

TRAFFICKING

A PERSONAL PRAYER GUIDE

God's Word speaks clearly on issues of human trafficking and exploitation. Read the following Scriptures prayerfully, and spend time in prayer about the subjects suggested here.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS:

Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will turn to prostitution and be filled with wickedness. – Leviticus 19:29

They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink. – Joel 3:3

GOD'S PURPOSES

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. – Isaiah 61:1-3

. . . to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke. – Isaiah 58:6

CONSIDERING THE TRAFFICKERS AND EXPLOITERS:

Why, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD. In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

His ways are always prosperous; your laws are rejected by him; he sneers at all his enemies. He says to himself, 'Nothing will ever shake me.' He swears, 'No one will ever do me harm.' His mouth is full of lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue.

He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent. His eyes watch in secret for his victims; like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net. His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength.

He says to himself, 'God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees.' Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.

Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, 'He won't call me to account'? But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.

Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out. The LORD is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land.

You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror. – Psalm 10

LIFE AND LIBERTY THROUGH CHRIST

[Jesus said] 'If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.' – John 8:36 NKJV

LET'S PRAY

RESCUE AND RESTORATION

Pray for the rescue and restoration of the countless number of people who have become victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation; and for the following:

- an end to their exploitation and sexual abuse;
- safe and secure shelters to provide for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs;
- loving support workers to provide comfort and a sense of family;
- training and education opportunities to provide survivors of exploitation with productive livelihoods.

BREAKDOWN OF THE SEX INDUSTRY

Pray for the breakdown of the sex industry, the existence of which fuels trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of persons; and for the following:

- the demise of the pornography industry;
- the closure of brothels, strip clubs, massage parlours and other so-called 'sexually orientated businesses'; strong law enforcement efforts worldwide to enforce obscenity laws, fight corruption, as well as to arrest/convict pimps, traffickers and 'clients' in the sex trade.

REDUCTION OF DEMAND

Pray for efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex, including the following:

- the defeat of attempts to legalise prostitution around the world;
- a repeal of laws which have legalised prostitution in such countries as The Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand and parts of Australia;
- the development and success of ministries which are helping people plagued by sexual addictions;

- that God convicts the hearts of traffickers, pimps and their 'clients', and that they allow Christ to transform their lives;

DEVELOPMENT

Pray for the development of impoverished nations:

>> that the people in those countries may know a decent standard of living, have meaningful education and employment opportunities, and so escape the desperate circumstances that make them vulnerable to trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

WORLD LEADERS

Pray for world leaders:

>> that they will confront trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation by dedicating their time, energy and national resources to eradicating it.

THE CHURCH

Pray for the Church and its response to sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including:

- that more Christian workers can establish and administer programmes for the prevention of trafficking, and provide increased recovery and restoration services for survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation;
- an increased networking and cooperation among Christian groups working to alleviate these evils;
- that courage, fortitude and vision will enable Christians to address this issue.

Material prepared by Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking. USA National Headquarters. For more information go to www.iast.net