

Women's health needs around the world are numerous and can be very complicated. Many times devastating results are caused by cultural practices, lack of knowledge, poverty or abuse. Every health issue becomes a critical concern without the basic health needs of proper sanitation and clean water. Providing these two basic needs should be every community's top priority.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. The lack of proper sanitation leaves 2.5 billion people with inadequate or non-existent toilet facilities. Further, over one billion people worldwide live in areas that have no access to safe drinking water. Without clean water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing, people often become sick, less productive and die young. Clean water supplies aren't possible without proper sanitation facilities.

Water that is usually safe can become dangerous to drink during a flood, heavy rains or when pipes are damaged. Chemicals from fertilizers or soaps can spill into rivers and lakes, and bacteria and viruses can enter a normally clean water supply. In these situations, even large modern cities have problems providing thousands of people with clean water.

Chlorine is a highly efficient disinfectant and can be added to public water supplies to kill disease-causing bacteria that the water or pipes might contain. Chlorine has been used effectively to treat water in modern cities and in places where cholera and other diseases are common.

Please pray with us this month for women who are trying to care for their families in areas where proper sanitation and clean water are not available. Pray that they will receive the life-saving information they need to prevent water-borne diseases that will harm them and their children. Just as Jesus cared for those who were sick and weak, Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* program offers concern, information and hope to women so they can take better care of their families.

SEPTEMBER 2009



*Praying for
Women's Health Needs*
CLEAN WATER



A MINISTRY OF TRANS WORLD RADIO

Please pray for...

1. Courageous women who work hard to provide clean water for their families and communities in order to prevent disease and death, thereby encouraging healthy living that glorifies God.
2. Women producing Project Hannah's (PH) *Women of Hope* (WoH) programs in 51 languages in order to help women know how to better care for their loved ones so that they can be healthy and serve God. Pray also for those producing programs in other languages that still need funding so they can go on the air.
3. Women who live in areas where it is very difficult to get the needed 64 ounces (2 liters) of fluid each family member needs to consume every day.
4. Strength for women in areas without clean water since they have to work extra hours to collect and boil their water for 20 minutes to provide safe drinking water for their families. Pray for those who have difficulty finding fuel sources and even big pots for boiling the large quantity of safe water they need.



5. Clinics to be able to provide important IV equipment that puts fluids right into the veins of the dehydrated patients so their bodies can recover quickly. This is very important if the sick person can't keep clean drinking water in his/her stomach.
6. Women who can't boil their water to find other ways to purify it for drinking. Pray that communities will help women learn to filter their water with fabric and then pour it into clean, clear glass or plastic bottles or clear plastic bags and leave it in direct sunlight for at least 6 hours. This way the sun kills most of the germs.
7. Mothers to teach their children to not throw trash in rivers, lakes, ponds and wells. Pray also that women will help their communities provide education on the importance of building proper latrine facilities and drainage ditches (pipes) away from their water supplies.
8. Marli Spieker as she attends and speaks at the International Orality Network's 2009 Annual Conference September 9-12.
9. Women who don't read to learn through PH's radio programs and seminars of ways to keep their families healthy by providing them with clean water and safe sanitation facilities.
10. Community leaders to help provide special water filters, whenever possible, to remove bacteria and germs.
11. Women to be able to help others learn the simple way to disinfect water by adding a tablespoon of chlorine bleach to one gallon of water in areas where their city is not adding it to the water supplied to their homes.
12. Women to teach others in their communities that soaking unpeeled fruits and raw vegetables in chlorine water kills the bacteria and germs, as well as cleans off organic



Women of Hope broadcasts in 51 languages. Monthly prayer calendars are used in over 40 languages. (www.projecthannah.org)

and chemical fertilizers. They can also teach that washing the kitchen and dishes with chlorine and hot clean water will help keep the family healthier.

13. Women taking care of those who are sick with stomach aches, cramping and diarrhea because of water-borne parasites and bacteria. If diarrhea lasts too long, a person loses fluids their body needs to survive. Nearly one million people die every year because their water made them sick.

14. Mothers and teachers to teach their small children the importance of not putting dirty items in their mouths and the proper way to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet in order to prevent sickness and death.

15. Mothers to be careful to sanitize their hands after cleaning their babies and small children.

16. Women who live in large buildings where there is no running water. Pray that governments in war-torn areas would provide the needed infrastructure to help their people live healthy lives.

17. Women who protect their families and communities from malaria by checking small ponds and outdoor containers that can hold old rain water. Destroying mosquito larva will help limit the mosquito population.

18. The distribution of treated mosquito nets, preventive medicines and pesticides that will continue to help save lives. Malaria affects around 200 million people every year and kills nearly one million, mostly children under five.

Malaria causes miscarriages and the deaths of many pregnant women (World Health Organization).

19. Every nation to acknowledge that “water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity” and that they will “adopt relatively low-cost water programs that protect vulnerable and marginalized groups” (World Water Council).

20. Community leaders to ensure “physical access to water facilities or services that provide sufficient, safe and regular water; that have a sufficient number of water outlets to avoid prohibitive waiting times; and that water outlets are at a reasonable distance from the household” (World Water Council).

21. Individuals to take “measures to prevent, treat and control diseases linked to water, in particular ensuring access to adequate sanitation” (World Water Council).

22. Families who have open sewers near their homes and are at risk of contracting diseases like dysentery, cholera, typhoid and malaria. Pray that communities would find ways to provide closed sewers, clean water and cleaner canals, streams and ponds in order to fight preventable diseases and deaths.

23. Communities to provide latrines for school girls who many times must stay home during their menstrual cycle because of lack of a latrine. Pray also for communities that don't allow males and females to share a latrine, even if the home has only one.

24. Protection for trucks that deliver water to communities that have no other water supply.

25. Rain in areas that have experienced severe drought and their crops have died. “He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills” (Psalm 147:8).

26. Areas that have experienced flooding and resulting cholera outbreaks. Pray that communities would keep their ditches and waterways clear of weeds and trash even during dry season, so that when it rains the water can drain properly.

27. New drugs and other interventions that are badly needed to reduce the impact of parasitic flatworms that are responsible for seriously effecting millions of people and causing 280,000 deaths every year in sub-Saharan Africa alone. People become infected when they wade or bathe in water inhabited by tiny snails that host the parasites.

28. Intercessors as they begin to prepare for PH's annual 40-day season of prayer and fasting. Prayer groups and individuals will set aside a day or part of a day October 1 through November 9 to join the wave of prayer for women around the world.

29. Women living in large towns and cities to meet together and discuss ways to keep their homes and streets clean to help prevent the spread of diseases and bacteria. Pray for courage to step forward and provide their communities with what their leaders haven't been willing to provide.

30. Women to know how to identify serious problems that are allowing chemicals and poisons to run into their water supplies.

