



Although my main topic this week is another subject that's no fun to contemplate, let me begin with a happier thought. We are excited to welcome our own **Rebecca Canfield** as our new "Techre tary," with her first day on the job being yesterday!

Our ADMIN, Technology and Personnel Teams have worked for some months now to refine our needs for administrative help, and Rebecca is wonderfully qualified to meet these needs! While Rebecca will do some "normal" secretarial things such as preparing the worship order, various forms and reports, and room reservations, the primary foci of her work will be elsewhere, as I'll mention in a moment.

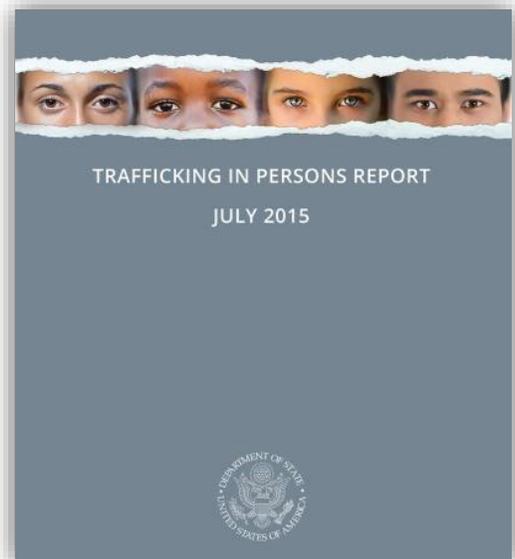
First, though, I want to offer a HUGE THANK YOU!! to **Terry Burks**, who has copied, folded, and prepared our weekly worship orders since Peggy retired; and to **Carol Batson**, who has managed our room reservations during this period. We'd have had a hard time getting through without you!! For future room reservations, kindly contact Rebecca at mycbf.md@gmail.com.

Rebecca's primary responsibilities will be three, and, since they can mostly be done from any Internet location, she will likely not have regular hours in the office (she's being employed for c. 10 hours per week).

1. Develop and maintain an updated website, www.columbiabaptistfellowship.org, which she will do in conjunction with our Technology Team (**Jon Goldsmith** is Team Leader), and especially with **Megan Larko**, our architect and guru of most things computer-related. The new website isn't up yet (the previous one still works), but you'll be seeing some nice changes before long.
2. Become our primary staff resource for ACS, our church management software. This will include keeping the "people" side of ACS up-to-date (you'll be hearing more about that as time goes by) as well as assisting **Barrie** and our ADMIN Team with weekly posting of contributions to the "finance" side of ACS.
3. Develop creative approaches to congregational involvement with social media and other developing technologies. Part of this will have to do with helping us learn how to produce DVDs of our worship services.

Thank you for helping me express a hearty welcome to **Rebecca** in this new role!

On a very different note, the State Department published its annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* last week. I've appended the first part of this report with this *Laptop*, but I've included below some of the introductory materials to remind us all about what we're talking about here. The sad fact of the matter is



that there are more persons in slavery of one sort or another at this moment than at any previous time in history . . . and we can do something about this!

The following excerpts come from various portions of the attachment:

“Human trafficking has no boundaries and respects no laws. It exists in formal and informal labor markets of both lawful and illicit industries, affecting skilled and unskilled workers from a spectrum of educational backgrounds. Victims include adults and children, foreign nationals and citizens, those who travel far—whether through legal or illegal channels—only to be subjected to exploitation, and those who have been exploited without ever leaving their hometowns.

“The fluid nature of the crime means traffickers can target vulnerable workers anywhere to fill labor shortages everywhere along a supply chain. In the electronics sector, for example, human trafficking may exist in the extractive stages (mining for raw material), in the component manufacturing stage (where separate pieces are produced or combined), and in the production stage (where a good is assembled and packaged in a factory).



Fisherman raise their hands when asked who among them would like to go home, after their release was secured from a situation of forced labor on a fishing vessel.

“Risks are present in the service sector, as well as in the production of goods. The sheets in a hotel may be made with cotton harvested by forced labor, the housekeeper cleaning the room may be exploited in labor trafficking, and the room itself may be used as a temporary brothel by sex traffickers. The international community must both understand the supply chains of the products used to provide a service (hotel sheets, airplane parts, medical equipment) and also examine the risks to those workers who provide them (house cleaners, caregivers, dishwashers).

“Although human trafficking is found in many trades, the risk is more pronounced in industries that rely upon low-skilled or unskilled labor. This includes jobs that are dirty, dangerous, and difficult—those that are typically low-paying and undervalued by society and are often filled by socially marginalized groups including migrants, people with disabilities, or minorities.

