

Beyond the Soiled Curtain (Project Rescue's Fight for the Victim of the Sex-Slave Industry), by David & Beth Grant, Onward Book, Inc., 2008 (16 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Statistics on the Sex-Slave Industry

1 million children each year are exploited in the global commercial sex trade; 50 percent of all trafficking victims worldwide are children; 50 percent of HIV-infected children, in the absence of any treatment, die by their second birthday; 2.3 million girls and women work as prostitutes and madams in India; 200,000 persons are trafficked into, with or through India annually; 40,000 trafficked Nepalese children work in prostitution in India; 65 million children in India are disadvantaged, they lack food, drinking water, shelter, medical care, and the opportunity for an education. (pages 13-14)

2. More statistics

An estimated 5 million people live in the streets of Bombay, and thousands of them are former prostitutes. They sleep on the sides of roads and in hovels. (pages 30)

3. Sex-Trade most profitable criminal activity throughout the world

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for the purpose of sexual exploitation is quickly becoming the world's fastest growing industry and most profitable criminal activity. According to the 2002 Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, virtually every nation in the world is engaged to some extent in this tragic trade, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination of victims. UNICEF estimates that 1 million children are forced, sold, abducted or coerced into the commercial sex trade annually. Estimates of women and children trafficked across international borders each year range anywhere from 800,000 to 4 million. And the U.S State Department estimated in 2004 that as many as 18,500 men, women, and children are trafficked into the nation each year, many for sexual exploitation.

Human Trafficking has exploded into a \$12 billion-a-year global industry with sexual trafficking constituting a major part. A girl who is purchased by

a sex trafficker for as little as \$150 can be sold to customers as many as a10 times a night and brings in \$10,000. (pages 58-59)

4. Traffickers prey on vulnerable victims

Unfortunately, the chaos of current political, economic and social factors in our world has created a ripe environment for ruthless traffickers who prey on vulnerable victims. This is vividly illustrated by nations that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, where one-third of all sexual trafficking in the world occurs. The economic and moral upheaval that followed the U.S.S.R.'s collapse created an atmosphere where staggering numbers of young women and girls who live in poverty are easily lured by procurer's false promises of lucrative jobs in Western Europe. Others are abducted outright in Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria as they walk from school or on remote roads. In Moldova, in Particular, a despicable pattern of trafficking targets the thousands of girls who live in state orphanages and are released as teenagers. Traffickers know the exact timing of the release of 16- and 17-year old orphans; they are there to meet them when they arrive and have nowhere to go. In all of the trafficking schemes, once a victim's legal papers come into the possession of their new boss, they quickly lose their freedom and any illusions of a better life. Enslavement follows in brothels in cities across Western Europe. (Page 60-61)

5. Parents sell their daughters

From the small poverty-stricken villages of Nepal alone, parents sell 7,000 – 9,000 young daughters a year into sexual slavery to the brothels of India. Parents eagerly purchase relief from their daily quest for survival. In exchange their daughters are condemned to a living nightmare, most often followed by early death. (pages 62-63).

6. Daughters viewed as inferior to sons

Americans find it difficult to understand how a parent could give a child away. But in many of the world's cultures, daughters are deemed inferior to sons. A son brings prestige and often a marriage dowry; a girl does not. A son can also help a family muscle its way to prosperity or at least out of the lowest cellar of poverty; girls usually cannot. A boy is seen as a blessing; a girl is simply seen as a burden.

It is not unusual in some Indian villages for couples to practice infanticide until they have a son. With girls commanding so little respect or value, parents often accept the procurer's offers. The money paid for a girl may be such a large sum to family members that it would take years for them to earn an equal amount. (Pages 74-75)

7. Sexual Perversion reflects spiritual condition

The Bible speaks of the power of sexuality, when misused, to pollute one's spirituality. When the Children of Israel neared the Promised Land they enjoyed a series of victories over Canaanite armies. The people of Moab knew they would be next and called on Balaam to prophesy against Israel (Numbers 22-24). When that ploy failed, the Moabites turned to sex. They invited the Israelite men to have relations with Moabite women at religious festivals. As a result, Israel endured God's judgment (Numbers 25). In Romans 1, the bondage of sin in people's lives is manifested in sexual deviance. The apostle Paul notes the connection between sin, idolatry, false religions and perverted sexual behavior.

Sexual perversion is a reflection of the spiritual condition of one's heart. Today, in India, many express devotion to their religion through decadent sexual behavior and exploitation.

When we reach out to a woman or girl trapped in prostitution, we are not just working with an individual; we're combating an evil system, a set of sexual mores, generations of bondage, and a social structure that is thousands of years old. The system perpetuates itself, infecting every level of society and government. But we must never forget that caste systems and criminal syndicates are no match for the power of Christ's love. Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, KJV). The gates of hell have no clearer representation than the doorways and curtains of the world's brothels. Christians must unite in taking the love of Christ through those doors and freeing those within. For the millions of young women in India and many other countries, Jesus and His workers are their only hope for escape. (pages 78-79)

8. Freedom

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." (page 82)

9. Having eyes of death or eyes of light

For the most part, secular groups that try to help sexually exploited women find emotional healing have a low success rate. According to Dr. Laura Lederer of the U.S State Department, the success rates of secular organizations are not encouraging. Meeting a girl's physical needs doesn't guarantee she will be released from spiritual bondage. If the spiritual and emotional issues aren't dealt with, victimized girls frequently find themselves back in the brothels within weeks -if not days.

When a girl comes out of a brothel, it is sometimes like looking into a dead person's eyes. After all, something inside her mind and spirit had to die in order for her to survive the horror. Being raped daily leaves deep emotional scars. Thus, the work of Project Rescue essentially begins by walking with a dead person. Only faith, intervention, and an encounter with Jesus Christ bring girls back to life. But when that happens, you can see it in their eyes. We call it having the eyes of death or the eyes of light. Our prayer is that every girl will have eyes of light.

We have a duty to help save and protect these girls from a dark world bent on destroying them. We have a God-given responsibility to work at preserving their hope. It is too easy to relegate girls caught in prostitution to statistics. But it is crucial that every girl be recognized as a daughter of God and a sister to every believer. Perhaps then -when we see them as members of God's family -we will be more inclined to make the sacrifices necessary to welcome them home. (pages 91-92)

10. HIV the “Bombay Disease”

It is estimated that as many as 60 percent of prostitutes in India are infected with HIV/AIDS. One study reports that 70 percent of sex workers in Bombay are HIV-positive. That is why some call it "the Bombay disease." (pages 97-98)

11. AIDS epidemic in India

Multitudes of women and girls are trafficked in India and around the world who are completely vulnerable to AIDS and every other sexually transmitted disease (STD). In India, in particular, it is difficult to pinpoint exactly how widespread the AIDS epidemic is. Statistics and data vary

depending on what research is used. Some researchers estimate that there are nearly 6 million cases in the country. Another study claims India may have only 2 to 3 million cases. Bill Gates visited India several years ago to donate \$100 million to fight AIDS. At the time, his organization's studies indicated India's AIDS cases could swell to 25 million by 2010. Regardless of the number of people infected, it is clear that it has reached epidemic proportions. And the vast majority of its victims are not getting the medical attention and care they need. (page 100)

12. AIDS is a global catastrophe

AIDS is a worldwide scourge placing the trafficked population at enormous risk. UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/ AIDS, reported the following in 2006: "The 2005 Human Development Report identified AIDS as the factor inflicting the single greatest reversal in human development history (United Nations Development Programme, 2005). Between 1990 and 2003, many of the country's most severely affected by AIDS dropped sharply in the global ranking of countries on the Human Development Index. South Africa fell by 35 places, Zimbabwe by 23, Botswana by 21, Swaziland by 20, Kenya by 18, Zambia by 16 and Lesotho by 15. (The report ranked 135 countries across regions, using data from both 1990 and 2003.)"

"The overall impact of AIDS on the global population has not yet reached its peak, and its demographic effects will likely be felt well into the second half of the 21st century. Current projections suggest that by 2015, in the 60 countries most affected by AIDS, the total population will be 115 million less than it would be in the absence of AIDS. Africa will account for nearly three-quarters of this difference in 2050, and although life expectancy for the entire continent will have risen to 65.4 years from the current 49.1 years, it will still be almost 12 to 17 years or less than like expectancy in other regions of the world (UN Population Division, 2005b.)"

"In Asia, a high proportion of new HIV infections are contracted during paid sex. In Viet Nam, HIV prevalence among female sex workers increased rapidly throughout the 1990's, from 0.06% in 2002. In Indonesia, the rate of HIV infection among female sex workers is 3/1% nationally but varies significantly from region to region.

“In Jakarta, for example, it reached 6.4% in 2003 (MAP, 2005). In China, it is estimated that sex workers and their clients account for just less than 20% of the total number of people living with HIV (Ministry of Health, People’s Republic of China/UNAIDS, 2005a).”

AIDS is no longer a disease confined to developing countries. It is no longer a crisis confined to the inner city. AIDS is a global catastrophe, infecting every corner of the world. (pages 103-104)

13. Sex trafficking add to the worldwide AIDS epidemic

According to the U.S. State Department, an estimated 42 million people live with HIV/AIDS worldwide. While the global epidemic of HIV/ AIDS affects various populations, women and children who are trafficked for prostitution and other sexual purposes are particularly impacted. Due to the violent nature of sex with trafficked victims, the lack of control over the circumstances and number of “customers,” the inability to insist on regular condom use, and the youth of many trafficked victims, victims of sex trafficking are severely at risk for contracting HIV. The public health implications of sex trafficking extend beyond its victims to those who frequent brothels and who can become carriers and/or core transmitters of serious diseases, to the general public. Some experts have linked sex trafficking to the spread and mutation of the AIDS virus, suggesting that sex trafficking facilitates the global dispersion of HIV subtypes. (page 203-204)

14. Learn

Learn about trafficking and modern-day slavery. Visit the FFAST Web site at www.faastinternational.org.

Download or request the latest Trafficking in Persons Report from the U.S. Department of State /Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. Go to www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006 or call 1(202) 312-9639.

Find out what's happening in your state. Sign up for the U.S. Policy Alert Service through the Polaris Project at [www.polarisproject.org/polarisproject/programs_p3/Policy_Alercp3 .htm](http://www.polarisproject.org/polarisproject/programs_p3/Policy_Alercp3.htm)

and receive regular updates, maps, and alerts on legislative developments on trafficking in the United States.

15. Educate

Hang an anti-trafficking poster in your church, business, or office. Posters advertising the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) victim hotline are a valuable outreach tool to potential victims and those who may come into contact with victims. Sample posters are available at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html or (888) 373-7888. Posters are available in English, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Chinese, and Korean.

Preach a sermon about slavery, what the Bible says about it, the urgency to abolish slavery and trafficking, and the need to reaffirm the inherent, God-given dignity of human beings. Contact FAAST for a list of Bible references to slavery.

16. Advocate

Ask you state legislators what they've done to stop sex trafficking and labor trafficking in your state. If they don't know, offer to provide information on what they can do. For more information, see the U.S. Department of Justice webpage on slavery and trafficking at www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/tpwetf.htm, and the model of state law on trafficking at www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/model_state_law.pdf.