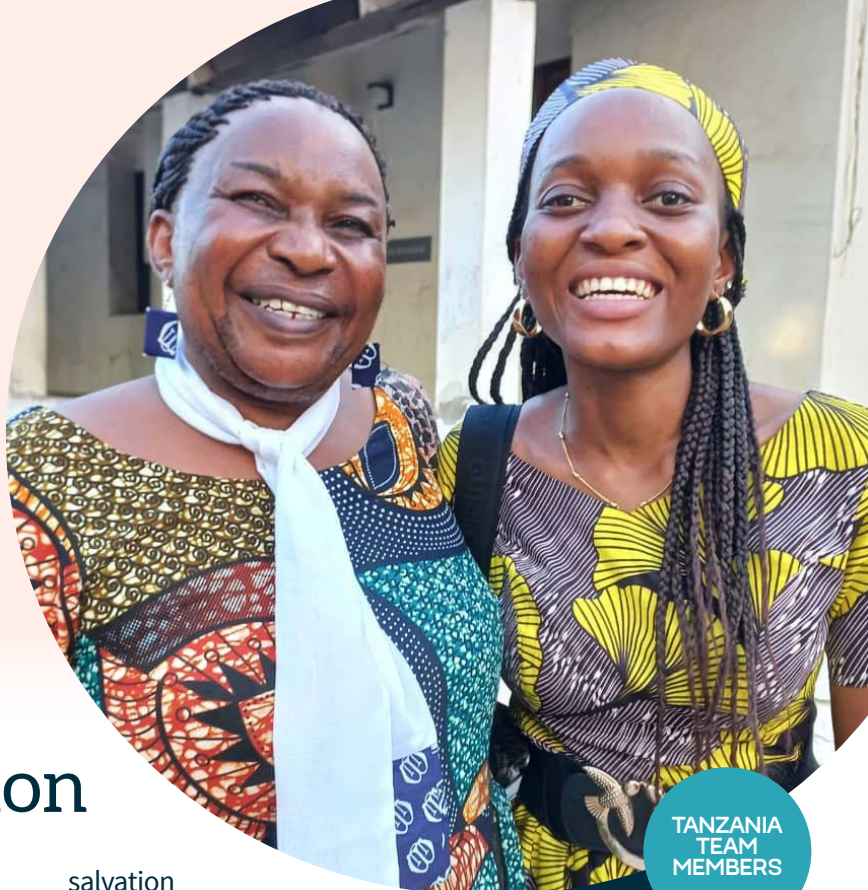




twr
WOMEN
OF HOPE

Uniting our hearts in

prayer



TANZANIA
TEAM
MEMBERS

Program brings hope & transformation

“They came to our house to cut me when I was only seven years old. It was a traumatic experience for me; I had to go through the pain and agony for 21 days after the initial step. They used heat to make sure I recovered from the cutting and sewing. I remember this as the most painful experience I have ever had,” shared Kaiya.

As with many women in Somalia, the vaginal cutting that is part of female genital mutilation (FGM) brought a lot of physical pain to Kaiya along with great psychological consequences. As she grew up, Kaiya experienced pain and difficulties during menstruation, sexual relations with her husband and childbirth. She is a mother to seven children, four of whom are girls.

“Although it was a painful experience for me,” Kaiya



goes on to say, “I could not stop this for two of my girls. At the time I was influenced by the strong cultural expectations and beliefs. Out of fear of being different and causing trouble for one’s daughters and family, I succumbed to societal expectations.”

Culturally, FGM is aimed at assuring girls’ and women’s social status, chastity and marriageability. The practice has persisted as a result of beliefs that uncut women and girls are promiscuous, unclean and physically undesirable.

*“I came across a program named *Rajada Dumarka* [Women of Hope in Somali] as I listened to the radio. I learned lots from it. Learning about Jesus Christ’s love and becoming his disciple gradually alleviated my fears. I had faith in him [Jesus], and now I can stand strong in my*

salvation knowing he is with me.”

