

For more information contact:

Joe Kim
Director of Children's Rights Advocacy
jkim@umc-gbcs.org

General Board of Church and Society
100 Maryland Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-488-5600 | umc-gbcs.org

Text UMCCAN to 877877
to join our mobile network!

Curriculum Created by:
Jay Campbell, Social Justice Intern

The Power of A Story

End Human Trafficking



Cover Design: Our Christian faith calls us to be light into the darkness. When people are surrounded by darkness, represented by the grey circles, we are called to help move them into light, represented by the color circles.

Introduction

International Justice Mission Video

(<http://umc-gbcs.org/resources-websites/international-justice-mission-video>)

Reflect:

What are your reactions to this video?

Watch This

What is human trafficking?

"The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation." -- United Nations

Why the Super bowl?

- The Super Bowl is the largest sex-trafficking event in the US each year.
- Many males come to the city for a weekend of fun that includes the game, parties, drinking, and sex
- In 2010 an estimated 10,000 prostitutes were brought in to be trafficked at the Super Bowl in Miami

Trafficking takes on many forms: forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, and child soldiers.

Modern day slavery statistics:

- 27 million people are victims of human trafficking (Polaris Project)
- Trafficking is a \$32 billion a year industry (Polaris Project)
- 70% of all slaves are women and up to 50% are children (The Free Project)
- between 600,000 – 800,000 children, women, and men are trafficked across international borders annually (US Department of State)

"Modern Slaves are rarely held by chains, but instead slaveholders use violent force, fraud and/or psychological coercion"
-- The Free Project

Power of a story

Statistics can at times be hard to relate to, the numbers are so large and we can get lost and not know how to process these heart-breaking facts. Yet, each statistic represents a person and a story. Take a few minutes to let their stories be heard. Let the group read silently or aloud the stories printed in the insert

Read the stories in the insert.

After reading the stories, take a few moments to discuss and reflect:

- What emotions are stirred within you?
- What forms of trafficking do we see in these stories?
- What are your initial reactions?
- Where is God in this?

← Reflect

challenge:

If time permits and you have Internet access consider taking a quiz to see how many slaves work for you and/or your group. Go to slaveryfootprint.org and see how you are doing. The answer may not be comfortable, but this can be our first step towards repentance and change.

Looking at scripture

Isaiah 58: 1-12 *True Fasting*

Luke 18:1-8 *The Persistent Widow*

Reflect:

- What do these passages say about God's justice?
- What is our response as the church in regards to these texts?
- What other thoughts do you have?
- What other Bible passages speak to God's heart for justice and for the poor and oppressed?

"God has a plan to bring justice to the world – and God's plan is us" -- Gary Haugen – founder of IJM

What is the church's response?

Part of our response is changing the culture. Faith is not only about feeding someone or building a house, but it's about fighting the system and culture. Do we teach in our churches that paying for sex is not good and that many are harmed by this practice? Do we teach that there are healthy ways of sex? How can we begin to change our culture?

Benediction:

Amidst this brokenness, pain, and evil there is a rising movement of dedicated and passionate people seeking to end human trafficking. May we believe in God and believe that God is at work bringing rescue and restoration. Let us be bold enough to dream that we can actually end human trafficking in our time and be courageous enough to actually do it. Amen.

Want to know more?

Check out these organizations:

ijm.org
Polarisproject.org
Notforsale.org
Freetheslaves.net
Thefreeproject.org
Callandresponse.com

Google 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US Department of State

Ways to Respond:

Pick 5 ways as a church and 3 ways as an individual to respond:

- 1) Tell others (through events, movies, blogging, newspaper articles etc...)
- 2) Support organizations fighting human trafficking (i.e. IJM, Not For Sale, Polaris Project)
- 3) Be creative: use your gifts, talents, and passions to creatively support this cause (i.e. like running? Host a 5K; like art? Create an art project to raise awareness)
- 4) Consume less; consume wisely; consume ethically. Search for fair trade coffee, chocolate, and other items. Look for organizations that support for victims or sell gifts made by survivors (www.madebysurvivors.com)
- 5) Email/speak to companies, hold them accountable and demand fair labor practices (www.chainstorereaction.com)
- 6) Educate yourself – learn more about the issue, its effects, and effective responses
- 7) Find ways to support your local law enforcement
- 8) Volunteer at a local anti-trafficking organization
- 9) If you see something, say something (call the human trafficking hotline 888-3737-888)
- 10) Map it – tell others where trafficking is happening in your area and help law enforcement investigate (slaverymap.org)
- 11) Organize your community to address this issue (visit stopmodernslavery.org for help and guidance to start grassroots community work)
- 12) Advocate at the government level (write, call, or meet with your elected representatives)
- 13) Pray – don't underestimate the power of prayer
- 14) Join the network – discover ways to being a group or join with other abolitionists in your area
- 15) Support, join, or use as an example businesses that are taking a stand against trafficking (check out thecode.org or Truckers Against Trafficking)
- 16) Think outside the box, dream big and do something!

Power of a story:

MAURITANIA – Mattalla spent most of his life as a slave. He often watched his owners beat his mother and sisters. When he protested, they beat him too. Matalla's job was to take care of livestock and make charcoal. His family lived in a small area of the owners' settlement surrounded by cloth. They were given no food except for the occasional leftovers and often cooked and ate lizards they caught in the desert. Escape in the Sahara would almost always lead to death by hunger or thirst or at the hands of slave owners who would find them. Mattalla was beaten if he lost a camel, if he sat on the same mat as his owners, or if he disobeyed them. When Mattalla met some soldiers on the road, he told them he'd rather be shot dead than return to his owners. The soldiers helped him escape and receive support from a local NGO. His family remained with the owners.

UNITED STATES – Alissa, 16, met an older man at a convenience store in Dallas and after a few dates accepted his invitation to move in with him. But soon Alissa's new boyfriend convinced her to be an escort for him, accompanying men on dates and having sex with them for money. He took her to an area known for street prostitution and forced her to hand over all of her earnings. He made Alissa get a tattoo of his nicknames, branding her as his property, and he posted prostitution advertisements with her picture on an Internet site. He rented hotel rooms around Dallas and forced Alissa to have sex with men who responded to the ads. The man, who kept an assault rifle in the closet of his apartment, threatened Alissa and physically assaulted her on multiple occasions. The man later pled guilty to trafficking Alissa.

HONDURAS – UNITED STATES – Maria was 15 when two well-dressed men driving a nice car approached her and two friends in a small Honduran village. They told the girls they were businessmen and offered to take them to the United States to work in a textile factory. Maria thought it was the perfect opportunity to help her single mother, who struggled to support seven children. But upon arriving in Houston, the girls were held captive, beaten, raped, and forced to work in cantinas that doubled as brothels. Men would come to the cantina and choose a beer and a girl, sometimes as young as 12. They would pay for the beer and sit with the girl while she drank it. If they wanted to have sex with the girl, they would take her to the back and pay cash for a mattress, paper towels, and spermicide. The captors beat the girls daily if they did not make enough money. After six years, Maria was able to escape the cantina and return to her mother with the help of a kind American family. Her two friends remain missing.

Power of a story:

UNITED STATES – When Ashley was 12-years-old she got into a fight with her mother and ran away from home. She ended up staying with her friend's older brother at his house and intended to go home the next day, but when she tried to leave he told her that he was a pimp and that she was now his property. He locked her in a room, beat her daily, and advertised her for sex on websites. Once, she looked out a window and saw her mother on the street, crying and posting flyers with Ashley's photo. When Ashley tried to shout her mother's name from the window her pimp grabbed her by the hair and yanked her back, threatening "If you shout, I'll kill you." Ashley eventually escaped her confinement and is now at a treatment center for girls who have been sexually trafficked in New York.

BURMA – THAILAND – Raju, a migrant worker from Burma, traveled to Thailand when he was falsely promised 6,000 baht per month as a restaurant or factory worker—if he could first pay a 12,000 baht brokerage fee. Out of options, he agreed to borrow money for the fee and use his future earnings to repay it. Raju was instead forced and threatened at gun-point to board a fishing boat. Onboard the Thai vessel, Raju and the other workers were forced to work day and night, lived in cramped quarters, and were beaten if they took fish to cook and eat. Already saddled by debt, Raju never received his promised wages. Each time the fishing boat docked, the workers were taken to a house and locked in a room so that they could not escape. Raju recalled one worker who attempted to run away but was caught: "The man was tied to a post...the man was electrocuted and tortured with cigarette butts...later he was shot through the head." Raju was finally able to escape the Thai fishing vessel by tying himself to a buoy, jumping overboard, and swimming six hours to shore.

BRAZIL For 10 years, Joel and Ronival were enslaved on a Brazilian ranch. They were forced to bathe in a reservoir contaminated with cattle manure, and they slept in a wooden hut. "There was no electricity, drinking water, or sanitation ... this is not human job, this is slave job," stated Joel. Eventually, they left the ranch in the middle of the night and walked 14 miles to escape their exploitation. Joel, 30, risked his own life in order to help guide Ronival, 69, who had lost 55 pounds and broken a shoulder, to safety. They made it to an NGO that helped shelter them and assisted with filing a legal action against their traffickers. Because of their courage, Joel and Ronival obtained compensation from their traffickers and have restarted lives free from fear of those who held them captive for so many years.

