

The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association
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Website: www.cbadecatur.com

Churches:

Argenta
Arthur
Atwood
Boody
Calvary
Emmanuel
Fellowship
Findlay
Forsyth
Galilee
Hammond
Heyworth
Lincoln
Lovington
Mt. Zion
Shiloh
Sullivan
Summit Avenue
Tabernacle
Tri-Valley

Mission Statement

Central Baptist Association exists to foster relationships among churches in order to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The Vision of CBA is to see churches collaborating together to build the Kingdom of God.

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10 Things You Didn't Know About Slavery, Human Trafficking (And What You Can Do About It)

By Eleanor Goldberg, Editor, HuffPost Impact Jan. 15, 2014

You may be aware of children being prime victims for sex trafficking in far-off countries, like Cambodia and India. You probably also know that trafficked workers are forced to toil for long hours, with little or no pay, to produce such everyday items as bricks and chocolate.

But what you may not know is how prevalent the crime of trafficking is right here in the U.S. and just how varied the victims are.

The \$32 billion business of modern-day slavery coerces adults and children into the sex trade or into working against their will. Trafficking cuts across gender and ethnicity, with some slaves being brought to the U.S. with false promises of a better life. Others are often vulnerable citizens of the U.S. who may have been abused, abandoned, or a runaway teen.

During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (January) we're raising awareness about these unspeakable crimes in the hopes that one day we will no longer have to.

- 1. Slavery and human trafficking can mean two different things:** Human trafficking is when a person is recruited, harbored, provided or obtained for the purposes of exploitation—often sold as an object. Trafficking victims, 2/3 of whom are women and girls, are recruited by means of threat and are often sent into the sex trade or forced to get involved in manual and servitude work, according to the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.
- 2. There are more slaves around the world today than ever before in history.** Though slavery has been banned across the globe, more than 29 million people are living in slavery, the greatest number in history. Some 15,000 people are being trafficked each year right here in the U.S. for purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation. And they're working for you. Even if your shelves are lined with fair-trade and locally produced items, there's a good chance that a number of slaves have contributed to making the food you eat, the clothes you wear and the laptop on which you work, according to the *Slavery Footprint*.
- 3. Sex trafficking victims are often treated like criminals.** Trafficking laws vary from state to state, with victims often being arrested and treated like criminals, reinforcing their

belief that the police can't be trusted. Advocates are calling for a "Uniform Law" one that will allow all agencies to properly identify victims, provide rehabilitative services, and prosecute traffickers.

- 4. Your state could be doing a lot more to put a stop to trafficking.** *Shared Hope*, a nonprofit that works to bring justice to victims of sex trafficking, has graded each state on the way it responds to sex trafficking crimes. Find out how your state ranks and then reach out to your state representative and urge him or her to do more.
- 5. You support trafficking when you watch porn.** Even if a porn explicitly states that all actors are over 18 and have consented to being filmed, that just may not be true, Yahoo News reported. The trafficked actresses may simply be trained to look and act older.
- 6. Forced laborers are making some of your favorite things.** There's a good chance that the Christmas decorations recently packed away and the shoes you're wearing right now were made by slave workers. But there's an easy fix for that. The U.S. Department of Labor has devised a list of countries and the items they export that are produced by child and forced laborers. Peruse the list so you can effectively change the way you shop.
- 7. Slaves are working at the very hotels where you vacation.** Many trafficking victims are forced to work grueling hours at hotels and motels for little or no pay and children are often exploited sexually at hotels because employees are not trained to spot such crimes. To educate hotel workers, *End Child Prostitution and Trafficking* has devised a training course to teach staff how to identify a victim and to properly react. Find out if your hotel has completed the course before you book your next stay.
- 8. The Super Bowl is the single largest incident of human trafficking in the U.S.** Because hundreds of thousands of fans descend upon the Super Bowl host city, it becomes the optimal breeding ground for forced workers, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott told USA Today back in 2011. Sex trafficking victims are brought to the city to work, and one



(Continued on page 3)

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

February

Birthdays

2-Austin Merritt (Tabernacle)
8-Gary Bauerle (Emmanuel)
11-Joshua Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
16-Alijah Inda (Forsyth)
22-Marian Blankenship (Tabernacle)
-Andrew Crowther (Forsyth)
28-Dennis Blankenship (Tabernacle)
28-Irene Leischner (Argenta-widow)
28-William Baker (Heyworth)



Church Ann.

