

THE Barnabas

To encourage, enrich, equip
A Publication of Crisis Care Training International

Vol. 16 No.1

Fearless Once Again

***Sadhna's*Story by Jeff Hancock,
International Justice Mission***

Sadhna's* story begins where all of our stories begin, "...in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them..." made in and for love. This is Sadhna's story.

In her early years, she lived with childlike fearlessness and joy. She speaks today with a mischievous smile as she tells of her life as a small child. She remembers with joy days of fishing and then cuddling up with her father as he cooked the fish for the family.

This childhood came to an abrupt end at the age of 11 when her father suddenly died. The family was forced to move to the city of Kolkata, and Sadhna had to find work to help support the family. At 14, she met a woman who promised she could provide house work for her. Arriving at the address, she became uneasy about the woman and the men in the room. She asked to leave but agreed to have a glass of water before she left. She woke up hours later to find that she had been raped, that this house was a private brothel, and that she was now their property. Her existence had become one of fear and violence.

Estimates tell us that around the world more than 40 million people like Sadhna suffer under the violent darkness of modern-day slavery. More than 40 million people fashioned in the image of God are forced into literal bondage so that others may make profit on the backs of their suffering. This is not the world as God has designed it—nor as He desires it.

In 19 offices across the world, International Justice Mission (IJM) seeks to bring an end to this kind of violence. In every office, IJM seeks to work with local partners to not only bring rescue to individuals, but to address brokenness within the justice systems that are unable to protect the vulnerable. Alongside police and social care partners, we seek to bring rescue to victims and restoration through aftercare to survivors. We work with prosecutors and judges to make sure that the abusers are held accountable for their crimes. Alongside churches, government partners, and community groups, we seek to help repair systems of public justice so that those systems are enabled to provide ongoing justice for their people. Together, we are witnessing not only individual lives being restored but whole systems changing so that people are not victimized to begin with.

Today, Sadhna is no longer a slave. After weeks of work by IJM and the police to investigate the abuses happening inside this brothel, Sadhna and

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IN FOCUS



Phyllis Kilbourn, Founder of CCTI

Compassion: God's Antidote to Trauma

*A bruised reed He will not break and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out
(Isaiah 42:3 NIV).*

Children caught up in the web of sexual abuse and exploitation comprise the most vulnerable

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her talent in music and dancing, and she learned how to manage her feelings of fear and anxiety. As she grew healthy again, she realized that a part of being able to move forward with her life was seeing the woman who had run the brothel held accountable. Five different times over the next three years Sadhna courageously recounted her story in court.

Sadhna is now thriving as she continues to embrace her own story and to use her story to be an advocate for other vulnerable girls. “I was quite fearless in my childhood days. Through this phase of life, I started getting scared of people around me. Now I’ve learned to draw inspiration for these experiences and have become fearless again. I’m no longer scared of anything in life.”

Evil and injustice can feel overwhelming and scary; so it can be tempting to run from the work of justice. But we take inspiration from heroes like Sadhna, and we seek to move without fear into the darkness of violence around our world. We remember together that when Jesus describes His church, He describes it as so mighty that even the gates of hell will not prevail against it. It is worth noting that an army does not encounter the gates of the enemy while clustered together inside its own walls—it is only as they advance on the territory of the enemy. Jesus is not describing a church that can somehow survive the onslaught of a scary and evil world. Instead He is describing evil and darkness that can never withstand the advance of an awakened and loving church. This as our sister Sadhna knows, is the true image of the God who created all of us.

**A pseudonym is used for the protection of*

As director of church mobilization for International Justice Mission, Jeff Hancock has preached and spoken extensively around the world about God’s passion for justice and the invitation to God’s people to join Him in the work of changing our world. Jeff works with churches throughout the Southeast U.S. to answer this call through partnership with IJM and through their own local ministry. Jeff comes to IJM by way of nearly 20 years of pastoral ministry. Most recently he served churches in The Hague, Netherlands; Raleigh, N.C.; and Malden, Ma. Jeff lives in the Atlanta area with his wife Heather and their kids, Bella and Elisha.



