

2016 Research Week Proposal Presentation

Title - Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking

Program of Study – Master of Public Health; Global Concentration

Presentation Type – PowerPoint Presentation.

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Category –Experimental (Applied)

Abstract: There are more slaves today than any time in history; estimated number of slaves in the world today is 27 million. International Labor Organization states that the Human Trafficking industry generates annual profits of US\$ 150 billion making it the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, yet trafficking remains almost an invisible crime while girls are sold into brothels for about \$100. This multibillion dollar criminal industry takes advantage of young and vulnerable people. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) states that 80% of trafficking victims are females and UNICEF declares that 1.2 million children are trafficked each year while 100,000 – 300,000 children are sexually exploited in the US today. The Average age of a trafficked victim in the United States is 12 - 14years. The effects of trafficking goes far beyond individual victims: it demoralizes the security and safety of every nation it touches. 161 countries are affected by human trafficking. Victims are trafficked across national and international borders leading to the multi-dimensional impact of trafficking: denying people of their human rights and liberties, it is a global health threat, and it fosters the development of organized crime. Human trafficking has an overwhelming impact on individual victims, who often

suffer rape, intimidations, physical and emotional abuse, threats to self and family, international passport theft, and likely death. Trafficking may consist of but does not require movement. The FBI states that individuals can be considered victims irrespective of whether they were born into slavery, were transported to the abusive situation, previously agreed to work for a trafficker, or partook in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked. At the center of this occurrence is the traffickers' aim of exploiting and enslaving individual and the various coercive and deceptive ways he operates. This research highlights the burden of human trafficking today, explores the current containment programs in place and eventually proposes recommendations for effective intervention.

Christian worldview integration: Exodus 21:16 declares that “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.” Scripture is very clear about the dynamics of trafficking at any level. Most prostitutes are victims of trafficking, therefore, patronizing prostitutes makes one part of trafficking and being a part of sex trafficking makes an offender. God is totally against being involved with trafficking in any way. In I Timothy 1:10 scripture declares that “The sexually immoral men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.” Sound doctrine which entails Godly values is necessary for health and wealth of a society because Gods law is against evil people hence, Deuteronomy 24:7 says "If a man is found stealing one of his brothers of the people of Israel, and if he treats him as a slave or sells him, then that thief shall die. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.” The bible makes it clear that a trafficker is a thief and should be treated as such. Trafficking

generally has great negative effects on the society making it a public/global health issue. Therefore, God encourages us in Psalm 82:3 to “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.” The life of poor American’s is equally important to God and it should be important to us as Christians. Health disparities based on socioeconomic status is not Gods plan for us. Public health needs are greater for those that are weak and poor, hence, preference should be given to them if at all disparities should exist.

Extra stuff for the presentation

- In 2014, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimated that 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims.