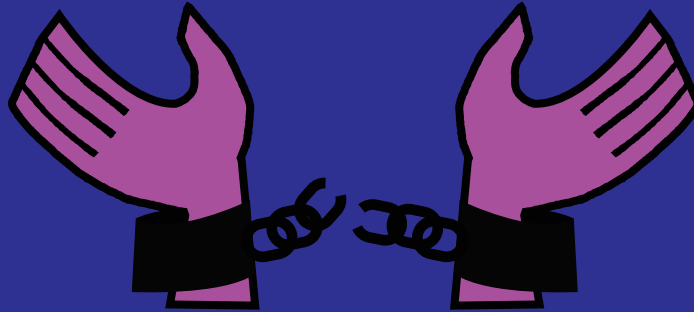


Week of Prayer



EDGEWOOD abolitionists

The Issue

There are 1.2 million known cases of child trafficking globally per year. The global sex industry generates an estimated \$96 billion profit annually. Many popular brands of items in our stores today use slave labor in their production. Slavery is still real today.

The Mission

Edgewood Abolitionists, a branch of the Set Free Movement, are committed to ending modern-day slavery and creating new futures in partnership with others. Specifically, Edgewood Abolitionists seek to raise awareness, mobilize, and work towards holistic transformation in the greater Rochester area and around the world. We begin this work within a community context as members of the Edgewood Free Methodist Church, centered on Jesus, and seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people” – 1 Timothy 2:1

The Task

This week-long prayer guide provides helpful information on seven specific modern-day slavery issues. With this information, we ask that you pray each day for the victims, the helpers, and the perpetrators. Through this prayer guide we hope to increase your awareness of slavery and help increase awareness in others. We also ask that you give thanks to God for those who are willing to help and for the ways He has blessed you. We hope that you will seek His guidance as you determine your role in ending modern-day slavery and creating new futures for the liberated.

Day 1: Legalized Prostitution in Europe

“My story is wrong trust in bad people. I am Iva from Bulgaria and I am a victim of trafficking. I was in a two-year relationship with my boyfriend back in Bulgaria when he told me I could find a good job in the Netherlands. My family was poor. I did not have a job. I was 16. I agreed. I trusted him. When I arrived in the Netherlands, a woman was supposed to wait for me, but there were two men. They brought me to an unknown place, raped me, took my passport away. The pimp had my working papers made. They forced me into prostitution, saying that if I refused they would kill my family. So I started to work. I wanted to leave but I couldn't. They had photographs of me taken with the clients, and they said that they would show them to my parents. So I continued for five years.”

There are thousands of girls like Iva in Europe. Besides the forms of violence and humiliation that she shared, traffickers and pimps degrade young women in other ways to maintain their control over the victims. The women are often featured in pornographic films. The films are then used to threaten the victims. If they try to escape from slavery, the films may be shared with their home community, ruining their reputation and the respectability of their entire family.

Marietta Kali (Long) Papanagis

is a Free Methodist Missionary in Athens, Greece attempting to help women like Iva who are trapped in a life of prostitution in a country where prostitution is legal. Kali works at Nea Zoi (New Life), an organization that reaches out to women working on the streets and encourages them to start new lives. She is also helping to build a rehabilitation program for them called Threads of Hope (see photo).



For more information about Kali or to provide financial support, go to:
<http://fmcusa.org/fmwm/missionaries/long-2/>

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray that God will give these women the courage to leave and to provide opportunities for them to find freedom.

The Helpers: Pray for unity between the organizations fighting slavery in Athens and elsewhere.

The Perpetrators: Pray for a change of heart in those who enslave others in prostitution.

Awareness: Pray that the people of Greece and others will change their laws to prohibit slavery.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for the women freed from prostitution and for the work Kali is doing in Athens.

Day 2: Child & Forced Labor in the Electronics Industry

Modern day slavery is particularly prevalent in the mineral extraction process for items commonly used in electronics. Small scale miners typically find it difficult to obtain legitimate loans. They frequently borrow money from loan sharks or “sponsors” who set up misleading agreements and take a percentage of the income. As a direct result of the agreements, workers can end up in indebted servitude or debt bondage. Gold mining regularly exposes workers to arsenic and mercury. A study in Mali determined that 40,000 children mined gold in 2011. In 2008, a Bloomberg report examined the cobalt and copper mines in the Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They discovered thousands of children worked in structurally dangerous conditions and some died as a result of the work they performed. Examining the supply chain, these minerals were traced to the suppliers of some of the world’s largest electronic brands. Although it is not as prevalent as in mining, there are documented cases including HEG Electronics, a major Samsung supplier, that show regular employment of children under the age of fourteen in factories. After negative publicity in 2012, Apple performed a supply chain audit on 451 facilities in the industry and found that eight facilities used bonded labor and eleven used child labor. Though this is focused on electronics, modern day slavery is prevalent in many industries.