Power of a story:

MEXICO – UNITED STATES Maria Elena was 13 years old when a family acquaintance told her she could make ten times as much money waiting tables in the United States than she could in her small village. She and several other girls were driven across the border, and then continued the rest of the way on foot. They traveled four days and nights through the desert, making their way into Texas, then crossing east toward Florida. Finally, Maria Elena and the other girls arrived at their destination, a rundown trailer where they were forced into prostitution. Maria Elena was gang-raped and locked in the trailer until she agreed to do what she was told. She lived under 24-hour watch and was forced to have sex with up to 30 men a day. When she got pregnant, she was forced to have an abortion and sent back to work the next day. Maria Elena finally made her escape only to be arrested along with her traffickers.

INDIA – Gayan, a 15-year-old boy, was a school dropout when he was recruited by a broker who promised him a good job in the Jharsuguda district. Instead, Gayan, along with other boys, was confined to a factory to work, given little food, severely beaten, branded, burned with cigarettes, and allowed only a few hours' sleep each night. It was not until Gayan returned home a year later that his parents learned what he had endured. "Only now have we realized that he was threatened...the owners were always present while he was talking on the phone [to us]," they said. After Gayan's parents complained to officials, the three traffickers responsible were arrested. The police have also initiated rescue efforts for the other boys held in forced labor and debt bondage in the same facility.

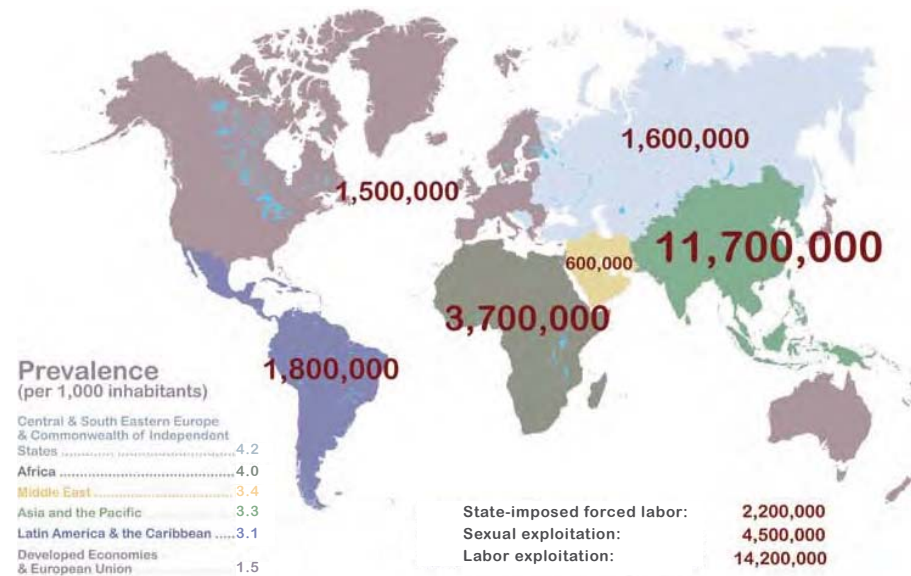
FRANCE – Sabine was 23 when her parents gave her to another family as partial payment for a used car. The family who took Sabine used her as a domestic slave for three years, making her look after their seven children and hiring her out to other men for sex. They burned her with an iron and cigarettes and beat her with iron bars and sticks, took her identity papers and claimed her unemployment benefits for themselves, and chained her up in a squalid shed at night to prevent her from escaping. They threw scraps of food on the ground for her to eat, treating her worse than an animal. When Sabine fell ill, the family dumped her outside a Paris hospital. She had no teeth and weighed less than 84 lbs. Her nose and ears had been mutilated, and she needed corrective surgery. A French court sentenced Sabine's parents to 30 years in prison, the maximum sentence under French law. Ten other defendants received prison sentences of between 2 and 25 years.

Power of a story:

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of the CONGO – The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), an armed group that originated in northern Uganda 20 years ago, now operates in the border areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. When the group attacked Josephine's village, she and her family had too little time to flee. A group of about 80 LRA men surrounded her house. They tied up the family and shot and killed Josephine's grandfather in front of her. They took Josephine and her three brothers into the bush. After an hour of walking, the men separated the children into pairs. Josephine and her 14-year-old brother Patrick never saw their other two brothers again. Josephine remained on the move with the LRA for eight months, never staying in one place for more than a week. She was forced to carry heavy loads, find food, and cook. She and other girls, some as young as 12, were forced to become LRA "wives." Josephine was assigned to a boy who had also been kidnapped and forced to be an LRA fighter. She watched as the men forced him to kill another boy by striking him on the back of the head with a machete. Josephine managed to run away one day when she was sent out to look for food. She walked 40 km and found safety in a village in Sudan. Her brother Patrick escaped two months later during a Ugandan army attack on the LRA.

Regional Figures

Persons in Forced Labor



All stories and map taken from the 2011 and 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US Department of State