

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

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.



ENTER THE STORY

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." (Hebrews 13:3)

In order to respond to humanity's need, we must educate ourselves on the issues and enter into the heartbreaking stories of slaves around the world. This week we're encouraging everyone to learn and to open our hearts and minds to the oppression that is happening around the world.

A Story

Panida, a 14-year-old girl from rural Northern Thailand, had just finished her 8th grade studies and hoped to spend her summer break earning some extra money. Her family needed the funds badly: Her father had died and her mother was stricken with AIDS. When a local man approached her offering a well-paying job that would last four months, she accepted. However, the man's intentions were never to give her a job: He instead took Panida through a border checkpoint into Malaysia, where he sold her to a local brothel owner. The brothel owner told Panida that he had paid an enormous sum for her, and that she must reimburse him by selling her body to the brothel's many customers. She was told that she would have to service five to 10 customers a night and that if she failed to meet her quota or refused customers, she would be beaten and abused. Panida was locked in her new living quarters – a house crowded with other trafficking victims, secured by guards, barred windows and doors that locked from the outside. Panida was trafficked from her home in Thailand and sold as a prostitute in Malaysia. *(From IJM)*

A Prayer

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our

lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. Empower us to allow our hearts to be broken over the injustice of slavery, and give us your spirit to bring comfort to those who are suffering.

Action Steps

Read: *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade--and How We Can Fight It* (Available in the Welcome Area)

Surf: Go to <http://slaverymap.org> and find where you live and read stories of where trafficking has been reported.

Watch: One of IJM's vides: www.vimeo.com/ijm

Surf: Visit one of the websites:

www.stophetraffik.org

www.humantrafficking.org

www.notforsalecampaign.org

www.covchurch.org/humantrafficking

www.antislavery.org

www.humantraffickingsearch.net

www.ijm.org

Go to CNN and search for "human trafficking." Recent headlines include: *107 slaves freed in Mexico; Bricked in by debt, Pakistan's child 'slaves'; Sex trafficking: An American problem too; Atlanta Ministry accused of modern day slavery*