

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Week 2 – Speak Up

Today, millions of lives around the world are in the grip of injustice. More children, women and men are held in slavery right now than over the course of the entire trans-Atlantic slave trade: an estimated 27 million, mainly women and children, are trapped in forced labor, suffering great violence and oppression. As followers of Jesus, we believe we're called to help set these people free.

Here's how to get involved in this campaign:

- **READ:** Get a book in the Welcome Area, *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade--and How We Can Fight It*. \$12
- **GIVE:** Take a can label for our coin (and non-coin) drive! For every \$700 raised, we will get to host one class for girls in Vietnam that will help prevent them from being trafficked AND give one person their freedom through IJM.
- **WATCH:** Have your small group watch the documentary by IJM, *At the End of Slavery*.
- **PRAY:** Pick up the devotional in the Welcome Area and go through it daily with your family.
- **TALK:** Join the "Creekside Covenant Church" Facebook group and join the conversation.



WEEK 2 - SPEAK UP

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9)

A Story

She was just 17, a high school graduate from Michigan. Rather than go directly to college, she responded to an ad to be a nanny. Arriving at the wealthy home in a north Chicago suburb at the appointed day and time, she was horrified to learn that the ad agency was a front; she was abducted as a sex slave. Five years later she was able to sneak out a post card of a bar in Cincinnati where she was forcibly detained. The card had only her initial on it, but it was enough to stir the hopes of her family who raced to the address and demanded her release. Two large men walked her outside into the alley but would not let her go. Not to be deterred, the family sought the help of local authorities, but she was gone when they returned. It was another two years before the FBI found her and returned her - addicted to heroin and pregnant. (From the Evangelical Covenant Church)

A Prayer

God give us a passion to defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. To rescue the weak and needy; and deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (from Psalm 82:3-4)

Kru Nam is an artist who lives in Thailand. Along with her love for art, she has a heart for the street kids of Thailand. She began taking canvases out to the street kids as a way to combine her two passions. As the children drew for her, horrible images began to emerge on their canvases. The children started sharing that they were from Burma, Laos and Cambodia, very few were from Thailand. They had either been sold by their parents, or kidnapped and brought to Thailand where they worked in karaoke bars as slave laborer or sex slaves. Enraged at this thought, Kru Nam began visiting the karaoke bars. She would run into the bars, grab as many kids as she could carry. She has personally rescued 125 kids and now has a large piece of property in northern Thailand where the kids can go to school and just be kids. (From notforsale.org)

Action Steps

- Talk, Tweet, Facebook, Blog. Post and share what you are learning.
- Join anti-trafficking Facebook groups.
- Host a screening of IJM's film, *At the End of Slavery*, or have your small group watch it.
- Find out if your work place has a policy towards using slave-free products.
- If you travel overseas, talk to your travel companions about the issues, and you might want to let them know that they can be trafficked in American, under US laws if they commit sexual crimes with minors overseas.
- Visit humantrafficking.change.org for 40 more ideas