2006-Doug Davis (Arthur)

CBA's Senior Adult

Heart-to-Heart Fellowship

Tuesday, February 16th, 2016

10 AM-Noon

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Cost: \$6 per person

MENU: Jello Salad
Chicken Casserole
Green beans
Cherry Crisp
Drinks

Special Guest Speaker:

Dr. Marvin Derrick, Surgical Specialist, Cardiothoracic Surgeon at DMH with 35 years experience.

Dr. Randy Johnson,
Senior Pastor of
Tabernacle



Please sign up on the sheet provided and have someone contact the CBA office at cbadecaturoffice@yahoo.com or (217) 615-0192, with the number of people attending and the information from the note above.

**If you'd like to attend the event, but not stay for the meal, please be sure to say so on the sign up sheet so we don't order more food than needed. Or if you end up not being able to come, please call or let your representative know to let the CBA office know ASAP.*

Valentine's Day for Everyone

Valentine's Day falls on Sunday this year. For some people, it's a great day. For others, it's a holiday to be avoided. How can you make a love-themed worship service meaningful for the love-sick and the love-starved alike?

Avoid the hokum. Skip the sweetheart banquet and The Newlywed Game. Save the couples ministry for a time of year when it doesn't serve to emphasize the singleness of people who aren't half of a couple.

Focus on God's love. This is the Romans 5:8 kind of love. Point to the cross. Explain "agape."

Broaden the applications. Love stories apply to all kinds of relationships. Apply biblical lessons to siblings, parents and kids, and friends. Not all stories need to be about happily-ever-after couples.

Advertise ahead of time. If you choose to preach on marriage, tell people ahead of time so the single and the heartbroken can choose if they're ready to tackle the topic.

Love out, not love-in. Make the day about out-reach. Choose a mission or community ministry and bless it with gifts and volunteers.

Deliver chocolates to guests. Who wouldn't be glad to see someone from church standing on their doorstep Sunday afternoon holding a box of chocolates? (I'd prefer chocolate covered strawberries.)

In a nutshell—just be sensitive to others who may not have a "valentine" to celebrate.

Rekindling the Call

Held at Streator Baptist Camp on February 16, 2016. *Rekindling the Call* is a retreat provided free of charge for Illinois Baptist Pastors and their wives. We will also be providing child care. The retreat will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by 6:30 p.m. Register today at IBSA.org!

Church Tech Conference

Saturday, February 20 - IBSA Building, Springfield

Get church technology training you won't find anywhere else! The impact will be huge as you learn how to use technology for outreach as well as uniting believers in corporate worship. Learn how to create a seamless flow of worship at your church from the bulletin through the preaching.

Schedule: 8:30 a.m. - Registration
11:45 a.m. - Lunch (provided by IBSA)
1:30 p.m. - Dismiss

Breakout Sessions include: Social Media (Basics & Advanced), Web Design; **Worship Leaders Track:** Loops, Multi-Tracks, Click Tracks Class, ProPresenter 6; **Sound Track:** Sound Systems: Sessions 1-3; **Video Track:** Video Production (Basics & Advanced); **Pastor's Track:** Computer Basics, Online Training (Equip, Ministry Grid, Bible software); **Church Secretary Track:** Annual Church Profile, Church Desktop Publishing, Time Management, Mass Communications

Cost: The cost is \$10 per person.

For more information contact Cathy Waters at (217) 391-3124.

10 Things You Didn't Know About Human Trafficking

survivor told the Times-Piscuane that she was expected to sleep with around 25 men a day at such events. As the Super Bowl is February 7th in the city of Santa Clara, CA, let's get on our knees and pray for change. Pray for protection for the victims, conviction for the traffickers and for the many would-be customers.

9. Some are working against their will at "massage parlors" that you may frequent. While the masseuse may seem complicit, even eager to please, oftentimes these businesses are just commercial-front brothels where the women can be forced to have sex with men six to 10 times a day. Learn about the signs you should look out for when you're getting a massage and how you can help if you spot something suspicious.

