

After Awareness . . . Action Items for Christians To Help End Human Trafficking And Modern Day Slavery

by Pam Harvey, Speaker and Advocate – Pam@FreeToShop.org – 303-668-4463

1. **Pray consistently** that the chains of bondage are broken and the captives are set free. Encourage your church to participate in the Not for Sale Campaign's Freedom Sunday www.FreedomSunday.org
2. **Determine your area of focus** in regards to those defined as human trafficking victims.
 - a. Endangered minors being exploited for sex. (often referred to as street kids, throwaways or runaways who are being prostituted). These minors may be controlled or coerced by an individual or they may have freedom of movement and choice when it comes to performing commercial sex acts to support themselves.
 - b. Humans (approximately 80% are women and children) who are tricked, lured, forced or coerced and/or removed from their homes and/or country and sold, or used, for sex or labor slavery. This population has little or no freedom of movement. They may, or may not, speak the local language, many times do not know how or where to go for help, and they may fear for their lives, or the lives of loved one. Most are trafficked across international borders.
3. **Join local Christians** who are launching a new coalition - Micah 6:8 Alliance - meeting once a month to pray and motivate Colorado Christians and churches into action for the prevention and eradication of human trafficking, the aftercare of its victims, and the applicable prosecution of traffickers. The official launch date is April 14th, 2011 and additional information will be posted on Facebook or contact Marina McCreight at marina.mccreight@gmail.com
4. **Create small groups** within your church to pray, learn and study about the issue. Bear Valley Church, under Lois Hasselbland, has created World of Girlfriends. They meet once a month to pray, listen to knowledgeable speakers and plan activities with local shelters and organizations, like Ether House. They raise funds for anti-human trafficking orgs, travel on international mission trips, support the local police and FBI, and are learning how to be responsible, socially conscious consumers.
5. **Insist that your church uses Fair Trade coffee** so that the church is not be part of the problem, but rather part of the solution. To offset costs (if any) and to promote awareness of the issue, sell your fairly traded coffee once a month between your church services. For those with a sweet tooth, sell Fair Trade chocolate bars from Whole Foods (these can be purchased at a discount by contacting a store ahead of time) along with your coffee sales. You can reduce coffee costs while increasing awareness of slave labor. (For more information on how to organize this action item contact Pam Harvey at Pam@FreeToShop.org)
6. **Incorporate Red Card Kids** www.RedCardKids.com into your family church curriculum. Designed to encourage and empower children to become advocates for the largest unreached group in the world – their own peers – children at risk. Engage middle school and high school students by teaming up with programs like "Loose Change to Loosen Chains (LC2LC)" which is a student-led campaign for elementary to college students to combat modern day slavery. The Not for Sale Campaign, www.NotForSaleCampaign.org also has a student-led movement.
7. **Consume judiciously** by practicing socially conscious shopping. Buy everyday commodities, like chocolate, coffee etc., that are Fair Trade Certified. Use the following resources to help your buying decisions.
 - a. **The Better World Shopping Guide** – www.BetterWorldShopper.org, **Free 2 Work** - www.Free2Work.org and **Call and Response** - www.SlaveFree.com. All compile ratings of major companies regarding their labor standards and corporate practices.
 - b. **Free to Shop** – www.FreeToShop.org – where you can shop from socially conscious companies. Plus with each purchase made by **entering this site first** and then going to the different shopping entities, 10 -50% of the proceeds are contributed to organizations working to end human trafficking and slavery.
 - c. **Shop to Stop Slavery** - www.ShopToStopSlavery.com. This site is somewhat similar to Free to Shop.org in terms of helping your buying decisions and providing a wealth of information and resources.

8. **Give gifts** made by survivors and artisans who use their skills to create sustainable incomes. There are many supporting organizations such as Gifts With Humanity, Scarlet Threads and Lotus Jane. (All three of these are located on the **Free To Shop.org** website). Emancipation Network also features items made by survivors.
9. **Volunteer** with organizations caring for survivors. Help build shelters. Teach English. Provide skills training. Ask the organizations how you can help. Search the **Volunteer Network To End Human Trafficking** www.vneht.org for volunteer positions posted by local organizations right here in Colorado.
10. **Sponsor a movie** night at your church showing a film from the resources below to help with awareness.
11. **Organize a church fund raiser** for provision of direct services for those who have been rescued. (See the attached for an incredibly easy fundraiser your church can do to adopt and help Transitions Global with a rescued sex slave's restoration.)
12. **Stage a Fair Trade/Survivors Shopping Boutique**. Invite local organizations to come in and sell their products. This is a great way to support Fair Trade, educate people and raise money. Contact Pam Harvey (pam.harvey@transitionsglobal.org) for a comprehensive vendor list.
13. **Personally donate and financially invest in change**-support those on the frontlines and enable them to make a difference. Help fund organizations that provide projects and services to reduce slavery and care for its victims.
14. **Write**. Do you know any journalists? Encourage newspapers, magazines and television stations to publish or to write stories about modern-day slavery, and how to stop it.
15. **Advocate for change**. Call or write your elected officials. Tell them that you care about the issue of human trafficking and want stronger laws to protect victims.
16. **Cybervention**. Make sure trafficking does not happen on the internet. Keep an eye on Craigslist and other advertising spaces and protest when sites are encouraging activities associated with human trafficking.
17. **Continue** to read and stay current with what is happening in the world of modern day slavery by subscribing to anti-human trafficking organizations' newsletters and visiting their websites often.
18. **Watch** and if you suspect slavery or exploitation, call the national trafficking hotline: 888 -3737-888 or the Colorado hotline: 866-455-5074. Store these numbers in your cell phone.

Human Trafficking/Modern Day Slavery Resources

Organizations

IJM – International Justice Mission
 World Vision
 Shared Hop International
 Love 146
 Not for Sale Campaign
 Human Trafficking
 Free the Slaves
 Polaris Project
 Antislavery.org
 Transitions Global (restoration)

Books

The Good News About Injustice - Gary Haugen
 Just Courage – Gary Haugen
 Terrify No More – Gary Haugen & Gregg Hunter
 Not for Sale – David Batstone
 A Crime So Monstrous – E. Benjamin Skinner
 Disposable People – Kevin Bales
 Ending Slavery – Kevin Bales
 The Slave Next Door – Kevin Bales
 Sex Trafficking, The Global Market in Women
 And Children - Kathryn Farr

Movies

Amazing Grace
 Slumdog Millionaire
 Taken
 The Dark Side of Chocolate
 Born into Brothels
 CALL + RESPONSE
 Children for Sale – MSNBC Dateline Special
 Fields of Mudan
 The Day My God Died
 Look under YouTube – Human Trafficking – for short takes