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray for the children forced to work, and for the adults trapped into ownership by others.

The Helpers: Pray for the safety of those working to uncover instances of slavery.

The Perpetrators: Pray that suppliers of products that use slave labor will be exposed and compelled to make restitution.

Awareness: Pray for the mindfulness and courage to ask questions about the origin of consumer products and to hold businesses accountable.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for your ability as a child (or your child’s ability) to live, learn, and play.



Data in this article is from Free2Work.org, a project of Not For Sale. Free2Work.org provides a rating system for companies in many industries as well as a cell phone application to assist with purchase decisions.

For additional information go to Free2work.org or Free2work on Facebook, or go to www.notforsalecampaign.org

Day 3: Marriage Agreements in Australia

Kanya thought she was starting a new life in Australia after arriving from India to marry her husband, but it quickly turned into a nightmare. She was barred from going out alone, forced to cook and clean for her partner's family, and made to sleep outdoors if she did not complete her tasks. This is a typical example of many trafficked brides that have sought refuge in Sydney. The women were lured to Australia by the promise of a happy marriage, only to be exploited by their partners. "It's an absolute deception on the part of the perpetrator," explains Jenny Stanger, a Salvation Army worker. Immigration figures show women in such situations come from China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam among other countries. Marriage, in these situations, is used to exploit the women for profit, gain or personal advantage. Typically the migrant wife's passport is taken, and they face extreme isolation, denial of their freedom of movement, uncompensated labor, and denial of money. Victims are often threatened if they seek help. In June more than \$100 million (US \$94m) was designated to fight domestic violence with "a particular focus" on women from culturally diverse and indigenous backgrounds. Forced marriages were criminalized, and laws against forced labor were strengthened in 2013. The victims are looking for a way out, so "the more doors we can open," Jenny Stanger advises, "the more likely someone is going to step through that door."

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray that these women can connect with someone to help them escape.

The Helpers: Pray that governments around the world will pay more attention to domestic violence and the related possibility of spousal enslavement.

The Perpetrators: Pray that they will recognize that every person is a child of God and created in his image.

Awareness: Pray that all eyes would be opened to injustice occurring next door.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for positive change being driven by the Australian government

Data in this article is from TheGuardian.com. Additional information from this site focused on modern day slavery can be obtained at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/series/modern-day-slavery-in-focus>

Day 4: The Thai Fishing Industry

Thailand is the sixth largest economy in Asia and has an extremely low unemployment rate. For this reason, migrant workers from neighboring countries move to Thailand, where they are sometimes enslaved and held captive. In March 2013, an EJF (Environmental Justice Foundation) investigation uncovered evidence of human trafficking, exploitation, and human rights abuses in the Thai fishing industry. EJF interviewed seven former fishing boat workers who had been trafficked from Myanmar, including six human trafficking victims rescued by the local police in the southern port of Kantang. All six interviewees had been trafficked and forced to endure excessive work of up to 20 hours per day, bonded labor, forced detention, little or no pay, physical abuse, and threats of violence on boats and in port. They had been at sea for at least five months and spoke of being badly beaten by the senior crew. Two reported witnessing the torture and murder of a fellow crew member and the murder of at least five other individuals. One former boat worker interviewed separately witnessed three murders and the victims' bodies being thrown into the sea. While the men were in port, the broker who trafficked them to Thailand forced them to work without pay on the rubber plantation of a senior official in the Kantang police.

The results of this exploitation are not limited to south Asia. One-third of the shrimp consumed in the United States comes from Thailand.

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray for these men who simply ask for the basic right to fair treatment, working at reasonable hours for reasonable pay.

The Helpers: Pray for the investigators (both non-profit researchers and journalists) who are bringing these injustices to light.

The Perpetrators: Pray that the abusers would witness an act of love that would reawaken their compassion and sense of justice.

Awareness: Pray that consumers will refuse to buy—and supermarkets will refuse to sell—slave-produced shrimp.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for laws and inspections that protect workers.

The Environmental Justice Foundation is focused on protecting people and the planet. For more information read the report or view the film "Sold to the Sea":

<http://ejfoundation.org/oceans/soldtotheseafilm>

See also:

www.notforsalecampaign.org



Day 5: Children Enslaved in the U.S.

