



During this Christmas season and as we anticipate the beginning of a New Year, there is so much anticipation and joy! In hope and fervour, let's not forget those who are suffering exploitation and slavery today. During the month of December, please take a moment in prayer to intercede for individuals involved (in various ways!) in human trafficking and modern day slavery.

<p>Sunday, December 1</p>	<p>God, we pray for the millions who are enslaved today... Open our eyes over the next 31 days so that we may be attuned to your call, compassionate to those who suffer, and make choices in our lives that only serve to please you.</p> <p>Jeremiah 22:3 (CEV) "Innocent people have become victims of violence, and some of them have even been killed. But now I command you to do what is right and see that justice is done. Rescue everyone who has suffered from injustice."</p>
<p>Monday, December 2</p>	<p>Lord, today on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, we thank you for those who are working tirelessly to end slavery and injustice. We thank you for historical abolitionists – people like William Wilberforce, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Moses – who modeled dedication, empathy, compassion and passion. We pray for individuals and organizations who are abolitionists today, organizations like Ratanak International who work tirelessly in Cambodia. We pray for the staff and volunteers working in their Child Trafficking Prevention Program. We pray for good health, strong faith, safety and energy as they carry out the program. We also pray that more parents, teachers, church leaders, and local authorities will become aware of how to protect their children from trafficking and other forms of exploitation. We pray for the girls in their Ratanak Achievement Program (RAP) community home, who are former victims of sexual exploitation and are moving forward to being ready for independent living. We pray that they will know the strong love You have for them, and the value You place on each one of their lives. We pray also for the staff, for ongoing strength, power, and daily energy to sustain them in the midst of daily challenges, and for wisdom and discernment to know how best to respond. And we also pray for prisoners in their Prison Outreach Program who will soon finish their sentences and will be released back into Cambodian society. We pray that they will leave with new skills, new found hope in Christ, and that they will be guided as they seek to rebuild their lives.</p> <p>Leviticus 19:15 (NIV) "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly."</p> <p>www.ratanak.org</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 3</p>	<p>God, you are a God of justice. And you have placed authorities in our communities who work for justice. Today we pray for law enforcement around the world – police officers and other law enforcement officers who are in positions of power and authority where they can serve those who are oppressed. We ask that you give them wisdom, guidance and integrity. We pray, Lord, for those officers who may be swayed by greed, immorality or power. We pray that you may touch their hearts and give them hearts of compassion for those who suffer.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 27:19 (NIV) "Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow. Then all the people shall say, 'Amen.'"</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 4</p>	<p>Today we pray for Walk With Me Canada Victim Services. We thank you, God, for their work in Canada and the hope they give to victims of human trafficking. Bless the work that they do and bless their safe house, that it may be a beacon of hope and encouragement to victims after the suffering they have endured. Please bless their annual gala fundraiser in January, that it may shine a light on human trafficking in Canada and raise funds for continued work.</p> <p>Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all those who wait for him!"</p>

	<p>www.walk-with-me.org</p>
<p>Thursday, December 5</p>	<p>God, we live in a world that is corrupt. Often we find it difficult to escape greed and injustice. So many of the products and things we use are manufactured by individuals who are exploited. We pray today for corporations and businesses, that they may strive towards ethical practices and have compassion on those who work for them. And Lord, give us diligence and discretion to make wise purchasing choices, especially at this festive time of year. Open our eyes to injustices that are happening in places like the cocoa, coffee, and cotton fields.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 3:16 (CEV) “Everywhere on earth I saw violence and injustice instead of fairness and justice.”</p> <p>www.slaveryfootpring.org</p>
<p>Friday, December 6</p>	<p>Lord, today we pray for each individual being exploited through sex trafficking. You know <i>each one</i> by name, and we ask you to provide them comfort, safety and hope. Protect their bodies, Lord, as they are abused and exposed to dangers. Protect their minds, Lord, as they are fed lies by traffickers and as they wonder where help is. And protect their hearts, Lord, as they may lose hope in humanity and in You. Please give them a sense of peace and prepare for them a pathway to safety.</p> <p>Psalms 82: 3,4 (NIV) “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”</p>
<p>Saturday, December 7</p>	<p>Lord, today we think of and thank you for the work of Hagar International. We thank you for the passion they have for people in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Vietnam. We thank you for those who work for Hagar and the contributions they have made in these countries. We ask today that you bless Afghanistan, Cambodia and Vietnam, and we ask for a smooth transition year in 2014 in Afghanistan – for safer work and less violence for those who work there and all the clients that Hagar serves. We pray for peace in these nations – there is so much fighting and violence and unnecessary deaths of those who are innocent. And in situations like this, it is the poor, those on the fringes of society, the forgotten, and the voiceless who pay the highest cost. We thank you for the work Hagar International has already done throughout the years, and we pray for continuing blessings.</p> <p>Exodus 16:1-13: Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me.” ⁶ “Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. ⁷ The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. ⁹ Then the angel of the LORD told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” ¹⁰ The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” ¹¹ The angel of the LORD also said to her:</p> <p>“You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael,^[a] for the LORD has heard of your misery. ¹² He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him,</p>