“I also learned through the program about the dangers of this FGM practice. I am happy to share that my two youngest daughters have not undergone this practice. I took a stand to protect them from this. I have ensured that all my grandchildren do not go through this. I know that Jesus Christ will give them the right husbands who will love them even without doing this procedure. I continue listening to this program as it helps me grow in knowing Christ and gives me the confidence to do what is right and to speak for the girls.”

Women of Hope continues to bring transformation to individuals and cultures through its educational and spiritual truths.

– Sphiwe Nxumalo-Ngwenya, Africa regional coordinator

JULY-AUG 2024

INSIDE

Lifting up women of East & Southern Africa in prayer

God is moving on Tanzanian island

Launch of Pemba ministry

Embracing hope from Director Susie Pek

Abide, Unite and Go

Abiding with God
PART ONE

Hope & healing in Jesus for women

July

1. Lord, help victims of human trafficking to understand they are being exploited. May they be identified early in their abuse and get connected with those who can help. (Luke 4:18)
2. Lord, protect and provide for widows in the Eastern Cape of South Africa who are mistreated by their families and struggle to survive. (Phil. 4:19)
3. We pray, God, for women in Burundi who are blamed for ending family lineages because they have given birth to girls and not boys. (Gen. 1:27)
4. Father, we pray that you will help TWR Women of Hope establish a ministry team in Eswatini. (Rom. 12:6-8)
5. God, we pray for employment for young men and women in Tanzania who will complete their university studies this July. (Prov. 16:9)
6. Lord, many child brides in Somalia suffer when they encounter complications and even death while giving birth. We pray for cultural change that protects girls from inappropriate early marriages. (Ps. 138:7)
7. Sovereign Lord, we pray for the Amhara region of Ethiopia to have rest from war. May your peace be upon those living there. (Isa. 2:4)
8. God, shield women and children in Zimbabwe from the trauma resulting from men turning to alcohol and drug abuse because of hopelessness. (Prov. 23:18)

9. God, we pray that more women in Botswana would choose Christ and have a deeper relationship with him and live purpose-driven lives. (Eph. 2:10)

10. Father, thank you for the solar-powered audio players given to women in rural areas of South Africa. May those listening to the *Women of Hope* program grow spiritually. (2 Pet. 3:18)

11. Lord, protect autistic children in Burundi who are misunderstood and often beaten. Please help the parents understand why their children are not doing well in school. (Ps. 46:1)

12. God, we look to you to provide rain in Eswatini, and we especially pray for those who make a living by farming. (Lev. 26:4)

13. Heavenly Father, we ask for the eradication of harmful traditions like female genital mutilation in Tanzania. (Col. 2:8)

14. Father, thank you for opening the door for the gospel to be shared in Somalia. Use TWR Women of Hope to minister there in Jesus' name. (Mark 13:10)

15. God, we pray for safety for women and children in the cities and townships of South Africa where many are killed by gang members. (Ps. 18:2)

16. Lord, there is serious poverty in Ethiopia because of the economic crisis. Please provide aid for poor families, widows and widowers who cannot afford to feed their families. (Luke 3:11)

17. God, please give strength and provision to the aged

in Zimbabwe who see their retirement savings dwindle from inflation and face neglect by their families. (1 Tim. 5:8)

18. Father, give men and women in Botswana the desire and strength to remain chaste and choose marriage rather than cohabitation. (1 Cor. 7:2)

19. Father, we pray that you would give strength and courage for women in abusive relationships in South Africa. (Deut. 31:6)

20. God, may the *Women of Hope* program be aired in Burundi so women can learn about child development. (Prov. 18:15)

21. Lord, we pray for the girls in Eswatini who have completed their college and university studies. Please help them find jobs so they can support themselves. (Eph. 3:20-21)

22. Father, we ask for peaceful local government elections in Tanzania when they occur this October. (Matt. 5:9)

23. Lord, may women in Somalia be protected from violence and persecution within their homes. Bring change to the

hearts of those who do not value women and cause them harm. (Ps. 140:1)

24. Father, we surrender TWR Women of Hope Zimbabwe to you. May the intercessors be filled and refreshed by the Holy Spirit. (Ps. 42:1)

25. God, protect women in Ethiopia against robbers who are killing them. May these criminals be caught and punished. (Prov. 18:10)

