

## WELCOME ...

In February, Project Hannah had the honour of welcoming Mrs. Ruth Mbennah to its family as Project Hannah Africa Regional Coordinator. Marli Spieker, Project Hannah's (PH) Global Ministry Director/Founder, shares her welcome.

**From Marli ...** *"I have just returned from East Africa where I spent 18 days travelling and ministering with Mrs. Ruth Mbennah – the newly appointed Project Hannah Africa Regional Coordinator. Ruth is the answer to our almost three years of prayers. Ruth comes at a time when Project Hannah's ministry in Africa is literally exploding, even though we have been without a coordinator for quite some time now. There is an urgent need to have someone with her caliber to lead the work in all of Africa.*

*"On behalf of Project Hannah International, I feel blessed to welcome this skilled and godly woman to Project Hannah. Ruth is the wife of Dr. Emmanuel Mbennah, TWR Africa International Director. She has two children attending college in the U.S. and two others still at home. Ruth is an author, composer, singer and a former university professor. She left her teaching career to join TWR and Project Hannah, answering Jesus' call to devote her life to ministering to her African sisters. Her commitment, passion for God and compassion for the lost, especially the women of this world, makes her a perfect fit for Project Hannah's ministry.*



Ruth Mbennah—teaching

*"Please pray for God's anointing and grace as Ruth takes up the challenge to coordinate Project Hannah's ministries of prayer, awareness, radio programming and mercy ministries in Africa. Ruth is indeed a gift from God to Project Hannah and to all of us!"*

Since this introduction, Ruth has been diligently working to learn the many and varied aspects of Project Hannah's ministries in Africa. She has had opportunities to visit the PH work in Kenya, Ethiopia and Angola to learn more about the ministries there and to encourage and strengthen the PH teams in those locations.

Ruth shares a very encouraging overview of Project Hannah's work in Africa: *"Praise God for what He is doing through PH in the Africa Region. Through raising awareness and empathy for the plight of women in Africa, churches, governments and society in general have started fighting against the suffering of women. Prayers and the Women of Hope programs have contributed to a large extent to the restoration of peace in the hearts of suffering women. Many stories of women talk about the abundant peace that women receive after joining the prayer movement, regardless of painful life experiences that these women go through. Such experiences include being forced to abort, being in prison without being found guilty, domestic violence, early marriages, trafficking, marriage inheritance, female genital mutilation, poverty, sexual abuse, lack of employment and many other forms of painful experiences.*

*"... The ministry of PH is well established, regardless of the challenges facing the women in the ministry, i.e., means of transportation, inadequacy of computers, poverty, some women being too busy to pray, etc. These challenges and many more will eventually be overcome, since PH belongs to God. He has His ways of providing every need to those who believe in Him."*

Praise the Lord for bringing Ruth to this crucial position. Her excellence, passion and commitment to the Lord are truly a blessing to the PH ministry. May He shine His face upon her.

## FROM NEPAL ... A LISTENER'S STORY



I am 26 years old. Due to difficulties, my husband went to a Gulf country to work. I would like to say something about my past life. My father is in the Army, so there were no financial problems in my family. I am the youngest daughter, so I was loved by my family. I liked to spend the night at my friend's house. I went wherever I liked. Everybody was worried about my behaviour. The way I dressed and my makeup were rough. I used to think that I don't need anybody, not a family or a God. Money was everything to me. I left school in Grade 8.

One day, I fell in love with a guy from India. He showed lots of attention to me. His work is to 'fall in love' with innocent girls and sell them in India in the 'red light' area for prostitution. I didn't know about all these things. I believed in him and was ready to do whatever he wanted. He bought me nice clothes and hand bags and showed love towards me. One day he told me to run away with him and go to his home in India. I was so happy because I thought I would have a husband whom I loved so much and that he also loved me. He then warned me not to tell anybody. I didn't tell anybody and ran away with this boy. When we reached the border of India, he told me that if anybody asked me where I was going and with whom, to tell them that I was going to my father's house with my cousin. I didn't understand what he was telling me, but I did it his way. Fortunately, there was a border patrol at the border. They asked me many questions, and I was not able to answer. They didn't let me cross the border. That boy left me and ran away. I didn't know where to go, but this border patrol had social workers. They told me to learn a handcraft to earn some money. I saw that there were many girls like me in this office.

There was one supervisor in the office who was a Christian. She loved us so much and shared about Jesus Christ. First, I ignored it and quarrelled with her. As the days past, I was so interested in her and her words which comforted me. They took us to church. This is the way I learned about Jesus and His living words. I became a Christian. I learned to weave caps, shawls and bags. I earned some money. My life and behaviour totally changed. One day, I went home [to visit] , and everybody was so happy to see me. They were so surprised that my behaviour was changed, and I was so polite towards my elders. They were so thankful towards the social office.

After a year, the office sent me to [return to] my own home. I had no work to do. Day by day, I gave up hope, and I was so sad. In church, one boy came to marry me. He was from a foreign country. I thought that he was so rich and I that I could live my life easily. I married him. After we were married, he stayed one month with me, and then he went back to a Gulf country to earn money. Again, I was alone. Sister Shanti [PH Nepal National Coordinator] is my best friend, and she often used to come to visit me. She joined me at the social office where a housemother was needed, and I was ready to work in that office to spend my days. I felt so upset, and I gave up all my hope because nothing was happening according to my will.

Shanti works in the TWR office, and she told me about a women's radio program. Sometimes she came to me and inspired all of us to listen. First, I was obliged to listen to this program because of Shanti, but the days passed and this program became a part of my life. Again, I found hope in Jesus Christ. Now I am working in this office. I encouraged all the girls in this office to listen to the radio program, and they are also listening.

I love my husband, and I am able to understand his love languages. Thank you, Project Hannah of TWR Nepal. I am regularly praying for this program. Thank you once again.