

Uniting our hearts in  
**PRAYER**



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

*Join us in praying for Central Asia,  
The Middle East and North Africa*

**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022**



# Hope in Jesus



We find in God's Word many promises which point us to hope in Jesus. One such promise can be found in Lamentations 3:21, which says *"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* Because of God's great love for us, we have hope. God is faithful and good, and we can place our hope in him.

This is the message which TWR Women of Hope shares to the women of the CAMENA region, but it is also the message that many of us in Canada need to hear and be reminded of. While the situations we find ourselves in may be different than those of our sisters in the CAMENA region, we may often find ourselves needing hope as well. We can place our hope in Jesus, and we can trust our faithful God in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

As you pray through this calendar over the next two months, may you hold onto this hope in Jesus. And would you pray that the women in the CAMENA region would come to know and hold onto this hope in Jesus as well?

Together in prayer,

The TWR Canada Women's Ministry Team

Dear friends,

As we continue our year-long journey of praying around the world for the TWR Women of Hope ministry, we find ourselves in the region of Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (also known as the CAMENA region) for September and October. In much of this region, it is dangerous to be a Christian, and many women do not know that there is a God who sees them and loves them.

As you read through the articles in this prayer calendar and pray through the requests, you will hear of situations which need hope – women facing poverty, abuse, persecution and more. It's because of situations like these that TWR Women of Hope is working in this region and around the world. Our desire is to bring hope and healing in Jesus' name.

## SEPTEMBER

### PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Almighty God, give the TWR Women of Hope team in Saudi Arabia passion and perseverance as they continue to reach out with hope-filled messages. (2 Thess. 3:13)
2. As inflation in this Middle Eastern country has doubled rent and food prices, single women with children cannot pay for necessities. Lord, please provide for these women and children. (Phil. 4:19)
3. Lord, we know that you are grieved when Lebanese women and children are abused by men in their lives who are increasingly frustrated about economic conditions. Please protect them. (Ps. 9:9)
4. Father, give your peace and wisdom to the Christian women in Saudi Arabia who are living in restrictive communities where they cannot declare their faith. (Ps. 118:6)
5. Lord, encourage and reveal your hope to deported Middle Eastern families as they are integrated into other countries. (Deut. 10:19)
6. Father, reach the Syrian women who have been living in refugee camps for 11 years; use *Women of Hope* to help them find hope in you. (Rom. 15:13)
7. God, provide for the Middle Eastern widows who earn small wages and are not helped by their families. Empower these women with your strength. (Isa. 41:10)
8. Father, strengthen the critically ill of the Middle East with your power and provide spiritual and physical healing because they cannot afford 300 per cent inflation in medicines. (Jer. 17:14)
9. Five thousand women are killed annually in the Middle East "for honor" even when they are the victims of sexual assault. God, bring about a cultural change of heart to end this atrocity. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)
10. Lord, strengthen Christian marriages in Saudi Arabia. Encourage men to resist temptation and be strong, godly leaders in both their families and churches. (1 Tim. 3:2-5)



11. Lord, give creativity to our Arabic Ministry team in how to use various media tools to reach out to lost and lonely women. (Mark 16:15)
12. Almighty God, provide for rural Tunisian women facing unemployment and poverty. Give wisdom to influential officials to address the problems and find workable solutions. (Ps. 68:10)
13. God, lead Middle Eastern women who are in prison to find Christ and his freedom. Help them find their true identity in him. (John 8:32)
14. Father, build up fresh and deep relationships between Middle Eastern women and you. Allow our staff to see the fruit of their ministry and encourage them by your wisdom and mercy. (Gal. 6:9)
15. Lord, protect the new church plants that minister to deported families in Middle Eastern countries. Help them to share the gospel effectively. (Luke 9:6)
16. God, we pray for the women of Yemen who face violence because of certain cultural beliefs. Guide participants in secret churches to tell others about the freedom they have found in Christ. (2 Cor. 3:17)

17. Heavenly Father, please raise up men in Iraq to be advocates for gender equality. Bring changes to provide fair employment and decreased violence against women. (Prov. 31:8-9)
18. We thank you, God, that after many restrictions, the TWR Women of Hope social media platforms have been resumed in Saudi Arabia. Please continue to protect them. (2 Thess. 3:3)
19. Thank you for the Algerian and Moroccan women who are hearing how important they are to you, Father. Build their interest and change their lives. (Ps. 63:1)



**“COME NOW, LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAYS THE LORD: THOUGH YOUR SINS ARE LIKE SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW; THOUGH THEY ARE RED LIKE CRIMSON, THEY SHALL BECOME LIKE WOOL.”**

**- ISAIAH 1:18**

Dear friends,

We are entering the fall months in the northern hemisphere. The weather will be cooler, and the colors of autumn will begin to appear. It is one of my favorite times of the year. I love to see the way God embraces us with his love as the seasons change. Each season is unique in its splendor, and I love how it touches my heart and soul to see God’s beautiful expression of love.

Growing up, I did not experience the changes of seasons. I grew up in a part of the country that is always sunny and warm. I didn’t experience snow until much later in life. I remember seeing snow for the first time and finally understanding the passage from Isaiah 1:8. The image that Isaiah conveys stopped my breath when my eyes witnessed the beauty of the fresh snow.

God speaks to us through his creation every day. We can walk outside and hear the songs of his heart as we listen to the birds sing, feel the warmth of his love as we sit in the sun, and witness the power of his hand as we hear thunder in storms. To me it is all so magnificent and life-transforming. But how often do we stop long enough to experience the beauty of his creation each day?

As we pray in September and October, I pray that you will open your hearts to hear God speaking

to you through his creation. Then, as we pray, may we remember that the prayer requests are sent in from our teams in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (CAMENA). Each one of these ladies is created by God and has given us a glimpse into the needs of her respective region.

Let us pray with a heart of compassion and urgency for his daughters and the needs of CAMENA. Lift up these daughters, who are God’s unique and beautiful “*workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works*” (Eph. 2:10).

Thank you for your dedication to prayer and the needs of women around the world and across generations. Each day when I come to the Lord, I give thanks for you and pray that you will be moved by God’s love and mercy. He is near and hears your cries for the needs of hurting, broken-hearted women. For some additional personal devotional thoughts on how God is speaking to us, 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

# Sharing the *Hope of Jesus* with the *Women of Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa*



We hope you are moved to prayer as you read these brief summaries of the dynamic and effective ministries our TWR Women of Hope teams are having among the women of Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

## Central Asia

This high-impact ministry affects women across Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Using biblically centered messages and life suggestions adapted to local cultural values, the team share thoughtfully written programs designed for women in need of hope. Through their encouraging feedback, devoted listeners of the program indicate they embrace the ministry's message that women who accept the renewing power of Christ into their lives can change the next generation. Women, therefore, hold the key to changing families and cultures. Team members are happy to serve female and male listeners through the prayer calendars and *Women of Hope*.

## The Middle East

The Arab world, made up of 22 countries, is widely perceived as being dishearteningly weak on women's rights. Our team reaches out to Arab women through *Women of Hope*, podcasts, calls, mobile apps and social media. On Facebook alone, our team has 130,000 followers, with each post receiving between 25,000 and 85,000 engagements (likes, shares, etc). Interacting with Arab women and sharing the Christian faith, our follow-up teams help these women to embrace their personal value in Jesus Christ and to live lives of hope within their societies. Their programs, featuring speakers specializing in content to help women socially and spiritually, teach women how to make a positive difference in their homes and societies.

In an unnamed Middle East country, our team ministers through *Women of Hope* and in person for encouragement and prayer. Reaching out to the elderly, poor, lonely and those struggling

in their faith, they desire to help women understand their true identity in Christ and to know their value comes from him rather than what others say. These women need to know that they are not alone or worthless and that God is with them and loves them. We pray that as women's lives change there will also come a deep change in society.

## North Africa

Our *Women of Hope* programs are produced by Kabyle women for those living in North Africa. There is a healthy focus on follow-up and a lot of positive engagement with listeners. But there are also great challenges and immense stress -

especially the heavier persecution and surveillance facing Christians and those suspected of doing Christian work. We are grateful that the team members are still dedicated and passionate about bringing hope to women and families in this region.

Please pray for God's protection on both our teams and those learning of Jesus in this entire region.

## SEPTEMBER CONT'D

20. Father, help the TWR Women of Hope staff in the Middle East be effective ambassadors to pass on the real meaning of love in Christ. (Rom. 5:8)
21. Almighty God, set free all Middle Eastern refugees who are caught in abusive relationships. Give them the hope and freedom that comes from you. (Ps. 118:5)
22. Lord, encourage influential leaders to stop the prostitution business in Syria and Jordan. And help the trapped teenage girls know their true value in you. (Eph. 3:17-19)
23. Protect the health of South Sudanese women, Lord, and help them care for their families' medical needs during crises. Provide access to better health care. (Ps. 103:2-3)
24. Heavenly Father, show the single moms in Arab countries how much you love them and accept them. May they find value and encouragement in you. (Matt. 10:31)
25. Father, protect all the Middle Eastern church leaders who are under pressure by authorities. We ask you to help these leaders feel your presence daily and to cause courts to rule favorably. (John 15:18)



26. Lord, comfort the Palestinian women who are losing their children because of war. Reveal yourself to them as Saviour so they can experience your peace. (John 16:33)
27. Libyan women constitute one of the least-reached groups among Arab countries. Heavenly Father, provide opportunities for these women to hear about your hope. (Col. 4:3)
28. Many Middle Eastern women are excluded from their families because they have accepted Christ. Lord, fill their hearts with your love and mercy. (1 John 3:1)
29. We praise you, Lord, that the harvest is plentiful among Moroccan women. Guide our teams in identifying leadership that can minister to these women and offer Christian fellowship. (Luke 10:2)
30. God, give wisdom and creative provision to the Arabic follow-up teams as they handle many requests for food and financial help. (Matt. 7:11)

## STORY OF HOPE

# Unshackled From Evil

by Maribeth Stevens,  
TWR Women of Hope volunteer

Amina's\* story gives indisputable proof that Christ can completely change a person who desires to follow him. The transformation began as she listened to *Women of Hope* programs, which taught her concepts like love, peace, self-esteem and reconciliation – ideas that sounded “foreign” to her.

Curious, this Moroccan woman contacted the follow-up team and told them her story about seeking to become powerful through performing black magic. According to Amina, although she was only in her late 20s, she had been bound to the stronghold of witchcraft for so long that her face is disfigured now.



\* a pseudonym

To her surprise, Amina heard back from the TWR Women of Hope workers, and she responded, “I never thought you would reply back to an evil person like me.” She said, “I feel suffocated with sin and want a way out.”

On one of the programs, Amina heard the story about Jesus healing a young man who had been possessed with evil spirits. The stories intrigued her, and Amina continued to correspond with the team workers. The most recent message she sent them is remarkable:

*“It seems your Lord Jesus is powerful! I've prayed and continued to pray that he would set me free from my evil ways and sins, and it sure feels like I'm unshackled. I feel light; the loads are not there anymore.”*

She continued by saying she wasn't certain how it happened but believes that Jesus healed her. Amina knows there is a lot to learn about Jesus and wants to continue following up with the team. Although she is still frightened about the consequences of her actions, she believes that if the team continue to teach her about Christ and his ways, she will be fine.

# A Portrait of God's Love

## EXPLORING HOPE TODAY

Devotional thoughts from Dr. Peggy Banks



*"The more I think it over," said van Gogh, "the more I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people."* Quoted by Ken Gire in *Windows of the Soul*

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) was one of the most famous artists of the 19th century. He loved nature and enjoyed painting outside. Whenever a van Gogh exhibition is featured in a nearby museum, you can find me there joyfully walking slowly among the paintings and admiring the brightly colored landscapes and calm sceneries.

A little research reveals that van Gogh's remark appeared in his letter dated September 18, 1888, to his brother Theo in which he expressed heartfelt thanks for Theo's kind financial support. When I first read the quote, I was struck about how artistic God's love is. Jesus continually talked about love.

*"This is my commandment, that you love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."*

John 15:12-17

Of course, Jesus' greatest act of love was his death on a cross for our sins. He came to this earth to show the greatest love of all, and he calls and commands us to "love each other in the same way." But what does that mean for you and me? How are we called to give our lives for each other? Are we called to die? Well, it can mean that we die to our own desires and dreams to help another person accomplish her dreams. It

can mean that we die to our own agendas and expectations to allow God to direct them instead. Yet we don't need to do this alone.

I love that Jesus reminds the disciples that whenever we are called to love one another we can come to him and ask him for help. I know there are times when I struggle to love my family or to love my friends and neighbors, and it is only when I ask God for help that am I able to show the love of Christ with a pure heart. The Holy Spirit brings to my memory (John 14:26) that while I was still a sinner Christ died for me (Romans 5:8). I, too, can die to my own time and give of my talents and resources to bless someone else.

Sometimes it is just the gift of presence and listening when a friend is hurting. Maybe it is giving my money to support a new believer in their desire to study more and attend seminary. Maybe it is making a meal or cleaning a house or simply writing a note of encouragement to someone who is feeling alone and lost. It doesn't take much, but it does take commitment and obedience.

I pray that this month you are touched by God's love for you. Then I pray that you are able to show that same love to someone else in your family, workplace or neighborhood. He has created you uniquely with a story that is a portrait of his love for someone to enjoy. What is your life portrait saying to the world about God's love?

In him our hearts rejoice,

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



# OCTOBER

## PRAYING FOR NORTH AFRICA & CENTRAL ASIA

1. We praise you, God, that the *Women of Hope* broadcasts in North Africa have continued despite opposition from leaders of the majority religion. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)
2. Father, we pray for the unity of Central Asian families as husbands often go abroad to earn money and wives are left alone with the children. (Ps. 133:1)
3. Heavenly Father, we ask that you enable the Christian women of Central Asia to be spiritually strong so they may be witnesses to those among their family and friends who are unsaved. (Acts 1:8)
4. Lord, protect our Kabyle teams, other Christians and those who have contacts with foreigners as they encounter increased hostility from authorities in North Africa. (Ps. 91:1)
5. Father, enable Central Asian believers to gather from their various villages to learn more about you and support one another. (Matt. 18:20)
6. Lord, comfort and provide for children in Central Asia whose mothers have sought employment abroad and now cannot return to their families due to closed borders. (Deut. 31:8)
7. Heavenly Father, give wisdom to our Kabyle team as they answer questions and interact with listeners of the *Women of Hope* broadcasts. (Isa. 33:6)
8. God, please protect, comfort and provide homes for children in Central Asia who are sometimes left behind when their divorced parents remarry. (Matt. 18:10)
9. Lord God, we pray that Central Asian believers may find strength in Jesus as their lives are very difficult and stressful. (Ps. 28:7)
10. Father, give wisdom and creativity to our Kurdish Kurmanji coordinator as she researches and writes scripts for *Women of Hope* programs. (Ex. 35:35)
11. Lord, may mothers in Central Asia accept you as their personal Saviour and lay a foundation of godly faith in their children's lives. (Prov. 22:6)
12. God, please move in the hearts of those who can affect cultural change in Central Asia. Help and strengthen women there who are under such severe restrictions. (2 Cor. 3:17)
13. Lord, we join our North Africa team in praising you for all those who have given their lives to Christ or rededicated their lives in the past year! (Ps. 9:1)
14. Heavenly Father, comfort and provide employment for women and mothers in Central Asia who are left alone because of high divorce rates. (Phil. 4:19)
15. Father God, we pray that women in Central Asia would embrace your truth, which brings freedom. Help them to see their value through your eyes. (Eph. 2:10)
16. Lord God, we pray for the health of our North Africa ministry teams. May they manage their family life and ministries in a way that pleases you. (Ex. 23:25)
17. We pray, Father, that Central Asian women would reject the suicidal thoughts they may have when stress overwhelms them and that they would instead submit their thoughts to you. (2 Cor. 10:5)
18. Father God, we ask you to heal the families in Central Asia whose members suffer from alcohol addiction. May those who are addicted find freedom in Jesus' name. (James 5:16)
19. Praise God for the teams in North Africa that have been able to help Kabyle women in difficult situations like abuse, divorce and food scarcity. (Ps. 46:1)
20. O Lord, divorce is so common in Central Asia. May these couples be reconciled to you and to each other. (Eph. 4:32)
21. Heavenly Father, help vulnerable orphan girls in Central Asia to connect with local churches where they can hear biblical truth and be guided in their lives. (James 1:27)



# Standing Strong in God Through Challenging Circumstances, Part 5

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,  
International Prayer Coordinator

22. Lord, strengthen and provide for the family of a Kabyle follow-up team member, who suffered home damage from severe weather. And be their protector as they face adversity within the community because of their faith. (Ps. 91:15)
23. Heavenly Father, we ask that families in Central Asia, in many cases the spouses and children of women who already believe, come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:31)
24. Lord, comfort and encourage Central Asian women who have unfaithful and irresponsible husbands. Give women strength to marry Christian husbands despite family pressure. (Rom. 12:12)
25. Our Kabyle team praises you, God, for the encouragement they receive from listeners, many of whom have no way to interact with other believers. (Ps. 99:5)
26. Lord, we pray for the women of Central Asia who suffer from repression, persecution and social pressure. Strengthen them to endure. (Ex. 15:2)
27. God, bring strength and hope to young women in Central Asia who live like servants in the home of their husband's parents with no rights or ability to get other employment. (Jer. 29:11)
28. Merciful Father, please shelter believers in North Africa from constant stress as they endure increased hostility in the region, including interrogation and other types of persecution. (Matt. 5:11-12)
29. God, we pray for an end to food shortages in North Africa. Provide for those in need and give wisdom to those in positions that can address this situation. (Ps. 146:7)
30. Lord God, strengthen women who have become Christians in Central Asia but cannot openly confess their faith because they risk oppression by their relatives. (Ps. 91:2)
31. Father, we praise your name as governments ease the most severe COVID-19 restrictions in some parts of North Africa. (Ps. 71:14)



*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." – Romans 15:13*

Hope. It is as essential for our lives as oxygen and water. Without it we often give up on life or become numb or bitter. But with hope, we can be strengthened to take the next step or even to dare to dream.

Often we need the help of others in finding hope. Because the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a God of relationship, we are designed for authentic community. And it is through community that we help each other find and hold onto this hope from God.

Our lives are full of challenging circumstances: the diagnosis of cancer, death of a loved one, loss of a job, abandonment by a spouse, rejection by a prodigal child or onset of debilitating depression. I have

personally either walked these dark paths or have helped close friends walk through them.

There are times in my life that my heart has ached so deeply that I could not stop crying. And when the tears finally did stop, my heart felt numb from grief. These are the times when God has brought dear friends to hold me and to eventually help me find my way back to hope. What about you? How have others helped you through your pain?

One of my favorite Bible passages describing this is the friendship of David and Jonathan. King Saul, Jonathan's father, was jealous of David and spent years hunting David to kill him, only to have God provide David's escape each time. The stress, isolation and fear of literally running for his life brought discouragement to David's soul.

Then a brother in the faith stepped in to help David in his difficult situation. *"And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God."* (1 Sam. 23:16, NIV) Just as Jonathan did for David, the best thing that we can do for our friends in their pain and difficulty is to take them to God in prayer and to help them find strength in the God who sees them and cares for them.

*continued on the next page...*

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# Standing Strong, cont'd

As a ministry, our vision at TWR Women of Hope is to **bring hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations**. Whether the woman is in a prayer group, a listener of our radio broadcasts and podcasts, or someone interacting with our teams through social media or on-the-ground partners, we are helping one woman at a time find her hope and strength in God.

As believers, each of us can bring this amazing message of hope in Jesus to the world! Find strength in your own situation by remembering, *“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of*

*you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you”* (Deut. 31:8, NLT). And we can encourage others to *“hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”* (Heb. 10:23-24).

Dear friend, realize that you are not alone in your difficulty. God is always with you and has also given you the body of Christ to encourage you and support you. Please reach out today to seek help for yourself or to bring this message of hope to a friend in need.



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