



## *Hear Their Cry*

[www.nextstepministrieskansas.org](http://www.nextstepministrieskansas.org) ▪ P O Box 1822, Salina, KS 67402-1822 ▪ December 2023

### **Mission Statement:**

We exist to restore the lives of women broken by sex trafficking by providing a safe, Christ-centered home, Biblical counseling, and life skills that will provide purpose for a future

### **Vision Statement:**

Sharing the transforming power of Jesus Christ with women broken by sex trafficking

### ***Trafficking doesn't stop for the Holidays***

Matthew 26:26 - Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples.....

We have just come through the Thanksgiving season. The memories that we have made are so fresh in our minds that we even smile as we remember the babies first steps. The look on the faces of the toddlers as they experience a special food for the first time. Cousins reunited from every age group. Aunts and uncles that we haven't seen since last year, or longer the special welcome from Grandma and Grandpa. The warmth and welcome that makes us repeat this tradition every year. Our hearts are full from the experiences of the season.

Much the same scene with Jesus. The feast they were celebrating was in large part the roots of our Thanksgiving. The remembrance of deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The saving of life because the blood of the Lamb was applied to the doorpost and header of the Hebrew homes. A sanctuary from death and a place of provision. No doubt the disciples that were there were largely unaware of the purpose that Jesus had in mind for that night. He was offering them a better sanctuary. He was offering them a more permanent home and a secure eternity.

We as the board of directors of Next Step Ministries know the peace of Christ but are extremely aware of the multitudes that do not know that peace. Our hearts break at the thought of those trafficked. They can only think of this as another time of the year when trafficking increases. Their pain and suffering increases as well. This multiplies the pain and separation that they feel. There will be no warmth and welcome, only another hotel or truck stop. There will be no feast, only drugs to dull the pain. There will be no joy and laughter, only more sorrow and abuse. We can help do something about this.

Jesus on that night knew about these women and their story. He took the bread (his body that would be broken) blessed it (presented it holy) broke it (He voluntarily gave His body) and gave it (to them and to you).

Can you see Jesus reaching out to them? To you? Offering His body so that you/they can know peace? Offering the solution to the problem from which all mankind suffers. Sin! I suffer, you suffer, these precious women suffer. Jesus is reaching out through the ages to all of us saying; "Take eat, this is my body." He wasn't merely offering a piece of bread to satisfy a temporary physical need; he was offering Himself as the solution.

We wish all the joy and happiness of this season to all who would come. Help us to prepare this place like Jesus is preparing us a place, for these women. Pray for them, donate your time talents and treasures for their restoration and by all means possible petition the throne of God, that He would come down and intervene in their lives so they can know peace in the future.

Pastor Aaron Vesterberg, Next Step Ministries Board Chairman

# Things to Ponder

## Thanksgiving...Christmas.

What do YOU think about when you hear these words?

Maybe you think about family, food, giving gifts, being together, or making memories.

Maybe you think about the birth of Christ and how amazing it is that God sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our (YOURS and MINE) sin, so that we can be reconciled to Him.

Maybe you are overwhelmed with sadness, because of a loss in your life.

Maybe you are lonely, because your family is estranged or no longer on this earth.

## What might this season look like through the lens of the life of a victim of human trafficking?

Maybe they've never known what it's like to be part of a loving, caring family.

Maybe they've never been truly loved and cared for.

Maybe they don't have any good memories of Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Maybe they don't know anything different than their current situation.

Maybe they do have a few childhood memories that are good.

Maybe they have lost loved ones who cared for them.

Maybe they've lost children to the system.

Maybe they are overwhelmed with their situation and don't know what to do.

Maybe they are addicted to drugs, to numb the pain, and feel hopeless.

Maybe they are afraid, and don't know who to turn to.

## What can YOU do?

**PRAY.** Pray for those who are being trafficked this holiday season. History shows that an increase in trafficking occurs during the holidays. Why? Maybe we've let our guard down as helpful organizations take time off at the holidays and resources are limited. Vulnerable, hurting people are everywhere. People are looking for quick cash. Some children dread the family festivities because they know what may happen during the family get-together. Pray for God to bring people into your life that you can minister to.

**GIVE.** Give of your time and resources. Do you have talents and abilities that could be used to help us finish the house? Has God blessed you with financial resources that you could share with Next Step Ministries? Ask yourself how you can help those who are hurting. Is there someone God has placed in your path that needs a listening ear? Or needs a hot meal? Or needs to know the ONE who created all things?

**REMEMBER.** Remember that people everywhere are hurting and need to know the love of Jesus. Jesus. The only ONE who can set souls free. Jesus. The answer to life. Jesus. The Savior of souls and redeemer of mankind.

**REJOICE.** Rejoice in your salvation. Rejoice that God is still on His throne. Rejoice that God has given us His Word. Rejoice that God is a just and fair God. Rejoice in all things.

# Prayer Requests

Pray for the victims of sex trafficking...for their strength and salvation.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me. Psalm 138:7

Pray for the church to awaken to the issue.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Isaiah 60:1-2

Pray for Next Step Ministries to have divine favor.

Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. Psalm 5:12

Pray for monthly financial supporters, so an executive director can be hired.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

Pray that God will be working in the lives of future employees.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3

***ALL YEAR END DONATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2023***

Next Step Ministries is here to help women who have escaped sex trafficking. We are a non-profit organization, we do not receive government funding and solely rely on the support of our faithful donors who desire to help others start a new and beautiful beginning with a life of FREEDOM! If you would like to support us please see the donation form below. You can mail it to: P O Box 1822, Salina, KS 67401

## Become a Ministry Partner Today!

### Donation

- \$ 25.00 - Hebrews 13:16
- \$ 50.00 - Galatians 6:9
- \$ 75.00 - Philippians 4:19
- \$100.00 - Psalms 121:1-2
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ - Other Amount
- Show my support by making this a monthly donation

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# WORKDAYS>>>

November work day was cold and rainy but thanks to our volunteers we had all but 1 window on the 1st floor installed and were able to get 3 of the 2nd floor windows installed. Praise the Lord! We are seeking skilled volunteers to help! Please get ahold of a board member or email us if you can help.

We have not determined when our next workday will be...Stay Tuned

**Please email [nextsteptruth@gmail.com](mailto:nextsteptruth@gmail.com) or let a board member know if you are able to help.**

*Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas*



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