

Surprised by Vulnerability, Beauty and Sadness

— Stephanie Goins

Love146 (www.love146.org) is a human rights organization that fights child trafficking and exploitation. We address the prevention of child trafficking and exploitation; and when children have been subjected to trafficking or exploitation, we focus on their care. We are thoughtful in our approach to identify needs, explore solutions and implement programs based on what we have learned.

In November of 2013, I traveled to Cambodia and Thailand to visit our Asia field director, Dr. Glenn Miles, and the Love146 partner projects. I visited Urban Light (www.urban-light.org), a Love146 partner project located in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Urban Light is one of the few organizations that reaches out to sexually exploited boys and young men. It is one of the few because of an erroneous assumption that boys are not victims of sex trafficking or exploitation. This is why, in part, we are determined to support boys and young men in preventing their own exploitation.

While on my trip, there was an evening when we walked into a particular bar known as a place sex tourists go to purchase boys. The first thing I saw was a boy approximately 16 or 17 years of age, sitting across from a white man in his 60's or 70's. I was deeply disturbed but followed the outreach staff to a small table where others boys had gathered. We bought the boys sodas and began playing UNO, a great game where language is not a barrier. Urban Light staff had built relationships with these boys; laughing and joking came easy. Fun was immediate.

As the game started, my eyes kept returning to that boy with the older man. I noticed he had his hands on the older man's thighs. The look on the boy's face still haunts me. It was one of fear, of dread, of anticipation at having to do something he did not want to do. But his vulnerability, his inability to imagine a different life, his lack of options to provide for himself; these led him to this bar, to be sitting across from this old man who did not care that he was just a boy.

It made me wonder about the old man as well. Who was he? Had he frequented this bar and built some sort of pseudo-trusting relationship with this boy? Did he care about this boy? It didn't seem like it to me. I guessed this boy was just someone to meet his physical and/or emotional needs. And as familiar as I am with this sort of self-centered depravity, for someone not to care for a child, that still surprises me and deeply saddens me.

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IN FOCUS



Human Trafficking

*Learn to do right! Seek justice,
encourage the oppressed. Defend the
cause of the fatherless, plead the case of
the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)*

— Amy Wilson

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others, as defined by the Polaris Project (www.polarisproject.org). One of the many problems of this crime is that facts are constantly changing and it is difficult to get true statistics due to the underground nature of the many crimes. Fortunately, many organizations are working daily to provide us

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I was so struck by this contrast: playing UNO and exploitation happening right before my eyes. It led me to ask one of the Urban Light staff what made him continually come to the bar in light of what he must see every week. "I want to befriend them," he said. "I want them to know there is something different for them, something better."

The truth is, no matter how boys have ended up in this lifestyle, we are desperate to let them know that they are not just a body, that they are valued and valuable, and that there is much more for them than this.

Nevertheless, I am reminded of the hope that we have in the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, whose life was despised and disregarded so easily by some, and so cherished by others. Those of us who cherish Him are compelled to do all we can to change the future of children like this boy working in a bar in Chiang Mai. ■

About the Author

Stephanie Goins holds a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Wales and a Masters of Psychology from the University of West Florida. She currently serves as vice president of programs for Love146, a nonprofit organization that works to abolish child exploitation and trafficking. Stephanie is also the author of numerous publications relating to the issues of children in crisis. From 1990 to 2010, Stephanie's work with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) focused on children in difficult circumstances, discipleship, team building, training and counseling. She has worked in Africa, Europe and the United States.



LOVE146

IN FOCUS

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with the most up-to-date information, including The Gospel Coalition <http://thegospelcoalition.org/>, which is where the below statistics originate. **Did you know:**

1. Globally, the average cost of a slave is \$90.
2. Trafficking primarily involves exploitation which comes in many forms, including: forcing victims into prostitution, subjecting victims to slavery or involuntary servitude and compelling victims to commit sex acts for the purpose of creating pornography.
3. According to some estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.
4. There are approximately 20 to 30 million slaves in the world today.
5. According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. More than 70% are female and half are children.
6. The average age when a youth enters the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14-years-old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children.
7. Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year, making the U.S. one of the top three destination points.
8. Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry (behind illegal drugs and arms trafficking). It reportedly generates a profit of \$32 billion every year. Of that number, \$15.5 billion is made in industrialized countries.

As we read through these facts, many of us feel overwhelmed by the numbers and wonder, "What could I do to make a difference?" The Lord does speak to this within the Bible. One of the most powerful things you can do is pray for the victims, using these verses to guide you:

- *Rescue the poor and helpless from the grasp of evil men. (Psalm 82:4)*
- *Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard. (Proverbs 21:13)*
- *Give fair judgment to the poor man, the afflicted, the fatherless, the destitute. (Psalm 82:3)*
- *Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor? (Job 30:25)*
- *The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. (Proverbs 29:7)*
- *Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 16:20)*
- *He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. "Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 22:16)*

In addition to prayer, give to one of the many Christian organizations working to rescue these victims and share God's love with them. If you need recommendations, please contact CCTI for suggestions. Thirdly, learn of local organizations who are involved with trafficking efforts and find out how you can volunteer and help be the hands and feet of Jesus. ■

Sexual Harm Threatens All Children in Crisis

— **Christa Foster Crawford, J.D.**



Sexual abuse and exploitation are devastating horrors that affect all areas of a child: body, mind and spirit. We often think of sexual harm occurring to children who have been trafficked into the sex trade. But did you know that all children in crisis—indeed all children—are at risk of sexual harm?

What Types of Sexual Harm Do Children Face? Who Is at Risk?

Sadly there are a variety of ways in which children (boys as well as girls) are abused, exploited, trafficked or otherwise harmed sexually. Each type of harm is related, but not identical, to the others. We must understand each type of harm and how each affects children in crisis if we are to effectively recognize and respond to victims.

Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by a more powerful person for that person's own sexual gratification through violence or manipulation. Abusers are often known to the child; abuse by a relative is called "incest." Abusers are often adults, but can also be a more powerful child. Abusers may be women as well as men.

Sexual abuse is the most common form of sexual harm to children. While it does not receive as much media attention as sex trafficking, its harm is comparable and it must not be ignored. In fact, child sexual abuse is often a precursor to sexual exploitation. This does not mean that every child who is abused will be sexually exploited, but it does mean that preventing and treating abuse will help reduce vulnerability to later exploitation.

Sexual exploitation is sexual abuse and assault for commercial purposes. It is also known as commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). In traditional sexual abuse, offenders abuse for their own gratification. In CSEC, the offender offers the child for the gratification of others. The commercial nature of CSEC means that something of value is exchanged for the sexual act—typically money, but

also food, shelter, drugs or anything else of value. While prostitution is the most obvious form, CSEC also includes the use of children for pornography, live sex shows and virtual sex (using the Internet, mobile phones or other technology).

CSEC takes place at primary venues (e.g., brothels, escort services, red-light districts and "electronic red-light districts") as well as secondary venues that are not explicitly for sexual services (such as truck stops, massage parlors and karaoke bars). Street children especially are vulnerable to CSEC where they live and work. CSEC also occurs in places in which the child has apparent physical freedom. Exploiters are masters at using psychological and economic coercion to restrain and control. Just because physical chains are absent does not mean the child is free.

It is important to remember that children can be sexually harmed in non-commercial settings as well. Sexual abuse and CSEC are not uncommon for children in the following difficult circumstances:

- forced and/or exploitative labor (especially domestic labor);
- situations of war (including child soldiers, porters, "war brides," etc.);
- foster care, group homes, orphanages and other institutional care;
- street children, homeless youth, runaways and "throwaways";
- child marriage and forced marriage; and
- temple or religious prostitution.

Unfortunately, sexual abuse and exploitation of children in these situations often goes unnoticed and therefore unaddressed.

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Sexual Harm Threatens All Children in Crisis...continued

Sex trafficking is one method through which children can become sexually exploited. Human trafficking is the use of threat, coercion, deception or other illicit means to recruit, transfer or hold another person for the purpose of exploitation (United Nations Trafficking Protocol 3(a)). Sex trafficking is human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. However, human trafficking can occur for other purposes including forced labor or slavery-like practices. Again, it is important to recognize that sexual harm can take place in these other forms of trafficking as well. Especially at risk are children who have been trafficked into domestic labor, marriage and situations of war.

Sex trafficking is often called “sex slavery” colloquially. Some children are in fact trafficked into brothel conditions that are tantamount to slavery. However, it is crucial to understand that not all trafficking entails slavery-like practices. When children under 18 are involved, the use or threat of force or other illicit means is not legally required (United Nations Trafficking Protocol 3(c)). Children can be trafficked without being sold or held captive. For instance, a runaway teen who is pimped out by her “boyfriend” is also a victim of trafficking under the law. Limiting our view of sex trafficking to cases of clear physical force is to miss millions of children who are suffering from sexual exploitation outside of brothel settings. ■



Conclusion

Sexual abuse. Sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking. We must remember that children in crisis are at risk of all of these forms of sexual harm, and that all children in crisis are at risk. We must look beyond the areas of harm that receive the most popular attention to recognize all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, including ones that are hidden.

Christ is calling us to respond to each one.

How will you?

About the Author

*Christa Foster Crawford has been working against trafficking and sexual exploitation in Thailand since 2001. In addition to teaching and writing about these issues, she connects ministries to the resources they need to end exploitation through Trafficking Resource Connection. This article was adapted from a chapter in Christa's e-book: **So You Want to Rescue Child Sex Slaves: What You Need to Know Before You Begin** (Smashwords, 2012).*



OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES



Dedicated to children who hear their Father's voice

God Says

—Submitted by Irma Chon

Hello my name is Rachel and I am 11 years old. One day, I heard God tell me that I could do something big. I asked Him what I could do, and He told me that I could sell something I had or make something to sell. I love making bracelets and I had a lot of candy that my family and I didn't need. So then I decided to sell the candy and the bracelets at my church for money to go buy food to take to the Hilliard Food Pantry.

A study released by Feeding America shows that children continue to struggle with hunger in every county in the nation. More than 1,000 counties have more than one in four children who are at risk of hunger.

I'm excited with the idea that God can use me to help fix the problem of childhood hunger and that He is giving me the chance to help build a prosperous future for those in need. So far I have collected \$100. ■

It is amazing what kids can do to make a difference!

Irma Chon has a Master of Arts in Christian education and church ministries. She is the children's and youth pastor at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Hilliard, Ohio, USA, and is actively involved in training global leaders in leading children to prayer. Her passion is to empower families to know God intimately through prayer and to build their homes upon the strong foundation of His Word.

Immigration Crisis Response

— **Marissa Bultran**

Dear Friends,

The following is a letter from our CCTI team member, Marissa Bultran, who lives near the border, who is fluent in Spanish and is of Hispanic descent. Who says that God is not still in the miracle business? Please read and pray about your involvement to help!

Thank you for your concern and interest to the crisis that is happening at the border and in particular our town of Artesia, NM. As of two weeks ago, our town has been receiving immigrants from the Texas boarder. Artesia is currently housing family groups made up of women with children between the ages of 0-17 years of age. The families are being housed at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). I, along with Dan and around 15 other volunteers, have signed up to be trained under Church World Service (CWS) as voluntary chaplains. We are awaiting clearance from our background checks, along with training that we must take, before being cleared to go onto the Federal base.

While we are waiting for clearance, we have been in contact with the Chaplain who works with CWS and is currently in charge of heading up these volunteers. The needs for the current 400+ folks that are currently being housed are for Spanish children and youth Bibles. The community is collecting clothing for kids, shoes, toys, and other Spanish books. All medical, housing and food supplies are being provided by the government. As we get into the facility and see the needs, we will be able to let you know of other ways you might help. CCTI has set up a tax deductible account for monetary donations which will be used to purchase these Bibles and/or other needs as they are assessed.

***You can send monetary donations to:
Crisis Care Training International
PO BOX 517
Fort Mill, SC 29716
www.crisiscaretraining.org***

Please include a note stating that your donation is for Bibles and/or Discipleship materials for the immigrant moms, youth and children. You may also visit the website at www.crisiscaretraining.org to donate.

Please keep our town in your prayers as we struggle through this issue of helping these folks in need. Your prayers are vital for the town to understand the problem and how we can help. It is interesting how God works to bring people from “the ends of the earth” to our front door to hear and find the gospel. Thank you all and blessings in Christ!

Sincerely,

Dan and Marissa Phelps





The Better Part

— *from a missionary in India*

Most of you are probably like me when we come to the Mary and Martha passage in Luke 10. We rest our hands on the Bible and sigh, “If only, Lord, I could be a Mary, with nothing to do but to sit at your feet, to listen to you, to just love you, if only . . .” However, almost as soon as our heart’s cry is expressed, the phone or doorbell rings or a child calls out for us. Our few precious moments with our Savior are left behind as we tackle the next task that presents itself.

I know you are thinking that this is the reality of life everywhere, and it may be. Yet those of you reading this comfortably “at home” may not realize how much more this “busyness” is a constant reality in the foreign mission field. We know the fields are “ripe unto the harvest,” as those of us in large metropolitan cities feel the crush of the masses of unreached people every time we step out of our doors. Those working in villages know the lack of any privacy also, as doors are always open and the people watch each and every thing we do. When Jesus calls, “Come away and rest awhile,” we all

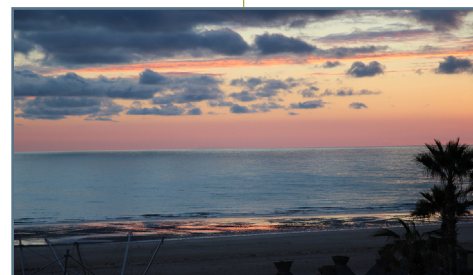
reply, “Come away—where, Lord?”

Our human minds may think it was unfair for Mary to allow her sister to do all the preparations for their guests. We may think Martha was justified when she grumbled at Mary and when she expected Jesus to take her side. Yet the Lord rebuked her: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about so many things, but one thing is necessary and Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” Martha was stressed about the physical, while Mary savored the spiritual. The physical cares are so temporary, and Jesus’ emphasis is usually on the simple—a few loaves and fish, a cup of water, bread and wine. He tells us not to be anxious for anything, but to trust our heavenly Father, who knows and cares about our needs. Stress robs us of rest, and while rest is of God, stress is of our own making.

For some time I have committed to working with a certain ministry, where my main work is to help the school, train the teachers, model interactive learning while teaching the children, etc. I also assist the pastor with planning, Bible studies, children’s ministry, etc. Now this should be enough, but because I have lived in this area a long time, I continue to be involved in the lives of other children and friends I’ve known and loved for many years. I really enjoy equipping others, so I also go to other cities and do trainings (which of course take time to prepare). Yes, too often I am a Martha! I know the struggle to focus on the one thing needful! However, I also know the sweetness of time alone with Jesus! How do we guard the most precious part of our heart?

One coworker marks off one day each month to spend with Jesus. I tried that for awhile, but then when other appointments came, I went. Half-days often work better for me. If I have a half-day meeting, then from there I go to find a large, peaceful park where I can shut off the cell phone and tune in to God. Quiet nights with God’s Word also work better for me than hectic mornings when I prepare to go out into the day’s activities. Here where “retreat” really means staff time together for Bible studies, prayer and planning, I try to encourage real retreats, where the overstressed staff can just be alone with Jesus.

Worldly cares are often a snare to the rest and refreshment our souls and spirits need. God tells us, “Be still and know that I am God.” As we work to still and quiet our lives, minds and spirits, we will be choosing the “best portion” and enjoying our Savior now and forever. ■



CCTI Curriculum



“Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis”

is now available as a PDF download.

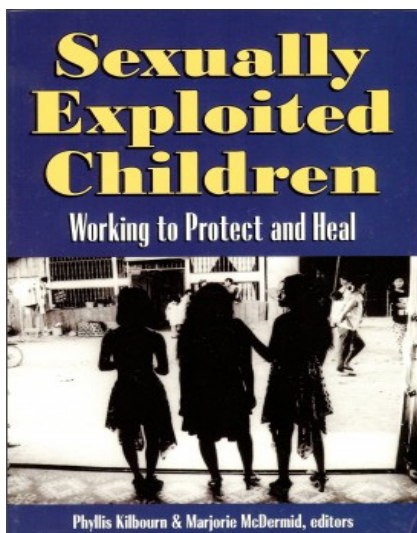
Modules 1 through 4 are available (Train the Trainer is not available yet). These are downloadable for only \$25 per module. This includes the Spanish version of Module 2.

The PDF download includes the PowerPoint visual aids.

We are thankful as the Lord continues to open more and more opportunities for CCTI to reach the world with curriculum that provides healing for hurting children and equips their caregivers with information they so desperately need.

What an awesome God we serve!!

In His Glorious Name,
Rosemary Sabatino, Director/Editor



*This book can be purchased for \$18
just go to the following web address: <http://crisiscaretraining.org/product-category/spotlight/>*

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