

The Lord of the winds

by Susie Pek, global director

On my last trip, the theme could easily have been *"the fury of the winds."*

Before takeoff, the pilot announced a delay: The wind had shifted direction, and the plane needed to be lightened. Right away, I remembered the disciples' response to Jesus' authority in Matthew 8: "Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" I prayed, entrusting my life and that flight to the Lord of the winds.

Minutes later, the pilot returned: The winds had shifted again, and unloading the plane was no longer necessary. In less than 15 minutes, the wind changed direction three or four times. We took off peacefully. I was deeply moved by the power of the One who commands the wind.

And it didn't stop there. In the midst of busy workdays, I had a sweet pause — the joy of attending my niece's wedding. The day before the ceremony, winds were strong and cold, bringing concern along with the chill. We prayed, asking the Lord to bless the couple with a beautiful day. And in his kindness, he heard us: There were sunshine and a gentle breeze, perfect for the outdoor celebration.

Then, on the day we were supposed to head home — a tornado warning! A friend mentioned that I bring bad weather when I visit the USA. 😊 Her quip seemed peculiar to me, since sunshine tends to follow me and warm up every place I go! The winds were clearly following me on this journey. The passage I touched on, Matthew 8, is remarkably rich. It takes us right into the boat with the disciples. The storm was violent. Waves crashed against the sides. And Jesus was sleeping.

Terrified, they woke him: "Lord, save us! We're going to die!" Jesus replied: "Why are you so afraid, you of little faith?" Then he stood up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and everything became calm.

Perhaps you, like me, have heard this story many times. Yet it never loses its power. The disciples' fear, Jesus' serenity and the assurance that he can calm the storms of our lives — these never grow old. I am still amazed that such a brief passage carries so many lessons.

What stood out to me most strongly this time was the disciples' awe before Jesus' power: "Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" They still did not fully understand who he was — but they were finding out firsthand. The waters and the winds obeyed him. He was powerful beyond anything they had imagined.

Sitting at the airport, amid all the uncertainty of our journey home, that question echoed in my heart again: "Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" And the answer is clear: He is the Lord of the wind, the waters, the mountains, the world — and of our lives. The Almighty God, who calms the roar of the seas and their waves, as well as the turmoil of the nations.

Isn't it wonderful to know that this mighty God is the same yesterday, today and forever? And even more amazing: **He cares** for the women and situations we pray about as well as for each one of us. I hope this brings a smile to your face.

In his amazing love,
Susie

JULY 2026 Prayers for women in Europe

1. Father, many women in **Poland** have difficulty conceiving. Bless and heal them so they may enjoy the precious gift of children. (Gen. 21:1)
2. God, guide young women of **Portugal** to find their identity in you. May they not give in to pressure but find their purpose, courage, love and truth in you. (Prov. 16:4a)
3. Lord, help believers in **Romania** to be people of peace and unity in a society that is so troubled and divided. (Phil. 2:14-16)
4. God, stir in **Russian** women a deep hunger and thirst for your Word, and make believers eager to share it with them. (Matt. 5:6)
5. Father, guide our team in **Serbia** to effectively use digital platforms to reach women of all ages, especially the younger generations. (Ps. 145:4)
6. As many women and children suffer daily violence within their families in **Spain**, Lord, draw them to you for deliverance, healing and salvation. (Ps. 9:9-10)
7. Move in the hearts of mothers in **Switzerland**, God, to desire and find joy in caring for and raising their children at home. (Ps. 127:3)
8. Lord, grant leaders in **Albania** the fear of the Lord, that they may do their work only for you. May your truth and righteousness guide their every decision. (Prov. 9:10)
9. Call the youth of **Belarus** to yourself, God, giving them hearts of repentance. May they not turn toward alcohol but instead embrace your gift of life in Jesus. (Prov. 28:13)
10. Praise God for the 200 episodes available in **Belgium's** podcast for women, *Arise and Shine*. May it bless the women in Belgium and the Netherlands. (Ps. 34:8)
11. Father, we pray for the physical and spiritual safety of the TWR Women of Hope staff and their families in **Ukraine** and in every nation at war. (Ps. 46:1)
12. Protect women's lives in **Croatia**, Lord, as threats and violence by their current or former partners are often warning signs of potential femicide. Please stop these senseless killings. (Ps. 121:7)
13. Father, show pregnant women in **Denmark** your thoughts of a hopeful future for their unborn child. Send these women help through people who care. (Ps. 139:13, 16)
14. As one-third of Finnish women have faced domestic violence, we praise God that anyone threatened or harassed in **Finland** can seek protection through restraining orders. (Ps. 25:15-16)
15. May **French** women be treated with respect, Lord. Grant them strength in the face of trials, dignity in every situation and hope to face the future with confidence. (Ps. 46:11)
16. God, may single mothers in **Germany** feel your nearness and care as you strengthen them with hope, surround them with support and provide for their needs. (Deut. 31:6)
17. This fall our **Netherlands** team will launch *Girls Talk*, a new podcast for teen girls. Father, may it reach and bless thousands of girls and draw them closer to you. (Heb. 10:22)
18. God, may women in **Norway** who face pressure, loneliness and mental struggles experience your presence and find hope and healing for their inner wounds and trauma. (Matt. 11:28)
19. Lord, help **Polish** women who pursue careers to boost their self-esteem and importance come to recognize their worth in your eyes. (1 John 3:1)
20. Father, bring comfort, peace and provision for families and businesses that lost everything in the storms that ravaged **Portugal**. Give them strength to begin again. (Isa. 41:10)
21. Lord, grant the political leaders of **Romania** your wisdom, strategy and determination to carry out the reforms needed in this country. (Prov. 21:1)
22. Father, bring comfort to all who grieve the loss of loved ones in the wars in **Russia** and every other nation where conflict rages. (Ps. 147:3)
23. May every message and program shared by the **Serbian** team bring hope, peace and spiritual growth. May their work with marginalized women and children reflect God's love. (Luke 4:18)
24. Lord, please guide and give creative and relevant ideas to our team in **Spain** as they minister to and meet the needs of women in their communities. (2 Tim. 4:2)
25. God, give courage to **Swiss** believers to exercise their freedom of religion. May they allow Jesus and his gospel to affect every area of their lives. (Josh 1:9)
26. Father, anoint each TWR and Women of Hope staff member in **Ukraine** and other war-torn countries with your Spirit to bring comfort and encouragement to their listeners. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
27. Lord, may **Albanian** leaders create laws that benefit the destitute, the marginalized and those who cannot speak for themselves. (Prov. 31:8)
28. God, we lift up women in **Croatia** and seek opportunities for them to advance into leadership positions, receive higher wages and obtain more secure forms of employment. (Phil. 1:6)
29. May women in **Denmark** who have lost their babies come to you, Jesus, for restoration and hope. (Jer. 30:17)
30. Lord, strengthen the weary women in **France**, encourage those who are lonely and holding them up by your gracious presence. (Prov. 31:25)
31. God, may the new podcast series *From Wounds to Strength* reach women with a message of hope, healing and salvation, bringing restoration to many in **Norway**. (Rom. 15:13)