IN FOCUS

Compassion: God’s Antidote to Trauma
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segment of the world’s 2.2 billion children. United Nation researchers state that twenty per cent of sexual abuse occurs before age 8. Children who have been sexually abused have had their physical, emotional, and spiritual boundaries violated or crossed in some way causing children to feel a lack of trust and safety with others. They may come to view the world as unsafe, and adults as manipulative and untrustworthy. Such feelings hinder caregivers’ ability to initiate trust building, an essential tool in establishing relationships.

As caregivers fulfill their calling to make safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for these children, they become aware that there is a high emotional cost with this calling. Listening to their stories of fear, pain, suffering, exploitation, and hopelessness leave caregivers grieving over these children who are being robbed of their childhood and innocence. Being containers for the children’s painful feelings, plus coping with their own, is an overwhelming task for caregivers. They, like the children, can feel hopelessness seeping in and query, “Is there no antidote to this evil?” An antidote powerful enough to relieve, prevent, or counteract the evil inflicted on vulnerable children?

Isaiah (42:3) used two metaphors to provide an antidote for Israel’s problems. These metaphors also are descriptive of and applicable to children who suffer painful and humiliating exploitation.

1. A bruised reed He will not break

Reeds are fragile, weak and easily crushed and wounded. Once crushed, they are of little use or value. The Pulpit Commentary states, “Here the image represents the weak and depressed in spirit, the lowly and dejected.” Isaiah provides a hope-filled antidote for “bruised reeds.” He gives the assurance that God will not carry on the work of destruction. Instead, He will tenderly care for the “bruised reeds,” with the promise of no more breaking. The simple

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negative “he shall not break” implies the opposite extreme, the tender care that supports and encourages the broken-hearted.

2. A dimly burning wick He will not snuff out

Wicks for the oil lamps in Isaiah’s day were made from flax, a small and weak plant. When the wick began to smolder, it was no longer useful, the lamp’s light would soon be extinguished. Being cheap and disposal, the wick would simply be tossed away. This picture is a painful description of the children’s “lamps:” burning dimly and almost snuffed out through their experiences that leave them valued as cheap and disposable. Rather than quenching the almost extinct flame, God’s antidote is to revive and re-kindle the fire before the wick is tossed out.

From these metaphors, we learn God’s antidotes to evil all contain elements of compassionate care. Antidotes are varied and ours may be different from Isaiah’s that included: healing and encouragement for the bruised in spirit, giving strength to the broken, tending and giving fresh oil to dimly burning wicks, preventing them from being thought of as useless and without value.

God is calling us to be an antidote to the evil destruction children in our care confront. As you read the articles in this issue of Barnabas, let God show you how He wants to use your gifts of compassionate care as an antidote to “weak reeds” and “flickering wicks “about to be extinguished and tossed away due to sexual abuse.

From Shattered to Restored
by Crystal Harden, Restoration Ministry



The Hope House is a restoration home for children ages 13 and below who have been rescued from sex trafficking. The Philippines has become a hot spot for cybersex trafficking because internet access is growing rapidly, and English is widely spoken. In the cases of one organization that we work with, more than half of their cybersex trafficking rescues are younger than 13 years old.


In the three years that the Hope House has been open, I have experienced some of the most difficult and some of the most beautiful times of my life. The trauma that accompanies these precious girls into our home is more than intense and sometimes almost unbelievable. It manifests itself in many different forms, ranging from suicidal tendencies to simple withdrawal and sadness.

When we started the Hope House, we had no idea what we were getting into. All we knew is that the Lord had called us to do it. I did not have the degree or the training to do what the Lord had asked me to do, but I had a word from Him. And He gave me the strategy: focus on raising the dead inside of these children by setting an atmosphere of restoration in the home through worship, prophecy, and identity building. If we would do our part, He promised to do the rest.

The first three girls that we received into our home were nine, 10 and 12 years old. For the first few months, they raged ... over and over. I found myself restraining these children to keep them from hurting themselves. As I held hands down to keep one from scratching her eyes out ... as I removed things from around her neck to keep another from choking herself ... as yet another spat in my face ... I spoke the truth over each one. “You are

From Shattered to Restored...continued from page 3



The Hope House is truly a house of hope, seeing these broken and shattered little ones encounter Jesus and experience healing. 

