



# Uniting our hearts in *prayer*

## God's beautiful pearls

Our family did whatever we could to survive in that harsh land of North Korea. My husband got involved in brokering people's escape to China and South Korea. During this time, I first heard about God from a woman who had escaped to China and then was sent back to North Korea. I thought that she was just a strange person talking nonsense.

After my husband suffered a stress-induced stroke, he suggested we go to China to meet with Chinese brokers, saying I would need to work instead of him. However, he secretly intended to defect. Not knowing this, I went with him and our 2-year-old daughter to China. From China we escaped to Laos, where I almost

lost my life when our car overturned while crossing the border. In that terrifying moment, I called out to God, whom I didn't even believe in, asking for help. God protected our entire family from harm in this life-threatening situation.

Along this journey, we met others who had escaped from North Korea. Whenever I suffered from car sickness, they would put their hands on me and pray, and the car sickness would leave every time. I learned that God hears prayer and can heal. When we traveled on to Thailand, I was imprisoned there for a month. While in prison, I read the Bible and learned about God. But it wasn't until our family eventually made our way to South Korea that I gave my life to him.

While in South Korea, I experienced emotional pain in my relationships with other North Korean defectors. As I suffered with depression from this

hurt, God introduced me to a missionary who shared with me an important truth. Just like an oyster overcomes many difficulties to create a beautiful pearl, God often uses painful times in our lives to create his beautiful character in us. He is always with us through the pain, offering his peace.

Two years ago, I joined the TWR Women of Hope prayer team and learned about the *Women of Hope* ministry, which broadcasts the gospel to North Korean women. God led me to start a prayer group of North Korean women in January 2025. Among the participants, there are sisters who haven't yet deeply encountered God, but I believe that he will transform them into precious and beautiful pearls.

– By Sumi,\* volunteer prayer leader in South Korea



CAMBODIA  
TEAM  
MEMBERS

# 2025

**MAY**

Lifting up women  
of Asia in prayer

**JUNE**

Praying for  
the family

Addressing spiritual  
needs in Mongolia

Facing our  
undeniable truths  
from Director Susie Pek

A pure heart  
A Word of Hope

**Hope & healing  
in Jesus for women**

\* Name changed to protect her identity

## May

1. Lord, extend the reach of **Afghanistan's** *Women of Hope* programs in the Dari and Pashto languages so that more women might be transformed by Jesus. (Matt. 28:19-20)

2. Father, bring stability to the **Cambodian** economy, including prices and wages, so that its people do not have to migrate to other countries. (Ps. 72:12)

3. We pray for comprehensive legislation in **China** to address domestic violence and femicide there. Lord, protect women from harm and bring lasting change to the violent. (Ps. 82:3-4)

4. God, you alone can change the heart. We pray for a shift in societal attitudes in **India** to respect, dignify and fairly treat women in all spheres of life. (Prov. 21:1)

5. Father, as maternal mortality during childbirth is still quite high in **Indonesia**, may the government provide free medical services for poor pregnant women. (Ps. 23:4)

6. Father, may single mothers in **Japan** and those experiencing economic hardship receive help from the church, community and government. (Ps. 22:24)

7. God, strengthen the faith of **North Korean** underground-church

believers. May the day come soon when they are free to worship and share the gospel. (Rom. 5:3-4)

8. Lord, strengthen **Mongolian** women as they balance caregiving, child-rearing and household duties. Restore their mental health and well-being. (Prov. 31:27-30)

9. God, for **Nepali** women enduring sexual abuse, even within marital and religious settings, give them courage to speak out, your healing and supportive communities to restore them. (Ps. 34:18)

10. Father, please remember our co-workers, M and N, in **Pakistan** as they seek you for the blessing of having children. (1 Sam. 1:27)

11. Father, we pray for improved nutrition, health care and support for mothers and children in **Timor-Leste**. (3 John 1:2)

12. As women in **Vietnam** face illiteracy due to poverty and cultural norms, God, bring them educational access, literacy programs and cultural transformation. (2 Cor. 9:8)

13. God, bring change to cultural mindsets so that women in **Afghanistan** would be allowed to pursue education and employment opportunities there. (Prov. 1:5)

14. Lord, protect the people of **Cambodia** from those who threaten their security through robbery, kidnapping, sexual abuse and other violent crimes. (John 14:27)



15. God, bring cultural transformation to **China** as women face intense pressure to marry young. If not married by their late 20s, they are often stigmatized as "leftovers." (Prov. 3:5-6)

16. Lord, we pray for swift and fair justice for women in **India** who have suffered abuse. May systems be developed to support their healing and recovery. (Ps. 10:14)

