

# **TWR Canada Reaches into Angola**

## by Gerry & Heidi Peters

We arrive at the Luanda, Angola International airport on in the evening of June <sup>7th</sup>, 2002. Our first impression of Luanda is notable. This city is virtually without ght. Luanda is a port city. There ought to be a beautifully lit nighttime skyline o grace its strategic African location. All we see is darkness.

We disembark the plane, pass through a myriad of security checks, and find Helena Silvano, a few TWR friends and a faithful driver, waiting to give us a warm welcome to life in Angola. Our stay will be an unforgettable two days.

#### A brief background

Angola has been in civil war since winning its 15 year war of independence from Portugal in 1975 . War has just ceased. The city of Luanda was originally lesigned for a population of 600,000. Today its infrastructure is in ruins.

e population has exploded to over 4 million people.

## The Challenge

We are welcomed into a city and country that has fallen into a physical darkness because of war, poverty, and corruption. People live in surroundings that would be described as worse than hopeless. Success in Angola is an achievement of survival, nothing more. A priority challenge that meets us is the darkness of the soul. Hope will begin from the inside out. Hope found only in Jesus Christ.

#### Our Mission

The reason we have come to Angola is to launch the **Women of Hope** radio ministry to the women of Angola. The backbone of this ministry, Project Hannah, is prayer. Without this spiritual discipline, all efforts will be futile. Beyond this effort of prayer, Project Hannah produces a radio program entitled **Women of Hope**.

Everywhere we look you see women, each one having experienced the trauma of war and poverty. Most everyone has a story of a lost husband or son at the hands of this war. The Women of Hope broadcast will provide the only ray of hope that many of them will ever have.

## Saturday Project Hannah Rally

We arrive at a local Luanda church at 8:00am. This is the first time we see the city centre in daylight. Displaced people have overtaken abandoned high-rise apartments. There are people everywhere. 200 voice choir singing at the Project Hannah Rally Luanda, Angola, June 8, 2002

## **Trans World Radio Canada**

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We disembark the plane, pass through a myriad of security checks, and find Helena Silvano, a few TWR friends and a faithful driver, waiting to give us a warm welcome to life in Angola. Our stay will be an unforgettable two days.

Angola has been in civil war since winning its 15 year war of independence from Portugal in 1975. War has just ceased. The city of Luanda was originally designed for a population of 600,000. Today its infrastructure is in ruins. Electricity, running water, appropriate sewer systems are almost non-existent.

Yet, the population has exploded to over 4 million people.

We are welcomed into a city and country that has fallen into a physical darkness because of war, poverty, and corruption. People live in surroundings that would be described as worse than hopeless. Success in Angola is an achievement of survival, nothing more. A priority challenge that meets us is the darkness of the soul. Hope will begin from the inside out. Hope found only in Jesus Christ.

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The church is polished clean. You can't help but be impressed by the personal pride the people are taking in this building. Several bare-foot men are dusting the furniture. This sacred tructure seems to be a haven in the midst of their misery.

At precisely 9:00am, a processional of women enters the church building. They are singing with all their heart and a transparent joy is their countenance. Three hundred women have gathered for this service, every one of them moving in rhythm with the processional and song. These are beautiful women. Radiant. They have given us the first evidence of any hopefulness since we arrived in Angola.

These women know that today's event is out of the ordinary. The Women of Hope radio ministry is being launched in Angola and they all seem to anticipate the new beginning this ministry will provide.

Women of Hope production team Angola, Africa

Introductions are made with an echo of congregational blessing. While each echo is spontaneous, it seems as though these women have rehearsed a wellprepared script. Choirs sing, testimonies of God's marvelous grace are shared. Heidi & Gerry are invited to come to the platform and one lady leads the women in singing "How Great Thou Art" as they present us with a gift of thanks. Little do they know that the song they have just sung for us is Heidi's life song. It's perfect.

Heidi brings them a message from John 4, based on the life of the Samaritan woman. Following her message, the Project Hannah team is invited forward for a prayer of commissioning. Heidi's blessing is taken from Psalm 20:1-5. There are about 75 women committed to the ministry of Project Hannah. Among them are 4 ladies that serve as the Production Team for the Women of Hope programs.

#### Lasting Impressions

The women that have just blessed our lives through their love for Christ and their overwhelming sense of hopefulness, the women that have filled the sanctuary in song and praise, these are the displaced women of Angola. The lives of these same women are filled with every trauma imaginable to our thoughts, yet they have blessed us with their Godly focus in praise.

Not only do they believe Jesus Christ is the hope for their nation, they are living it today. Not only do they believe prayer is the backbone for hope in Christ, they are assembling a new army of prayer warriors on behalf of needy women in Angola and the world. The ministry of Project Hannah in Angola is firmly rooted in prayer. We hear many stories of their experiences and fruitfulness in fasting and prayer. Many are being reconciled to God.