	<p>and he will live in hostility toward^[b] all his brothers.”</p> <p>¹³ She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen^[c] the One who sees me.”</p> <p>www.hagarinternational.org</p>
<p>Sunday, December 8</p>	<p>God, we pray today for the government systems in our countries. They have so much power and influence, and we pray that they stand for truth and justice. Give politicians and heads of state wisdom to put into place legislation and policy that will end slavery today and show justice to victims. Remove corruption and greed from the hearts of those who do not have the interest of others in mind, Lord. Empower leaders for positive change!</p> <p>Isaiah 10:1-2 (NIV) "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless."</p>
<p>Monday, December 9</p>	<p>God, today we remember and pray for those being exploited in labour trafficking. We pray for those who work tirelessly at the hands of those who exploit them. We pray for those in bonded labour/debt bondage, those who have been trapped in a system of exploitation for years and even generations because of unfair and unjust debts. We pray for those exploited for their labour in developing countries – those who are trapped in systems of poverty and may not have the ability to access help due to circumstances like lack of education. We pray for individuals trafficked into North America with promises and dreams of a better life only to find despair and the inability to access help due to language barriers, unfamiliarity with our systems, and fear of law enforcement and immigration. We pray that you put individuals and organizations into the lives of those being exploited to offer them hope and paths to freedom.</p> <p>Exodus 3:7-10 (NIV) ⁷ The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 10</p>	<p>Lord, we thank you today for Hope For the Sold and Jay and Michelle Brock who have committed their lives to sharing your name and exposing the darkness of human trafficking. Thank you for all the work they have done in producing the film “Red Light Green Light.” As they tour Canada right now showing their film, we ask for travelling mercies and safety for them and ask that you open doors across the nation so that they may speak of you and this important issue. We ask that they receive favour with the media and that they are effective in changing the national conversation about preventing sex trafficking as a nation, ensuring proportional rights and equality for all. When speaking, give them wisdom and a sense of your peace.</p> <p>Zechariah 7:9 (NIV) “This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.’”</p> <p>www.hopeforthesold.com / www.redlightgreenlightfilm.com</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 11</p>	<p>Lord, we pray today for pimps and traffickers. We acknowledge that it can be harder to pray for our enemies than for our friends or those we believe “deserve” prayer. But you have taught us, God, to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute (Matthew 5:44). So we pray for those who traffic others. We do not know what circumstances brought them to such a deep, dark place where they harm others, but we ask that you heal them and show them the error of their ways. Just as we pray for you to provide paths of freedom to victims, we ask that you provide traffickers with pathways to freedom. We ask that you heal traffickers from the hurts and pains of their past and turn their lives upside down so that they may choose to pursue a life of justice, compassion and love.</p>

	<p>Romans 12:17-19 (NIV): “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay’ says the Lord.”</p>
<p>Thursday, December 12</p>	<p>God, today we thank you for the work of International Justice Mission/International Justice Mission Canada. Thank you for the stand they take for human rights. We ask that you bless them in the coming year by meeting their funding needs. Stir the hearts of your people that they may consider giving to their work so that they can continue to represent and protect the poor who are vulnerable to violent injustice. We also ask that you bless their CEO and President Gary Haugen. His latest book is soon to be released, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the meantime. We pray that this book will bring the concept of injustice and violence into the conversation around development aid on a global scale. We pray for those whose lives have been touched and will be touched by the work that IJM does in countries around the world.</p> <p>Psalm 33:5 (NIV) "The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love."</p> <p>www.ijm.ca / www.ijm.org</p>
<p>Friday, December 13</p>	<p>Lord, today we pray for the criminal court system. We pray for judges and lawyers who deal with cases of human trafficking. Please give them the wisdom to do their jobs effectively – with compassion and empathy for victims, but also with discernment for justice and truth. We pray for the prisons that hold perpetrators of human trafficking; may they be institutions that provide opportunities for positive change for traffickers.</p> <p>Psalm 140:12 (NIV) "I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy."</p>
<p>Saturday, December 14</p>	<p>God, today we intercede for victims currently being exploited in forced marriage. We think of the many women around the world, many of whom are children, who by others’ decisions are forced to marry. We pray for them and ask for your peace in their lives. Those who have been forsaken by their own families, we ask that you place loving individuals in their lives to provide compassion and care.</p> <p>Proverbs 29:7 (NIV) "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."</p>
<p>Sunday, December 15</p>	<p>Lord, today we pray for the Reformed Church in America missionaries and mission partners around the world working in areas of compassion, the next generation, and the nations. At this time of year, when they may be away from friends and families as they serve you, we think of them and thank you for their service. Many of them work with vulnerable individuals – youth and the impoverished who are vulnerable to exploitation. We thank you that you have placed these mission leaders into their lives so that they may create strong relationships built on trust and mutual respect, often preventing exploitation from occurring. We pray for the safety of mission leaders who sometimes work in hostile environments. And we pray for the people they are reaching, that they may come to know You.</p> <p>Isaiah 51:4-5 (NIV) "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm."</p>
<p>Monday, December 16</p>	<p>God, thank you for the work of Deborah’s Gate in British Columbia. We pray for the women they serve and thank you that they have found a safe haven to reside. We think of the residents who are struggling with immigration and legal barriers and also those who are working towards finding suitable employment to fulfill their own personal dreams and goals. We pray that the residents and the staff feel the comfort and presence of Jesus around and during the Christmas season.</p> <p>Ezekiel 34:15-16 (NIV) "I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice."</p> <p>http://www.deborahsgate.ca/</p>