17. God, may women in **Indonesia** who are experiencing depression or considering suicide because of abuse or violence done against them receive free professional assistance. (Matt. 11:28)

18. Father, have mercy on and heal the physically and mentally ill women in **Japan**. May they accept Christ and find hope in him. (Ps. 103:1-5)

19. Lord, **South Korea** is concerned about its low birth rate. May systems be established to help with maternity leave, child

care and other issues to encourage couples to have children. (Ps. 127:3)

20. God, help women in **Mongolia**, especially those in rural areas, to have access to quality health care. (Jer. 30:17)

21. Father, as Christian women in **Myanmar** face discrimination, persecution, violence and social ostracism for their faith, may they find refuge and strength in you to endure. (Ps. 140:4)

22. Divorce is increasing within Christian families as women in **Nepal** are influenced by worldly ideas of freedom. May your Spirit heal these relationships. (Mark 10:9)

23. Over 60% of women in **Papua New Guinea** have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of their partners. Lord, protect, heal and bring justice for these women. (Ps. 28:7)

## OUR VISION

Bringing hope and healing in Jesus to women around the world and across generations







**24.** God, enable minority women in **Vietnam** to know their worth in your eyes. May TWR Women of Hope help women see your love and purpose for them. (Ps. 139:13-14)

**25.** Lord, for those in **Cambodia** who are deemed “inferior,” restore their human rights to speak out and challenge injustice. (Ps. 9:9)

**26.** Father, please open up effective pathways for women in **Hong Kong** to be able to advance into leadership roles. (Judg. 5:7)

**27.** Many young people in **Japan** feel that they have no other choice than to commit suicide. Lord, may they receive salvation, hope and strength from you. (Ps. 62:5-6)

**28.** God, we ask that **South Korea's** people, culture and laws embrace your design for marriage. (Gen. 2:23-24)

**29.** Lord, transform societal expectations in **Mongolia** that limit women's growth and dreams. May women be free to pursue their God-given potential. (Jer. 29:11)

**30.** Father, give courage to women in **Nepal** struggling with serious physical and mental-health issues; may

they seek help and support. (1 Pet. 5:7)

**31.** Women in **Timor-Leste** face high maternal mortality rates. Lord, bring improved maternal care and skilled birth attendants to this nation. (Deut. 7:12-15)

## June

**1.** Lord, provide for the nutritional needs of women and children in **Afghanistan** who are malnourished. Care for Christians, as they cannot get jobs and food is scarce. (Job 38:41)

**2.** We pray for the broken children affected by divorce in **Albania**. Lord, draw them to yourself, ease their pain and suicidal thoughts, and surround them with good, loyal friends. (Matt. 19:13)

**3.** God, many older people in **Belgium** do not have a relationship with you. Please draw them into your presence and help them depend on you. (Isa. 46:4)

**4.** Lord, bring reconciliation to couples seeking divorce in **Botswana** and the southern Africa region. May husbands and wives mutually submit to you. (Col. 3:13)

# Strengthening Mongolian Women Through Faith & Unity

**M**ongolian women play a significant role in our society, economy, education and family life. Yet they face persistent challenges such as gender discrimination, domestic violence and limited participation in decision-making processes.

In response to these challenges, the Mongolian TWR Women of Hope ministry launched in September 2023. The ministry's mission is to support women in overcoming these struggles while delivering a message of hope in Jesus. With the dedication of two volunteers, the ministry hosts regular monthly prayer gatherings and produces the *Women of Hope* program, which began broadcasting nationwide on FM radio in January 2025.

These prayer gatherings bring together women from urban areas as well as rural and remote regions, fostering unity through both online and in-person participation. Also, two new prayer groups have begun in rural areas, extending the ministry's reach. Through these monthly gatherings, God has been working powerfully in the lives of women who attend. Women from across Mongolia pray together using the same global prayer calendar, which creates a profound sense of unity among us.

Exposed to the needs of women elsewhere in the world, one of the participants shared: “In December 2024, I joined a prayer meeting during one of the most challenging times in my life. For three months I had been contemplating divorcing my husband. But during the gathering, as I listened to the struggles faced by women in Africa, I realized my problems were not beyond hope. God reminded me that divorce was not the solution, and I stopped thinking about divorce entirely. Instead, I began praying for my husband, blessing him, and thanking God for everything – even for the challenges I faced.”

These prayer gatherings have allowed women to experience freedom in their faith, empowering them to worship God openly and boldly in their daily lives.

Although the radio program is still in its early stages, its impact is growing rapidly. In addition to being broadcast on FM radio, the ministry uses social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram to share live streams and short videos, as well as YouTube to provide content for a wider audience. The ministry's primary focus is to address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women. We are spreading strength, hope and faith in Jesus Christ, even during life's great challenges.

