

# ***‘Lighting the Darkness’***



## ***Prayer Walk on Human Trafficking***

# Leader Directions

## Prayer Walk ‘Lighting the Darkness’

1. Set up five (5) different locations in your building – using either a small table (i.e. card table) or some other stand. In addition, you will need:

- a cloth covering for each table
- the name of the “station” on a stand up sign
- a standing graphic or picture (See box below)
- a candle and matches
- a copy of the prayer sheet for participants.
- pens or pencils for the response sheet at the last station.

**Graphics:**

- printable from the SDS website: <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery> or
- downloaded from the U.S. Gov.: <http://www.ocf.hhs.gov/trafficking>

Poster Orders for brochures, posters, pocket cards (order form & information):  
T: 1-877-696-6775; F: 1-202-835-9486      Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

The U.S. Government ‘Rescue and Restore Campaign’ has:  
Health Care Materials / Social Service Materials / Law Enforcement Materials.

2. The format of each station is:

- The name of the station
- A relevant quote
- A story illustrating an aspect of human trafficking
- Some facts/information called realities
- Response opportunity through conversation
- Prayer incorporating a Scripture quote
- Sung or said mantra or antiphon. The suggestions are from familiar hymns – or you may choose your own response from other hymns. If your group is not a singing group, simply say the mantra/antiphon and then move on the next station.

3. As the leader, to promote participation, the prayer may have different persons reading different parts. You may go ‘round robin’ or designate people ahead of time. There is time for a brief discussion at each station, but be mindful to allow time to complete the walk without cutting short the last stations.

4. At the final station, after discussing ‘Being a Light’, have persons write their intended response on the ‘Lighting the Darkness’ response sheet. End with the prayer and mantra/antiphon.

There is room for your own creativity in this prayer walk. You may have fewer stations or create more if the spirit so moves you. You could also incorporate stories from your local area instead of the ones on the sheets. What is provided here is simply a springboard for the many other ways of doing this.

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## **Response: ‘Lighting the Darkness’**

- Have a brief ‘brainstorming’ discussion of some possible doable responses around one of the aspects of human trafficking. Additional ideas are available online at: <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery/SDScommitments.htm#Others> or at: <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery/action.htm>
- Each participant inscribes her/his intent on the ‘Lighting the Darkness’ response sheet (bottom part of this sheet) and puts her/his initials at the end of the statement.
- The response sheet may be posted here or at another designated place during the month of January (Salvatorian Human Trafficking Awareness Month). If other groups are doing the prayer walk at another time, also post the other response sheets.

**End the prayer walk by praying the suggested prayer together and singing or saying the mantra/antiphon.**

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**When you have finished doing the prayer walk with the group, you could leave the stations up for a period of time along with the participant sheets. This would allow others to participate on their own or with friends.**

**The Prayer Walk is a good awareness-raiser for the month of January, which is ‘Salvatorian Human Trafficking Awareness’ month. The official day of the ‘National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness’ is January 11th - a Tuesday in 2011. If possible, that would be a good day to do the Prayer Walk, although any day is a good day.**

**If the place of the Prayer Walk is a school or parish, maybe more than one group would do the Walk on different days. The ‘Being a Light’ response sheet of each group could be posted on a bulletin board to encourage others to take action on this issue.**

***'Lighting the Darkness'***



***I will do the following to take a step towards eliminating human trafficking:***

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**Name/ initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

For more information: Sisters of the Divine Savior <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery>

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***'Lighting the Darkness'***



***I will do the following to take a step towards eliminating human trafficking:***

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**Name/ initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

For more information: Sisters of the Divine Savior <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery>

# Station One: Human Trafficking

**“Human trafficking is the greatest civil rights violation known to (humanity), and these victims of trafficking are waiting to be rescued.”** Deputy Rick Castro – San Diego, CA Sheriff’s Department

## Story:

Gildardo Ferreira, a native Mexican, responded to an ad for a restaurant job that promised \$2,100 a month plus room and board, for washing trays.

He was picked up with a van having no windows and taken to the China Star Buffet in Muskegon, MI. There an employer put him in the basement lined with bunk beds.

“The house was so dirty,” Ferreira said. “We all had to share one small bathroom that was disgusting. I can’t put into words how horrible the conditions were.”

The workers were forced to work 14 hour days, washing pots using intolerably hot water. To prevent burns they had to buy their own gloves.

After some weeks, Ferreira was abruptly awakened, informed he had been fired, and thrown out. When he demanded his wages, he was beaten and told to be quiet or worse would happen.



## Realities:

- Human Trafficking is the recruitment and transportation of human beings through deception and coercion for the purposes of exploitation. (Cameron and Newman)
- Slavery is the economic and social relationship between two people involving very unequal power, exploitation and violence. (Donna Hughes)
- Those who exploit others have somehow convinced themselves that their victims do not have basic human rights. (Kevin Bales)
- The market for trafficked humans is approximately \$32 billion profit for traffickers.
- There are 12.3 million enslaved – the number of adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution around the world. (TIP Report 2010)
- Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey and the United States are countries ranked “very high” as destination countries of trafficked persons. (UNODC 2006)

Cont. Pg. 2

**Response: Your comments, insights or reactions about human trafficking . . .**

**Prayer: 'Life in abundance' (Jn. 10:10)**

**Leader:** For the millions of enslaved people around the world, we pray . . .

**All:** May they have life in abundance

**Leader:** For all those working to eradicate modern day slavery, we pray . . .

**All:** May they have life in abundance

**Leader:** That we may recognize the evil of human trafficking in our midst,  
we pray . .

**All:** May they have life in abundance

Lord, plunge me deep into a sense of sadness at the pain of my brothers and sisters inflicted by injustice and indifference. Our hope is that all persons know the fullness of life you intend for us. We make this prayer through Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

**Mantra:**

**We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do and give glory to God.**

(From 'We are the Light of the World') or...

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through our darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

(From 'Christ, Be Our Light') or...

**Sing verses 1 & 2 of the hymn, 'God of Day and God of Darkness.'**

# Station Two: Trafficking of Children

**Our hearts are breaking:**

**They are called domestic workers, but many... are better described as slaves. They are children working in private households; they do arduous labor from before dawn until after dark, and they are vulnerable to abuse – physical, emotional, sexual. (Cath News Service 2.12.06)**

## **Story:**

In 2009 a 20- year-old woman filed to get restitution from anyone convicted of possessing copies of pornographic images of her.

Those images were the result of the horrific sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of her uncle when she was 8 years old. He also photographed the acts and distributed them on the Internet in what is now called “The Misty Series”. The images continue to circulate 12 years later.

The women, known now as ‘Amy,’ protects her real identity. She was 17 when she became aware that videos of her abuse had become Internet child porn ‘classics’. She lives in fear that her friends will discover her secret. “I don’t want to be (on the internet), but I am there and it’s never going away – that’s a scary thought,” she said.



## **Realities:**

- There are 211 million child laborers between the ages of 5 and 14. Of these, 171 million work in risky conditions. About 120 million children work full time. (Fides 1.06)
- The Ivory Coast produces 43% of the world’s chocolate. Some 248,000 children between ages 9 to 12 work in hazardous conditions on these cocoa farms and 67% do not regularly attend school. Cocoa pickers are boys, underfed, locked in filthy sleeping quarters, forced to work 12 hour days, hauling 50 pound bags of beans. These boys have never tasted chocolate! (Research by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture)
- The Internet leaves a detailed fingerprint. If you visit an illegal site or perform an illegal action on-line, you leave valuable electronic DNA on your computer. Teens need to be aware of this.
- Use of Internet pornography involving children, both girls and boys under 18 years of age (teenagers/adolescents & younger), is considered child abuse and is a felony. (Cont. Pg. 4)

- UNICEF reports that across the world, there are more than one million children entering the sex trade every year and that approximately 30 million children have lost their childhood through sexual exploitation over the past 30 years.
- An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 Guatemalan babies and children are trafficked each year for adoption in North America and Europe. (UNICEF)

**Response:**  
Your comments, insights or reactions about child trafficking . . .

***Prayer: ‘Let the children come to me.’ (Mk. 10:15)***

**Leader:** For children robbed of their innocence and their childhood, we pray . . .

**All:** Let the children come to me.

**Leader:** For boys deprived of education because of the need to be wage earners, we pray . . .

**All:** Let the children come to me.

**Leader:** For young girls, exploited on city streets and hidden in brothels, we pray . . .

**All:** Let the children come to me.

**Lord, you welcomed the children and blessed them. May our prayer today encircle the children of our world with safety, security and the love they need to grow and thrive. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

***Mantra:***

**We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do and give glory to God.**

**(From ‘We are the Light of the World’) or...**

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through our darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**(From ‘Christ, Be Our Light’) or...**

**Sing verses 1 & 2 of the hymn, ‘God of Day and God of Darkness.’**

# Station Three: Labor Trafficking

**“It is exhilarating to be free.”**

**Sathaporn Pornsririsak  
(Los Angeles Times 12.06)**

## Story:

Ricardo was a cattle herder in his mid-thirties from a remote region in Chile. He heard about how you could earn good money working as a herder in the U.S.



A recruiter in Santiago, Chile offered Ricardo a cattle herding job in the U.S. at \$1300-\$1500/month plus benefits with travel expenses covered by the employer. Ricardo paid the \$1500 recruitment fee by borrowing from family members.

At the Santiago airport just prior to boarding, the recruiter made Ricardo pay an additional recruiting fee and sign a contract listing his salary as \$800 per month. Up to \$300 per month was deducted for food, insurance, telephone use, and travel.

Ricardo was alone in the desert for three-month stretches working 24/7. His passport and visa were held by his employer, making him a virtual prisoner. His income was deposited into a bank account; his boss was the only one with access. He had traveled 6,933 miles in his journey of abuse.

## Realities:

- Trafficked workers are commonly found in industries that are “dirty, dangerous or degrading.” Some of these economic sectors may lack adequate labor protections, thereby exposing these individuals to exploitation. (International Labor Org. 06)
- Domestic workers, depending on the circumstances, are often exempted from minimum wage, overtime and other laws that protect workers in other fields.
- A sweatshop is a workplace where workers are subject to extreme exploitation, including the absence of a living wage...or poor working conditions...Defenders of sweatshops often bring up the fact that even though sweatshops are bad, they at least give people jobs they wouldn't have had otherwise. However, the type of jobs sweatshop workers receive are so bad that they rarely improve their economic situation. (Article: Hearts and Minds.org)
- While forced labor exists across the U.S., reported cases are concentrated in states with large immigrant communities, including CA, FL, NY & TX. (Free the Slaves Research – UC Berkeley)

Cont. Pg. 6

- **Victims of forced labor are reluctant to report abuse to law enforcement personnel because they fear retribution from their traffickers. Many victims have an inherent fear of police based on their past experiences with corrupt authorities in their home countries.... (Free the Slaves.04)**

**Response: Your comments, insights or reactions about labor trafficking . . .**

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***Prayer: ‘Come to me, all who labor’ (Mt. 11:29)***

**Leader: For enslaved women, desperate, alone and abandoned, we pray . . .**  
**All: Come to me, all who labor.**

**Leader: For men in bondage, betrayed, forgotten and despairing, we pray . . .**  
**All: Come to me, all who labor.**

**Leader: For child soldiers and child laborers, we pray . . .**  
**All: Come to me, all who labor.**

**After the six days of creation, God, You saw the goodness of your labors and rested. This is our prayer for all victims of labor trafficking. May they receive the just wage they have earned to support themselves and their families. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

***Mantra:***

**We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do and give glory to God.**

**(From ‘We are the Light of the World’) or...**

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through our darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**(From ‘Christ, Be Our Light’) or...**

**Sing verses 1 & 2 of the hymn, ‘God of Day and God of Darkness.’**

# Station Four: Sex Trafficking

Without men's demand for prostitute women, there would be no such women.  
(Sven-Axel Mansson, Sweden, .03)

## Story:

Before I came to the U.S. I lived in a small town near Veracruz, Mexico. Sometime in 1997, a woman named Maria Elena set up a meeting with two men. At the meeting, the men confirmed that they had job openings for women like myself in American restaurants. They told me that they would take care of my immigration papers, and that I would be free to change jobs if I did not like working at restaurants.

In 1997, I was brought into the U.S. through Brownsville, Texas with Maria Elena. We were transported to Houston, Texas, where a man named Rogerio Cadena picked us up and took us to a trailer in Avon Park, Florida. In Avon Park, I met a girl named Sue who lived in the trailer. She asked me if I knew why I had come to Avon Park. I said I was going to work in a restaurant. She told me that I was actually going to be selling my body. She said it would not do anybody any good to complain. I was going to have to do the work anyway, since I had a smuggling debt to pay off. Maria Elena also warned me, "If you escape, Abel Cadena will go after your family because you owe him money..."



Rogerio Calena said I had no place to run anyway, because my family was very far away and each trailer was located in a very isolated area. Rogerio then bought some tight clothes for me to wear when I worked and I was subsequently transported to a trailer in Fort. Pierce, Florida. I learned that every 15 days, I would be transported to a different trailer to keep working. . . There was no way out. I began "working" in the trailers.

## Realities:

- People who lack awareness of their legal rights, their exploited situation, and have no channel for seeking redress are targets for traffickers. (UISG packet)
- Of the estimated 800,000 individuals trafficked internationally each year, 80% are women and girls who are trafficked into sexual slavery. (Parrot and Cummings 27)
- Pornography. . . has taken hold online with over \$9 billion spend on live sex shows, pornographic cable, magazines, and computer-generated images. (Parrot and Cummings 8)
- One in seven teenagers in the USA run away from home. After three months away from home, 90% of children will turn to sex.) (National Incidence Studies of Missing, Runaway and Throw-away Children)

Cont. Pg. 8

- **A Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism** (<http://www.thecode.org/>) asks hotels to sign on and provides a manual, training of personnel for the enforcing of policies with a system of reporting. In the U.S., Carlson Hotels and Accor Hotels are the first signatories. (Ecpat)
- **Since 2006, Air France has shown videos to passengers on international flights about its campaign against child sex tourism. The film...shows the reality of sex tourism and the penalties for sex tourists.** (Vital Voices of Asia)

**Response: Your comments, insights or reactions about sex trafficking . . .**

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***Prayer: ‘Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit’ (1Cor. 6:19)***

**Leader:** For an end to the exploitation & abuse of victims of sex trafficking, we pray . .

**All:** Your body is a temple.

**Leader:** For the demise of the porn industry, strip clubs and brothels, we pray . .

**All:** Your body is a temple.

**Leader:** For strong law enforcement efforts to arrest pimps, traffickers and customers, we pray . .

**All:** Your body is a temple.

**Forgive us for the ways in which we and our society exploit others, through trafficking, prostitution, pornography and oppression. Give us a new reverence for our marvelous bodies. Enable us to respect them through healthy care and using them to respond to the needs of others. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen**

***Mantra:***

**We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do and give glory to God.**

(From ‘We are the Light of the World’) or...

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through our darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

(From ‘Christ, Be Our Light’) or...

**Sing verses 1 & 2 of the hymn, ‘God of Day and God of Darkness.’**

# Station Five: Demand & Users

**“Despite the development of even the most comprehensive services, the best way to assist survivors of trafficking is to prevent them from becoming victims.” Rachael Shigekane, Human Rights Center, Univ. CA Berkeley.**

**Story:** (Letter to the CEO of Craig’s List)

**Craig,**

I am MC. I was first forced into prostitution when I was 11 years old by a 28-year old man... The man who trafficked me sold so many girls my age, his house was called “Daddy Day Care.” All day, other girls and I sat with our laptops, posting pictures and answering ads on Craigslist. He made \$1,500 a night selling my body, dragging me to Los Angeles, Houston, Little Rock...

I am 17 now, and my childhood memories aren’t of my family, going to middle school, or dancing at the prom. They are of making my own arrangements on Craigslist to be sold for sex. I answered as many ads as possible for fear of beatings and ice water baths.

Craig, we write this letter so you will know...how Craigslist makes horrific acts like this so easy to carry out, and the men who arrange them very rich....

we know you oppose trafficking...But right now, Craigslist is the choice of traffickers because it’s so well known and there are rarely consequences to using it for these illegal acts...

Please, Craig, close down the Adult Services section. (Signed MC)



**Realities:**

- Globalization has increased the demand for cheap labor and services as well as for sex tourism. . . Demand must be understood expansively, as any act that fosters any form of exploitation that, in turn, leads to trafficking.”
- The UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking identifies 3 levels of demand:
  - +Employer demand (employers, owners, managers or subcontractors)
  - +Consumer demand clients or prostitute users (in the sex industry), corporate buyers (in manufacturing), household members (in domestic work)
  - +Third parties involved in the process (recruiters, agents, transporters and others who participate knowingly in the movement of persons for ...exploitation.)
- There is an 8.5% ratio of convicted offenders to victims identified. There is a 0.4% ratio of victims identified to estimated victims.
- Society must transform definitions of masculinity, male attitudes toward

Cont. Pg. 10

~~Note: After a great deal of reluctance and public pressure, Craigslist did discontinue this service. However, it is still going on with different sites.~~

women and sexuality, and create programs for boys and men as well as women to eliminate the demand for the trafficking of women and girls for sexual purposes. (Florence Deacon, OSF)

- Buying products showing the Fair Trade label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their children to school.

**Response: Your comments, insights or reactions about demand and users . . .**

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Before the final prayer, the leader will direct the group to ‘brainstorm’ on actions that will help in ‘Lighting the Darkness’. The action you choose can be written on the response form provided by the leader.

### ***Prayer: ‘You shall not covet.’ (Ex. 20:17)***

**Leader:** Give us strength to bring an end to the demand that fosters all exploitation, we pray . . .

**All:** We shall not covet.

**Leader:** Pardon our complicity in the demand that promotes modern day slavery, we pray . . .

**All:** We shall not covet.

**Leader:** For the vision of all persons working to address the reality of human trafficking, we pray . . .

**All:** Make us light in this darkness.

Living light, you give clarity and vision. We pray for those whose eyes are captivated by greed, who eyes see another only as a means of profit. They cross countries with labor to sell, with bodies to be used. We pray for those torn from their homes, whose eyes now see only the dark webs of fear and violence. We pray to bring light to this darkness. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the light we follow. Amen.

### ***Mantra:***

**We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do and give glory to God.**

(From ‘We are the Light of the World’) or...

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through our darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

(From ‘Christ, Be Our Light’) or...

**Sing verses 1 & 2 of the hymn, ‘God of Day and God of Darkness.’**