We came to commission the Women of Hope radio broadcast. However, if we had any sense that we were commissioning them to do the work, we were mistaken. They have begun, by God's grace, a ministry that will undoubtedly shake their nation and bring hope to millions of hurting women across Africa.

#### Juliette with her husband, Jesus

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We take time to visit the home and family of Juliette, one of the Women of Hope producers. Together with her husband, Jesus, they have four children and a new one expected to arrive soon. Inside their tiny home within a displaced village, we experience hospitality that is rich in warmth and love that can only come from a home centered in Christ. They share their meal with us and we leave humbled and blessed.

To meet with these women is to be impressed by their love and commitment to this ministry. The women of Angola have taken ownership of this mission to reach their sisters for Christ. They are the ones that are giving sacrificially of their time and resources to allow God's grace to touch the women of Angola. Our role in Canada is simply to come alongside them and help bring life to a vision that God has given them.

## They are strong in spirit and ability

#### The Challenge for TWR Canada

We can give what God has blessed us with and provide these women with resources they do not have. These radio broadcasts will cost \$32,000 annually. An average income is \$270 USD per year so their material resources are very scarce. But with your participation, TWR Canada can provide the finances needed. Will you support this ministry financially?

We can pray. These women endure great challenges each day. In spite of that, they donate their time to produce programs and manage the ministry of Project Hannah in Africa.

Will you commit to pray for this ministry?

We can provide production resources. Their commitment to the

production of these broadcasts is humbling. Many share one computer. In Africa, to sleep next to a computer, waiting for your turn at the keyboard, is not unusual.

Will you help provide equipment to enable them to do their work?

TWR Canada is blessed to partner with **Helena Silvano**, Project Hannah coordinator for Africa, and her dedicated team in Angola. Their vision and mission s clear. They have a strong commitment to the production of the Women of Hope broadcasts. The call of God upon their lives for this work for this time is clear.

By sending a financial gift this month, you will enable this important ministry to couch the lives of so many women in Angola.

## **Gerry and Heidi Peters**

Canadian Coordinator for Project Hannah

#### Trans World Radio Canada

Box 310, London, ON, Canada N6A 4WIPhone (888) 672-6510Fax (519) 672-6512www.twrcan.caMr. Gerald A. J. Hayes—Executive Director

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your servants in Christ

BC Regional Director, TWR Canada Canadian Coordinator for Project Hannah

Trans World Radio Canada

Project Mannah Angola

## The Need

After being a Portuguese colony for 450 years, Angola won political independence in 1975 through 15 years of warfare. Marxist control of the government was contested by rebel forces in a civil war that dragged on for over 25 years. Angola's first President, a Marxist, vowed to eradicate Christianity within 20 years which led to much repression and outright persecution of Christians in the following years.

"The legacy of greed, power-seeking, revenge, mistrust and broken promises on both sides will take generations to heal." Angola's education system has been so severely impaired that its literacy rate is now estimated at 27%. It lacks both skilled workers to rebuild the country and the capacity to develop them. The rural people fled in droves to cities like Luanda to escape the ravages of war. Land mines planted in the rural areas has made farming largely impossible.

This spring a fragile peace emerged to provide a new context for TWR's radio ministry among these people and that is why we invite your help today. Project Hannah is a ministry of Trans World Radio, offering compassion and hope to suffering women worldwide through prayer, awareness and radio programming. In 1998 Project Hannah began broadcasting its weekly 30-minute program Women of Hope which can now be heard in 13 languages across the globe. With your help we could bring this message of hope to the women of Angola as well." (Data taken from Operation World CD-ROM, Copyright ©©2001 Patrick Johnstone".)

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## Help Bring Hope to the Women of Angola

Production costs for one program			\$147.50	
production costs	for 52 weeks			\$7,670.00
Shortwave Airtime for one program			\$218.95	
Shortwave airtim	e for 52 weeks			\$11,385.00
FM Airtime in Luanda, Angola for one program			\$172.85	
FM airtime in Lu	eeks		-\$8,988.0	
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Follow-up costs for 52 weeks				
Studio and Music supply costs for	r 52 weeks	19933		\$1,537.0
			Total Costs for 52 weeks	\$30,180.0
Additional Urgent Needs				
Microphone	\$250.00			

For more information, contact:

Trans World Radio Canada

Phone (888) 672-6510 Fax (519) 672-6512 www.twrcan.ca/projecthannah.htr

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Shortwave a	airtime for 52 weeks	\$11,385.00
FM airtime	FM airtime in Luanda, Angola for 52 weeks	
		\$600.00
		\$1,537.00
Computer	\$2000.00	
Mini-Disk Recorder	\$500.00	
Microphone	\$250.00	
Office Furniture	\$500.00	

For more information, contact: