

Educating, encouraging and equipping women to pray, listen, learn, grow and give

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Isaiah 40:28-29*

Making changes in our lives can take time. A new relationship. A new family legacy. A new business. All these things take time to build. But where do we turn when we are waiting for the changes to happen? Where do we get the strength to persevere when we are watching something being slowly designed? Why must we wait when God is designing something new? Have you ever started a project only to think, "This is taking longer than I expected!"

I grew up in a home with a grandmother who was an amazing seamstress and, as a young woman, had her own business in New York City. My sister picked up all her wonderful skills and love for sewing, but it did not come so easy for me. I remember thinking, "There are too many steps to follow to create a new pair of pants." I was always cutting corners to complete the design. I was frustrated, and in my frustration, I did things wrong, and it took me longer to complete the project because of my "need" to cut corners to see the finished design.

I think about the times when God was designing a new pattern of life for me, when he was creating a new understanding of my purpose and plan for serving in ministry. Over the years, I've been tempted to ask God to move me faster through the process of transformation. The process allows me to say goodbye to wrong beliefs and embrace the truth of what God says about my identity and purpose for life. It's easier to believe that we have no worth or that we will never become people of value. We can play

those old tapes in our minds and believe them, or we can allow God to transform our minds and believe the truth that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in his image (Psalm 139:14).

Today we live in a world that is still filled with much uncertainty. And each day can feel like a waiting game as things are always developing, changing and moving in different directions. Yet I believe more and more that, as we travel along the road of life, each step brings us closer to an eternity with God. And each season brings a new understanding of what it means to renew our strength as we wait on the Lord (Isa. 40:30-31). You have value! God loves you and is creating in you a beautiful design as you are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:10).

Whatever you are going through today, just wait, watch and see what God will do. He is building in you and me a new thing. He is building in us a deeper trust in his truth and a plan for our lives. He is building a stronger dependence on his purpose for our lives.

Don't worry. Instead, believe today that you will grow if you wait. Remember that there is a season for everything under heaven (Eccles. 3:1-8).

In him our hearts rejoice,



Dr. Peggy Banks  
Global Ministry Director, TWR Women of Hope

## June 2022 Prayers for East Africa

1. Lord, may your gospel not only reconcile Rwandans with you but also bring reconciliation between warring tribes. Bring your healing to their hearts and emotions and unity among the people groups. (Col.1:20)
2. All powerful God, we pray for your intervention against the starvation and poverty that is a result of locusts destroying so many crops across Ethiopia. (Ps.145:15-16)
3. Lord, give courage to the people in the Mara region of Tanzania who are committed to be the voice of change against female genital mutilation. Grant them favor in the eyes of those who can enact cultural change. (Josh.1:9)
4. God, we ask that you provide a new location for a church in Eritrea where they can worship you and make an impact in the community. (Phil. 4:19)
5. We ask you, almighty God, to give impoverished women in African countries the contacts, creativity and new opportunities to support themselves and their families. (2 Cor. 9:8)
6. Lord, we pray protection for our Somali team as they engage with listeners by telephone, Facebook and in-person visits. (Ps. 32:7)
7. Father, we pray for women in Burundi who struggle to support their families after their husbands have abandoned them. Please provide job opportunities and emotional support for them. (James 1:17)
8. Almighty God, we pray for the church in Zanzibar to be strong in the faith and to persevere in sharing the gospel without fear. (1 Pet.1:9)
9. Almighty God, you know the unemployment, drought and lack of natural resources in Djibouti. We pray for assurance of your love for the people as they depend on you for everything. (Ps. 23:1)
10. We praise you, Lord, for Kenyan prayer groups that faithfully continued their online meetings despite recent lockdowns. (Heb.10:24)
11. There are so many women in South Sudan who are victims of sexual assault. Please provide emotional healing and the medical resources they need. (Ps.147:3)
12. Because of early marriage and pregnancies for young teenage girls in Uganda, many are suffering with fistula. Lord, we pray for accessible medical care and your spiritual encouragement. (Ps.103:3)
13. We pray for the safety of believers composing such a small minority in countries strongly controlled by a different dominant religion. God, give them your divine peace and protection. (Isa. 26:3))
14. God, please motivate the church to help and provide places of refuge for the many Rwandan women with alcoholic husbands. (Matt. 25:44-45)
15. We pray for peace to be restored in Ethiopia and for the resolution of its conflict. May their leadership receive your wisdom, and may they desire to do what is right and just in your eyes. (James 1:5)
16. Father, we pray for the refreshment of the coordinators in Tanzania as they work tirelessly to encourage many women in prayer groups. (Heb.10:24-25)
17. Father, so many have lost loved ones this year due to COVID-19. May the depressed find hope, comfort and peace in your presence. (2 Cor 1:3)
18. Father, bring real solutions for the young girls in South Sudan who are sold into marriage by their starving families and thereby denied an education. (Matt. 7:7)
19. Lord, since it's not safe for local believers to witness to nonbelievers in Djibouti, we ask that you raise up outside missionaries that can effectively reach the Djibouti people. (Col. 4:5-6)
20. Thank you, Lord, for the Burundi prayer groups, which allow women to openly share their joys and sorrows and carry one another's burdens. (Gal. 6:2)
21. Father, we pray for people who lost their jobs during the pandemic. The economic strain has caused conflict within families, and some have responded through domestic violence. (Ps.140:12)
22. Loving Father, meet the spiritual and emotional needs of Rwandan widows who raise children alone. Give them strength to persevere. (Isa. 40:29)
23. Father, we praise you that listeners in Kenya are hungry for live programming produced by TWR Women of Hope. We ask you to raise up financial donors within Kenya to provide for this. (Ps.107:9)
24. God, grant great wisdom and courage to Samia Suluhu Hassan, president of Tanzania, as she leads the country. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)
25. Thank you, Lord, for our TWR Women of Hope Healing Voice audio dramas in the Ari community of Ethiopia. It has impacted many lives, and broken families are being restored. (1 Thess. 5:11)
26. Father, please provide employment opportunities for the women in Uganda who are struggling to provide even the basic needs for their families. (James 1:4)
27. Thank you, Father, that the prayer groups in Rwanda are increasing! We praise you for raising up so many women who are praying for their country. (Ps.107:1)
28. The unstable internet situation in Ethiopia has amplified the problems of isolation from COVID, lack of jobs and overall communication obstacles. God, please bring your peace to these hurting people. (Matt. 6:25a)
29. Father, please comfort those affected by fistula in the eastern part of Africa. Lead them to good medical care and supportive friends who can encourage them. (Ps.121:1-2)
30. Almighty God, we pray for all African countries that are facing poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and crime. Surround the people with strength and your peace. (1 Sam. 2:8)