



TWR  
WOMEN  
OF HOPE

# Uniting our hearts in prayer



ALBANIA  
TEAM  
MEMBERS

## From silence to hope

Marta was born and raised in a quiet mountain town in northern Albania. Like many women of her generation, she entered an arranged marriage expecting a peaceful future. Instead, it marked the beginning of more than 30 years of silence, fear and abuse.

After the wedding, Marta moved into her husband's large family household. Though the relatives seemed kind, her husband struggled with alcohol and became violent when he drank. Night after night, Marta endured beatings and emotional torment. Whenever the violence became unbearable, she fled to her parents' home, bruised and broken. But the advice she heard reflected old traditions:

*"Be patient. Be humble. A wife must endure." And she returned again and again.*

For over three decades Marta suffered, but in 2024, something shifted and courage rose within her. She went to the police and, for the first time, told her story. That brave step changed everything.

Marta was placed in a shelter and there, hope met her unexpectedly.

Twice a month, young women from TWR Women of Hope visited – warm, attentive and genuinely interested in each woman's story. Some had survived domestic violence themselves. They spoke of a God whom Marta had never known – one who sees, heals and loves without conditions. Through them, Marta read the Bible for the first time, and for the first time, she felt protected.

But a new fear came when she learned she had to leave the shelter. At 60, with no home or income, her future was painfully

uncertain. Her daughter lived in Greece; her son no longer spoke to her.

Then God provided again through an American couple who offered Marta a place in their home. With no other option, she accepted. Six months later, she calls it one of her best decisions. They welcomed her as family, meeting her needs and surrounding her with peace.

Now Marta prays, reads Scripture and listens to *Women of Hope* programs. Her heart, once filled with fear, is full of gratitude. She even prays for her former husband and her children.

"My life has completely changed," she says. "I am truly blessed."

Her story is one of courage, hope and the power of compassionate people who choose to care.

– *Ledi Hebibasi,*  
*Albania National*  
*Coordinator*

# 2026

### JULY

Lifting up the women of Europe in prayer

### AUGUST

Praying for the marginalized & persecuted

How hope is reaching the women of Belarus

The Lord of the winds from Director Susie Pek

Have faith, not fear  
A Word of Hope

Hope & healing  
in Jesus for women



## July

1. Father, many women in **Poland** have difficulty conceiving. Bless and heal them so they may enjoy the precious gift of children. (Gen. 21:1)
2. God, guide young women of **Portugal** to find their identity in you. May they not give in to pressure but find their purpose, courage, love and truth in you. (Prov. 16:4a)
3. Lord, help believers in **Romania** to be people of peace and unity in a society that is so troubled and divided. (Phil. 2:14-16)
4. God, stir in **Russian** women a deep hunger and thirst for your Word, and make believers eager to share it with them. (Matt. 5:6)
5. Father, guide our team in **Serbia** to effectively use digital platforms to reach women of all ages, especially the younger generations. (Ps. 145:4)
6. As many women and children suffer daily violence within their families in **Spain**, Lord, draw them to you for deliverance, healing and salvation. (Ps. 9:9-10)
7. Move in the hearts of mothers in **Switzerland**, God, to desire and find joy in caring for and raising their children at home. (Ps. 127:3)

8. Lord, grant leaders in **Albania** the fear of the Lord, that they may do their work only for you. May your truth and righteousness guide their every decision. (Prov. 9:10)

9. Call the youth of **Belarus** to yourself, God, giving them hearts of repentance. May they not turn toward alcohol but instead embrace your gift of life in Jesus. (Prov. 28:13)

10. Praise God for the 200 episodes available in **Belgium's** podcast for women, *Arise and Shine*. May it bless the women in Belgium and the Netherlands. (Ps. 34:8)

11. Father, we pray for the physical and spiritual safety of the TWR Women of Hope staff and their families in **Ukraine** and in every nation at war. (Ps. 46:1)

12. Protect women's lives in **Croatia**, Lord, as threats and violence by their current or former partners are often warning signs of potential femicide. Please stop these senseless killings. (Ps. 121:7)

13. Father, show pregnant women in **Denmark** your thoughts of a hopeful future for their unborn child. Send these women help through people who care. (Ps. 139:13, 16)

14. As one-third of Finnish women have faced domestic violence, we praise God that anyone threatened or harassed in **Finland** can seek protection through restraining orders. (Ps. 25:15-16)



PORTUGAL  
TEAM  
MEMBERS

15. May **French** women be treated with respect, Lord. Grant them strength in the face of trials, dignity in every situation and hope to face the future with confidence. (Ps. 46:11)

16. God, may single mothers in **Germany** feel your nearness and care as you strengthen them with hope, surround them with support and provide for their needs. (Deut. 31:6)

17. This fall our **Netherlands** team will launch *Girls Talk*, a new podcast for teen girls. Father, may it reach and bless thousands of girls and draw them closer to you. (Heb. 10:22)

18. God, may women in **Norway** who face pressure, loneliness and mental struggles experience your presence and find hope and healing for their inner wounds and trauma. (Matt. 11:28)

19. Lord, help **Polish** women who pursue careers to boost their self-esteem and importance come to recognize their worth in your eyes. (1 John 3:1)

20. Father, bring comfort, peace and provision for families and businesses that lost everything in the storms that ravaged **Portugal**. Give them strength to begin again. (Isa. 41:10)

21. Lord, grant the political leaders of **Romania** your wisdom, strategy and determination to carry out the reforms needed in this country. (Prov. 21:1)

22. Father, bring comfort to all who grieve the loss of loved ones in the wars in **Russia** and every other nation where conflict rages. (Ps. 147:3)

## OUR VISION

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



FINLAND (LEFT)  
& SWITZERLAND  
LEADERS



POLAND  
TEAM  
MEMBERS

**23.** May every message and program shared by the **Serbian** team bring hope, peace and spiritual growth. May their work with marginalized women and children reflect God's love. (Luke 4:18)

**24.** Lord, please guide and give creative and relevant ideas to our team in **Spain** as they minister to and meet the needs of women in their communities. (2 Tim. 4:2)

**25.** God, give courage to **Swiss** believers to exercise their freedom of religion. May they allow Jesus and his gospel to affect every area of their lives. (Josh. 1:9)

**26.** Father, anoint each TWR and Women of Hope staff member in **Ukraine** and other war-torn countries with your Spirit to bring comfort and encouragement to their listeners. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

**27.** Lord, may **Albanian** leaders create laws that benefit the destitute, the marginalized and those who cannot speak for themselves. (Prov. 31:8)

**28.** God, we lift up women in **Croatia** and seek opportunities for them to advance into leadership positions, receive higher wages and obtain more secure forms of employment. (Phil. 1:6)

**29.** May women in **Denmark** who have lost their babies come to you, Jesus, for restoration and hope. (Jer. 30:17)

**30.** Lord, strengthen the weary women in **France**, encourage those who are lonely and hold them up by your gracious presence. (Prov. 31:25)

**31.** God, may the new podcast series *From Wounds to Strength* reach women with a message of hope, healing and salvation, bringing restoration to many in **Norway**. (Rom. 15:13)

## August

**1.** May the visually impaired in **Eastern Cape, South Africa**, grow spiritually and find hope in Jesus as they listen to *Women of Hope* programs by audio device. (Jer. 29:13)

**2.** Merciful Father, be the provider and protector for those families in **Eswatini** led by single parents or by children caring for their younger siblings. (Ps. 68:5)

**3.** God, grant protection, safety, courage and healing to women in **Germany** suffering domestic violence. Surround them with justice, refuge and compassionate support. (Ps. 27:5)

## Reaching the women of Belarus

Belarus, a small and courageous country, has been fighting for independence almost its entire history, especially in efforts to preserve its own identity, language, culture and mentality. Today, 26% of the population speaks Belarusian, while the rest use Russian. *Women of Hope* is presented in Belarus in the Belarusian language.

With 73% of Belarusians claiming Russian Orthodoxy as their faith, most women consider themselves believers, yet faith is commonly limited to rituals and inherited customs. Few know the gospel as good news for their personal lives. Generations shaped by atheistic ideologies have left behind fear, silence and a lack of trust – even within Christian contexts. They seem to be a people moving forward, yet unsure of direction or hope.

Belarusian women are strong and capable, often carrying the weight of family responsibilities alone without emotional or spiritual support. Many live with unprocessed pain, loneliness and deep inner fatigue. This is why, when TWR Women of Hope Belarus was established a year and a half ago, our two clear goals were to tell women about Jesus and to create a digital community where women could find support and acceptance from one another.

Looking back, the first episodes felt like the fate of our country, heartbreaking and gloomy with more tears

and despair than answers or hope. I feared the emotional side would overshadow the gospel message. After receiving training and the program scripts in English, we noticed that the tone changed. Episodes began to share light and goodness, even while analyzing problems. I'm realizing that through this project, the Lord wants to heal my soul too – I am the first woman who is being changed by the Lord through the ministry of TWR Women of Hope in Belarus.

Although the audience is still small, the fruit is personal and powerful. Episodes that have been on YouTube for a year or more have been viewed 100-300 times. To build the community, I run a Telegram channel and have deep conversations when listeners share how God meets them at just the right moment.

One wrote, "Yesterday I was arguing with my husband and didn't understand what was happening to me. Today I listened to your episode on 'Love Languages.' It opened my eyes to understand myself, and I asked my husband for forgiveness."

Others speak of restored peace and renewed love. Many describe the program as something that calms listeners and gives meaning. Yet the most valuable feedback was when a listener wrote: "I want to become a woman of hope."

**May God grant that desire to each listener.**

By the **National Coordinator of Belarus**

Name withheld for security reasons

JOIN US FOR  
OUR VIRTUAL  
prayer  
gathering

JULY

No prayer gathering

AUGUST 6

Sónia Simões,  
Ministry in Portugal

Sign up at [twrwomenofhope.org/events](https://twrwomenofhope.org/events)