26. God, we pray that more men in Botswana would come to Christ and become spiritual leaders in their homes. May they be faithful to their spouses. (Eph. 5:23)

27. Father, we pray for women living in extreme poverty in South Africa. Grant them access to jobs, government aid and support systems to provide a way out of poverty. (Ps. 34:6)

28. God, we pray that church leaders in Tanzania would encourage their followers to continue to support the TWR Women of Hope ministry. (Phil. 4:15, 17)

ETHIOPIA
TEAM
MEMBERS



(Pictured left) Sphiwe Nxumalo-Ngwenya
Africa regional coordinator

Hope comes to Pemba

“Tanzania” comes from the names of two countries, Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which united to become one country in 1964. It is located in East Africa between Kenya and Mozambique and borders the Indian Ocean. The TWR Women of Hope ministry has spread to 11 regions in mainland Tanzania and on its two islands of Zanzibar and Pemba.

The latest TWR Women of Hope work in Tanzania launched in October 2023 on Pemba Island. Sphiwe Nxumalo-Ngwenya, Africa regional coordinator for TWR Women of Hope, was present during this inaugural event along with Elisabeth Saeth of Norea Media Mission and Saeth’s team. More than 50 people attended this celebration, including bishops, pastors, other church leaders, and men and women of different ages. Members from seven local churches were among the attendees. Going forward, prayer and other ministry activities going forward will be coordinated by Jackline, a volunteer who will be distributing prayer calendars and establishing prayer groups on the island.

Immediately after the launching of the Pemba ministry, God opened doors financially for

Women of Hope to be broadcast this year on two local radio stations. We have received much feedback from women and men of varying ages and religious backgrounds. Many who appear to belong to the dominant religion of the island talk positively about our lessons in the educational portion of the program, which does not mention Jesus. Our hope, however, is that they will come to listen to the spiritual portion as well so the seed of God may be planted in their lives.

Christians are getting together on Pemba to pray through the TWR Women of Hope prayer calendar and to listen to the programs. Since the establishment of the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Pemba, five new prayer groups have been organized, including those meeting in churches and schools. After listening to the *Women of Hope* program, some women are searching out like-minded women for the purpose of praying together.

God is moving on this island! The programs have been highly influential within Pemba society. The people of the island say the ministry of TWR Women of Hope has brought the church together and given its members new power to proclaim the gospel.



By **Joyce Malima**
National Coordinator for Tanzania



SOUTH AFRICA TEAM MEMBERS

29. Father, many women in Burundi are jobless and illiterate. Please provide employment so that women can feed their children and families. (2 Cor. 9:8)

30. Lord, we ask that the Holy Spirit bring about repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation to unite broken families in Zimbabwe. (Eph. 4:31-32).

31. Heavenly Father, we ask for the women in Botswana to renounce idolatry and ancestral worship and worship you as the one true God. (Lev. 26:1)

August

1. Victims of human trafficking often have difficulty trusting others in their relationships. Lord, give people who are helping them gentleness, patience and love as they work to build trust and confidence with victims. (Ps. 56:3)

2. Heavenly Father, we ask that you be with the girls in Zanzibar who are forcefully converted to Islam to gain employment. Help them stand firm in their faith. (Col. 1:23)

3. Poverty is common in Burundi as prices increase. Many families cannot afford even one meal each day,

resulting in their begging in the streets for food. Lord, be their provider. (Ps. 23:1)

4. Amid drought, God, help local authorities and communities in Zimbabwe to harvest safe water for hospitals, schools, homes for the elderly and prisons. (Exod. 17:8)

5. Father, please provide better employment to girls who are engaged in prostitution in Eswatini’s cities. Lead them into a better life with you as their guide. (Ps. 18:6)

6. Lord, may trust and peaceful communication develop between those in Somalia who follow Jesus and those who do not so that conflict may be avoided. (Heb. 12:14)

7. Lord, please bring gender-based violence in South Africa to an end. May churches be proactive in providing practical teaching and guidance so that hearts may be changed. (Ps. 121:7-8)

8. Thank you, Father, that women are coming to faith in Jesus Christ and growing in their relationship with God through the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Ethiopia. (Rom. 10:17)

