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# HEARTSONG

Official newsletter of Inner City Women's Ministries International  
“Celebrating Over 20 Years of Ministry!”

**Summer Edition 2024**



“...the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...”

Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)

**Our Ministries are prayer, prison, human trafficking, life recovery**

Our next two newsletters will be devoted to the history, current situation, and our ministry's counter exploitation activities with regards to human trafficking in the **Province of Manitoba** and beyond.

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## In The Beginning

(A brief history of human trafficking)



For the record, **human trafficking is currently societies word for SLAVERY**. It is not modern day slavery. It is slavery which has been around since man started walking on the earth.

However, if one studies The Scriptures, slavery/human trafficking is well documented from Genesis through Revelation starting with Abram/Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Yes. Spoiler alert. All the patriarchs were slave owners/human traffickers.

But let's examine Genesis 39:1 as this is foundational information for how some slavery works today.

**“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.”**

Here you have a teenager, who was sold by people he knew (in this case his family), to persons who, among other wares, dealt in buying and selling humans, who then sold Joseph to a guy who had a government job. ie the government not only knew but actually participated in slavery.

### **Dissecting the Evidence/ Relating it to the Current Situation**

- Lured by someone he trusted
- Vulnerable because of his age (Genesis Chapter 37)
- Sold to a middle man/people
- Brought into a foreign culture and language
- Sold to someone who had wealth
- The government knew what was going on and were active participants in slavery/ human trafficking

Slavery/human trafficking is an exploitation of vulnerabilities. No age group, sex, culture, race, faith group, is immune. Missing persons and human trafficking are greatly related.

Another spoiler alert. **More men go missing than women** according to statistics coming out of the United States. Hence our picking of the above scripture.

Does this scenario play out today? Please do your own research into current documented stories.

Does this play out in my back yard? Even families selling their own?

Here in my community? We have worked with enough survivors in our province to say, YES!!!

We would be naive to think that forced labour and/or sexual exploitation of both sexes is not going on in our communities. We also have illicit recruitment for wars overseas. Very Sad.

**BUT THERE IS HOPE.....**stay tuned for our next newsletter which will focus on what God is doing through our Ministry and that of our partners, in the fight for freedom.

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## Safety Guide for Women

## Praise and Prayer

**Praise for** our God's timing in allowing us to reach over 10,000 youth with Counter Exploitation Material through our partners and the general public at a youth rodeo in Richer Manitoba in June 2024

**Pray for** our frontline workers and our staff – wisdom, courage, and unity as we come across exploitative and rescue situations in the Province of Manitoba and beyond.



*Thank you!*

All glory to our God. ICWMI does not solicit for funds. Those who feel led to support may [contact us](#) or send a cheque.

All finances stay within the country in which they are donated.