JOIN US FOR  
OUR VIRTUAL  
*prayer*  
gathering

MAY 1

Lifting up Call  
to Prayer 2025

JUNE 5

Brenda Dubbelman,  
on the topic of "family"

Sign up at [twrwomen  
ofhope.org/events](http://twrwomenofhope.org/events)

5. Father, may parents in **Brazil** be good and loving examples as they daily teach their children, especially in how to have a saving relationship with Jesus. (Eph. 6:4)

6. Lord, strengthen and provide for abandoned wives in **Cambodia** who struggle to raise their children alone without support from their former husbands. (Ps. 54:4)

7. God, please intervene in **China's** continued practice of bride trafficking and forced marriages driven by gender imbalance, poverty and weak law enforcement. (Deut. 24:7)

8. God, we ask that the elderly in **Croatia**, especially the lonely, be cared for and feel the love and respect of their families and communities. (Ex. 20:12)

9. Lord, we sympathize with the pain and embarrassment that barren Christian women in **Eswatini** face from their families and communities. In your mercy, grant them the experience of childbirth. (1 Sam. 1:20)

10. Lord, may the cycle of violent crimes committed by young people in **Finland** stop. Give wisdom to parents and teachers as they interact with these teens. (Ps. 102:1)

11. Father, grant parents insight into their children's needs so they can become good role models, loving and respecting their children. (Col. 3:21)

12. God, enable children with special needs to receive the help they require, both from their families and through support systems. (Isa. 41:10)

13. God, give Christian parents wisdom to communicate a healthy and truthful image of God to their children so that they will come to know you and stay close to you. (Prov. 22:6)

14. Heavenly Father, bring harmony, mutual respect, and a supportive environment within families and communities in **India**. (Rom. 15:5)

15. Father, please prompt Christian organizations and churches to care for the 24 million families in **Indonesia** in poverty. (1 John 3:17)

16. May **Japanese** women who are raising children and caring for the elderly get the support they need, bring their burdens to Christ and find rest. (Ps. 20:2)

17. Lord, grant wisdom to our **Kabyle** team members and enable them to effectively engage with women and families experiencing abuse, isolation, persecution and depression. (Gal. 6:2)

18. Father, bring cultural change in **Myanmar** to end child marriage, as it limits



girls' education and economic opportunities and increases the risks of early pregnancy. (Matt. 18:10)

19. God, strengthen and support women in **Mongolia** struggling with infertility. Bless them with the fruit of their womb. (Ps. 113:9)

20. Lord, strengthen and provide for **Nepali** widows whose culture provides them little support and expects them to remain single. (Ps. 68:6)

21. Father, strengthen and encourage single women in the **Netherlands**. May friends and relatives open their homes and families to these women. (Rom. 12:13)

22. Lord, help Christian couples in **Nigeria** build their marriages based on the principles of God's Word. May they not give Satan the chance to ruin their homes. (Eph. 5:21-30)

23. Father, may orphans, abandoned children and other young people from marginalized groups in **North Macedonia** find love, security, and support from local Christians and churches. (Ps. 146:9)

24. Lord, supply single mothers in **Papua New Guinea** with the economic opportunities and fair wages

they need to provide for their children. (Deut. 24:14-15)

25. Lord, strengthen unmarried believers in **Romania** to resist the temptation to get involved in sinful relationships. May they find in you the fulfillment of their emotional needs. (Ps. 37:4)

26. God, we ask for marriages in **Serbia** to be founded in Christ, love, trust and respect and to be safe havens for the children born into them. (Eph. 5:31)

27. Father, provide daily bread for the children of **South Africa** suffering from hunger. May organizations effectively supply them with nutritious food and the care they need. (Matt. 6:11)

28. God, bring reconciliation and healing to broken marriages and families in **Tanzania**, which result in the abandonment of women and children. (2 Cor. 13:11)

29. May widows in **Timor-Leste** not be seen as burdens and therefore be neglected or isolated. Rather, let them be embraced and cared for by family and community. (James 1:27)

30. Father, work in the hearts of husbands in **Vietnam** to value and support their wives by sharing family and child-rearing responsibilities. (Phil. 2:1-2)



# Mirror, mirror, tell me the truth!

## Facing our undeniable imperfections

In the fairy tale, a queen and her magic mirror engaged in a daily dialogue. The queen would start with a question: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" Though she knew exactly what the reply was, she took immense pleasure at the words the mirror uttered. It invariably responded: "My Queen, you are the fairest in the land." As the mirror never lied, its response was all she needed to hear to boost her confidence.

