



# Anti-Trafficking Initiative

DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS,  
WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

Lott =||=  
Carey

# Anti-Trafficking Initiative Invitation to Action

*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*  
**(Micah 6:8, KJV)**

## Invitation to Action—Session Materials Included

- I. Session Timeline
- II. Icebreaker Activity
- III. Biblical Case Study
- IV. Facilitator's Notes
- V. Discussion Questions
- VI. Biblical Reflections
- VII. Home of Hope Profiles
- VIII. African AIDS Initiative International Reflections
- IX. Human Trafficking Profiles
- X. Slide Presentation

### I. Session Timeline

- Icebreaker Activity (5 minutes)
- Biblical Case Study (10 minutes)
- Discussion Questions (10 minutes)
- Biblical Reflections (10 minutes)
- Slide Presentation (8 minutes)
- Question-and-Answer Period (20 minutes)

Human trafficking, also known as modern-day slavery, is not something that just happens overseas. It happens in our own communities. If we learn the different forms of trafficking and the signs and symptoms, we can lessen the chance of contributing to the problem and better serve those in need.

## II. Icebreaker Activity

*Note to Facilitator: This activity helps participants begin to understand the various forms of human trafficking and their involvement. Before asking the questions, tell participants to raise their hands when a question applies to them. After completing the questions, let participants know that if they answered yes to any of the questions they may have unknowingly been involved in human trafficking, also known as modern-day slavery.*

### Icebreaker Questions

1. How many enjoy fruit, coffee, sugar and chocolate?
2. How many have a computer and/or a cell phone?
3. How many get their hair braided at a salon?
4. How many have ever used a lawn service?
5. How many have their nails done?
6. How many have ever used a cleaning service?
7. How many use canned food items?
8. How many have ever shopped at a large retail chain?
9. How many have had renovations done to their home?
10. How many enjoy eating at restaurants?



### III. Biblical Case Study

#### *2 Samuel 13:1–39*

This biblical passage relays important insights about the succession of kings, but also allows us to hear Tamar's voice and what she teaches us about sin, domination, abuse and exploitation. What do we learn from this passage focusing on the violence (sin, domination, abuse and exploitation) perpetrated against Tamar? How does her family's response help us understand our role in perpetuating human trafficking/modern-day slavery? What can we do to better serve both the victim and the victimizer?

### IV. Facilitator's Notes

If we shift our focus toward Tamar's voice, what do we hear? She is a young woman—some scholars say 15 years old—who is smart, aware of royal politics, not afraid to speak up for herself, a skilled negotiator and a royal princess who is scared but thinks on her feet. She is an advocate for herself, and she attempts to bargain with her half-brother not to commit this disgrace upon her. She is crying out for help!

We learn that Amnon, who was so interested in feeding his lust disguised as love, violated his half-sister's trust and physically abused her body. His desire led him to dominate and manipulate his family members to please himself. His sin had a ripple effect, which changed everything for everybody and perpetuated a continued downward spiral.

We learn about Jonadab, whose deceitfulness—acted out under the guise of helping his cousin— fueled the issue. He played an active role in the plot, and his desire was to help one family member at the expense of another. He chose to help the one perceived to be dominant because he was next in line to the king.

We learn about Absalom, who loved his sister but was more interested in getting rid of his brother in order to become king. He demanded Tamar's silence even though he provided a place for her to go after she had been violated, and he refused to address the issue until it was advantageous to him.

We learn a lot about King David, whose love for his firstborn son was so great that he did not address the harm perpetrated against his daughter. David had the power and authority, but did nothing. He was outraged, but did not respond because he valued one more than the other.



## V. Discussion Questions

1. Do we see ourselves in any of these roles?
2. Can we help—but like King David choose not to?
3. Are we like Absalom, failing to recognize sin, domination, abuse and exploitation when it is right in our face?
4. Are we like Amnon, allowing our own desires (consumer mindset) and wants to get in the way of doing what is right?
5. Are we listening to the voice of Jonadab (society), which is telling us that the victims of human trafficking are a means to an end?
6. Do we believe that as long as our needs are addressed, what happens to the other members of our family—our brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters of God—simply does not matter?

*Note to Facilitator: These questions can be divided and discussed in groups of six or collectively in one large group.*



## VI. Biblical Reflections

### *2 Samuel 13:1–39*

Tamar's story gives voice to all victims of exploitation, teaching us about the various dimensions of violence perpetrated against those caught in the snares of oppression, exploitation and abuse. She sounds the alert by making us aware of our own shortcomings regarding our awareness and inability to be an advocate for the victim. She reminds us that our actions can either directly or indirectly contribute to the invisible chains of modern-day slavery.

Our response makes the difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters. Tamar helps us see the effect that sin, domination, abuse and exploitation have on us all. She opens our eyes to how anyone can become a victim or a victimizer if we are indifferent to the struggles of others. Tamar's voice sounds the alert for victims who are manipulated and trapped by their victimizers.

Like victims of modern-day slavery, she was lured and ensnared for the purpose of domination, exploitation and abuse. Her voice reminds us that victims of human trafficking are often just trying to care for members of their families and improve their quality of life. Ultimately, however, the victims are manipulated, abused and exploited.

When trust is violated by the exploiter and by those who stand by and watch, everyone suffers. If we read 2 Samuel we see how David's failure to respond to the violation of his daughter led to the demise of both of his beloved sons.



One lesson that Tamar teaches us today is to listen to the voices of our sons and daughters. We must look upon the faces of our brothers and sisters in the community and see their pain, understanding that while times change, many problems remain the same. Tamar calls us to examine our response and reminds us we must not be like King David, Absalom, Amnon and Jonadab. The most important lesson Tamar teaches us, however, is that we cannot be silent.

We cannot respond as King David did, outraged but inactive. We cannot ignore the problems in front of us through silence and censorship, as Absalom did. We cannot let our needs cause us to be the problem, as Amnon did. We cannot be like Jonadab and delude ourselves and others.

We must be like Tamar, whose voice serves as a reminder of the pain and anguish we inflict on family members who are held hostage by our silence on issues of domination, abuse and exploitation. We must become an oasis for victims trapped by the conditions of society.

Tamar's cry is a call for awareness, advocacy and action . . . today!





## VII. Home of Hope Profiles

### *Participants' Stories*

The Home of Hope women's program started in the home of Pastor Jacobus Nomdoe and wife, Erica, in 1998, when the family embraced three women bound by drugs, gangs, prostitution and other life-addicting strongholds. The women were invited into the Christian home and were offered the opportunity to transform their lives. The vision of Home of Hope and the related Teen Challenge program started then, and the development of a residential care program was birthed.

Although the women faced challenges that seemed insurmountable, they ultimately learned that no challenge, no matter how great, is bigger than God.





*Here are their stories:*

Mellouise, nicknamed “MJ,” arrived as a very introspective person. She was addicted to heroin, but she was about to discover that God is still in the miracle business. This 19-year-old was gifted with a “holy boldness” through Christ, and a confident, mature and joyful woman emerged. She currently serves as a staff member at the women’s center, a position she took after graduating from the Teen Challenge program. MJ attests to the fact that her witness has had a positive and direct impact on the quality of her family’s life. Her next step is to attend Cape Theological Seminary, where she has accepted her pastoral call.

Kim came to the program at 23, frustrated and seeing only darkness and drugs. She found her life surrounded by failed love, failed promises and failed expectations. There had to be something better. She came to Teen Challenge for an answer, and says she found it—Jesus. In the seventh month of the program Kim was still questioning herself, but not God. She now has hope, faith and laughter in the Lord, and her transformation is manifested in poetry and music.

Sherry was the oldest woman at the center. She arrived with a broken heart. After 15 years of marriage to a man who wanted to remarry, Sherry realized only God could heal her wounded heart. As the mother of three girls, she knew that leaving for 14 months would be a tremendous sacrifice. Yet Sherry was sure God could restore a spirit that had been trampled by an abusive father and a more-abusive husband. She has learned that her desperate desires could not be filled by alcohol or an abusive husband, but only by God.

*These are the reflections of Ms. Jacqueline Maloney, a missionary from Bethel A.M.E. Church in Massachusetts.*



## VIII. African AIDS Initiative International (AAIL)

### *Team Ethiopia*

On May 10, 2010, I, along with 12 ladies in the Lott Carey network, began a journey that will forever remain in my memory. One of the focuses of this short-term mission was to meet with the commercial sex workers that AAIL supports. We had the wonderful experience of sharing with almost 100 young girls and women who came to tell us their stories. A full day and a half was set aside so we could have questions and answers with them.

With the help of mission partner Elleni Gebre Amlak and one of her staff members who provided interpretation, we were able to hear the challenges they faced, what skills they were hoping to obtain in order to leave the sex industry and how they aided women who were sick with HIV/AIDS. The young girls and women spoke highly of the work AAIL was doing, and how the initiative taught them to protect themselves and the importance of knowing their HIV/AIDS status.

It was sad to hear what the women endured, but I found it empowering that they were applying the skills AAIL taught them to protect themselves. The short-term mission immersion to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was very enlightening and informative. I was very impressed with the work AAIL is doing on the college level, as well as at the Voluntary HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing (VCT) centers they operate.



I had the opportunity to witness the work Lott Carey supports, to listen to the needs of young girls and women in order to better assist them and to encourage them through prayer and with words of love. For that opportunity I will always be grateful and thankful to be part of Lott Carey, and proud of the work we do to transform lives.

*Mrs. LaKeeyna Cooper*

## **A Mighty Cloud of Witnesses**

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” is the verse shaping my thoughts on our Ethiopian mission immersion. The Beatitude continues to resonate in my thoughts as I think about my experience. I was enlightened, empowered and energized by my Ethiopian sisters, the beneficiaries of the phenomenal work conducted by the committed staff of AAll.

Witnessing the ability of these women to bridle their emotions while denied their God-given rights to access opportunities, participate in decision-making processes and receive basic services was a revelation on the power of God’s grace. Being relegated to a second-class status would, for most, be a catalyst for anger and resentment. Instead, my sisters embodied the true essence of the Creator and a resiliency cultivated by compassionate AAll staff.

Their strength and courage continue to bless my soul. When I reflect on my immersion experience, I hear Byron Cage singing, “The spirit of the Lord is here.” My Ethiopian sisters are bathed in the light of the Lord, and stand strong in the face of economic, social, cultural and political disadvantages. Team Ethiopia 2010 journeyed to Africa to look, listen and learn about the challenges these women face so we might collaborate on ways to be a blessing.

I looked, listened and most importantly learned that we serve a mighty God who restores, revives and renews. While I pray we were a blessing, I came away assured we were blessed. What a mighty God we serve!

*Rev. Angelita Clifton*





## Changing Realities

The reality of life as a woman in Ethiopia is hard to face, but it is a reality that cannot be ignored. The truth is that only by facing their reality will we make it a priority to stand with them and support them in every way we can. Another truth is that our God, who sees, hears and cares about these women, has already sent a woman to lead the way.

While the children in Israel had Moses, the women of Addis Ababa have Eleni Gebre Amlak and African AIDS Initiative International as their advocate to bring their plight to the world's attention and to offer them renewed hope and a sense of value. Lott Carey is partnering with AAIL to make this a reality.

By the end of our mission trip, the reality of poverty, HIV/AIDS and the plight of women and children in Ethiopia had become crystal clear with the aid of two distinct groups of women. One group was the 61 women between the ages of 14 and 46 who represented the 388 beneficiaries of AAIL's work among commercial sex workers.

The other group consisted of the leaders of the Girls' Club of Addis Ababa University, a support group for female students. Before AAIL, young female students were alone in their struggles. Today they have a support system in place, and on one campus there is a computer lab, "African Virtual University," and a reading room to provide girls with the opportunity for academic excellence. AAIL hopes to establish similar facilities on all of the 16 campuses.

I was touched by a young lady who shared how AAIL empowered her as a leader and an advocate for women, gifts she would like to strengthen. As a leader in the Girls' Club she supports incoming freshman girls and encourages other young women to recognize their own value, to pursue their dreams, to complete their education and to resist the lure and hazards of commercial sex work.



Before AAI, HIV/AIDS ravished communities went unchecked. Today AAI's HIV/AIDS prevention program is giving people knowledge and improving the quality of life in these same communities. Through the support of Lott Carey, AAI's Voluntary HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing (VCT) centers are redefining the HIV/AIDS reality by offering free HIV testing and counseling to those diagnosed with the virus, and providing the necessary support.

Before Elleni, commercial sex workers had no voice or support and no way out. Today, in addition to empowering these women with knowledge for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, AAI is empowering them with life skills and with greater opportunities to become community leaders. One young lady shared that she was able to transition out of commercial sex work to another form of employment and is back in night school.

Another woman shared, "I lost my daughter to AIDS, but if I had the (HIV/AIDS prevention) training back then, I could have saved her life." Hearing Elleni tell their stories brought about an awareness that led me to ask again, "Lord, how can I help?" Coming face-to-face with their reality has challenged me to commit to do even more.

Women should not have to sell their bodies for survival, and young girls should not have to endure sexual exploitation to get an education. Lending my voice and my gifts to advocate on their behalf is only the beginning. I must give of my resources and encourage others to support Lott Carey's efforts to offer a way out to these women.

We have heard their stories; we have seen their struggles. Now it is up to us to be the instruments God can use to change their reality!

*Minister Brenda McBorrough*



## IX. Human Trafficking Profiles

These victims' testimonies are just a few representations and do not include all forms of trafficking. Any of these stories could unfortunately take place almost anywhere in the world. These stories illustrate the many forms of trafficking and the wide variety of places in which they take place. No country is immune. The stories are real but the names have been changed.

**Central Africa:** Mary, a 16-year-old forced to join an armed rebel group, 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 a boy from my village that I killed. I see him in my dreams and he is talking to me, saying I killed him for nothing, and I am crying."

**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 guesthouse. But when she woke the next morning, her husband was gone. The owner of the house told her that 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.





**Italy:** Viola, a young Albanian, was 13 when she started dating 21-year-old Dilin, who proposed marriage. They moved to Italy, where Dilin said he had cousins who could get him a job. Arriving in Italy, Viola found that her life changed forever. Dilin locked her in a hotel room and left her, never to be seen again. A group of men entered and began to beat Viola. Then, each raped her. The leader informed Viola that Dilin had sold her and that she had to obey him or she would be killed. For seven days Viola was beaten and repeatedly raped. Viola was sold a second time to someone who beat her head so badly she was unable to see for two days. She was told that if she didn't work as a prostitute, her mother and sister in Albania would be raped and killed. Viola was forced to submit to prostitution until police raided the brothel where she was held. She was deported to Albania.

**India:** Shadir, a boy of 15, 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 handwoven carpets. He was frequently beaten. He worked 12 to 14 hours a day and was poorly fed. One day Shadir was rescued by a nongovernmental organization 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 school. Now Shadir warns fellow village children about the risks of becoming a child slave.





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