

"Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." - Ps. 82:4



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Paths of Justice

Community Clean-up

A couple of weeks ago I began to hear advertising about "The Arnold" which is taking place the first weekend of March here in Columbus. This has not been one of my sports interests, but in business I have met people who come to Columbus for this event and talk about how great it is.

Since Becky McNeil informed us about all the sex trafficking that goes along with any event that draws people from outside the community, my outlook on these events has changed from ambivalence to disgust. Columbus continues to grow and become a location for these large events and the movers and shakers are happy about the money and headlines. This is our community, and the ugliness that seems to go along with this fame puts a stain on us.

I am glad that there is a greater effort to stop trafficking by all levels of government, but if we are to reduce this horrific abuse, we as citizens need to speak up to change the way the community thinks about it. As Ps. 82:3b says, "Do justice to the afflicted and needy."

- Tom Castor

Definition of injustice:
Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

"They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them...They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid."

- Ez. 34:27-28

Saving Children from Slavery

One of the problems that our church's Justice Mission leaders have been investigating is sex slavery. There are about [4.5 million people](#) trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally. Right here in Ohio, there are an estimated [3,000 minors](#) at-risk for human trafficking.

Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Many victims become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by their parents or other family members.

We have been able to interview someone based here in Columbus who is leading the fight to stop child sex trafficking. Her name is Nicole Bromley, and she speaks internationally, at universities all over the U.S., and as a guest expert for the media on child sexual abuse and trafficking. She is also the founder of [OneVOICE4freedom](#), bringing awareness and prevention to those who are at high risk of being

trafficked, giving hope and resources to those who have already been exploited, and partnering with other corporations that are caring for victims.

Nicole is a survivor of sexual abuse. She began to expand her focus to trafficking a few years into her public ministry after learning more about it and hearing story after story of sex trafficking survivors. The common thread she found was that child sexual abuse had been occurring in the home. These survivors were running away from a trauma that Nicole could relate to and unknowingly, they were falling into the arms of sly traffickers.

In 2010, Nicole began a campaign across East Africa to Stamp Out Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking and was the first woman to give a public address on sexual abuse and child sex slavery in Uganda. In 2011, she joined the board of directors for a nonprofit that cares for sexually exploited minors in Ohio. In 2012, she went undercover with a film crew from Life Outreach International to tell the stories of child sex slaves in the brothels of Cambodia. She interviewed the girls and also moms in remote villages who had sold their

Saving Children from Slavery - Continued

daughters. Nicole returned from that mission with a completely broken heart, and through it, God gave her vision. "I will never forget those girls in their locked rooms, with nothing but a bowl and blanket on the floor. I hold their stories in my memories and their tears in my heart. And as a mom, I carry Yem's grief with me everyday; her story motivates me to do everything I can to prevent this evil." Please go [here](#) to see Yem's story - it's only two minutes.

OneVOICE4freedom was birthed out of a desire to play a role in stopping child sex slavery before it started. Nicole began by raising the money to build a school for 80 children in Cambodia who are at high risk of being trafficked. That school is part of the Life Center of Cambodia and officially opened in 2014. She then began fundraising to purchase shoes, books and resources. She and her team helps to save kids from becoming slaves through anti-trafficking education in villages and schools of rural Cambodia. In 2016, they constructed a safe house school there for 60 young girls rescued from child sex slavery.

Nicole is also the author of *Hush: Moving From Silence to Healing After Childhood Sexual Abuse*, *Breathe: Finding Freedom to Thrive in Relationships After Childhood Sexual Abuse* and *SOAR: A Film Series and Study Companion to Hush*. They are unique materials that connect with and help victims of

abuse, correct related lies with truth, and help them find healing and freedom through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

OneVOICE4freedom partners with churches around the world. So what can we do? One opportunity is that we could prepare/provide a meal for them to serve the homeless and runaway youth in

Columbus, who are at-risk for trafficking; this opens doors for them to minister to and share the Gospel with them. It would be for about 35 to 40 kids.

Also, we'd like to see if we could lead a support group or two at our church this summer for survivors of abuse. The size would be between about 3 and 10 people, and would be an all-female group led by a couple of women and/or an all-male group led by a couple of men. There is no formal training or background required. It would go for seven sessions, and you would just go through the relevant parts of her book *Hush* (above) and the companion study guide before each

session, understand the content, and confidently lead a discussion, almost like a book club, but with obviously sensitive topics and prayer time. She has short video clips that go along with each session as well. Would you prayerfully consider serving in this way? Please let us know if you would like to help lead one, or if you or others you know would like to be part of such a group.



Opportunities / Activities / Resources

- Could you help with one of the opportunities described above? Please let us know.
- Go [here](#) to learn the signs of trafficking and report it wherever you see it. To request help or report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888. Or text HELP to: BeFree (233733).
- Go [here](#) for parent resources on Internet safety.
- Pray for FCC's ongoing investigative work and development of plans to serve victims of injustice.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities