

PROJECT HANNAH IN CENTRAL ASIA

Even the countries of Central Asia have been badly affected by the decline in the global economy. In places like Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, it is difficult for women to find work even with a college degree. Women in Turkmenistan have been forced into undesirable jobs where they are often humiliated, underpaid and violently attacked. Social services have decayed, making education and health care even harder to access.

Most girls in this region marry soon after secondary school and learn such skills as dressmaking and nursing, which prospective husbands would prefer. As a wife, a young woman will be vulnerable to her husband's superiority and his cruelty, as well as the whims of other family members living in the home. According to Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic, "Ninety-nine percent of the women who commit suicide do so because of tyranny within the family." If a woman decides to divorce her husband or to report him to the authorities, she is often blamed for the problems and told to be patient and humble.



TWR's Project Hannah (PH) ministry is working to reach out to these downtrodden women through radio programs designed with their physical and spiritual needs in mind. On-the-ground ministries, such as prayer and visitation groups that PH has in other countries, are dangerous in Central Asia. While not all Central Asian countries are openly against Christianity, there is hostility at a local level, with the continual potential for more.

Because of this hostility, it is hazardous for PH's Central Asian workers to even report the full extent of what they do there. However, ministry does continue, and women are writing to us to ask questions, pour out their hearts to a listening friend, and express their joy in finding hope in Jesus Christ.

We have received this wonderful report from our PH Central Asia coordinator:

"The first part of the program, 'Lessons for Life,' has a positive impact on our listeners and helps them develop a healthy way of life (good nutrition, personal hygiene, and physical exercise). This information enlightens them, stimulates them to a more organized way of life, and helps them to be more productive and to take care of their families in an efficient manner.

"All of the women listening to the program receive encouragement and comfort during difficult periods of life through the second part of the program, 'Lessons for the Soul.' As one listener said, 'We are built up through the *Women of Hope* programs. We are learning how to have the right attitude in our families (with our children and husbands) and the right attitude among people in general.'"

The translator of *Women of Hope* in Kazakh reported that one of the recent programs reminded her that she needs to have a proper attitude and relationship toward her superiors, the kind of attitude that God desires for all Christians. "The main thing that we are taught through the programs," she said, "is that we are to have a proper attitude toward God."

Please pray for the women and young girls of Central Asia. Pray that they will discover the One who loves them unconditionally and longs for a relationship with them. Pray that they will find their worth as a daughter of the King of Kings.



Listeners' Letters

Listeners face many difficulties as a result of corresponding with us, but some have determined to write despite the challenges. Here are a few responses we have received from Central Asia.

"I really enjoy your program *Women of Hope*. These are good lessons for our lives and souls. I also listened to the other three programs in the Turkmen language and they were a highlight and special event for me. I am very grateful to you for all the programs. I wish you God's blessings."

"I listen to your programs in the Turkmen, Uzbek and Kazakh languages. I like the programs in the Kazakh language, such as *Women of Hope*. I am from another religion. I am observing all of the duties I have to perform for my religion, as well as tithing and helping other people. I think that I am not doing everything that I am supposed to because it does not bring me satisfaction. After listening to your programs, I felt the need to learn more about the Most High."

"I am in great inner pain as I write to you. Not long ago we received a copy of the New Testament and one cassette. I also had the three letters that we received during our correspondence with you. My two sons and I listen to the cassette every morning. Sadly, people recently came to my home: a local authority and two people from the courthouse. They broke into our apartment and searched without explanation. Then they screamed at me, 'Show us all the books that you are reading!' I showed them all the books and among them was also the New Testament. The people then started to interrogate us as to where we got the books and the New Testament. I did not lie to them and told them that the people from the radio sent them to us. They took the cassette, the books and the letters with them and we were taken to court. We had to pay a high fine and nothing that was taken was returned. We were let go with the understanding that we should not correspond with you anymore. I was very disappointed and frustrated. May the Most High keep you and give you health."

UPDATED PH INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

Check out the new Project Hannah website at www.projecthannah.org

- Click the **Listen Now** button to hear actual *Women of Hope* episodes and read along with the companion transcripts and devotional thoughts.
- Click on **Prayer** and see the many ways you can pray for women around the world.
- Click on **Stories** and read letters from listeners and their amazing stories of renewal and transformation.



To learn more about TWR Canada's PH involvement, be sure to go to our website at www.twrcanada.org/ph