

Title: "God's Children are Not for Sale"

Text: "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and the needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9)

Target: "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again you did not know."
- William Wilberforce-Freedom Fighter, 18th century

I. The Terms in Trafficking: (A21.org)

A. Definition: It's the illegal trade of human beings.

B. Description: It's the recruitment, control, and use of people for their bodies and their labor.

II. The Types of Trafficking: (through force, fraud, coercion, exploitation by friends & family)

A. Forced Labor: to demand another individual to provide a service rendered: Ex: Agricultural, Mining, Industrial industries, domestic servitude, sweatshops, or even street begging or vendors.

B. Sex Trafficking: to demand another individual provide sexual activity: Ex: massage parlors, brothels, prostitution, and pornography.

III. The Targets of Trafficking:

A. Who: 71% women. 29% men. 25% children.

B. When: Vulnerability: Due to Instability-financially, educationally, culturally, socially.

C. What: Exploitation: deception & coercion to believe that what is being offered will fix their problem. Ex. Promises of employment, education, etc.

D. Where: Social Media: Facebook 43%, Snapchat 17%, Instagram 15%, **Gaming**

E. How: Abduction, Grooming or Setting the Hook, Fraud (payback in services), Coercion (threatening violence to family), blackmail (Sextortion),

IV. The Trends in Trafficking: 40.3 million people enslaved right now—more than anytime time in history.

A. The Profit: 150.2 billion per year. (2/3 from Sexual Exploitation)

B. The Percentages: 60-90% of all sex trafficked victims have had a past history with the foster care system. One out of 4 Victims are children. One out of 3 teens on the streets will be lured into sexual exploitation within 48 hours.

C. The Places: 5.4 out of 1000 people are enslaved in the world.

1. Leading Countries: Asia, Africa, Europe, U.S. Arab States

2. United States (200k cases yearly): California-San Diego, Texas, Florida, Nevada, New York.

3. Texas: 1/3 of calls received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline are from Texas.

4. San Antonio: Of the 66 zip codes in San Antonio, 46 zip codes have records of child sex trafficking.

V. The Theology against Trafficking: "Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. And all the people shall say, "Amen." (Deut. 27:19)

A. Why Does Trafficking Exist? *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9)

B. Why does the Bible not condemn Slavery? "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death." (Exodus 21:16)

C. Why Doesn't God Stop Trafficking? Free will, Greater Evil Vs. Lesser Evil

VI. The Truth to END Trafficking: Micah 6:8: "do justly, love mercy"

A. Prevention: Education & Awareness of How Trafficking Happens: Luring, Grooming, Isolation, Manipulation, Exploitation.

*August 16th, 6:30-7:30 pm Ransomed Life Presentation.

B. Protection: See & Receive the Vulnerable... Ex. Foster/Adoption

C. Political Pressure & Prosecution: Unify Statewide Human Trafficking Laws with the maximum penalty.

D. Partnership: Life Restored, Ransomed Life, Arms of Hope, STAFO.

Takeaway: You hope to do for one what you hope to do for all.