

“Let My People Go!”

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;
ensure justice for those who are perishing” (Proverbs 31:8) ¹
Responsive reading, “Rescue the Perishing”

Two weeks ago we shared a responsive reading about the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., entitled, “Let My People Go!” and this morning we continue that theme for the first Sunday of Black History Month. My sermons this month are inspired by African American spirituals in four categories: “The Bible Story”; “Times of Trouble”; “True Testimony”; and “Heaven Bound.” These four categories and some of the graphics that you will see each week come from Timothy Botts’ book, *Bound for Glory: Celebrating the Gift of African American Spirituals through Expressive Calligraphy*.²

The obvious biblical anchor for a sermon about “Let My People Go!” would be to use the story of Moses before Pharaoh in the original story of the Exodus (Exodus 4-14), and that’s where my thinking began this week. But as my thoughts moved on from Moses’ cry before Pharaoh, I wondered again about a question that haunts me from time to time.

That troubling question has to do with wondering whether, had I been pastoring in Germany in the 1930’s or in Mississippi in the 1960’s, I would have had the wisdom to understand the world-shaping events taking place around me, and if so, whether I would have had the courage to take the risks involved in doing the right thing.

After asking myself that question, I usually go on to ask myself whether or not I have the wisdom to understand the world-shaping events taking place around me right now. Today’s message has to do with such events.

Before we talk about the present moment, though, I invite you to travel back in time with me to the year 1736. It was in that year, when he was eleven years old, that John Newton went to sea with his father, a commander in the British merchant service. Eventually, John deserted the service, was recaptured, and was sold into slavery off the coast of Sierra Leone. As a servant to a slave-trader, John suffered brutal persecution before eventually purchasing a share in the slave business himself. Later, as a slave ship captain, John Newton sold more than 20,000 fellow human beings into captivity.

One night while he was steering his ship through a dangerous storm, Newton experienced a great conversion, and placed his faith in the risen Christ. In the years that followed, Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God’s amazing forgiveness, and he was a mentor to William Wilberforce, the Member of Parliament who led the fight to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire.

On February 23, 1807, after twenty years of Wilberforce’s heartbreaking toil, Parliament passed a Bill for the Abolition of the Slave Trade by a margin of 283 to 16. On the two hundredth anniversary of that abolition, the wonderful movie, *Amazing Grace*,³ opened to tell the story of how God worked through John Newton and William Wilberforce to accomplish that release.

After he left the slave trade, Newton became an Anglican minister, and he wrote the hymn *Amazing Grace* about 1773. In the years since, *Amazing Grace* has become one of the favorite hymns in all Christendom. The hymn was sung to a variety of tunes until the tune we know was

¹ A sermon by Dr. David C. Stancil, delivered at the Columbia Baptist Fellowship in Columbia, Maryland, on February 2, 2014.

² Timothy R. Botts, *Bound for Glory: Celebrating the Gift of African American Spirituals through Expressive Calligraphy*, with reflections by Patrician Raybon (Tyndale, 2011).

³ *Amazing Grace*, directed by Michael Apted, Walden Media, 2006.

paired with it in 1835. The final stanza—“When we’ve been there ten thousand years”—wasn’t added until 1909.

While many of us this morning may comfort ourselves with the thought that slavery is a tragic relic of the past, our task this morning is to discover how dreadfully wrong that impression is. The truth of the matter is that experts estimate that there are somewhere between 21 and 27 *million* human beings held as slaves around our world *at this very moment*.⁴

These persons are not slaves in some metaphorical sense—they are being held *right now* in brutal forced slavery by other human beings. The sad truth is that there are actually two and a half times as many slaves in the world as we sit here this morning than were deported from Africa during all 400 years of the awful trans-Atlantic slave trade: 27 million now versus 11 million then.⁵

When Wilberforce succeeded in abolishing slavery in the British Empire in 1807, British ships were enslaving between 40,000 and 50,000 persons a year. While that is a truly horrific number, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) believes that in our time, perhaps as many as a *million children* are being enslaved *every year*—to say nothing of the millions of adults held in other forms of slavery in the gold mines, rock quarries, brick kilns, sugar cane plantations, rice mills, and garment factories of our world.

This morning’s message has been no fun to research or to write, and it won’t be much fun to hear, either. But the realities are far harsher than what you’ll hear this morning, and the online version of this sermon will provide links to a number of websites where you can learn more.

In place of my original title, as my research progressed I renamed this message “Rescue the Perishing,” and we’ll end the service by singing that hymn. To “perish” means “to become destroyed or ruined,” and we’re going to look briefly at three ways in which human lives are perishing in our world today.

Two of the most common forms of modern-day slavery are **forced labor** and **forced prostitution**; and for the perishing victims of this slavery, rescue is not an abstract concept but an urgent and a desperate need. We’ll look at forced labor first.

Forced labor slaves are usually owned by an employer to whom the slave or the slave’s family is indebted. They are forced to work long hours, often seven days a week, for meager wages, if any, attempting to pay back a debt that increases in fantastic and fabricated ways. In reality, there is no way to repay the increasingly-fictionalized debt, and laborers essentially become slaves for life. Many of these slaves are children who are beaten and abused if they don’t fulfill the cruel expectations of their owners.

The U.S. Department of State has documented slave labor in well over 100 different nations; and in 2004, one of the slaves in one of those nations was a man named **Nagaraj**. Nagaraj grew up in a brick kiln, working as slave from the age of twelve. It was bad enough being a slave himself, but it was far worse seeing his own children grow up as another man’s property. Forbidden to go to school, Nagaraj’s children worked exhausting hours alongside other laborers in the searing heat of the kiln.

⁴ www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_181961/lang--en/index.htm

⁵ *National Geographic*, September 2003; http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0309/feature1/http://www.amazinggracemovie.com/slavery_timeline.php

In 2004, **International Justice Mission**⁶ and local authorities raided the brick kiln, resulting in the release of seventy-eight men and their families who had been held as slaves. Nagaraj now owns and operates his own brick kiln, and his children are free to go to school. That's part of what it means to "rescue the perishing," by God's amazing grace.

Like other such organizations, International Justice Mission investigates and documents cases of forced labor slavery and then works with local law enforcement within the country's legal system to emancipate the slaves and bring the slaveholders to justice. IJM also works to secure quality aftercare for the victims and structural transformation for their societies.

As terrible as the slavery of forced labor is, **sexual slavery** is even more horrific. Just this week, CNN reported on the death of one of the 200,000 Japanese "comfort women" who were forced to serve as sexual slaves for the Japanese Army in World War II.⁷ But again, dreadful as that was, it pales beside current realities. Here are just a few examples:

When **Moon** was twelve weeks old, her birth mother sold her to a Burmese woman who raised her as a slave. When Moon was three years old, she was forced to wash dishes in a restaurant eight hours a day. When she turned thirteen, Moon was sold into sexual slavery.⁸

After a while, Mark and Christa Crawford of **International Justice Mission** were able to work with local authorities to rescue Moon. The Crawfords are among a growing number of Christians who are working to show the love of Jesus by reaching out to sexually exploited persons. They offer counseling, discipleship, and spiritual healing for the wounds of sexual trauma and lead many women to Christ. We'll come back to Moon in a moment.

Rosa's introduction to sexual trafficking began with what seemed to be an innocent offer in her own home in Veracruz, Mexico. A man promised her much more money cleaning hotel rooms in the United States than she could make in Mexico. With her parents' permission, Rosa was smuggled across the border into Texas before being taken to Orlando, Florida.

Fourteen-year-old Rosa then learned that she had been brought into this country to be a sexual slave. Until her rescue, three months later, she was forced to work as a prostitute, constantly guarded and moved to a different trailer every fifteen days.

Miya, nineteen, was also betrayed into sexual slavery. According to ABC News, Miya was selling sunglasses at a Phoenix, Arizona mall as one of three jobs she worked to save money for college. A couple approached her and invited her to a restaurant where they convinced her to try a brief modeling stint in California. She agreed, only to find herself enslaved in prostitution when she arrived.⁹

If you've seen the movie, *12 Years a Slave*,¹⁰ the true story of the deception that enslaved Solomon Northup right across the river in our nation's capital before the Civil War, you recognize that the deceptions of our time follow a well-traveled path. Watching that film is a painful

⁶ www.ijm.org. IJM President Gary Haugen was previously the UN's Investigator in Charge in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide.

