

This month, the world's eyes are on China as it hosts the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. At the same time, the media is full of news reports about China's economy, earthquakes, pollution and growth. But what about the untold stories?

China's universities are full of young women hoping for a better future. They face a drastically different world than their parents did. Many struggle to find jobs that usually go to Han Chinese men. Even women with university degrees often accept positions beneath their training or must provide "services" to their boss to keep their jobs. Their strong desire to prove that money their parents spent on a daughter's education was not wasted sometimes leads them to do drastic things.

Abortion is widely accepted as a positive birth control method for young women pursuing their education or career. It is often the only option given to unmarried pregnant women, as having a child outside of marriage shames the mother and leaves the child without an identity.

Migrant workers, including mothers, seek their fortune in China's fast-industrializing cities. Because of this, many children live with elderly grandparents in villages while their parents seek jobs in the cities. Some are even left alone.

These choices women make many times lead them to despair. Suicide is the cause of death in almost a third of China's rural women between ages 15 and 34, with suicide rates for women being 25 percent higher than for men. Chinese women need to know that God values them and their daughters. Offering hope and friendship, Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* program gives sisterly advice on practical issues in their lives, and reveals enriching truths from God's Word.



Women of Hope broadcasts in 46 languages. Monthly prayer calendars are available in over 30 languages. (www.projecthannah.org)



a trans world radio ministry

Please pray for...

1. People who lost loved ones, homes or businesses in China's enormous earthquake in May. Pray they will find peace and security in Jesus Christ, and that Chinese Christians will have the opportunity to show God's love to those who are hurting and confused.
2. God's guidance and physical strength for Jenny Lau, Project Hannah's (PH) Mandarin *Women of Hope* (WoH) producer. Pray that Internet users will listen to this program and respond to Christ's offer of salvation. One listener writes: "I heard your program on the radio accidentally, and later I bought a computer and listen through the Internet. I pray that the Lord will equip me, build me up to be a woman with hope and intelligence to spread the gospel to other women."
3. Christians in the growing urban churches in China as they show God's love by visiting the physically and mentally challenged (and adopting them), giving to the poor, visiting and opening orphanages, enthusiastically sharing the good news with everyone they meet. (Christianity Today, May 2008).
4. China's women who have always been taught the lie that an unborn baby is just a mass of tissue, easily discarded with no regrets. Pray that they would hear the truth about their precious babies before it is too late, and they seek repeated abortions as a method of birth control.
5. Christians who must work seven days a week to find encouragement and instruction from God's Word through TWR radio and Internet programs. "I am still working in Zhejiang province. I have found a church here, but I only have two days off each month" (China).
6. Chinese parents to value the lives of girls who are created by God. The one-child policy has caused an imbalance in China's population. Due to the Chinese preference to have a son to carry on the family line, many female babies are aborted.

7. Christians in China to have opportunities to share Christ with the thousands of athletes, journalists and visitors for the Olympics. Also uplift the millions of Chinese who are seeking to fill a void through the event. Many are excited about this opportunity for their country, and might experience an emotional letdown afterward, leaving them searching for true purpose.
8. God's anointing on PH's WoH script writers. Pray for His direction as they prepare these words of hope which are so vital to women of all walks of life. "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" (Eph. 1:17).
9. Women to find the dignity and respect that they deserve as they learn of God's love and special plans for them. One listener writes: "I work in a factory. I feel lonely and worried. I don't know how to deal with people around me and don't have any friends. For a 22-year-old girl, I know nothing, I don't know how to work, how to live. My boyfriend says I am a dummy."
10. China's minority women to have the opportunity to hear the WoH programs in their heart languages and in a way that speaks to their needs. Pray that the 9 million Uyghur speakers who are isolated by their culture will hear of God's love for them through TWR programs online.
11. Safety for staff members as they visit and deliver Radio Church Kits to groups who desire to listen to Trans World Radio programs, including WoH. "Do you have any material about being a true Christian? I am weak spiritually and my education level is low. I hope God will open a way for me and show me the way forward" (China).
12. Marli Spieker and Dawn Siemens as they train women in Sweden from August 12 to 15. Uplift them as they also meet with women representing cultures of another major religion to discuss how to tailor PH's Women of Hope program specifically for this focus group.

13. God's anointing to be upon the Mandarin WoH program. Through the broadcast, mothers are better equipped to empower their children with the Word of God. Pray that the new generation in China would be men and women of God. "My mother has been a Christian for many years and, because of her influence, I also joined the local church. My mother is 60 years old and illiterate" (China).

14. More girls to have the opportunity to study in China. Many parents still believe that it is a waste of time and money for girls to become educated. As a result, many women are unable to obtain a job because of their lack of skills and knowledge.

15. The Holy Spirit's leading in women who want to forgive abusive husbands and fathers and live with a respectful attitude as a testimony to them of God's changing power. Pray that the "Lessons for Your Life" portion of WoH programs will help them understand how to build good relationships with family members.

16. PH's Korean WoH production team (Grace Jung, Grace Park, Mun-Kyung Lee, Inja, Aejah and Hyeowon) as they provide hope and encouragement to women in North Korea, yet receive no response from this closed country where Christian women face horrible abuse.

17. Young Chinese women who are considering suicide. China's female suicide rate is the highest in the world (about 500 a day). Pray that through the WoH programs these women will hear the message of hope in Christ and begin to sense their value to their Creator God.

18. Sho Sunwha, PH's Korean prayer coordinator, as she organizes volunteers to translate and distribute the monthly prayer

calendars. Pray that Korean women in South Korea, the United States, Canada and other countries will form prayer groups to support the effort to reach Korean women through the WoH programs.

19. Listeners of the WoH programs to share with family, friends and neighbors the good news and helpful lessons they hear on their radios. Pray that God will grant the underground church in North Korea strength, perseverance and renewed faith each day to overcome persecution and hardship.

20. Protection for North Koreans who entered China illegally to escape starvation and search for hope. It is estimated that over 300,000 of them are hiding in China. If these refugees are caught by authorities, they would be deported back to North Korea and most of them would receive capital punishment. Pray for South Korean Christians who are teaching God's truths to North Koreans in China and other countries.

21. Women in China to become more aware of the threat of AIDS to them and their newborn babies. Gay men in China live double lives. To honor tradition and the wishes of their parents, almost all gay men marry women. These men work and live in the cities, then return home to wives who know nothing of their lifestyle or that they are infected with HIV/AIDS.

22. China's women to have alternatives to abortion, and that adoption by other Chinese families would become a culturally acceptable practice. Pray for single mothers who cannot even register their children for school because there is no legal father.

23. Protection against sexual harassment for Chinese women in the workplace. Even educated

women have a difficult time getting jobs, so often they don't report harassment. Pray that men of God will stand firm in their faith and have the courage to stand up for women who are abused.

24. Single women who are serving the Lord to be comforted and encouraged when they face struggles serving alone without a husband or family support. Ask God for His provision to surround them with faithful supporters to strengthen them.

25. Married women who are suffering for their faith, or face opposition from their unbelieving husbands to continue to stand firm in the truth. Pray that they persevere in love so that their husbands may be saved. Uplift the many women who are leading China's churches to have strength to carry on and training in God's Word to keep them from false teaching.

26. Families to find a way to stay together. "I thank the Lord that both my wife and my child are Christians. Children are the heritage that God gives to men, so maybe next year, I will not go to the city to work and be separated from my family. I will try to find a job here in my home village. Please pray for me" (China).

27. Chinese Christian lawyers, doctors, teachers and business leaders to stand firm in their walk with the Lord, show Christ's love through their professions and continue to be a witness for His mercy and grace to those who do not yet understand God's truths. Pray for those who desire to share God's love with minority groups.

28. God's wisdom and strength to rest upon PH's SE Asia teams and WoH producers: Ruthanna (Cebuano), Jenneth (Tagalog), Maricris (Ilocano), Buakab (Thai), Tien (Vietnamese), Mary (Khmer), Susi (Indonesian), Lilik (Javanese), Chit Chit (Burmese) and Naw Ku Plah (Sgaw Karen). Pray that the Lord would "establish the work of their hands" (Psalm 90:17) as these women also lead in their churches.

29. Strength and good health for the women of China. Most village women work in fields and care for families at the same time. Pray that they will hear the comforting words of PH's WoH programs and be encouraged to face their tasks through God's power.

30. God's intervention and protection for the women in China who face rape, abduction and slavery. In some areas, young men outnumber young women by 30 to 40 percent (Operation World). Because of the shortage of women, many foreign and rural girls are sold into "marriages" against their will, and are sometimes shared by brothers.

31. The many who have not yet heard the message of God's grace. Through prayer, claim for God the women, men and children "from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Revelation 7:9) who will bow before God and acknowledge Him as Lord.