“Risks may also be higher in industries of a seasonal nature or where the turn-around time for production is extremely short. In these industries, the demand for labor increases drastically at the time of harvest or when a new product—be it a smartphone or a roadway—must be manufactured within a strict timeframe. For example, East and South Asian migrant

workers in the garment sector are vulnerable to forced labor and labor exploitation, including long working hours and forced overtime, especially during periods of high consumer demand.

“The urgency to hire employees can also result in a dependence on labor recruiters and their agents, which in turn creates layers of separation between the employer and the worker.

This disconnect means that employers can be unaware of bad practices related to hiring within their operations, leaving workers exposed to exploitation.

“Finally, in industries where fierce competition leads to constant downward pressure on prices, some employers respond by taking cost-cutting measures to survive commercially, from reducing wages or ignoring safety protocols, to holding workers in compelled service through debt bondage or the retention of identity documents.

“As the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated in 2014, forced labor in the private economy reaps some \$150 billion in illicit profits each year; most instances of what the *Trafficking in Persons Report* refers to as human trafficking are covered by ILO’s definition of forced labor. These billions flood the formal marketplace, corrupt the global economy, and taint purchases made by unwitting consumers. Long and complex supply chains that cross multiple borders and rely on an array of subcontractors impede traceability and make it challenging to verify that the goods and services bought and sold every day are untouched by modern-day slaves.

“This means consumers of goods and services may be connected to human trafficking more closely than they imagine—connected, however indirectly, to the man in the Amazon compelled to

mine for gold and to the woman forced into prostitution in that same mining camp; linked to the construction worker in the Gulf who is unable to leave an exploitative situation and to the woman in Indonesia who accepts a job as a caregiver and is instead made to work in a brothel; tied to the child in West African cocoa fields who is compelled to work instead of going to school; and to the Native American teenager who runs away from home and ends up a victim of sex trafficking near the oil fields in North America.”

Here are a few more definitions and explanations:

SEX TRAFFICKING: When an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, as the result of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion or any combination of such means, that person is a victim of trafficking. Under such circumstances, perpetrators involved in recruiting, harboring, enticing, transporting, providing, obtaining, or maintaining a person for that purpose are guilty of the sex trafficking of an adult. Sex trafficking also may occur within debt bondage, as individuals are forced to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful “debt,” purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their crude “sale”—which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free. An adult’s consent to participate in prostitution is not legally determinative: if one is thereafter held in service through psychological manipulation or physical force, he or she is a trafficking victim and should receive benefits outlined in the Palermo Protocol and applicable domestic laws.



CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING: When a child (under 18 years of age) is recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, or maintained to perform a commercial sex act, proving force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary for the offense to be characterized as human trafficking. There are no exceptions to this rule: no cultural or socioeconomic rationalizations alter the fact that children who are prostituted are trafficking victims. The use of children in the commercial sex trade is prohibited under U.S. law and by statute in most countries around the world. Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for children, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/ AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and even death.

FORCED LABOR: Forced labor, sometimes also referred to as labor trafficking, encompasses the range of activities—recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining—involved when a person uses force or physical threats, psychological coercion, abuse of the legal process, deception, or other coercive means to compel someone to work. Once a person's labor is exploited by such means, the person's prior consent to work for an employer is legally irrelevant: the employer is a trafficker and the employee a trafficking victim. Migrants are particularly vulnerable to this form of human trafficking, but individuals also may be forced into labor in their own countries. Female victims of forced or bonded labor, especially women and girls in domestic servitude, are often sexually exploited as well.



BONDED LABOR OR DEBT BONDAGE: One form of coercion is the use of a bond or debt. Some workers inherit debt; for example, in South Asia it is estimated that there are millions of trafficking victims working to pay off their ancestors' debts. Others fall victim to traffickers or recruiters who unlawfully exploit an initial debt assumed, wittingly or unwittingly,

as a term of employment. Debts taken on by migrant laborers in their countries of origin, often with the involvement of labor agencies and employers in the destination country, can also contribute to a situation of debt bondage. Such circumstances may occur in the context of employment-based temporary work programs in which a worker's legal status in the destination country is tied to the employer and workers fear seeking redress.

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE: Involuntary domestic servitude is a form of human trafficking found in distinct circumstances—work in a private residence—that creates unique vulnerabilities for victims. It is a crime in which a domestic worker is not free to leave her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all. Many domestic workers do not receive the basic benefits and protections commonly extended to other groups of workers—things as simple as a day off. Moreover, their ability to move freely is often limited, and employment in private homes increases their vulnerability and isolation.

Authorities cannot inspect homes as easily as formal workplaces, and in many cases do not have the mandate or capacity to do so. Domestic workers, especially women, confront various forms of abuse, harassment, and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence. These symptoms, taken together, may be symptoms of a situation of involuntary servitude.

FORCED CHILD LABOR: Although children may legally engage in certain forms of work, children can also be found in slavery or slavery-like situations. Some indicators of forced labor of a child include situations in which the child appears to be in the custody of a non-family member who requires the child to perform work that financially benefits someone outside the child’s family and does not offer the child the option of leaving. Anti-trafficking responses should supplement, not replace, traditional actions against child labor, such as remediation and education. When children are enslaved, their abusers should not escape punishment through weaker administrative responses to such abusive child labor practices.



UNLAWFUL RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS: Child soldiering is a manifestation of human trafficking when it involves the unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—by armed forces as combatants or for other forms of labor. Some child soldiers are also sexually exploited by armed groups. Perpetrators may be government armed forces, paramilitary organizations, or rebel groups. Many children are forcibly abducted to be used as combatants. Others are made to work as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Young girls can be forced to marry or have sex with commanders and male combatants. Both male and female child soldiers are often sexually abused and are at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.” ~~~

As you may know, there is a current groundswell of outrage about the more-or-less illegal killing of a famous lion in Zimbabwe last week by an American hunter. Sad as that is, and while we should certainly be concerned about the protection of the world’s wildlife, **how much more should we be concerned about the protection of the most vulnerable humans on our planet?!?** I have several invitations for very specific ways you can become involved.

There are a number of governments, NGOs, and Christian ministries that work to combat human trafficking. One of the Christian groups is **International Justice Ministries** in DC, to which Jill and I contribute every month (www.ijm.org). IJM is having their annual *Human Trafficking Advocacy Summit* in DC on September 21-22, and I invite you to go with me (it costs \$40).

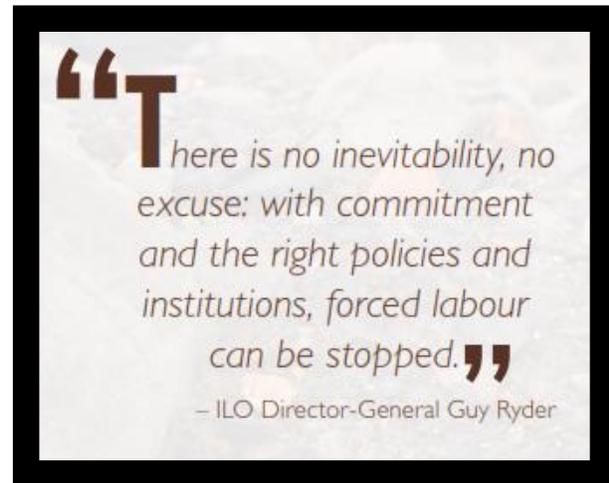
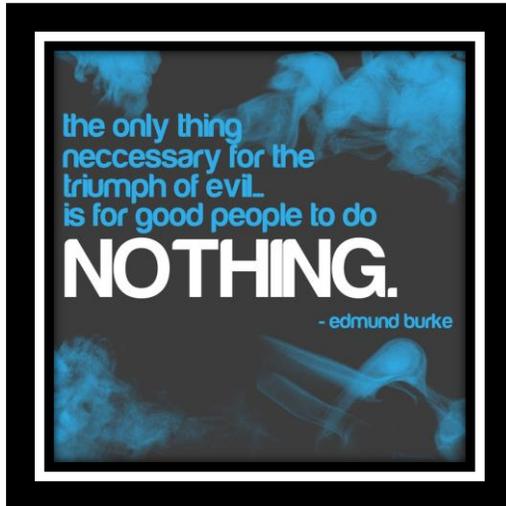


I’m actually only going on the 22nd, because I’ll be in Philadelphia on the 21st attending a training session with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) about how to conduct citizenship classes for our neighbors in Oakland Mills

who have that need. The USCIS conference is free, and you're invited to come with me to that, too, but you'll need to register at www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/training-seminars.

Now that you **KNOW**, what will you **DO** to make a difference?

Dave



HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED

The TVPA defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as:

- > sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- > the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

A victim need **not** be physically transported from one location to another in order for the crime to fall within these definitions.