On June 23, 2014 the FBI rescued 168 children — the youngest 11 years old, and some of them had not yet been reported missing — in a coast-to-coast crackdown on sex traffickers. "These are America's children," said FBI Director James Comey. The week-long operation, called "Cross County VIII," resulted in the arrest of 281 pimps who recruited minors off street corners, at truck stops, and online. Some of the victims were in the child-welfare system before they went missing, said John Ryan of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which partnered with the FBI. "Many of these children have been abandoned, often abused and neglected. Many of these traumatized children run away because they believe it's the best option for them. The latest operation took place in 106 cities across the nation. Officials said both the victims and their captors were generally American citizens. "This is not some foreign import scourge. This is our own," Comey said. The operation began at the local level with prostitution and solicitation arrests. The FBI then used that information to zero in on organized trafficking efforts.

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray for the safety of missing children and for those not recorded as missing.

The Helpers: Pray for the investigators, law enforcement officers, and volunteers who search daily for these children.

The Perpetrators: Pray that these people will find legitimate ways to earn a living not dependent on the exploitation of children.

Awareness: Pray for solutions that can protect as well as rescue.

Thanksgiving: Thank God that US law enforcement is increasingly recognizing the status of victims and incarcerating their traffickers.

The Center for Youth Safe Harbour program is a local organization helping in this effort. For more information or to find out how you can provide support, go to:
<http://centerforyouth.net/index.php/programs/safe-harbour/>

Day 6: Culturally Approved Slavery

Biram Dah Abeid and his family are from the West African country of Mauritania. His father married a slave woman and they had two children, but the courts ruled that they could not live together without the slave master's permission. According to the courts, his father's wife was considered property, just like the slave master's cow or their sheep. The judge went on to say that the couple's children did not have a father, only a "progenitor," because slavery is transmitted through a mother's bloodline." Abeid's father never reunited with his wife, and the laws by which the court ruled are still upheld today. These are not the only challenges to freedom that still exist in Abeid's homeland. In Mauritania, antislavery laws are rarely enforced, and the minority black population faces substantial discrimination that sometimes includes rape and castration. Although slavery was officially abolished in 1981, Mauritania has one of the highest rates of slavery in the world and is considered one of the worst violators of human rights. Twenty percent of Mauritania's population is believed to be enslaved.

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organization that works to protect the poor and those without rights throughout the developing world. They provide legal support to people who fight against enslavement.

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray for those who still live in a culture that views them as property.

The Helpers: Pray for IJM volunteers serving overseas helping those in need.

The Perpetrators: Pray for enlightenment in the minds of those who still believe slavery is acceptable.

Awareness: Pray for an overall increased awareness of modern day slavery and the motivation to end it.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for a country with laws intended to provide freedom for all human beings.

For more information on IJM - what they do or to provide support - go to International Justice Mission on Facebook or <http://www.ijm.org>

For more on Biram Dah Abeid and Mauritania, see http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_world_/2013/12/18/bram_dah_abeid_an_interview_with_a_modern_day_abolitionist.html

Day 7: The Chocolate Industry – Ghana / Ivory Coast

On average, cocoa farmers earn less than \$2 per day, so they typically resort to the use of child labor to keep prices competitive. Children are frequently sold by their relatives, who are unaware of the dangerous work environment and the lack of provision for education, or young children are abducted from small villages in neighboring countries. Most children are between 12 and 16, but children as young as 5 have been found. A child's workday typically begins at six and ends in the evening, using chainsaws to clear forests and climbing the cocoa trees to cut bean pods with a machete. The bean pods are packed into 100 lb sacks and dragged through the forest. A former cocoa slave said, "Some of the bags were taller than me. It took two people to put the bag on my head. And when you didn't hurry, you were beaten." Holding a large pod in one hand, each child has to strike it with a machete and pry it open with the tip of the blade to expose the beans. Many miss the pod. As a result, the majority of children have scars on their hands, arms, legs or shoulders. In addition, children are exposed to agricultural chemicals. Tropical regions have extensive insect populations, so child workers spray, without wearing protective clothing, large amounts of industrial chemicals on the cocoa plants.

Seventy percent of the world's chocolate comes from Western Africa where 1.8 million children are compelled to work in cocoa production. The major chocolate producers, such as Hershey, Nestle, Kraft, and Mars, voluntarily agreed to end child slavery in the industry by 2005. But, nine years later, they have yet to live up to their promise, leading many to call for a ban on chocolate imports that are linked to child or slave labor. Purchasing fair trade chocolate, however, ensures that children and slaves were not involved in the production.

Prayer Focus:

The Victims: Pray for children working in these conditions who feel they have no hope.

The Helpers: Pray for those striving to bring fair labor standards and living wages to chocolate workers.

The Perpetrators: Pray that major chocolate producers will immediately stop supporting slavery.

Awareness: Pray that people will become aware of Fair Trade products and avoid purchasing slave-linked chocolate.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for accessible luxuries like Fair Trade chocolate.



7 Fair Trade USA is an organization working to empower family farmers around the world to get a fair price for their harvest.