10. Identifying—and helping—a victim is easier than you might think. Learn to look out for some of the red flags—a worker who lives with her employer, someone who won't speak unaided and shares what appears to be a scripted speech—and call the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888*. In 2015, 5,544 human trafficking cases were reported. With 3,506 of those from victims and survivors and California having the twice the amount as the other states. There are organizations in St. Louis and one in Peoria that helps victims you might know in Central Illinois.

Why Trafficking Exists

Human trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry that is based on the principles of supply and demand, like drugs or arms trafficking. Many factors make children and adults vulnerable to human trafficking. However, human trafficking does not exist solely because many people are vulnerable to exploitation. Instead, human trafficking is fueled by a demand for cheap labor, services and for commercial sex. Human traffickers are those who employ force, fraud, or coercion to victimize others in their desire to profit from the existing demand. To ultimately solve the problem of human trafficking, it is essential to address these demand-driven factors, as well as to alter the overall market incentives of high-profit and low-risk that traffickers currently exploit.

Labor trafficking and sex trafficking of U.S. citizens and foreign nationals persist and thrive for a number of reasons, including:

Low Risk: Human traffickers perceive there to be little risk or deterrence to affect their criminal operations. While investigations, prosecutions and penalties have increased throughout recent years, many traffickers still believe the high profit margin to be worth the risk of detection. Factors that add to low risk include: lack of government and law enforcement training, low community awareness, ineffective or unused laws, lack of law enforcement investigation, scarce resources for victim recovery services, and social blaming of victims.

High Profits: When individuals are willing to buy commercial sex, they create a market and make it profitable for traffickers to sexually exploit children and adults. When consumers are willing to buy goods and services from industries that rely on forced labor, they create a profit incentive for labor traffickers to maximize revenue with minimal production costs.

Left unchecked, human trafficking will continue to flourish in environments where traffickers can reap substantial monetary gains with relatively low risk of getting caught or lost profits.



8 Characteristics of Pastors Who Lead Effective Evangelistic Churches

By Chuck Lawless

This week I've been preparing some lectures for my upcoming seminars in the DMin in Church Revitalization and Great Commission Leadership at Southeastern Seminary. For years, I've kept a running list of *characteristics of pastors who lead effective evangelistic churches (that is, churches that are reaching non-believers rather than simply reaching other church members)*. Below are several of those characteristics.

1. They believe the Bible is the Word of God.

Consequently, they accept the truth that people who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus are without hope. The Word drives them to want to reach people.

2. They take the lead in personal evangelism. They model evangelism, but not because they happen to be the pastor; they do it because Jesus is in their heart and evangelism is in their blood. These leaders would evangelize even if they weren't pastors.

3. They know the church's numbers. They're not idolatrous of those numbers, but they're certainly aware of them. "A number represents a person" is much more than an adage to them; it's a reflection of their focus on real people who need Jesus.

4. They take personally any lack of evangelistic growth. That's not to suggest, though, that they believe they can somehow create growth. It's simply that they so long to see lives changed that they want to evaluate why when it doesn't happen.

5. They've led their churches to get ready for growth. They're not always fully prepared for what God does, but their churches don't take lightly their responsibility to disciple new believers God gives them. They have the "nursery" ready for babes in Christ.

6. They know their community well – and they love that community. They can usually describe the general demographic makeup of their community, not only because they've studied the data but also because they've walked the streets. They're glad to live where they live, and they hope to stay there awhile.

7. They hold their staff accountable for doing evangelism. They may not always require written reports, but they're intentional about asking for verbal reports during staff meetings. Typically, they're hesitant to hire anyone who doesn't have a strong evangelism record. If the church doesn't have Staff, what about the lay-leaders?

8. Increasingly, they are more committed to church planting. Because these pastors want to see people saved, they've often joined the forces emphasizing evangelistic church planting today. They aren't worried that everyone comes to their church, and they're willing to send out some of their best to start congregations.



from the Pews!

Banquet. On Thursday, March 24, we will observe the Lord's Supper during a special service.

Tabernacle-hosted the Community Choir Festival on Jan 24 that raised funds for the Old King's Orchard Community Center. 12+ church choirs participated in the event, ages children through adult.

TBC is having its 4th Annual Chili Cook-off Missions Fundraiser on Feb. 27 at 5 pm. Everything from mild to sizzlin' will be offered & you can

purchase your favorite. We will also have our 4th Annual Sweet Treats Auction that day with baked goodies of all kinds available to bid on. All proceeds benefit our 2016 Mission Trips.

We will be adding a 2nd service April 3. One will offer traditional style music & the other will have a more casual current praise & worship music. Slight time adjustments will be made to Sunday School & Worship Times.

FBC, Mt. Zion-Easter Weekend: March 25, 26, & 27, will be an exciting time for FBC. On March 25, we will conduct a Good Friday Service at 6 PM. March 26, we will provide an opportunity for families to Experience Easter Live, with a family friendly tour of Passion Week. We will conclude our celebratory weekend with a breakfast on Sunday the 27th, from 8:30-9:30 AM followed by our Celebration Service with numerous activities.

Sullivan So.-We will be putting homemade cookie plates together the week before Valentine's Day and deliver them on Feb. 12 to our shut-in's, nursing home and assisted living staff, police station, and fire department. On Sunday, Feb. 14, at 6:00 pm we will have our Annual Valentine

Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, June 14-15, 2016

Southern Baptists, how do we not go and make a difference in metro St. Louis? You see, when we speak of metro St. Louis, we are also talking about East St. Louis, IL. Two states, including our own Illinois, will be impacted by our gathering this year. **Crossover** is scheduled for June 11th, the Saturday before the S.B. Convention. Several St. Louis project already are posted at namb.net/crossover. Visit the site to watch the video and for more information.

VBS Clinic on Feb. 27th at Chatham Bapt. Church from 8:30 AM-Noon. There is no cost for this training. Advance registration is preferred. Participants who pre-register online in advance will be entered in a drawing for a chance to receive **FREE** LifeWay *Submerged* materials at the clinic. Walk-in registration (8 AM) will also be available. For additional questions, please contact Cathy Waters at (217) 391-3124.

CBA Leadership Meetings

Thursday, February 25th, 2016

5:30 PM-Meal (Chicken Chili)

6:00 PM-Meeting

At CBA Office/Emmanuel Baptist Church Fellowship Area

Mark Your Calendar

February 2016 *True Love Waits Emphasis*

- 14th-Valentine's Day
- 15th-President's Day
- 16th-"Rekindling the Call" Retreat at Lake Sallateeska
- 16th at 10 AM-Senior Adult "Heart-to-Heart" at Tabernacle**
- 18th-iConnect at IBSA Bldg.
- 20th-Church Tech. Conf. at IBSA Bldg.
- 25th-Leadership Team Meeting at CBA office**
- 27th-VBS Clinic (Central IL) at IBSA Bldg.

March 2016 *Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month*

- 4th-5th-Student & Collegiate Resource Conf. at IBSA Bldg.
- 6th-13th-Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
- 12th-Children's Ministry Day at FBC, Mt. Zion**
- 13th-Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 18th-19th-Minister's Wives' Retreat in Spgfld.
- 19th-VBS Clinic (Mid-South) at TBA
- 20th-Palm Sunday
- 25th-Good Friday
- 27th-**HAPPY EASTER-He is Risen! Hallelujah!!**



Children's Ministry Day

9:30 AM-March 12, 2016

at FBC, Mt. Zion

Registration Open

The cost is just \$15 per person which includes an event T-shirt, lunch, and some ministry supplies. The FBC, Mt. Zion is the CBA location. Go to IBSA.org to see the list of projects, then just click on a location to register, and to print a waiver.

You may register a group without knowing the names, but we are asking for names, t-shirt sizes and payment within 3 weeks of your registration. If you have any questions, please contact BarbTroeger@IBSA.org.

You need to fill out waiver forms and have them signed by parents to bring to the event. You need to mail payment and names (including adults) to IBSA postmarked by Feb. 20th.



**CBA PHONE NUMBER
(217) 615-0192**