⁷ www.cnn.com/2014/01/26/world/asia/comfort-woman-dies; see also "Sex slaves testify against Japan," *Bristol Herald-Courier*, Friday, February 16, 2007, A4.

⁸ Dawn Herzog Jewell, "Red Light Rescue," *Christianity Today*, January 2007, 37
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/january/16.29.html>

⁹ Tom Strode, "Sex Trafficking: The Modern Slave Trade," *Faith & Family Values*, 2007:1, 10-11.

¹⁰ *12 Years a Slave*, directed by Steve McQueen (Fox Searchlight Pictures, 2013), based on the 1853 memoir of Solomon Northup.

experience, mitigated only a little by the fact that those events took place over 150 years ago. But it is even more painful to realize that the web of deception that enslaved Rosa and Miya and millions of others with them is not “long, long ago and far, far away.” According to the State Department’s latest estimates, somewhere between 14,500 and 17,500 persons—mostly women and children—are brought into this country as sexual slaves every year.¹¹

Globally, UNICEF estimates that as many as 400,000 *children* enter the worldwide industry of commercial sexual exploitation every year. Sexual predators travel the world on “sex tours,” where the average victim is fourteen years old . . . and perhaps as many as twenty-five percent of such customers are Americans.¹²

This is all pretty depressing; but let me tell you the rest of Moon’s story: After Moon’s rescue, the Crawfords helped her establish a legitimate business selling souvenirs, and she was soon married with two children. In 2005, the Crawfords made a microloan of \$200 to Moon and her husband so they could launch a motorcycle taxi business. Their business soon began to earn as much as \$5 a day, which was twice what was required to meet their basic needs.

Moon’s husband became a Christian in 2006, and now he reads the Bible with her every day. Local women taught Moon to read and write while they taught her how to follow Jesus. And Moon was eventually able to assist in the rescue of a sixteen-year-old girl from the life she herself had previously known. That’s part of what it means to “rescue the perishing,” by God’s amazing grace.

There’s one more category of persons who are perishing that I need to mention. This third situation was highlighted by President Obama in this week’s State of the Union address. I speak of persons here and around the world who, although literally enslaved, live in terrible poverty, a condition that is often—though not always—a kind of **economic slavery**.

As the President pointed out on Tuesday, the Federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25 an hour, as is the minimum wage in Maryland. That means that a person working full-time at minimum wage earns \$15,080 a year, which wouldn’t put a roof over your head in Howard County.

Yes, persons should do all they can to complete their education and prepare themselves for better employment, but even if persons are “doing everything right,” it’s pretty hard to try to get out of an economic situation in which husband and wife, both working full time at minimum wage, make \$30,160 before taxes. The Maryland Senate is currently considering legislation (S.B. 331) that would increase the minimum wage in Maryland to \$8.20 this summer, \$9.15 next summer, \$10.10 in 2016, and then indexing Maryland’s minimum wage to the cost of living from 2017 onward.¹³ That would surely seem to be the right thing to do.

While raising the minimum wage always has naysayers—one Virginia restaurateur commented that “Nobody in the restaurant business in Virginia pays minimum wage anyway”¹⁴—I suggest to you that such a situation might best be understood as an economic slavery by which the rich get richer—and you and I have dinner—on the backs of the poor.

If the minimum wage had kept up with inflation for the last forty years, it would be \$10.74 today.¹⁵ And for tipped workers, like restaurant servers, carwash attendants, and the like, the

¹¹ www.protectionproject.org

¹² www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/faqs/faqs.html#tourism

¹³ <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2014RS/bills/sb/sb0331F.pdf>

¹⁴ “Minimum-wage hike makes it to House floor,” *Bristol Herald-Courier*, Friday, February 16, 2007, B1

¹⁵ www.raisetheminimumwage.com

Federal minimum wage is just \$2.13 an hour.¹⁶ In Maryland, it's a tiny bit better at \$3.62.¹⁷ Would you like to try to live on that?¹⁸

The question before us, then, is how to respond in the Name of Jesus to such needs as these. It seems to me that a good place to start would be to visit some of the websites that deal with these issues, learn all you can, sign up for their newsletters, and then make financial contributions to their work. Here are some with which you might begin:

- **The Rescue & Restore Program** of the Department of Health and Human Services, which could accurately be called the Underground Railroad of our time www.rescueandrestore.org. You can learn much by watching their YouTube video, *Look Beneath the Surface*.¹⁹
- **The Polaris Project** runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline and provides many other resources at www.polarisproject.org.
- The **International Justice Mission** is a Christian organization with a global reach to which I contribute regularly. www.ijm.org
- **The Protection Project** of Johns Hopkins University works to eliminate human rights violations around the world and provides an outstanding array of resources. www.protectionproject.org
- **End Slavery Now** is a news and information site on issues related to modern slavery for “everyday abolitionists” at www.endslaverynow.com.
- If you're brave enough to find out how many slaves you are employing to serve your needs at this very moment, visit www.slaveryfootprint.org.
- www.humantrafficking.org and www.unicefusa.org/campaigns/end-trafficking/ are two other informational websites
- Finally, the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center** can help you determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking, identify local resources available to help victims, and coordinate with local social service organizations to assist victims so they can begin the process of restoring their lives. www.traffickingresourcecenter.org
- Other resources will be available with this sermon as posted online, including ten global maps that graphically illustrate the magnitude of this Darkness.

My friends, the Bible takes these issues with utmost seriousness, to the extent of prescribing that “*anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper's possession*” (Exodus 21:16). And, while we might not choose to go that far, the Bible does tell us to “*speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those who are perishing*” (Proverbs 31:8), and one fundamental way to “speak up” is to pray. Here are four ways to pray for the perishing we've considered this morning:

1. Ask God to comfort and protect all who are held in slavery and awaiting rescue. Pray for the full restoration of those who have already been rescued.
2. Ask God to inspire and equip local governments to combat slavery.
3. Pray for the Christians in the areas of the world where slavery is rampant, asking God to give them conviction, wisdom and courage so that they might intervene to stop this violence.

¹⁶ <http://consumerist.com/2014/01/28/proposed-minimum-wage-increase-would-give-tipped-workers-first-raise-since-1991>

¹⁷ www.dol.gov/whd/state/tipped.htm#Maryland

¹⁸ Two people working full-time at the Federal Minimum Wage would make \$30,160. The current poverty level for a family of four is \$23,850. www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-FPL/

¹⁹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqyzW84I3Dc

4. Pray that God will awaken Christians around the world—including those of us who sit here this morning—to the biblical mandate to seek justice for the enslaved who cannot rescue themselves.

With God's help, we can Rescue the Perishing, together, today.

Rescue the Perishing

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

*Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.*

Tho' they are slighting Him, Still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly, Plead with them gently,
He will forgive if they only believe.

Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way Patiently win them,
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.

Additional Resources

- Health & Human Services: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti-trafficking
- The movie, *12 Years a Slave*²⁰
- www.raisetheminimumwage.com

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex or forced labor. They are young children, teenagers, men and women. Trafficking in persons occurs throughout the world, including in the United States.

Many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or the sex entertainment industry, but trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Victims of labor trafficking who have been identified in the United States include domestic servants, restaurant staff, hotel employees, factory workers and agricultural laborers.

Traffickers use various techniques to control their victims and keep them enslaved. Some traffickers hold their victims under lock and key. However, the more frequent practice is to use less obvious techniques including:

- Debt bondage – enormous financial obligations or undefined/increasing debt
- Isolation from the public - limiting contact with outsiders and making sure that any contact is monitored or superficial in nature
- Isolation from family members and members of their ethnic and religious community
- Confiscation of passports, visas and/or identification documents
- Use or threat of violence toward victims and/or family members
- The threat of shaming victims by exposing circumstances to family
- Telling victims they will be imprisoned or deported for immigration violations if they contact authorities
- Control of the victims' money - e.g., holding their money for “safe-keeping”

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) made trafficking in persons a federal crime. It was enacted to prevent human trafficking overseas, to protect victims and help them rebuild their lives in the United States, and to prosecute traffickers in human beings and impose federal penalties. Prior to enactment of the TVPA, no comprehensive federal law existed to protect victims of trafficking or to prosecute their traffickers. The TVPA has been reauthorized and amended four times since 2000.²¹

Although the U.N. officially estimates that some 2.4 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking at any one time, with 80 percent of them being exploited as sexual slaves,²² social scientists believe that this number is closer to 27 million persons.²³

“Forceful violence is used especially during the early stages of victimization, known as the ‘seasoning process,’ which is used to break victims’ resistance and make them easier to control.

²⁰ *12 Years a Slave*, directed by Steve McQueen (Fox Searchlight Pictures, 2013), based on the 1853 memoir of Solomon Northup.

²¹ www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/about-human-trafficking

²² www.humantrafficking.org/updates/893

²³ www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm

“Fraud often involves false offers that induce people into trafficking situations. For example, women and children will reply to advertisements promising jobs as waitresses, maids, and dancers in other countries and are then trafficked for purposes of prostitution once they arrive at their destinations.

“Traffickers often threaten victims with injury or death, or the safety of the victims’ families back home. Traffickers commonly take away the victims’ travel documents and isolate them to make escape more difficult.

The Slavery of Forced Labor

The largest component of those held today in conditions of slavery are victims of bonded labor, a highly prevalent crime in South Asian countries. Although illegal, the practice of exploiting the labor of men, women and children to pay small debts has resulted in as many as ten to twenty million low-caste bonded labor slaves in low or no-wage industries, including brick kilns, rice mills, and quarries.²⁴

“Forced labor slavery is the use of deception, threats or violence to compel someone to labor without pay or for no pay beyond the substance necessary to continue the labor. It is called by many names, including debt bondage and forced labor, and is a form of modern slavery.

“Modern-day slaves face brutal conditions in rock quarries, rice mills, brick kilns, fisheries, garment factories and many other industries around the world. Victims of slavery are often deprived of the freedom of movement, unable to leave the facility where they are forced to work and unable to seek employment elsewhere. Forced laborers are also often victims of violent physical and sexual abuse.

“Debt bondage is a common method used to entrap victims of slavery. In this illegal scheme, an employer offers a small loan (often as small as \$25) to a laborer, with the understanding that the loan will be repaid through work at the owner’s facility. The owner then ensures this repayment is impossible by refusing to pay the employee and inflating the loan through exorbitant interest rates, false charges, and denying requests for information on the status of the loan. The laborer is forbidden to leave the work facility until the loan is ‘repaid’ in full—despite the fact that the work already completed by the laborer should have fulfilled any obligation to the owner long ago. The employer becomes the laborer’s owner—and the loan’s conditions are often extended to relatives of the victim, including children, who are forced to work off a false and ever-growing debt.”

- There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today—more than at any other time in history.²⁵
- Children below the age of 18 years represent an estimated 26% of all forced labor victims.
- In a wide-reaching survey conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, approximately 40% of countries had not registered a single conviction against perpetrators of trafficking and slavery, which is crucial for deterrence.²⁶
- “Victims do not realize that their debts are often legally unenforceable and, in any event, that it is illegal for traffickers to dictate how they have to pay off their debts. In many

²⁴ www.thelocusteffect.com/sites/default/files/Forced_Labor_Slavery.pdf

²⁵ Kevin Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* (University of California Press, 2012).