4. Lord, give peace and courage to believers facing rejection and restrictions in building churches in **Indonesia**. Grant them favor from the local authorities and surrounding communities. (Ps. 5:12)
5. God, provide protection, support and proper medical treatment for **Japanese** families with members suffering from mental illness. (Ps. 34:17-18)
6. Lord, provide shelter, food and loving care for the homeless in **Mongolia**. Grant us compassionate hearts to serve them. (Isa. 58:7)
7. Father, intervene for Christians in northern **Nigeria** who are facing persecution and opposition for their faith in Jesus. (Ps. 34:19)
8. Protect believers in **North Korea**, God, where possessing a Bible or worshipping in secret is an anti-state crime punishable by death or imprisonment. (Ps. 91:1-2)
9. Open doors of opportunity and hope for those rural communities in **Papua New Guinea** that lack access to health care, education and infrastructure. Meet their needs, O Lord. (Ps. 82:3-4)
10. We praise you, Father, for the new and safer women-only prison where TWR Women of Hope ministers to the marginalized and forgotten women prisoners in **Paraguay**. (Matt. 25:35-46)
11. God, transform the hearts of **Polish** people who are hostile toward immigrants and are driven by anti-Semitism. (Lev. 19:34)
12. Awaken your church to care for the vulnerable in **Portugal**: the poor, lonely, elderly, sick, homeless, disabled and mentally ill. Grant them dignity, provision and hope, Lord. (Isa. 58:10)
13. Father, increase the resources of organizations in **Romania** that help people with disabilities and children at risk of dropping out of school. (1 John 3:17)
14. God, strengthen Protestant Christians in Tatarstan, **Russia**, who are viewed as a sect. May they overcome the prejudice of their families, friends and society. (1 John 4:20)
15. Lord, defend **South African** women whose cries for help, advocacy and justice go unheard. Many are silenced, dismissed or exploited by selfish and greedy people in their communities. (Exod. 14:14)
16. Father, strengthen and give hope to families in **Timor-Leste** facing hunger, lack of clean water and illness. Please provide them with daily food, safe water and healing. (Isa. 41:17)
17. Lead your church in **Uruguay**, Lord, to lovingly support and provide spiritual guidance to vulnerable migrant women. Protect them and open doors for safety, dignity and hope. (Deut. 10:19)
18. God, we pray for believers in **Vietnam** facing family rejection. Surround them with your comfort, strengthen their faith and fill them with peace and love. (Ps. 27:10)
19. Lord, redeem, heal and restore girls and women who are kidnapped, raped and held captive by members of opposing religious groups. May they know love again. (Rev. 21:4)
20. May the single moms in **Albania** who face their difficulties alone open their hearts to Jesus and yield all their burdens to him. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
21. Heavenly Father, we lift the people of **Bonaire** to you. Where there has been hurt or injustice, bring healing and restoration. Let your truth and peace prevail. (Jer. 33:6)
22. Lord, Christians are called to lovingly care for one another. Encourage believing women in **Botswana** to compassionately meet the practical needs of the elderly and widowed. (Isa. 1:17)
23. God, bring healing to women in **Cambodia** suffering from mental illness or depression due to life's challenges. May they find renewed hope in you. (John 14:18)
24. Lord, we pray for courage and steadfast faith for pastors and believers in **China** facing pressure, surveillance and punishment. (Matt. 5:10)
25. Father, give courage to young people in **Denmark** who choose you in the face of ridicule from their families and a very secular society. (Hosea 11:1)
26. May believers in **Indonesia** find freedom and safety in worship rather than intimidation and violence. Bring harmony and understanding through your love, Lord. (Ps. 4:8)
27. May struggling or impoverished **Japanese** young people receive the support they need to become independent and to find their hope and salvation in Jesus. (Isa. 40:28-31)
28. May the ever-increasing elderly population in **South Korea** receive the practical help they need and not be marginalized in society. (Ps. 71:9)
29. Lord, strengthen the churches in **Mongolia** to offer love, guidance and practical help to the poor, marginalized and vulnerable. (Matt. 25:40)
30. Lord, provide for the needs of the impoverished in **Papua New Guinea**. Bring them opportunities, hope and strength for each day. (Ps. 146:7)
31. Stir the heart of churches in **Timor-Leste** to care for and lovingly support the elderly and widows who feel overlooked and alone. (James 1:27)





## The Lord of the winds

*“For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth – the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name.”*

– AMOS 4:13



On my last trip, the theme could easily have been *“the fury of the winds.”*

Before takeoff, the pilot announced a delay: The wind had shifted direction, and the plane needed to be lightened. Right away, I remembered the disciples’ response to Jesus’ authority in Matthew 8: “Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” I prayed, entrusting my life and that flight to the Lord of the winds.

Minutes later, the pilot returned: The winds had shifted again, and unloading the plane was no longer necessary. In less than 15 minutes, the wind changed direction three or four times. We took off peacefully. I was deeply moved by the power of the One who commands the wind.

And it didn’t stop there. In the midst of busy workdays, I had a sweet pause — the joy of attending my niece’s wedding. The day before the ceremony, winds were strong and cold, bringing concern along with the chill. We prayed, asking the Lord to bless the couple with a beautiful day. And in his kindness, he heard us: There were

sunshine and a gentle breeze, perfect for the outdoor celebration.

Then, on the day we were supposed to head home — a tornado warning! A friend mentioned that I bring bad weather when I visit the USA. Her quip seemed peculiar to me, since sunshine tends to follow me and warm up every place I go! The winds were clearly following me on this journey.

