind bars and the other emotionally entrapped. Each needed God's forgiveness, compassion, love, mercy and renewal and was able to find his help through the programs.

One woman listens to the French program in prison. Rejection is a common experience for her. The

listener shares, *"But any time I thought about how there is a God full of love and compassion, it reassured me."* She goes on to say that prisons can be both spiritual and physical. This prisoner has experienced both, but she understands, *"It is only God who can manifest himself for all these prisoners so that we find deliverance."*

Another listener had been sexually abused by several men when she was between the ages of 11 and 13. She reports that the experience *"had completely destroyed me. My image of self and wellness brought hatred and disgust about men."*

At first the listener asked herself why God had not protected her, but then she realized that God had kept her from getting pregnant. She decided to obey God and forgive the men who abused her. *"I ended up accepting what happened to me,"* she said.

The listener asked God to forgive her sins just as she had forgiven those who abused her. The wonderful news is, as she says, *"God has restored me again, I am the mother to four children, and I am a happy wife! Thank you, my God."*

God intervened in the lives of both these women. Each needed healing and restoration – and realized that only God could provide these needs. And he did not let them down.



# A Woman After God's Own Heart

## EXPLORING HOPE TODAY BY DR. PEGGY BANKS



*"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'—and that he had said these things to her." (John 20:18)*

Dear friends,

I was recently speaking in the Faroe Islands at a women's conference. The theme of the conference was "A woman after God's own heart." As I was speaking, I shared some thoughts on how I could see that Mary Magdalene was a woman after God's own heart.

That day at the tomb, she was searching for Jesus and determined to find him. She waited for someone to tell her where he was, and then she would go and get him. Mary also knew Jesus' voice, so when Jesus simply said her name, she recognized him.

I thought about my own heart and asked myself the question, "Would I know the voice of Jesus if he was speaking to me?" Would you?

This November we are celebrating 25 years of ministry for TWR Women of Hope. God has spoken to so many women over these two and a half decades and given them a vision for what this ministry could mean to women around the world. Many women have chosen to serve with us over the years, from the first days of Project Hannah to the vibrant ministry of TWR Women of Hope today. These women have been searching for Jesus, waiting for Jesus, and they have heard his voice calling their names to serve him and his daughters around the world.

I'm so grateful for the women who have gone before us and have served faithfully for so long. Yet it is exciting today to see a new generation of women step into positions of leadership and carry the baton of ministry to the next generation of women. Now, the young women of this next generation are searching, waiting and listening for Jesus to speak to them, too. Soon it will be their turn to lead TWR Women of Hope in bringing a message of hope through media, small groups, and leadership development across generations.

We pray that you can join us for a one-hour 25th anniversary celebration on November 12 from 4 to 5 p.m. EST. Please watch for more information about registering for this wonderful celebration as we not only look back to the beginning but also connect with the present and pray for the vision and future ministry of TWR Women of Hope.

You are very important to us, and we know that we can't do any of this ministry without you. As we pray together, I encourage you to lift up the women who have gone before us as well as those who will come after us. I pray God will continue to bring hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations for many years to come.

May you know God's peace and power as you search, wait and listen for his voice calling your name to go and tell the world that you have seen the Lord.

In him our hearts rejoice,

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



## DECEMBER

1. Lord, protect West African Christian women married to pagan men from being forced to worship their husbands' idols. May these men turn to you and be saved. (1 Cor. 7:13-14)
2. Strengthen the church in the Central African Republic, God, to hold fast to you for wisdom, strength and protection as it goes through difficult times. (Ps. 71)
3. Our team in Nigeria is providing training for housewives to create handiwork that brings them income. Lord, stir the hearts of local congregations to support these projects. (Eph. 3:20)
4. Father, we pray for outreach pastors in Mali. May the *Women of Hope* broadcasts open doors for evangelism and build up believers. (Acts 14:27)
5. God, we pray for peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire so that there is opportunity for the gospel to spread and for this nation to prosper. (Lev. 26:6)
6. Lord God, we pray that the church leaders in Gabon would see the TWR Women of Hope ministry not as competition but as workers coming alongside them to reach more people for you. (Eccles. 4:9)
7. Father, bring relief from poverty to the oppressed people of Liberia and provide for their needs. Give leaders wisdom to change their deteriorating economic situation. (Ps. 9:9)
8. Strengthen missionaries in Cameroon, Lord, and provide for their personal needs as they serve you. (2 Cor. 9:8)
9. Some traditions in Africa encourage adultery in the home. Father, work in the hearts of those who can bring about change. Also, comfort and protect the children who are abandoned by their mothers as a result of this practice. (Ex. 10:14)
10. God, we commit the program *Catch Them Young* to you and pray that many school-aged children in Nigeria will be introduced to Jesus. (Prov. 22:6)
11. God, continue to provide radios for listeners in Mali. May the listening groups formed in Boadié and Dioila become strong churches. (1 Thess. 5:11)
12. Lord, we pray for educational opportunities for women in Côte d'Ivoire so they can become literate and learn computer skills. (Prov. 18:15)
13. Father God, we pray that the Holy Spirit would bring revival to the church in Gabon and that the congregations would become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. (Matt. 5:13-14)
14. Lord, please help Christian children in Liberia to be obedient to their parents so they may be blessed and have a long life. (Ex. 20:12)
15. Father, we ask that you change the hearts of irresponsible men so they would care properly for their families. (1 Tim. 5:8)
16. We thank you, Lord, for Victa Media Communications' willingness to partner with us in Nigeria. Use this ministry in a mighty way for your purposes. (Jer. 51:20-24)
17. In Mali, there are many reports of women being murdered by their husbands for no known reason. Father, we ask you to protect these women in their helplessness. (Prov. 31:8-9)
18. We praise you, God, for the reopening of places of worship in Côte d'Ivoire. Guide the TWR Women of Hope team as they begin to resume face-to-face activities. (Heb. 10:24-25)
19. Merciful Father, we pray you would provide for the needs of the women in Gabon, many of whom are impoverished. Please answer the prayers of those who desire to be married and have a family. (Ps. 82:3)
20. So many youths in Liberia are involved with drugs and the stealing and rape that accompany this vice. Lord may these chains be broken and the youth set free! (Eccles. 12:1)
21. God, guide the leadership of the Central African Republic in developing a health infrastructure that benefits all of its people. (Jer. 30:17)
22. We pray that the pastors in Cameroon will be led by the Holy Spirit and set free from greed, pride and all other evils. (Eph. 5:18)



# Standing Strong in God Through Challenging Circumstances, Part 6

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,  
International Prayer Coordinator

23. Please pray for the TWR Women of Hope team in Benin. May they be effective in giving the people hope that comes from knowing Christ. (Acts 6:7)
24. Many young women in southern Nigeria have become involved in alcohol and prostitution. Father, show them that you are the only source of satisfaction. (2 Cor. 4:4)
25. Father, protect the health of all in Mali who help create, produce and air *Women of Hope* programs. Please ensure safe travel for our TWR Women of Hope coordinator there. (Ps. 5:11)
26. Strengthen young women in Côte d'Ivoire, Lord, in their faith and commitment to live and work for you. Thank you that our teams are educating young women about sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and drugs. (Prov. 3:5-8)
27. Father, we ask that the church in Gabon would come before you in repentance for the sins of the nation and of the church. (Dan. 9:3-20)
28. Lord, direct the hearts of leaders in Benin to compassionately assist the poor and needy women there, including granting them rights of inheritance. (Prov. 21:1)
29. Father, protect and embolden believers in northern Nigeria as they meet for prayer and share the good news with others. (Ps. 23:4)
30. Lord, we praise you for your faithfulness in helping the women of Liberia to gather for prayer and fellowship every month despite difficulties. (1 Thess. 5:24)
31. We give thanks to God for open doors to proclaim the gospel in Mali and surrounding countries – Guinea, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. (Matt. 28:19-20)



*“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”* (Revelation 12:11)

This year I've been sharing with you approaches that are helpful to me in standing strong in God through challenging circumstances: seeing difficulty as God's way of making us holy, having an accurate view of God and myself, pursuing an intimate relationship with God, choosing joy and finding hope through godly community. The last few I'd like to share come from Revelation 12:11 – Jesus' blood, our story of what God has done in our lives and our perspective on life.

For truth to be effective in our lives, we need to know what is true, to internally embrace the truth and then to act upon it. Understanding

the value of the blood of Jesus is not intellectual knowledge. It is essentially personal. Without it, I was trapped in my sin as Satan's prisoner.

But Jesus came to the cross on my behalf to pay the penalty for my sin. He ransomed and rescued me (1 Pet. 1:18-19). His blood cleanses me of my sin (1 John 1:7). Satan continues to lie and accuse me, but I can now stand strong in the truth that I belong to God as his precious daughter. Jesus' blood changed my life forever!

There is power in the blood of Jesus and in his name. And as we stand in the truth of that power (Eph. 6), God defeats our enemies. This truth is powerfully sung by Chris McClarney in *Hallelujah for the Cross*. (Visit [twr.org/hallelujah](http://twr.org/hallelujah) to hear the song.)

Recently my younger son, Brandon, was commissioned by his local church as a full-time missionary to serve with TWR. It touched me deeply as I watched the elders lay hands on Brandon, pray spiritual blessing into his life and send him off to do the work to which God had called him. This was immediately followed by a panel discussion. Every panelist had a secular job, yet each one shared that they felt called by God and sent

*continued on the next page...*

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# Standing Strong, cont'd

by this local body of Christ to go into their workplaces with the purpose of bringing the message and hope of Christ. There was an intentionality in their lives to live like Jesus and love those around them.

There is such power in sharing our stories. It strengthens us and those who hear it. How are you sharing your story of God's work in your life with those around you?

Following Jesus is costly. Lately I have been challenged in reading *Hearts of Fire: Eight Women in the Underground Church and Their Stories of Costly Faith* by Voice of the Martyrs (find it at [persecution.com/heartsoffire](http://persecution.com/heartsoffire)). I read the stories of these modern-day

courageous women who are living out and defending their faith. In living for Jesus, they are experiencing much persecution and oppression, yet also much strength. I wonder, "Would I be that faithful to God in the face of danger and suffering?" How about you? From where do you draw your strength when facing difficulty?

The Father is calling us to come close to him – to draw strength, courage and protection from him. It is in this place of intimacy with God that we can live in the power of the blood of Christ, share our story and follow Christ no matter what the cost. He will strengthen us to stand strong in him in every circumstance!



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