One fateful day, however, the mirror responded with truth other than what the queen expected, that another maiden in the forest was indeed fairer. The shocking truth drove her into a state of profound distress. From that moment on, the queen became obsessed with the thought of eliminating her rival. She was unwilling to live in a world where she was not No. 1. A simple glance at the mirror was enough to shake this woman's whole life.

Though mirrors do not talk in real life, they deliver undeniable truths every single day! As we gaze upon our own reflections, they reveal a multitude of facets about ourselves! We do not always like

what we see. As we notice imperfections, we try getting the right lighting or even changing position to improve the image reflected back at us. After a few minutes of "fighting" with what we see, we understand that nothing is going to change. The mirror does not lie. On a good day, we may just embrace what we see; on a difficult day, we try hard to avoid the object hanging on the wall, seeking to escape the visual reminder of imperfections that cause us distress.

Have you ever looked in the mirror and seen a lot more than your physical reflection? It might reveal a bit of hidden fear, a root of bitterness, a hint of jealousy – those ugly spots we don't really like to acknowledge. We know that moving the object around will not help, so we search for a better light by looking for answers elsewhere. We talk to some key people. We go to those people who love the Lord and love us enough to tell us the truth. It may not always be easy to hear what they have to say, but sincere friends serve as invaluable mirrors. "Wounds from a friend can be trusted," we read in Proverbs 27:6a.

David is one of the most beloved characters in the Bible. His psalms show us

how much he genuinely loved the Lord. They have clear reflections of his good and bad days. But even David needed help to see his blind spots.

The prophet Nathan was an incredible mirror for David. You may remember that Nathan shared a story with the king about a rich man who had everything and yet took the only ewe lamb that belonged to a poor man. David burned with anger and gave his verdict: The greedy rich man had to die! It was then that Nathan told him plainly that the story was about the king himself! Upon contemplating his ugly reflection, David declared, "I have sinned against the Lord."

The king may not have enjoyed what he saw in the mirror, but he did not fight it; rather, he dealt with it. "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin" (Ps. 32:5).

I am deeply grateful for the insightful "mirrors" that have graced my life throughout the years. I hope that you, too, have mirrors that will faithfully reflect the truth, guiding you on your own journey.







*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."*

– MATTHEW 5:8

I wanted to see God, to know him intimately. As a 6-year-old girl who received Jesus as Savior and Lord, knowing him became my life pursuit. And in order to have an intimate relationship with God, I knew I needed to embrace having a pure heart.

It didn't take long to learn that trying to be good or to have a "pure heart" through sheer willpower just doesn't work. How often have we tried and failed to change our habits without success? Without God, our efforts at seeking purity simply become legalism as we try to please him by

following the rules. Proverbs 23:7a tells us, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." And it turns out we all have a heart problem.

Becoming pure in heart is a work that God does in us as we pursue knowing and submitting to him. The Father graciously invites us to cooperate with him in our spiritual formation. When we honestly pray, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts" (Ps. 139:23), he will reveal areas in our lives that need transformation. And we can allow his Word and Spirit to guide us. In James 4:8 we are told to "come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." But how does this process of change actually work?

There is a key connection between our hearts and our minds. Whatever we decide in our minds to be true and valuable becomes the treasure of our hearts. Paul guides us in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world,

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." We can actually be transformed by changing what we think. Paul then shares where we are to focus our minds: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Phil. 4:8).

God is clear in his Word that in the Christian life there are things that we are to embrace and things that we are to refrain from, so we need to choose wisely about how we live. The Bible has so much to say about where we are to focus our minds (Heb. 12:2; Col. 3:2), how to take our thoughts captive and submit them to him (2 Cor. 10:5), and why we need to abide in him (John 15).

But there is another important way that God purifies us. In my innocence as a 6-year-old, I didn't understand that the cost of having an intimate relationship with God includes the pain of having your heart purified. Because our good God is pure and holy, he desires

us to be like him. The Father takes us through the furnace of affliction in order for the impurities in our hearts to be burned away. In the testing, we must face what we hold dear in our hearts, our treasure, so that God can reveal if what we hold there is an idol.

Times of trial from God are difficult! Friends, let's make sure we understand and embrace what God is trying to teach us so that we can receive the reward that he desires – becoming more like Jesus. We can remember Hebrews 12:11, which says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace *for those who have been trained by it.*"

We have a choice. May we choose to cooperate with God in the good work he wants to do in our lives as he purifies us and ask ourselves: What treasures do we hold most dear in our hearts? What fears are we facing as we submit our treasures to God? Who or what is our first love?

*Italicized emphasis in Bible verses was added.*