<p>Tuesday, December 17</p>	<p>God, we pray for those who purchase sex (“Johns”) and those who struggle with addictions to pornography. We don’t always know what leads them to committing such acts – whether it’s sexual addictions, loneliness, a need for power and control – but we ask that you heal their lives. Help them to realize the impact that they are having on others – their own families, the girls and women they “purchase,” and the families of those who are in the sex trade.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 8:9 (CEV) “I noticed all this and thought seriously about what goes on in the world. Why does one person have the power to hurt another?”</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 18</p>	<p>Lord, we ask that you be with children who are victimized as soldiers. We pray for children who have been captured and subjected to horrific experiences. We pray for the countries in which child soldiers are utilized to kill, maim and torture – we pray for stability in these countries and for peace. We think especially of children in Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, the DRC, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda.¹ And be with the staff from organizations that provide counselling and housing for child soldiers; may they be a light in a very dark world.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 4:1 (CEV) “I looked again and saw people being ill-treated everywhere on earth. They were crying, but no one was there to offer comfort, and those who ill-treated them were powerful.”</p>
<p>Thursday, December 19</p>	<p>Thank you, God, for the work of REED (Resist Exploitation, Embrace Dignity) in Vancouver, B.C. We pray for their continued efforts to expose the darkness of sex trafficking in that region. We thank you for the number of people who have expressed an interest to volunteer with that organization and thank you that you have placed the issue of sex trafficking on the hearts of so many. We ask that you give discernment to those currently working and volunteering with REED as they think about how to best encourage and support those who desire to learn more. We pray for a restful sabbatical for their Executive Director, Michelle Millar, who is taking some time in New Zealand to recuperate from her busy life. We pray that she has an amazing and safe time and that she would be able to return refreshed and inspired as ever. We pray for REED’s finances, that more people would choose to partner with REED, that grants would come through, and for high attendance at fundraising events. And we also pray for motivation for REED’s outreach teams who do the hard work of walking the streets at night and engaging in the things that they see. We pray for continual direction in what they are doing, and for their minds to be formed as they process the issues they see. We pray for new ideas to come to those who do outreach, for creativity and boldness in whatever they choose to do.</p> <p>Proverbs 28:5 (NIV) "Evildoers do not understand what is right, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully."</p> <p>http://embracedignity.org/</p>
<p>Friday, December 20</p>	<p>Lord, we remember the large number of Aboriginal girls and women who are missing in Canada today. We know that many Aboriginal females are vulnerable to sex trafficking and to predators. We ask that you be with those girls and women who are missing; give them a sense of peace that assures them that they are beloved individuals whom You care about. Be with their families and loved ones in their uncertainty. We acknowledge, Lord, the legacy of colonization and residential schools that have played a hand in creating an environment of vulnerability to sex trafficking. We pray for greater awareness, acknowledgement and understanding in Canada, Lord, around these issues so that we may be greater allies and compassionate to the needs of Aboriginal trafficked victims. Where there is tension and strife, we ask for reconciliation and understanding and peace.</p> <p>Micah 6:8 (NIV) "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/native-canadian-women-sold-on-u-s-ships-researcher-says-1.1325167</p>

¹ List of countries provided by <http://www.childsoldiers.org/resource/definition/>

