



DOING
THE MOST
GOODSM

The Salvation Army

Missions Refined

Florida Divisional Headquarters' Mission Department

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Earnest Prayers and Shocking Answers

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Galatians 6:14

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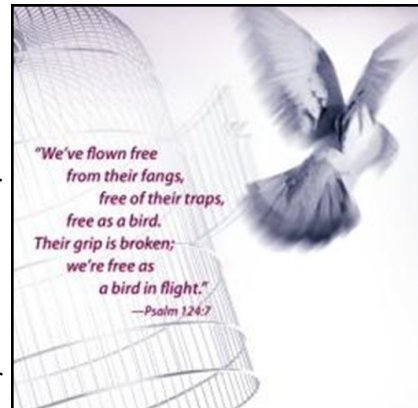
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The Salvation Army held the Fifth Annual International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for the Victims of Sexual Trafficking on September 24-26, 2010. People from all over the world gathered together to pray, fast, and prayer walk against this enslaving injustice. The Tampa Bay area partnered locally with other organizations to hold this weekend. Utilizing resources from NHQ, The Salvation Army Tampa Worship Center set up seven prayer stations with specified prayer needs for God to break the chains of the captives of the sex industry, the oppressors, the male demand and consumption of sex, and the healing of the victims. Other resources from NHQ included prayer walk and fasting guides.

A small group of committed of individuals

gladly took up this fight and tapped into the resources that were provided. A group of seven young adults came out for a prayer walk in Tampa on Dale Mabry,



one of the busiest areas in Tampa. They prayed over strip clubs, restaurants, and clinics. They stopped under trees, in parking lots, and where ever else their surrendered hearts would venture. The emphasis for this prayer walk was the Holy Spirit period.

Their first, and unexpected, encounter was

with a young adult named Jake*. At the discernment of the Spirit, the group decided to chat with Jake, who was dropping off his roommate's girlfriend at her job at the strip club. Throughout this conversation, they learned that Jake used to be very active in his youth group, was very open to prayer, but he was completely ensnared by a pain killer addiction. He seemed very down-trodden at his current place in life. The group knew that because of his mounting conviction they

needed to pray over him. As they ended their prayer, they began to let go of each other's hands, but Jake then started to pray for them! He prayed for their protection, boldness, effectiveness, and blessing of the Spirit. Needless to say, it was a very moving experience and the group walked away more filled than they

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began. Throughout the rest of the walk, God brought to their minds scripture that compelled them more to fight against the consumption of sex in society. Each encounter and place had a unique impact on each person, but ultimately the prayer walk taught the small group that the fight against the sexualization of our culture begins in the individual heart of the Christian. This lesson was absolutely solidified the next day through the prayer stations.

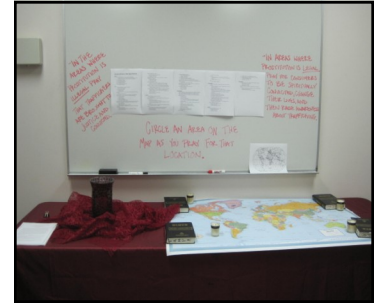
The seven prayer stations had scriptural callings, and facts laced with the human necessity for prayer and action. Attempts to not cry were futile as God's grief over His children overwhelmed the rooms. About thirty individuals from The Salvation Army and other organizations came through the prayer stations throughout the entire day. At the end of the day, everyone gathered for corporate worship. This time of worship reminded us that God is powerful and mighty to break these chains.

Human trafficking Detective James McBride spoke briefly about the reality of sexual trafficking. He spoke of the need to educate, and train the Tampa Bay community. Lt. Ariam Kidane gave the devotional and she

challenged the group to individual action against injustice. She emphasized the importance of not waiting for everyone else to do it, or waiting for a leader to take you to the fight, but pointed to scripture where God calls His people to stand now, and believe in the very things that they pray for!

The whole weekend was extraordinarily powerful, and the individuals who participated were hopeful for God to hear the cries from all over the world. It turned out they were as hopeful as those who gathered at Mary, John's mother's, house and prayed earnestly for Peter's freedom from prison in Acts 12: 12-17. They were shocked when Peter actually came knocking! Their earnest prayers were answered!

On November 8, 2010, news broke of a nationwide crackdown of 69 child prostitutes and the arrest of 884 individuals in 40 cities including 99 suspected pimps. Four of the child prostitutes were here in the Tampa Bay area. As the emails began to swirl with excitement and joy, many individuals were truly shocked at this progress. At this shock, everyone realized, "Wow, how quick we were to not con-



nect this crackdown to the prayers and fasts throughout the world, God answered our earnest prayers!"

Prayers are still crying out to the Lord for these injustices, but with affirmed faith, many people are praying for the healing promises of Isaiah 61:1-3.

Not only is God breaking these chains daily, but He also is freeing Jake of his pain killer addiction. God had bigger plans than just that one encounter between the seven young adults and Jake in the strip club parking lot. The young adults go The Salvation Army ARC in Tampa for lunch on Sundays and on one particular day, there Jake was, serving up the food. God led him to rehabilitation! They were overwhelmed with joy that God heard their intercession for Jake. This time, they were quick to look to God in joy and thanksgiving at His not so coincidental, but affirming work.

*Name Change