9. Lord, breathe life into and restore marriages in

JOIN US FOR
OUR VIRTUAL
prayer
gathering

JULY

No global
prayer gathering

AUGUST

Abiding with God

Sign up at twrwomenofhope.org/events

Botswana, where the divorce level is so high. Bring healing to those who have suffered divorce. (Ps. 30:2)

10. God, please provide sewing machines for the refugee women in Tanzania so they may develop entrepreneurial skills. (Prov. 22:29)

11. Even in impoverished regions of Burundi, men often spend their small incomes on adulterous relationships, harming their families. Change the hearts of these men, Lord! (Heb. 13:4)

12. Lord, raise God-fearing leaders in Zimbabwe who will shun corruption and work faithfully for better socioeconomic and spiritual outcomes for the country. (Exod. 18:21)

13. God, we pray that the culture in Eswatini that prevents women from holding leadership positions in the church would be changed. (Prov. 4:7)

14. Father, bring security and protection for the people of Somalia. Shield its civilians

from the armed conflicts around them and bring peace to this nation. (Ps. 91:1-2)

15. Lord, we praise you for the many volunteers with TWR Women of Hope in South Africa – especially the prayer-calendar translators. Please bring them a much-needed national coordinator. (Phil. 1:3)

16. God, give guidance and provision to university graduates in Ethiopia who cannot find jobs. Grant wisdom and protection to those who leave the country to find employment. (Prov. 16:3)

17. Lord, we ask you to protect girls in Botswana from dependence on alcohol and drugs. Please deliver these children and help their families raise them. (Matt. 6:13)

18. Lord, please increase the number of radio stations that air the *Women of Hope* programs in Tanzania, helping more women to find hope and healing in Jesus. (Rom. 15:13)

19. Father, we pray for peaceful 2025 elections in Burundi as unrest affects women and children in greater proportion. (Dan. 2:21)

20. Amid poverty and unemployment in Zimbabwe, God, may family providers abstain from rituals, prostitution and sale of illicit substances to make a living. (Ps. 54:4)

21. Lord, bring cultural change in Somalia so that the practice of female genital

mutilation will stop. Many women are suffering. (Ps. 5:11)

22. Father, send abundant rain to the drought-stricken parts of South Africa to relieve the poverty and food insecurity of women there. (Zech. 10:1)

23. We praise you, Lord, for how you have brought healing and provision to the families of our TWR Women of Hope intercessors in Ethiopia. (Ps. 103:1-5)

24. Father, we ask for protection and comfort for the women in Tanzania who face being sexually abused in order to gain employment. (Ps. 91:14)

25. We pray, God, that women in Burundi will be trained in entrepreneurial skills so that they can begin small businesses. (Prov. 3:13)

26. Father, provide for the innocent people who are suffering from food scarcity in the war zone of Ethiopia. (Ps. 40:17)

27. Although there is freedom of religion in

Somalia, there are many restrictions that keep Christians from sharing their faith in Jesus. Lord, may your salvation message go forth. (Acts 4:29-31)

28. God, we pray for women in South Africa who are discouraged with life and suffering from depression. May they put their hope in Jesus. (Ps. 34:17)

29. God, please raise up volunteers and create new prayer groups for the TWR Women of Hope ministries on the islands of Pemba and Zanzibar and on the Tanzania mainland. (Matt. 9:37-38)

30. Father, protect married women who are mistreated in Burundi communities. In marital conflict, even if the husband is the cause, the blame usually falls on the woman. (Ps. 43:1)

31. Lord, deliver young people in Zimbabwe from substance abuse, theft, sexual immorality and identity crises. May they come to know you and be set free. (Col. 1:13)





You will not be forgotten

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.”

– ISA. 49:15-16

“Why are you crying, Mom?” asked little Manu as she watched her mom hug her friend. “Saying goodbye is harder than I thought,” her mom replied. “My friend and I have made so many memories together over the years, I’m having a hard time letting go.”

The little one seemed to know just how to comfort them – she opened the drawer in front of her and, to the women’s surprise, she gifted the friend with a fun photo of her mother. Quickly tears gave way to laughter. The little girl with such a sensitive heart added, “Now you will always remember her!”

