

## Global Call to Prayer

### A day and night cry for Justice

#### September 2011 Focus

This month we focus on the scourge of human trafficking. In my role as Director of The Salvation Army's International Social Justice Commission, I was invited to be Chair of the Worldwide Evangelical Alliance's Anti Human Trafficking Taskforce. WEA represent 600 million Christians worldwide. The Taskforce has developed the following prayer points, drawing attention to the plight of human trafficking.

*And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that **'they'** get justice, and quickly.*

*Luke 18:7*

**A Clarion Call to Action:** God's heart is broken over the millions of enslaved people; He understands the suffering of each and every one of them. He is not indifferent to their cries for love, mercy, justice and deliverance and has sent His redeemed and chosen people, the body of Christ (the Church) for the restoration of justice in an unjust world!

God the creator - *creation ex nihilo* (Gen), created both men and women; boys and girls and declared them good. Every human being thus created is precious and valuable in God's sight and He has called us to accept and love one another, just as He accepts us in Christ and loves us. He calls on the Church to ensure that every human being is free from enslavement and granted freedom to enjoy their human rights - the whole Gospel that reaches the whole person.

The more we come to know God; we continue to realize the wonder of Creator God. He establishes within us His deepening sense of wonder and worship. (Psalm 8: 3) and our responsibility for the earth and all who dwell within. As He calls us into personal relationship with Him, he instills compassion of care for creation, a value for human life and dignity and a desire to contribute to the common good.

This is further strengthened by the biblical doctrine of redemption (Colossians 1 and John 3: 16), that declares that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to die to save humanity! The forgiveness of sin, deliverance from spiritual and moral darkness into

God's marvelous light, brings freedom to captives, and acts justly, in demonstrating God's love for humankind and desire for abundant life!

### A CALL TO PRAYER

Twenty seven million people are enslaved globally in various forms of sexual and labour exploitation. The WEA is calling churches around the world to dedicate a day to pray the prayer of Isaiah, chapter 58:16. ***“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”***

#### Prayer Points

- Prayer for all those oppressed by the curse of human trafficking. Ask God to hear their cry and deliver them. Psalm 10:17-18. ***“You hear, O lord the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them and listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike fear.”***
- Pray for those living in situations of poverty that the family of God will reach out and minister to them, and that they will procure a sustainable income, so they will not accept offers which look helpful but secretly involve trafficking. Matthew 25:40 ***“whatever you did to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”***
- Pray for children in families where there are few resources. Pray that they will be protected from the lure of traffickers. Psalm 82:3-4: ***Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.***
- Pray that as our eyes are opened to the implications of cheap labour, cheap goods and the commercial sex, that the demand for human trafficking will diminish and dry up. Psalm 35:10: ***“Who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.”***
- Pray that the commercial sex trade in your locality will end, in order to stop people being trafficked into sexual exploitation. Leviticus 19:29 ***“Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will turn to prostitution, and be filled with wickedness.”***
- Pray for the perpetrators of this crime who seek to make money out of the trade of people and those who operate control networks of traffickers. Pray for exposure and an end to their schemes and a conviction that leads them to repentance. Joel 3:3 ***“They traded boys for prostitute; they sold girls for wine that they might drink.”***
- Pray for governments who have the responsibility of making decisions that can either alleviate poverty or increase it. Pray that their decisions will be based on justice and equality,

rather than greed and financial gain. 1 Timothy 2:2 **“Pray for kings and all those in authority over you that we may live quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness.”**

- Prayer for the WEA Task Force and its objectives: **To develop strategic networks; to promote a biblical foundation for engagement; to mobilise informed resources; to identify, develop and disseminate resources; to listen to stories and to get others to listen.**
- Pray and become involved for and with The Salvation Army in its call to prayer, September 25, 2011 on behalf of victims of Human Trafficking.

M. Christine MacMillan, Commissioner