Crystal Harden is the Director of Restoration Ministry at Hope for All Children Foundation, an NGO in the Philippines focusing on four areas of injustice: orphans, malnutrition, human trafficking, and abortion. The Hope House opened and received its first three children in 2016. Crystal grew up in West Virginia, obtained a Practical Ministry degree from the Brownsville Revival School of Ministry in Pensacola, FL, and worked with FIRE School of Ministry some years following. Crystal has lived in the Philippines, working with HFAC since 2011. She considers this work with child trafficking survivors and their families her greatest honor to date. Her greatest desire is to see true justice established by Jesus being exalted among the nations, receiving the reward for His suffering.

Hope For All Children can be found online at www.hopeforallchildren.org, on Facebook at @hopeforallchildren, on Instagram at @hopeforallchildren, and on Twitter at @hopeforallchild. For security reasons, the Hope House does not show public updates, but if you would like to learn more, be included in private updates, or receive the monthly newsletter, you may contact Crystal by e-mail at charden@hopeforallchildren.org or on Facebook at @crystalharden.



loved. You are valuable. You are precious in the sight of God. You have a great destiny, and God's plans for you are GOOD. God knit a great purpose into your DNA as He knit you together in your mother's womb!" My staff did the same.

When I had reached what I thought was my end and informed God that He had chosen the wrong person to do this, He reminded me, "Love. Never. Fails." We set ourselves to continue loving, no matter what happened or what they did, and we began to see His love break through. I will never forget the first day that I saw a tear roll down the cheek of our 10-year-old girl in worship. She was letting Jesus touch her heart! In time, all three of these girls began to open up to the Lord and allow Him to come in.

Today, one of these girls wants to be a missionary in India, one wants to be a nurse and go as a medical missionary to Cambodia, and the other one has a heart for Israel. They will soon be reunited with their mother, who has given her life to the Lord, is receiving her own healing, and is excited to embark on this new adventure of raising her children in a godly home.

Since those beginning days with three girls, we have received more children, and we continue to see breakthrough. One of them within the first 24 hours with us asked if she could give her life to Jesus and be baptized. Another one, eight years old, broke down in tears in worship time as she shared the revelation of how loved she is by God. And there are so many more stories. How beautiful is our Jesus and how He brings restoration!



Project FIGHT

by Danyelle Smith, Salvation Army

We currently live in a world where many people believe that we live free from slavery since nearly all the countries of the world have passed laws to abolish slavery. To the contrary, it is estimated that there are 40.3 million individuals that are victims of human trafficking worldwide, which is often referred to as modern day slavery. Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, labor, or services by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. Sex trafficking can look like street/online prostitution, strip clubs, commercial front brothels, and illicit massage businesses. Labor trafficking can look like domestic servitude, agriculture, factory work, peddling, and traveling sales. There is no one demographic for victims of human trafficking, they include males and females, adults and minors, and all races, ethnicities, and nationalities. Human trafficking is a global issue and affects distant cities and our very own communities.

There continues to be a misconception that human trafficking is not a domestic issue in the United States. However, since 2007 over 4,000 cases of human trafficking have been reported in the Carolinas. North Carolina consistently ranks in the top 10 states in the number of human trafficking reports. Each year there are more reports of human trafficking, not necessarily because it is occurring at an increased rate but rather there is more awareness on what it looks like and how to get connected to resources. In order to address human trafficking in North Carolina, Project FIGHT - Freeing Individuals Grippd by Human Trafficking, a program of The Salvation Army, was established in 2011. In order to combat human trafficking, crisis intervention and comprehensive case management is provided to survivors, community outreach and education is conducted to raise awareness, and collaboration with community partners allows for a more effective response. Since inception, Project FIGHT has served over 400 cases of human trafficking, with more than 30% of these victims being minors.

Project FIGHT collaborates with law enforcement, state and local governments, and other agencies in order to identify victim-survivors of human trafficking. Once a survivor is identified, Project FIGHT's trauma-informed case managers are able to provide immediate needs such as, shelter, food, clothing, and safety planning. While survivors continue to find stable footing, Project FIGHT is able to connect them to additional resources and services they need. All the while, we are walking beside them helping them along the path to restoration, fighting for them every step of the way.



Danyelle Kara Smith currently is working on finishing her Master of Social Work degree at Appalachian State University. She works as a Case Manager with survivors of human trafficking at Project FIGHT in the mountains of North Carolina.

CAREGIVERS TIME-OUT



PERSPECTIVE

by Amy Wilson

If you are like me, you can often be so caught up in your own daily life and struggles that it is hard to have an eternal perspective. You learn of situations such as children who are supposed to be rescued from trauma situations through a loving foster parent, but instead are exploited and sold into sex trafficking by that supposed “loving” adult. Situations like this can leaving you asking, “Why?” and saying, “It’s not supposed to be this way.”

But alas, God is so good as you turn to Him in these times of struggle. Recently, I completed the Bible Study based on Lysa Terkeurst’s latest book entitled, *It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way*. During this study, Lysa taught how we have this mindset because we were created in the garden of Eden where everything was perfect. We are made in God’s image with this inclination to what perfect should be. However, because of human sin, we must walk this world with trafficking, exploitation, trauma, and a multitude of other sins. We will get back to that time of perfection at the end of this world, which is the eternal perspective we need.

God has given us so many examples of people in the Bible who have struggled as victims of sin, such as Abel, Esau, Joseph, Tamar, Paul, the disciples, and even Jesus Himself. We have the advantage of being able to read these accounts and see how God used many of their

situations for good, but I am sure, in the midst of these trials, many of these people wondered how any good could come of their crisis.

Prayer, hope, patience, perseverance, trust, and living on mission to help others find the Lord, their only hope, and the One who will bring all things back to perfection. He engrained it in our hearts, has it scarred on his palms, and will complete what he has promised.

Amy Wilson has been a member of the CCTI team since 2012. Amy and her husband now live in North Carolina after serving as missionaries in Mexico City. She is blessed to be able to home-school her two sons as well.



OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



Dedicated to children who hear their Father’s voice

Out of the Mouth of Babes

The following are quotes from youth who have been trafficked. As we read their words, may we lift them up in prayer to find their love in the One who created them.

“We’ve all been molested. Over and over, and raped. We were all molested and sexually abused as children, don’t you know that? We ran to get away ... We were thrown out, thrown away. We’ve been on the street since we were twelve, thirteen, fourteen.”

“...all I heard was, ‘Man, go get that girl!’ And one of them came out and dragged me by my hair, and he pulled me into the car...after[I] was kidnapped, at least six men gang-raped [me]. [I] was then driven to Sacramento, where [my] thirty-two year-old pimp put [me] out on the street as a prostitute.”

“I ran away from the group home I was staying at upstate, and one of my friends she introduced me to stripping. We were in a house party in Brooklyn and, well, she intoxicated me because I felt uncomfortable with it. She put three E-pills in my drink and after that, I was just turnin’ tricks like there was no tomorrow.”

*****Thank you to The OLP Foundation and HumanTraffickingSearch.Net for sharing these quotes of victims for this edition of The Barnabas Letter.***



Making it easier to
bring healing and
hope to children
in crisis

Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis

NEWS
EVENTS
RESOURCES



Module 1:
Trauma and Crisis Care On-line Class
April 28- June 7, 2019
Deadline to apply: Friday, April 5, 2019
Email awilson@ccti-wec.org
for an application

Want to Learn More about Human Trafficking? Please see resources listed below:

<https://www.viva.org>

<https://agapewebsite.org>

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/fight-human-trafficking>

<https://endslaverynow.org>

Article: “An Unholy Alliance: The Connection Between Foster Care and Human Trafficking” by Michelle Lillie, Better Care Network

[https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/An%20Unholy%20Alliance%20-%20The%20Connec-
tion%20Between%20Foster%20Care%20and%20Human%20Trafficking.pdf](https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/An%20Unholy%20Alliance%20-%20The%20Connection%20Between%20Foster%20Care%20and%20Human%20Trafficking.pdf)



For Information On:

• **CCTI Curriculum—**

**Offering Healing and Hope
for Children in Crisis**

• **Other Resources**

Go To : www.crisiscaretraining.org



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a ministry of WEC International

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