Goodbyes can be heartbreaking. They also provoke uncertainties and questions. “Will we ever see each other again? What will our days be like without that person around?” While we may be brave enough to utter those questions out loud, we may try to hide our deepest fear: Will I be forgotten?

Little Manu needed an answer to that disturbing question in her heart. “Auntie, you won’t forget my mother because now you have a picture of her, but will you forget me?” Auntie smiled and said, “How could I forget you? I knew you before you were born!” Little Manu’s eyes lit up, expressing the joy of a girl who knows she is loved!

This beautiful, innocent child dared to ask a crucial question: “Am I important enough to be remembered?” Her question takes me to Psalm 13:1-2, which gives us an insight into the psalmist soul: “How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?”

The psalmist was feeling forgotten, but as he pours out his soul before the Lord, he is encouraged. He ponders on his steadfast love: “But I trust in your unfailing

love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD’s praise, for he has been good to me.”

I just came back from Africa where I had the wonderful opportunity to visit our Xhosa listener group in a remote village. A man from the community was as brave as little Manu and openly expressed that he was astonished at our coming to visit that “forgotten” place. His eyes lit up at the thought that there were people out there who cared for them. These men and women were encouraged to know God sees them.

I am blessed by the privilege we have to share the message that they are seen, loved and cared for by the creator of the universe – not only on special occasions but every single day. I smile at the thought the same holds true for us.





In 2024 we have been exploring the messages **"Broken, Submitted and Set apart for God in Holiness."** Here we discovered our need to be **broken** over our sin, to **submit** our will to God and to pursue **holiness** by living for God alone. We have learned to empty ourselves and die to sin. As a result, God draws us to himself in intimacy.

In this second series, **"Abide, Unite and Go,"** we will see how God: desires us to **abide** with him, **unite** ourselves as one body of Christ and **go** into the world with his message of salvation.

Abide means to remain, continue, stay, dwell or reside. We abide in God and he abides in us. The God of the universe lives with us and makes his home in us. How incredible is that?

When you invite someone into your home, there may be areas that you do not give them access to. It takes a deep level of trust to invite others to enter every area of your home. Abiding with God involves a process through which we come to trust him and give him full access and control over every area of our lives.

When we place our faith and trust in Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us (Acts 2:38), guide us and lead us into all truth (John 14:17). Because God is spirit, when we become a child of his, we live in both the physical world and in the unseen spiritual realm where God dwells. *"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"* (Eph. 2:6). We now live "in Christ" in the spiritual heavenly realms. This is the present position of every Christian.

Understanding our lives "in Christ" is so critical. At salvation we died to ourselves, our self-

centered desires and the sin that once ruled us. We were made alive in Christ and filled with God himself. Now we can live "fully alive" because we live in and through the giver of life. Our relational God pursues us in love and communes with us. He desires for us to bless him back with our reverence, love and gratitude, and he longs for us to find joy in his presence just as he delights in ours.

God describes our abiding relationship with him as a covenant in which we are set apart just for him. Intimacy with God is possible because of the exclusivity of the relationship, just as a husband and wife are joined in marriage to be exclusively for each other (Eph. 5:31-32). We are not to have allegiances to other people or things that are more important to us than God. He is to be first in our lives, and anything that we place ahead of God is seen as a breaking of this covenant.

As we abide with God, he forms in us his divine characteristics. God fills us and gives us power to live a godly life. And as we believe God and his promises, we learn to trust his character and are transformed to be like him.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

– JOHN 15:5

So what is our part in this relationship as we abide with God? God calls us to love him (Matt. 22:37) and to embrace humility (Col. 3:12), obedience and the fear of the Lord (Ps. 128:1). We are to be filled with the Word of Christ (Col. 3:16) and live according to the Spirit (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:25). 1 John 2:6 sums up God's desire for us: *"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."*

It is good for us to reflect on our lives and ask, "What areas of my life do I need to give God access?" and "How do I need to change so that I rightly reflect Jesus?" May the love and grace we receive from God as we abide in him flow through us and draw others into relationship with Jesus.