

The Lord is at Work!

In recent years, home-renovation shows have become increasingly popular. Each episode features clients who hire capable professionals to find fixer-uppers with the potential to become someone's dream house. Typically, the first part of the show consists of a search for the right house to renovate. Once the clients choose their home, the contractor and designer start the arduous work. The team must keep the renovation under budget and within deadline. More often than not, they are faced with structural problems and other unforeseen challenges, which make things more interesting!

Watching these shows is fun. The before-and-after reveal is usually breathtaking. And the most common remark is: "I can't believe it's the same house!" It always amazes me how a residence whose future looks hopeless turns into what many would consider a dream house after going through some carefully planned hard work.

This format can easily be applied to our lives. These houses were once perfect. When they were first built, everything was new and working properly. Over the years, however, they deteriorate for a number of reasons.

Before sin, humankind was perfect. God created man and woman in his likeness. They were stunning, perfect "houses." After sin made its way into the world, everything changed.

Humankind was no longer the analog of perfect houses; worse yet, the connection to the builder was broken. And all the "houses" built after that inherited the same glitch, which means we all desperately need some good remodeling. The first

step in the restoration process is making sure the house is reconnected to its builder, something that can only be carried out through Christ: "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ" (2 Cor. 5:18a).

Following that comes sustained remodeling. Some malfunctions may not be so obvious to us. David was aware of that and prayed: "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24). I wonder how many times David prayed that prayer. I know it is a recurrent prayer for me as restoration is a lifelong process. I realize that all the breaking, smashing, fixing and changes that take place during the renovation are not always pleasant – some would say they are rarely pleasing at all. The result, though, is breathtaking.

"We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18).

Be encouraged even when things in your life are being smashed and broken: The Lord is at work.

In his amazing love,



Susie Pek
Global Director for TWR Women of Hope

MAY 2024 Prayers for Asia

1. Father, provide Christian husbands for believing Chinese women so that they will not give in to parental pressure and choose a partner outside the faith. Strengthen these women to say no to sex outside of marriage. (Heb. 13:4)
2. Lord, protect women in Afghanistan who face persecution and violence in their own homes. (Isa. 41:10)
3. God, may women in Myanmar have increased access to health services, thereby improving maternal health and decreasing infant mortality. (Jer. 17:14)
4. Father, bring many people into Japanese churches and enable them to maintain the unity of the Spirit, speak the truth in love and mature into being like Christ. (Eph. 4:1-16)
5. God, we pray for access to clean water in rural India. Provide good health and strength to women as they secure water for their households and livestock. (3 John 1:2)
6. Lord, help husbands and wives in Singapore to be able to afford having children and to share caregiving responsibilities. (Gen. 1:28)
7. God, we pray that young people in South Korea would follow the relationship principles you communicated through the Bible and get married rather than settle for living together. (Matt. 19:4-6)
8. Lord, bring cultural change that will stop marriage practices harmful to females in Pakistan. May honor killings, bride-price payments and the selling of daughters to become servants disappear into history. (Ps. 7:1-2)
9. Father, guide our Southeast Asia team as they plan to produce the *Women of Hope* program and bring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Malay language this year. (Ps. 96:3)
10. Strengthen marriages in Mongolia, Lord. Protect, provide for and comfort single mothers who bear the heavy burdens of family life due to divorce. (Ps. 68:5)
11. God, may women in Nepal have more educational opportunities to enable them to develop the skills necessary for personal and professional growth. (Prov. 16:16)
12. Father, strengthen and protect women in Cambodia as they face spiritual battles. May they stand firm in their faith and grow in obedience to your Word. (Ps. 28:7)
13. Lord, guide our Indonesian team as they produce the *Women of Hope* program. Give them wisdom to use new technologies to expand the reach of the prayer calendar. (Prov. 4:6-7)
14. Heavenly Father, give wisdom to Filipino parents on how to guide and discipline stubborn children. (Prov. 1:8-9)
15. We praise you Lord for the opportunity to produce *Women of Hope* in the Hmong language to reach Hmong people living in Laos, northern Vietnam and Thailand. (2 Sam. 22:50)
16. God, may China's younger generation embrace you and receive your protection, healing and guidance. May they bring their relational, employment and other needs to you. (Matt. 7:7)
17. Father, may ethnic minority groups in Afghanistan receive the gospel and know they are valuable because they are created in your image. (Gen. 1:27)
18. God, enable the government of Myanmar to protect women so they may work and live safely amid rising violence and insecurity. (Ps. 23:4)
19. Lord, may many women in Japan be saved through the *Women of Hope* broadcasts. Please raise up additional monthly supporters within this nation to help fund this ministry. (Isa. 52:7-10)
20. Father, protect women in India from kidnapping, assault, rape and other cruel acts perpetrated by their husbands and husbands' relatives. (Col. 3:19)
21. God, please bless the effort to raise funds to begin a Bible class in northern Vietnam for women who have graduated from secondary school and for wives of pastors. (Rom. 12:2)
22. Father, we pray for those who have defected from North Korea to South Korea. Grant them mercy as they settle into a new society. (Lev. 19:33-34)
23. Lord, we pray that the medical system in Pakistan would change so women would be included in clinical trials. May medical care be improved there, especially for women's health issues. (Ps. 139:13-15)
24. God, heal the hearts and minds of women in Cambodia who have experienced trauma and hardship. Bring them peace, comfort and emotional restoration. (Ps. 147:3)
25. Lord, guide leaders to improve the health-care system in Papua New Guinea, which is underfunded and overwhelmed with high rates of malaria and diabetes. (Jer. 33:6)
26. Many young Mongolian girls are having premature births or contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Lord, help them to see your wisdom in remaining chaste until marriage. (James 1:14)
27. Father, provide opportunities for women in Nepal to deepen their relationship with you and find solace in their faith journeys. (James 4:8)
28. God, enable our Indonesian team to raise sufficient funds in the country so they can establish a follow-up ministry to provide spiritual guidance to program listeners and respond to their needs. (James 1:27)
29. Father, may Filipino families look to you as their sovereign provider and guide as they face difficulties in health, finances, relationships and employment. (Prov. 3:6)
30. Father, we pray for improved health care in Nepal so women there would have resources to address both physical and mental-health needs. (Jer. 30:17)
31. As listeners to the *Women of Hope* program in Vietnam are visited by church and lay leaders, may they mature in their relationship with you, Lord. (Rom. 1:10)