²⁶ www.ijm.org/sites/default/files/resources/Factsheet-Forced-Labor-Slavery.pdf

cases, the victims are trapped into a cycle of debt because they have to pay for all living expenses in addition to the initial transportation expenses. Fines for not meeting daily quotas of service or 'bad' behavior are also used by some trafficking operations to increase debt. Most trafficked victims rarely see the money they are supposedly earning and may not even know the specific amount of their debt. Even if the victims sense that debt-bondage is unjust, it is difficult for them to find help because of language, social, and physical barriers that keep them from obtaining assistance."²⁷

The Slavery of Sex Trafficking

The sale of children for sexual exploitation is a common crime in many countries. Weak law enforcement and nonexistent child protection structures leave poor and migrant children highly vulnerable to trafficking for sex. Sexual exploitation is highly injurious to the physical and mental health of trafficking victims. Find out more about this crime and what is being done to stop it.²⁸

"Sex trafficking is a growing global enterprise driven by deception, coercion and force. Traffickers transport or detain their victims for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. This trade in rape-for-profit thrives in the absence of robust law enforcement to ensure the protection of the law for vulnerable children and women."

- After drug dealing, human trafficking (both sex trafficking and trafficking for forced labor) is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).
- Worldwide, there are nearly two million children in the commercial sex trade (UNICEF).
- There are an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 children, women, and men trafficked across international borders annually, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the United States (U.S. Department of State).
- Many victims trafficked into the United States do not speak and understand English and are therefore isolated and unable to communicate with service providers, law enforcement, and others who might be able to help them (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).
- Approximately 80 percent of human trafficking victims are women and girls, and up to 50 percent are minors (U.S. Department of State).
- The total market value of illicit human trafficking is estimated to be in excess of \$32 billion (U.N.).
- Sex trafficking is an engine of the global AIDS epidemic (U.S. Department of State).²⁹

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center can help you determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking, identify local resources available to help victims, and coordinate with local social service organizations to assist victims so they can begin the process of restoring their lives. If you think someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 1.888.3737.888 to obtain information and to access supportive services for the victim. www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

²⁷ www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/fact-sheet-human-trafficking

²⁸ www.thelocusteffect.com/sites/default/files/Sex_Trafficking.pdf

²⁹ www.ijm.org/sites/default/files/resources/Factsheet-Sex-Trafficking.pdf

Sex slaves can be trapped behind the doors of such establishments as modeling studios, massage parlors, escort services, bars, or strip clubs. Victims of forced labor can be agriculture workers, maids, restaurant employees, nannies, construction workers, or custodians. The following clues may help you identify a possible trafficking victim:

- Accompanied by a controlling person or boss; not speaking on own behalf;
- Lack of control over personal schedule, money, I.D., travel documents;
- Transported to or from work; lives and works in the same place;
- Debt owed to employer/crew leader; inability to leave job;
- Bruises and other untreated ailments;
- Appearing malnourished or dehydrated;
- Inadequate personal hygiene;
- Being unusually nervous, submissive, or fearful;
- In the case of prostitution, a steady influx of men.

These questions may help you identify a trafficking victim:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on the doors/windows so you cannot get out?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

Ten Amazing Facts about *Amazing Grace*

1. The words were written by a reformed British slave trader turned Anglican minister, John Newton, who wrote it to accompany a New Year's Day church service in 1773.
2. *Amazing Grace* is the most covered song in history. Over 3200 different recordings exist.
3. The tune we now associate with *Amazing Grace* wasn't matched to the words until 1835 in William Walker's Southern Harmony. Until then it was set to a variety of tunes.
4. The final stanza—"When we've been there ten thousand years"—was added by Edwin Othello Excell in 1909 and was taken from another hymn.
5. *Amazing Grace* is considered to be the anthem of the Cherokee Nation because the song was sung on the Trail of Tears during 1838-39.
6. The first gospel recording of *Amazing Grace* was made in 1926 by Rev. H. R. Tomlin.
7. Most of the recordings of *Amazing Grace* have been made since Judy Collins had a surprise pop hit with the song in 1971.
8. A survey of British teenagers in the mid-1970s found that the majority thought that *Amazing Grace* was a love song about a girl named Grace.
9. The popular bagpipe version recorded by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was based on the hit version by Judy Collins and was only added to an album as an afterthought. Later released as a single, it became a huge international hit.
10. *Amazing Grace* was sung at the funerals of Richard Nixon, Sonny Bono, Barry Goldwater, Joe DiMaggio and John Kennedy, Jr.