

How hope is reaching women of Belarus

By the National Coordinator of Belarus*

Belarus is a small and courageous country that has been fighting for independence almost its entire history, preserving its own identity, language, culture and mentality. Today, 26% of the population speaks Belarusian, while the rest use Russian. *Women of Hope* is presented in Belarus in the Belarusian language.

With 73% of Belarusians claiming Russian Orthodoxy as their faith, most women consider themselves believers, yet faith is commonly limited to rituals and inherited customs. Few know the gospel as good news for their personal lives. Generations shaped by atheistic ideologies have left behind fear, silence and a lack of trust – even within Christian contexts. They seem to be a people moving forward, yet unsure of direction or hope.

Belarusian women are strong and capable, often carrying the weight of family responsibilities alone without emotional or spiritual support. Many live with unprocessed pain, loneliness and deep inner fatigue. This is why, when TWR Women of Hope Belarus was established a year and a half ago, our two clear goals were to tell women about Jesus and to create a digital community where women could find support and acceptance from one another.

Looking back, the first episodes felt like the fate of our country, heartbreaking and gloomy with more tears and despair than answers or hope. I feared the emotional side would overshadow the gospel message. After receiving training and the program

scripts in English, we noticed that the tone changed. Episodes began to share light and goodness, even while analyzing problems. I'm realizing that through this project, the Lord wants to heal my soul too – I am the first woman who is being changed by the Lord through the ministry of TWR Women of Hope in Belarus.

Although the audience is still small, the fruit is personal and powerful. Episodes that have been on YouTube for a year or more have been viewed 100 to 300 times. To build the community, I run a Telegram channel and have deep conversations when listeners share how God meets them at just the right moment.

One wrote, "Yesterday I was arguing with my husband and didn't understand what was happening to me. Today I listened to your episode on 'Love Languages.' It opened my eyes to understand myself, and I asked my husband for forgiveness."

Others speak of restored peace and renewed love. Many describe the program as something that calms and embraces listeners and gives meaning. Yet the most valuable feedback for me was when a listener wrote: "I want to become a woman of hope."

May God grant that desire to each listener.

* Name withheld for security reasons

1. May the visually impaired in **Eastern Cape, South Africa**, grow spiritually and find hope in Jesus as they listen to *Women of Hope* programs by audio device. (Jer. 29:13)
2. Merciful Father, be the provider and protector for those families in **Eswatini** led by single parents or by children caring for their younger siblings. (Ps. 68:5)
3. God, grant protection, safety, courage and healing to women in **Germany** suffering domestic violence. Surround them with justice, refuge and compassionate support. (Ps. 27:5)
4. Lord, give peace and courage to believers facing rejection and restrictions in building churches in **Indonesia**. Grant them favor from the local authorities and surrounding communities. (Ps. 5:12)
5. God, provide protection, support and proper medical treatment for **Japanese** families with members suffering from mental illness. (Ps. 34:17-18)
6. Lord, provide shelter, food and loving care for the homeless in **Mongolia**. Grant us compassionate hearts to serve them. (Isa. 58:7)
7. Father, intervene for Christians in northern **Nigeria** who are facing persecution and opposition for their faith in Jesus. (Ps. 34:19)
8. Protect believers in **North Korea**, God, where possessing a Bible or worshipping in secret is an anti-state crime punishable by death or imprisonment. (Ps. 91:1-2)
9. Open doors of opportunity and hope for those rural communities in **Papua New Guinea** that lack access to health care, education and infrastructure. Meet their needs, O Lord. (Ps. 82:3-4)
10. We praise you, Father, for the new and safer women-only prison where TWR Women of Hope ministers to the marginalized and forgotten women prisoners in **Paraguay**. (Matt. 25:35-46)
11. God, transform the hearts of **Polish** people who are hostile toward immigrants and are driven by anti-Semitism. (Lev. 19:34)
12. Awaken your church to care for the vulnerable in **Portugal**: the poor, lonely, elderly, sick, homeless, disabled and mentally ill. Grant them dignity, provision and hope, Lord. (Isa. 58:10)
13. Father, increase the resources of organizations in **Romania** that help people with disabilities and children at risk of dropping out of school. (1 John 3:17)
14. God, strengthen Protestant Christians in Tatarstan, **Russia**, who are viewed as a sect. May they overcome the prejudice of their families, friends and society. (1 John 4:20)
15. Lord, defend **South African** women whose cries for help, advocacy and justice go unheard. Many are silenced, dismissed or exploited by selfish and greedy people in their communities. (Exod.14:14)
16. Father, strengthen and give hope to families in **Timor-Leste** facing hunger, lack of clean water and illness. Please provide them with daily food, safe water and healing. (Isa. 41:17)
17. Lead your church in **Uruguay**, Lord, to lovingly support and provide spiritual guidance to vulnerable migrant women. Protect them and open doors for safety, dignity and hope. (Deut. 10:19)
18. God, we pray for believers in **Vietnam** facing family rejection. Surround them with your comfort, strengthen their faith and fill them with peace and love. (Ps. 27:10)
19. Lord, redeem, heal and restore girls and women who are kidnapped, raped and held captive by members of opposing religious groups. May they know love again. (Rev. 21:4)
20. May the single moms in **Albania** who face their difficulties alone open their hearts to Jesus and yield all their burdens to him. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
21. Heavenly Father, we lift the people of **Bonaire** to you. Where there has been hurt or injustice, bring healing and restoration. Let your truth and peace prevail. (Jer. 33:6)
22. Lord, Christians are called to lovingly care for one another. Encourage believing women in **Botswana** to compassionately meet the practical needs of the elderly and widowed. (Isa. 1:17)
23. God, bring healing to women in **Cambodia** suffering from mental illness or depression due to life's challenges. May they find renewed hope in you. (John 14:18)
24. Lord, we pray for courage and steadfast faith for pastors and believers in **China** facing pressure, surveillance and punishment. (Matt. 5:10)
25. Father, give courage to young people in **Denmark** who choose you in the face of ridicule from their families and a very secular society. (Hosea 11:1)
26. May believers in **Indonesia** find freedom and safety in worship rather than intimidation and violence. Bring harmony and understanding through your love, Lord. (Ps. 4:8)
27. May struggling or impoverished **Japanese** young people receive the support they need to become independent and to find their hope and salvation in Jesus. (Isa. 40:28-31)
28. May the ever-increasing elderly population in **South Korea** receive the practical help they need and not be marginalized in society. (Ps. 71:9)
29. Lord, strengthen the churches in **Mongolia** to offer love, guidance and practical help to the poor, marginalized and vulnerable (Matt. 25:40).
30. Lord, provide for the needs of the impoverished in **Papua New Guinea**. Bring them opportunities, hope and strength for each day. (Ps. 146:7)
31. Stir the heart of churches in **Timor-Leste** to care for and lovingly support the elderly and widows who feel overlooked and alone. (James 1:27)