

# PRAYER

(For musical reflection during prayer, play the MONTAGE on the DVD)

The victims' testimonies included as part of this prayer are meant to be representative only and do not include all forms of trafficking and modern slavery that occur. Any of these stories could unfortunately take place almost anywhere in the world. They are provided to illustrate the many forms of trafficking and the wide variety of places in which they take place. No country is immune. All names of victims that appear in this report are fictional.

**CENTRAL AFRICA:** Mary, a 16-year-old demobilized child soldier forced to join an armed rebel group in central Africa, remembers: "I feel so bad about the things that I did. It disturbs me so much that I inflicted death on other people. When I go home I must do some traditional rites because I have killed. I must perform these rites and cleanse myself. I still dream about the boy from my village whom I killed. I see him in my dreams, and he is talking to me, saying I killed him for nothing, and I am crying."

**Leader:** *Lord of all, we claim your justice, mercy, compassion, comfort and freedom for the millions affected by human trafficking in our world today. For the men, women and children, enslaved by fear, torture, dependency, entrapment and bonded labour we ask for you to intervene with righteousness and grace.*

**All:** *God of all that is good, give freedom to the captives and restore justice to your world.*



**CAMBODIA:** Neary grew up in rural Cambodia. Her parents died when she was a child, and, in an effort to give her a better life, her sister married her off when she was 17. Three months later she and her husband went to visit a fishing village. Her husband rented a room in what Neary thought was a guest house. But when she woke the next morning, her husband was gone. The owner of the house told her she had been sold by her husband for \$300 and that she was actually in a brothel.

For five years, Neary was raped by five to seven men every day. In addition to brutal physical abuse, Neary was infected with HIV and contracted AIDS. The brothel threw her out when she became sick, and she eventually found her way to a local shelter. She died of HIV/AIDS at the age of 23.



**Leader:** *Lord, for the victims who are lured, trapped and exploited we pray for comfort for their pain, healing for their hurts, courage to speak out against their oppressors, and for restorative hope for those who have been rescued and those yet to be rescued.*

**All:** *Holy Spirit, we ask you to heal and restore 'the victims' with your transforming power.*

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** Lusa is a 17 year-old orphan kidnapped in 2004 from her native Uzbekistan. Lusa's aunt engineered her abduction to Dubai using a cousin's passport, because the aunt wanted to take Lusa's apartment. In Dubai, Lusa was sold to a slavery and prostitution ring. When she was no longer useable in prostitution, the traffickers sent her to a psychiatric center. An Uzbek NGO located her in Dubai. The NGO arranged to move

her to a shelter, and they began working on her repatriation. Because she entered the U.A.E. illegally, on a false passport, the U.A.E. immigration service said she should serve a two-year prison sentence. Government officials and the enterprising NGO are negotiating Lusa's case.

**Leader:** *God of Justice, we pray for those that enslave: the trafficker and abuser, the pimp and the client, the slave master and unjust 'employer'. We ask you to stir them with your voice of justice and conscience of goodness. Speak to them in dreams, thoughts and words and with lawful intervention. Help them to understand their actions and understand your grace.*

**ALL:** *Jesus the Redeemer, we pray for the hearts and minds of the oppressors: traffickers and consumers*



**INDIA:** Shadir, a boy of 15 years, was offered a job that included good clothes and an education; he accepted. Instead of being given a job, Shadir was sold to a slave trader who took him to a remote village in India to produce hand-woven carpets. He was frequently beaten. He worked 12 to 14 hours a day and he was poorly fed. One day, Shadir was rescued by a NGO working to combat slavery. It took several days for him to realize he was no longer enslaved. He returned to his village, was reunited with his mother, and resumed his schooling. Now Shadir warns fellow village children about the risks of becoming a child slave.



**Leader:** *Lord of hope, we claim your light for the darkest of situations. Guide and equip those that care and intervene for victims. Give wisdom and insight to those that pursue, prosecute and preside over cases of trafficking and the traffickers.*

**ALL:** *Living hope, we claim you for all that we need to be and do, to stop human trafficking. Help us to be fervent in prayer and in action.*

**LEBANON:** Silvia was a young, single, Sri Lankan mother seeking a better life for herself and her three-year-old son when she answered an advertisement for a housekeeping job in Lebanon. In the Beirut job agency, her passport was taken, and she was hired by a Lebanese woman who subsequently confined her and restricted her access to food and communications. Treated like a prisoner and beaten daily, Silvia was determined to escape. She jumped from a window to the street below, landing with such force that she is permanently paralyzed. She is now back in Sri Lanka. Today, she travels around the country telling her story so that others do not suffer a similar fate.

**Leader:** *Lord of all, we want to see your kingdom come and your will be done. We know that trafficking is against your very nature and we pray for a real end to this horrific slavery.*

**ALL:** *God of all that is good, help us to be people of prayer, of action and a people who speak your truth and justice into the world around us. Help us to use our time, our resources and our energy to overcome, by your power, the evil that is Human Trafficking and to claim the victory that is already ours. We passionately say AMEN.*



Stories: US Dept of State <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/c16482.htm>

Prayer: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id)