

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

WEEK 4 – GIVE GENEROUSLY

God's Word

Read Isaiah 58:1-14

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

A Story

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)

To Ponder

In “*Good News about Injustice*”, Haugen writes about the crossroad of faith and action for justice: “Over time I have come to see questions about suffering in the world not so much as questions of God’s character but as questions about the obedience and faith of God’s people... [G]radually it has occurred to me that the problem may not be that God is so far off; the problem may be the God’s people are far off” (p. 100).

Jesus has called us to follow him and be agents of the kingdom. That means making this world more like heaven. There are many issues in this world that don’t look like God’s hopes and dreams, what are some (or one) of the issues that you’re passionate about, that the Holy Spirit may be calling you to get involved in?

A Prayer

Lord, You hear the cries of the oppressed, and You long to answer their cries with a triumphant procession! I am Your child, and I may be called to be a part of that procession. Open my ears to Your call and to the cries of my enslaved brothers and sisters. Stir up a deep love in my heart for them, as though for my own family members and friends. Give me a free imagination that will lead me into a beautiful and free future for all the enslaved. I am Your laborer. I give You my life. Amen.

Action Steps

How can you give your time, talents, treasures and gifts to fight for justice in the world today?

- **Give time** to write your congress representative about your concern about human trafficking and ask them to make it a priority in Washington. Also write companies you shop at asking them to carry free-trade and slave-free products and to your favorite brands asking them to keep their supply chain slave and child labor free.
- **Give Money.** Consider giving today or becoming a monthly donor to an agency you want to support. Some suggestions...
 - **Free a Slave!** International Justice Mission. \$500 helps free one person from slavery. (Donate through Creekside today.)
 - **Keep a Girl Safe.** AOG World Relief Vietnam. Help support Kaitlyn Phillips currently serving in Vietnam. For every \$200, we’ll help host a class in villages to protect girls from getting trafficked into the sex trade. (Donate through Creekside today.)
 - **Build a Border Center.** One Day’s Wage and Not for Sale are partnering to create a border center on the India-Nepal border. Last year the NFS border team rescued 2000 girls from the sex trade. They are only \$5,000 away from raising necessary funds to get started on safe-houses, a monitoring program and other services for girls at risk of being trafficking into the sex trade. (Visit One Day’s Wage to give)

- **Give time.** Visit www.SeattleAgainstSlavery.org and see where you can volunteer your time.
- **Give thought** to people you encounter. Could they be trafficked victims? Report any leads to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-7888. Don't mind your own business.

"If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" (James 2:15-16)