The passage I touched on, Matthew 8, is remarkably rich. It takes us right into the boat with the disciples. The storm was violent. Waves crashed against the sides. And Jesus was sleeping.

Terrified, they woke him: “Lord, save us! We’re going to die!” Jesus replied: “Why are you so afraid, you of little faith?” Then he stood up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and everything became calm.

Perhaps you, like me, have heard this story many times. Yet it never loses its power. The disciples’ fear, Jesus’ serenity and the assurance that he can calm the storms of our lives – these never grow old. I am still amazed

that such a brief passage carries so many lessons.

What stood out to me most strongly this time was the disciples’ awe before Jesus’ power: “Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” They still did not fully understand who he was — but they were finding out firsthand. The waters and the winds obeyed him. He was powerful beyond anything they had imagined.

Sitting at the airport, amid all the uncertainty of our journey home, that question echoed in my heart again: “Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” And the answer is clear: He is the Lord of the wind, the waters, the mountains, the world — and of our lives. The Almighty God, who calms the roar of the seas and their waves, as well as the turmoil of the nations.

Isn’t it wonderful to know that this mighty God is the same yesterday, today and forever? And even more amazing: **He cares** for the women and situations we pray about as well as for each one of us. I hope this brings a smile to your face.



One essential lesson I've learned is that, if I want to live a life pleasing to God, then I must always choose faith rather than fear.

Fear comes in many forms. Throughout time, Christians have faced the reality of persecution and death because of their faith in God. All of Jesus' apostles and many in the early church were arrested, imprisoned or faced martyrdom for living out their faith in Jesus.

This risk is still a reality today in many parts of the world where our sisters are working with TWR Women of Hope. We must lift them up in prayer regularly so they will have the courage to choose faith and not fear.

And we need to join them in living lives in which our hearts are obediently listening to the Spirit - receiving some of that strength along with the guidance and resolve to speak up and live for God in every situation that he places before us.

Humankind has always faced the dilemma of whether to fear the disapproval of other men or to obey God's commands. I think of King Saul who was given a direct command to utterly destroy the Amalekites. But he was afraid of his soldiers and chose to appease them rather than obey God's clear instructions. The prophet Samuel rebuked Saul, telling him, "To obey is better than sacrifice." Thankfully, we are also given the example of Queen Esther, who chose faith in God rather than fear. She approached the king without having been summoned, putting her life on the line to save her people.

For many of us, the battle of faith versus fear is not likely to result in death but instead in having to choose between being a faithful witness to God or being accepted by those around us.

How often do we remain silent when the Spirit is urging us to speak? When have we refrained from ministering to others out of fear of how they will respond? When we face disapproval from others, or risk loss of status or respect, will we stand for God and his truth? May we remember the truth given to us in God's Word to help us stand: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1).

What helps me choose faith rather than fear is to embrace the reality that our lives as believers are "in Christ." We were dead in our sin, but through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, we have been united with him and are raised with Christ to dwell in him. The new life we have is his life in us. He is our life and we can trust him. I don't have to fear dying - it simply means I will be with him in heaven.

And I do not need to fear man. If I live my life listening to and obeying the Spirit as he leads, then I can be assured that he will give me the words when he leads me to

*"But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."*

—HEBREWS 10:39

Speak with someone. If I am rejected or insulted, I don't have to take it personally but instead realize that the rebuff is really directed at Jesus.

I think this is why God said that the most important thing we can do is to love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. When we place God as our first love, remembering his faithful and sacrificial love for us and fixing our eyes and hearts on him, the Spirit will be faithful to strengthen us with his power to do his will and to hold fast to him.

What paralyzes you with fear and keeps you from walking in peace, joy and hope? May we take our fear captive and give it to God and place our faith in our sovereign Lord, who is always by our side as our immovable anchor.