

**You are not forgotten: hope for Cambodia's women**

by Pisey Ith, Cambodia national coordinator

In Cambodia today, many women carry heavy burdens – burdens born of abuse, of lost opportunity, of silenced voices. Yet hope also blooms when communities care, when knowledge spreads and when love holds those who feel most alone.

One woman in five between the ages of 15 and 49 has suffered emotional, physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. About 10% have experienced physical violence, and around 3% have suffered sexual violence since the age of 15.

Many girls and women in Cambodia not only endure gender-based violence in different forms, but they also face enormous barriers when seeking justice or support – whether through the formal courts or community-based solutions. Violence is not only in homes; it is found in workplaces, on the streets and increasingly online, leaving scars on bodies, minds and spirits.

This painful reality also limits a woman's chance to grow, for when security is not guaranteed, education and opportunity are often pushed further away. Though many girls begin school, staying in school is difficult. In 2022–23, almost 9.5% of girls dropped out of primary school. Adult female literacy remains at only 79.8%, compared with 88.4% for males. Long distances to school, family

responsibilities and cultural pressures often force girls to leave education behind. Without learning, many are driven into early marriage and cycles of poverty.

Even in the midst of deep suffering, light can still shine. *Women of Hope* walks alongside the women of Cambodia with compassion and commitment through radio and digital broadcasts that teach them how to protect themselves, recognize danger and find help. These programs are more than information; they are lifelines that lead women to the true source of hope and healing – a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the one who brings light into the darkest places.

*Women of Hope* shares the good news of Jesus, reminding women that they are never beyond his love or reach. As they learn to know the Savior, who restores broken hearts and gives new life, they begin to see their worth, find courage to face pain and experience lasting transformation. Through prayer, encouragement and the love of Jesus, women in Cambodia discover strength to rise again – because they are valued, loved and never alone.

1. Lord, enable *Precious and Beloved* to be the light that unlocks the darkness for the women in **Albania** searching for God. (Isa. 9:2)
2. Father, may the gospel bring salvation throughout **Benin**, reaching citizens and leaders on every level so that the kingdom of God would rule and reign there. (Matt. 28:19)
3. God, may women on **Bonaire** be strengthen in their spiritual gifts and supported in places of leadership; may they model lives of service, holiness and love. (Rom. 16:1-2)
4. Father, may the hearts of teenage girls in **Botswana**, who in their pain are turning to drugs and sex work, be drawn to you. Guide and give grace to their parents in raising them. (Heb. 4:16)
5. Lord, may elderly women and widows be welcomed in the local **Brazilian** churches, supported in their needs and integrated into a unified body of Christ. (Ps. 68:5)
6. We pray for **Cambodian** women to have strong faith, participate in local ministry and share the gospel of Jesus with those around them. (1 Thess. 2:4)
7. God, may **China's** youth encounter you and your gospel message and turn from folk spirituality to hope and new life in Christ. (Rom. 1:16)
8. Unite the churches in **Denmark** to rise up with a renewed love and awe of you and your Word. Father, pour out your Spirit of revival so that its people may be saved. (Acts 4:12)
9. Lord, women in the **Dominican Republic** need biblical literacy for their knowledge and spiritual growth. Raise up godly, trained individuals and organizations to teach them. (2 Tim. 2:2)
10. God, you are our comforter and the restorer of our souls. Bring healing and hope to the suffering women of **Ethiopia** who have lost their children in the war. (Matt. 5:4)
11. Father, may the church leaders in the **Faroe Islands** preach the biblical truth about salvation and life after death so that listeners clearly understand what your Word says. (2 Cor. 5:1-7)
12. Lord, we praise you for revival among **Finnish** young men as well as their willingness to tell about Jesus on social media. Let it happen among young Finnish women as well. (Ps. 85:6)
13. God, may your Spirit ignite a flame in the believers of **Gabon** to strengthen those who are weak and to increase their faith in coming to you in prayer. (Isa. 40:29)
14. Father, break down walls of persecution, intolerance and bureaucracy hindering church growth in **Indonesia**; unify Christian communities in compassion, reconciliation and mission. (Ps. 133:1)
15. Lord, help the **Japanese** people to receive your biblical truth so they will not accept false teachings and cults. Deliver those entrapped by these lies. (Matt. 7:13-23)
16. May the 590,000 souls in **South Korea** who have been deceived by cults and heresies have their eyes opened to the truth of Jesus and follow him. (2 Pet. 2:1)
17. God, give courage to faith leaders in **Liberia** to boldly take a stand against gender-based violence in Liberia. May abusers repent and have their hearts transformed. (Ps. 82:4)
18. Lord, raise up young female believers in **Mongolia** to become spiritual leaders. May they hear your voice, be strengthened to lead in faith and shine Jesus' light. (John 17:17)
19. Father, strengthen and provide discipleship and support for small rural churches in **Nepal** that lack resources, trained leaders and fellowship. (Eph. 4:11-13)
20. Lord, free churches in **Papua New Guinea** from fear, evil spirits and syncretism; fill them with discernment and courage to walk in your Spirit alone. (James 4:7)
21. Father, you love unity in the body of Christ. Break down the divisions among **Paraguay's** Christians; may they work as one to build the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 1:10)
22. God, give creative and wise strategies to **Portugal's** youth leaders that will help this generation be faithful role models to those around them. (Matt. 20:26-28)
23. Lord, give **Romanian** women a hunger for your Word. Awaken spiritual gifts in them and bring about a spiritual awakening in the church and society. (1 Pet. 4:10)
24. God, break down denominational barriers in the body of Christ in the Eastern Cape, **South Africa**. May Christians make every effort to live in unity with one another. (Phil. 2:2)
25. Father, enable women in **Tanzania** to stand firm in their faith, grounded in the true knowledge of God and not swayed by false prophets who distort the truth. (Col. 2:8)
26. Lord, strengthen rural churches in **Timor-Leste** to carry the gospel to remote villages; let them care for the needy and plant seeds of hope in dark places. (Prov. 19:17)
27. God, may congregations in **Uruguay** value and support women, encouraging them to live according to God's calling for them. May the church reflect the values of Christ to the world. (Phil. 4:3)
28. Lord, protect **Vietnamese** believers meeting secretly; grant them spiritual gifts, bold obedience to speak Christ's truth into dark places and endurance in suffering. (Matt. 5:10)