<p>Saturday, December 21</p>	<p>We thank you, God, for Cedar Door Ministries in Hamilton. Thank you for the outreach they provide to those who are engaged in the sex industry. We thank you for those who volunteer for this ministry and their commitment to you in prayer. We pray for the relationships they have formed with those on the streets in Hamilton and thank you that you have given the volunteers the gift of compassion and intercessory prayer. Please grant safety to the teams as they provide outreach and develop relationships.</p> <p>Isaiah 61:1 (NIV) “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because 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.”</p>
<p>Sunday, December 22</p>	<p>Lord, please be with survivors of human trafficking as they continue their ongoing healing journey. We thank you that they have been able to escape from exploitation and ask that you continue to keep them safe. We ask for your continued presence in their lives as they continue to heal physically, emotionally and mentally. We ask that you continue to place individuals in their lives to provide support and loving guidance. Thank you for your providence!</p> <p>Psalm 10:16-18 (NIV) “The Lord is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.”</p>
<p>Monday, December 23</p>	<p>During this blessed Advent season, God, we ask that you be with those who are vulnerable to exploitation. We ask that you be with the youth of this world – those who are desperate for love, validation and supportive relationships. Please be with those who are susceptible to being targeted by pimps and traffickers – those who are impoverished, refugees and immigrants, the lonely and marginalized individuals. Provide them with a sense of your presence in their lives, and place individuals in their lives who will help guide them through trials and struggles.</p> <p>Psalm 10:12 (NIV) “Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.”</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 24</p>	<p>God, today we think of and pray for the families of victims of human trafficking. During this Christmas season, families are filled with despair and worry, and we ask that you provide them with comfort. Bless them this Christmas, Lord. We think of those who do not know where their loved ones are. We think of those who may know where their loved ones are, but continue to worry about their safety. As many of us are celebrating the Christmas season, let us not forget those who are in mourning and are grieving. Provide us with a sense of understanding and compassion.</p> <p>Psalm 9:9 (NIV) “The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.”</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 25</p>	<p>Thank you God for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus as our merciful Saviour. Thank you for his demonstration of perfect love, compassion and advocacy for those in need. May we celebrate in His birth today and look to him as we strive to end slavery today.</p> <p>Matthew 12:8 (NIV) “Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.”</p>
<p>Thursday, December 26</p>	<p>Today on the anniversary of the 2004 tsunami, we pray for those who have suffered from natural disasters. We especially pray for those recently affected by the typhoon in the Philippines. Natural disasters leave behind very vulnerable people – individuals desperate for shelter, food and safety. And we know that evil preys on the vulnerable. We ask that you be with those suffering from natural disasters, that survivors are able to find assistance from family, friends, NGOs and their governments. And we pray for those orphaned from such disasters, that you place people in their lives to love and protect them from others who may only wish to exploit them.</p> <p>Matthew 23:23 (NIV) “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” (See also Luke 11:42)</p>

<p>Friday, December 27</p>	<p>God we pray for Restorations, a new organization planning to develop long-term programs and housing in Ontario for survivors of sex trafficking. We thank you for their willingness to address such a need in this province. As they go through the incorporation and charitable status process, we ask that you have your hand in everything for a speedy and efficient process. We ask that you send committed donors to support this work. And we ask for clarity and direction for the Board of Directors as they move forward with organizational development. We think of and pray for all the victims who may cross the doors of this organization in the future and ask that you prepare the hearts of all those who will be working and volunteering for Restorations.</p> <p>Jeremiah 30:17 (NIV) “‘But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the Lord, ‘because you are called an outcast...’”</p> <p>http://restorationscanada.org/</p>
<p>Saturday, December 28</p>	<p>Lord, we thank you for Dignity House in Winnipeg. We thank you for their commitment to ensuring that those in the sex trade have ways to exit and rebuild their lives. We pray for them over this season as their housing fills up. Please grant all the women a sense of peace and hope over this special time of year, and bless the staff and volunteers as they reach out to those in the sex trade to develop lasting and meaningful relationships.</p> <p>Isaiah 1:17 (NIV) "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."</p> <p>http://www.dignityhouse.ca/</p>
<p>Sunday, December 29</p>	<p>God, today we thank you for the White Rose Movement and their outreach work to those who work in the sex industry in Toronto. We ask that you be with them as they work towards charitable status. Grant their volunteers wisdom and safety as they reach out to those who work in strip clubs. We ask that you be with the many women who work in exotic clubs – those who are there under coercion, circumstance or choice. May each of them know that you love them and find them valuable.</p> <p>John 13:34-35 (NIV) “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”</p>
<p>Monday, December 30</p>	<p>God, thank you for the work that Hope to Freedom has been able to accomplish in 2013 – achievements that have only been possible with your direction and blessing. As this year comes to a close, we ask for your continued guidance into 2014, that you bless those who hear about human trafficking and modern day slavery, and place a burning sense of desire for change upon those who come into contact with Hope to Freedom. Thank you for your blessings.</p> <p>Luke 4:17-21 (NIV) “and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him [Jesus]. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He because by saying to them, ‘Today the scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 31</p>	<p>Lord, we thank you for all your blessings in 2013! May the coming year be one of hope, perseverance and positive change! Be with those who are enslaved today – may 2014 be the year when they are set free!</p> <p>Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”</p>