

Daily Prayers for a Time of Prayer to End Human Trafficking January 11 through Super Bowl Weekend 2018

“Give justice to the weak and fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4)

Note: These prayers and reflections were written by people of Northeast Wisconsin. Permission is granted to adapt them and share them as you wish.

January 11 – On this National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness, I pray for an end to human trafficking of every kind right here in our area and around the world. Help me learn about human trafficking and then see how I can help put an end to this crime that enslaves millions of girls, boys, women, and men and is the second largest and fastest growing illegal trade in the world.

January 12 - Holy Lord and Father in Heaven: I pray that you will wrap your loving arms around each and every girl, boy, man, and woman who is enslaved right now. Jesus, break the hideous chain of human trafficking. Deliver its victims into freedom.

January 13 – Lord, look upon the young people of the world who face so many challenges; protect them from those who would try to lure them into the sex trade. Be with those already caught up in trafficking and give them strength to get out.

January 14 - Lord, show yourself to all who are trapped in this vicious cycle, allow them to glimpse the beauty and freedom of your love, your unconditional love. Father, shine your light into this dark world. Shine it on each and every one of your children, created in your image and for your glory.

January 15 - Lord, I pray for legislators who are working to pass laws to protect victims and provide law enforcement and the judicial system with the tools they need to end sex trafficking.

January 16 - I pray for law enforcement officers and judges who deal compassionately with victims and get them the help they need.

January 17 – I pray for children who are stolen for the purpose of selling them to buyers of sex and for their parents who cry for their missing children.

January 18 – I pray for men who love and value their wives and children and for more families to know the kind of love that provides security and confidence to their children.

January 19 – I pray for writers, musicians, artists, and filmmakers who create educational and thought provoking images that move us to act.

January 20 – I pray for advocacy groups like the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, Cherish All Children, Shared Hope International, 5 Stones, Truckers Against Trafficking, and the Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. I pray for organizations such as Voices of Men who teach boys to respect women and girls. I pray for Eye Heart World and their Rose Home helping trafficking victims in Northeast Wisconsin and Lutheran Social Services as they help young victims rebuild their lives.

January 21 – I pray for those responsible in churches, government, and in our economy to stand up for the dignity of all persons, especially females.

January 22 – I pray for survivors who are so brave to tell their stories in order to prevent others from becoming victims. I pray for healing and a return to wholeness in their lives.

January 23 – I pray for the cooperation of hotels, massage parlors, and beauty salons to help stop this crime.

January 24 – I pray for professionals and volunteers and church members and all individuals and groups to work together and do what they do best to achieve the goal of ending human trafficking.

January 25 – I pray for teachers, counselors, and other school personnel to recognize signs that a child might be being trafficked and to have the courage to act to protect them.

January 26 - I pray for HOPE. This may be the only thing that victims of human trafficking are holding on to. I pray for them to keep hope in their hearts and know that there is a Heavenly Father who loves them no matter what.

January 27 - I pray for COURAGE. Help anyone who sees something suspicious to have the courage to call the Human Trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or 911 to report it. That one call may lead to someone being rescued from trafficking.

January 28 - I pray for us to be UNASHAMED. Lord give us confidence to speak up and make some noise about the epidemic problem of human trafficking. Help us feel compelled to be preachers about this problem as we may be the only voice for people being trafficked.

January 29 - I pray to be a CHAINBREAKER. Lord, there is a better life for young people trapped in trafficking. They deserve to feel the love of the Lord, they deserve to feel worthy, and to be given a chance to start a new life. Lord, help us break the chains of the horrible crime of human trafficking.

January 30 - I pray for LOVE. I pray that your love will break through the obstacles that all of these girls, boys, men, and women face every day. I pray that your love will overpower it all and shine down and rescue each person being trafficked, even it is only one person at a time. Help us to be your hands doing your work here on earth.

January 31 - I pray for MIRACLES. Lord, you show us miracles each and every day somewhere. I pray for a miracle to work in the hearts of those people who are trafficking other human beings and buying other human beings. Create a situation or put someone into their lives that can help them see that what they are doing is not just making money or buying a brief moment of pleasure but rather horribly abusing a fellow human being.

February 1 – I pray for BOLD ACTION. I pray that we can act boldly to learn about human trafficking including the signs that someone might be being trafficked, find out what is being done or needs to be done in our communities, and then act to help in some way. Help us not be discouraged by the enormity of the problem but remember the words attributed to Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing ever has.”

February 2 - I pray for DISCERNMENT. Help us see how you are calling us to use the gifts and talents that you have given us to help end human trafficking whether that is through sharing what we have learned with neighbors or friends or family members, writing letters to legislators, volunteering with local groups that serve victims, donating money or goods to service providers, organizing adult or youth forums or arranging a conference or speaker, providing hospitality for awareness events, or praying every day for the victims of human trafficking and those who provide rescue and healing to them.

February 3 – Be the light, Lord, that helps us shine the light on the darkness of sex trafficking in our area, especially this weekend. Encourage us to speak out, spread awareness, and support the fight to eliminate this crime.

February 4 - Heavenly Father, on this Super Bowl Sunday and at every other large sporting or music event where so much human trafficking takes place, I pray that people will celebrate and enjoy themselves without treating others with thoughtless disrespect and cruelty. I pray that the better angels of our natures will acknowledge the dignity of all of our sisters and brothers and treat them as fellow deserving recipients of your great love. All these things we ask in your Holy Name. Amen.