

Trafficking & Church

Today:

= Many churches worldwide are participating in what's called Freedom Sunday

Freedom Sunday:

- Is intended to provide awareness in the church about the modern evil of human trafficking

We too are going to become educated & aware of this horrific evil & to see as the church what our role & response should be

1st, we need to understand human trafficking!?

- What is it?
 - Define:
 - Is the practice of humans being tricked, **lured**, **coerced** or otherwise removed from their home or country, and then forced to work with no or low payment.
 - Human trafficking is modern day slavery (& Includes all forms the sex slave trade industry)

Modern Day Human trafficking is Horrific:

- Statistics:
 - It is estimated that there re currently 27 Million people¹ enslaved & involved in human trafficking
 - 80% Women
 - 50% Children
 - There are currently more people enslaved today than there was during the height of the trans-Atlantic slave trade
 - It is estimated that 2 children per minute are trafficked for sexual exploitation
 - Slavery isn't legal anywhere but is happening everywhere
 - According to the United Nations, 161 countries out of 192 are involved with human trafficking.

¹ Notforsale.com

Slaves are used to Work:

- Hard labor, sweatshops, child soldiers, peddling & begging,
- Sex trade industry: involves pornography, stripping & prostitution

Slaves are:

- Beaten
- Abused
- Raped
- Starved
- Humiliated
- Drugged
- Coerced
- Neglected
- Harassed
- Threatened
- Killed

Modern Slavery is everywhere & as wicked & evil as it is:

- It is a thriving industry

According to recent statistics:

- Human trafficking is the 2nd largest source of income for organized crime, generating close to \$32 billion in annual illicit profits²
 - Directly following drugs
- Tragically, in 1850 a slave in the Southern United States cost the equivalent of \$40,000 today. Currently the average cost for a human slave is only a mere \$90.³

Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat. It deprives people of their human rights and freedom; it increases global health risks & fuels growth of organized crime.
- US Department of State

And this all happens at what cost?

- At the cost of little girls & little boys!

² Source (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2006)

³ Freetheslaves.net

This horrific tragedy that is going on – must not be overlooked by the Church

- We as followers of Christ not cant be in the dark about the evils in this world
- Jesus would call of us to intercede & interject!

What is the Churches role? How are we as Christians to get involved?

If *Ephesians 5:1* tells us:

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children...

Then as Christians we are to look to Christ!

What is God's Heart? What does he desire for these enslaved people?

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

These people that are being trafficked are:

- Stolen
- Killed
- Lives are being destroyed
 - (In every possible way!)

*Human trafficking & the sex slave trade are satanic!
They are so evil & from the pit of hell!!*

Luke 4:18 (excerpt from *Isaiah 61:1-2*)

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me, To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

What we can do?

1. Pray

- a. Pray for the captives to be released
- b. Pray for them to experience life in Christ

i. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

1. *3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*

2. Do

- a. We can help end human trafficking & the sex slave trade
- b. We can go do something about this!

- o *Psalm 82:3-4:*

- *"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

Christians, we need to be aware & move into action when it comes to the topic of Human Trafficking!

One of the epicenters of the child sex trade is:

- Southeast Asia (Specifically Thailand)
- In a few moments, we have the privilege & honor to hear from our Missionary Ron Miller about the horrors & the reality of this in modern day Thailand
- The Lord has used him over the years to do some radical things for the kingdom
 - o One of those being; Freeing child slaves as well as buying children out of the sex trade
 - o As someone that's prayed about this & done something about it...
 - Please welcome Ron Miller...

How Can We Pray? : Prayer Points

1. Pray that slaves will be set free and that they will find healing and restoration so that they can live a full life
2. Pray that modern day abolitionists are equipped with compassion and discernment as they work to end this injustice and that they are protected as well.
3. Also, pray that slaves will not only physically be set free, but spiritually- that the Gospel would be preached to the captives and those who take others captive, so that all may come to repentance and the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord