

FRESH *grace*

Focused **R**esolutions to **E**nd **S**lavery **H**ere

40 Day Prayer Journal

This simple 40 Day Prayer Journal is being provided as a focused guide for your prayers as we move, as a community, toward our training day on March 9, 2013.

We encourage you to seek God's face in how to address this evil in our society, and consider what He would call you to do in addressing it. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you each day as we take steps toward fulfilling directives God has given in His Word to care for those who are broken, hurting, and bound.

-the FRESH Grace team

ö[The] Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.ö
Isaiah 61:1

Captivity takes many different forms.

Please pray for all the captives involved in Human Trafficking.

Pray that God will free those who are bound and bind up their broken hearts.

Scripture references are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

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Day 1, Tuesday, January 29, 2013

They had just faced one of the greatest challenges of their lives and watched God move on their behalf. With the Red Sea behind them, they sang and danced over God's deliverance, happy in their safe place. The next part of their journey was wilderness, but on the other side was the Promised Land. They didn't leave comfort for hardship willingly. Moses had to pull them out and lead them forward.

Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur (Exodus 15:22a). There, they found bitter water and cried out as if abandoned, but God was there. He only wanted them to call to Him as their healer, and was waiting to lead them to a place of refreshment.

Father, you have shown me that you deserve my trust and I can follow you confidently. I have a tendency to find a comfortable place and want to stay there. Would you lead me through the challenges ahead, and would you provide refreshment and healing as I walk the path you lay out before me? I don't want to trade the Promises you've set aside for me for the uncertainty of what's ahead. Make me set out from my comfort zone, and then remind me of your constant presence and provision.

Day 2, Wednesday, January 30, 2013

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. (2 Chronicles 7:13-15)

Lord, our land is being devoured. Help us to seek You in humility, seek your grace and forgiveness, and as a people, turn to You. Lord, please heal our land. Lord, please raise up a vast number of intercessors who can be diligent in bringing to you the many requests concerning the issue of human trafficking. I pray that they will not grow weary in their calling out to you with the many needs.

Day 3, Thursday, January 31, 2013

The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. (Proverbs 29:7) (NIV)

Pray that God would soften our hearts to the needs of the poor and oppressed in our society. Pray that we would be moved to action on behalf of victims of labor and sex trafficking in our city and state.

Day 4, Friday, February 1, 2013

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3)

Lord God, Thank you for anointing us as your servants to be used to minister to the poor, broken, captive, and mourning. Would you open my eyes to those people in my path today, impress their needs on my heart and mind, and help me know how to respond so that you are glorified?

Day 5, Saturday, February 2, 2013

Some use Google calendar, some use a spiral planner, some use a monthly wall hanging, but we all plan our time. Though we don't know the number of our days, God does, and He invites us to use the allotted time for eternal influence. How do we know what matters most? How do we know how to spend our days?

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Giver of my time,

Only you know how many days I've been given and written in your book. You see my daily struggle to choose how to use my time, to set aside the lesser things and invest in what matters most. Would you guide me to know how it looks to pursue “what is good?” Show me what to deny, and help me to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” each day with you. Lay out a path for me that will lead to making a difference for you in the lives of those in desperate need of justice and kindness.

Day 6, Sunday, February 3, 2013

According to some reports, the average age a girl enters prostitution is 13. This is the same age when other girls are just beginning to explore their independence, experience physical changes, and experiment with relationships. With their future just far enough to be safe, but just close enough to be real, adolescent girls dare to hope that their lives will be good and blessed. Vulnerability often leads to a loss of hope.

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” (Lamentations 3:21-24)

My portion,

I can't imagine life without my hope in you, and yet so many victims of trafficking wake up daily without hope. I know that your dependable love doesn't fail, and your acts of mercy don't expire. In fact, thank you for a fresh display of your merciful heart and faithfulness every day. Please stir the hope in the hearts of those caught up in commercial sex exploitation, especially each morning when they can't face another day. Put someone in their lives or a phrase from your word in their path that will show them they can have new hope every day.

Day 7, Monday, February 4, 2013

“Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.” (Isaiah 10:1-2) (NIV)

Pray for our judges and lawmakers to have wisdom.

Day 8, Tuesday, February 5, 2013

With the development of legislation to respond to the rise in the trafficking of human lives, the scope of the crime has become more evident. As people discover the evil among them, linking their communities, their cities, and their states, the severity of the offense becomes more and more clear.

“Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.”
(Romans 5:20)

Grace-full God,

You are the only righteous judge who knows the thoughts and intents of the hearts of men. Would you show mankind how abhorrent human slavery is to you, the one who crafted men and women in your image? Would you strengthen the laws of governments to expose the sin of trafficking? As the bondage is revealed, would you welcome the perpetrators and victims to partake of your grace that is greater than any sin we commit?

Day 9, Wednesday, February 6, 2013

The crime of trafficking knows no boundaries when it comes to staking a claim in the lives and communities of the poor or the wealthy. Predators prey on the most vulnerable in every setting. To fight “the Game,” resources need to stand ready to assist those whose needs often made them targets.

“Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:10) (NIV)

Dear God,

You have given me all I need and often more. Thank you for being Jehovah Jireh, my provider. Teach me to hold loosely to the earthly things you have given me, and teach me to be a compassionate steward of what you’ve provided. Because you are the Lord my God, remind me of my duty to set aside some of my bounty for those in need.

Day 10, Thursday, February 7, 2013

“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” (Joel 2:13) (NIV)

Lord, you are my God,

and I praise you for being compassionate and slow to anger, full of love and reluctant to allow great trouble. Would you shower your compassion on those held captive in the bondage of human trafficking, would you help them to know your great love for them? Hold back the calamity in their lives while you work around them and in them to bring them to you.

Day 11, Friday, February 8, 2013

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV)

ōI am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.ö (John 15:5)

Father you are the true vine,

Would you draw me to you daily, so that I abide in you? I know I can only make a difference to those in bondage if I stay in you. As we seek you, would you let your love flow through us to bear much fruit?

Let us pray for the strengthening of all workers with the power that comes only from the Lord and not in their own strength. As they grasp the incredible and vast love of Christ, they will be overflowing with His fullness. It is only in Him that we can bring glory to Him and have victory in Him.

Day 12, Saturday, February 9, 2013

ōGive ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.ö (Psalm 86:6)

O Lord,

Thank you for listening to me when I call to you. I need your grace. There is nothing about me that deserves your favor or kindness, yet you love to give it. Would you listen to the prayers of those caught up in the lifestyle of the commercial sex industry, to their pleas uttered at moments when only you will hear? They may believe no one hears or cares. Please hear their cry for grace and let them know that you want to be their God.

Day 13, Sunday, February 10, 2013

ōI know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.ö (Psalm 140:12) (NIV)

Heavenly Father, we are grateful that we can trust you to take care of those in need in our community. We lift up the cause of illegally trafficked people in Tennessee, and thank you in advance for securing justice and freedom for each one of them.

Day 14, Monday, February 11, 2013

ōCome to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.ö (Matthew 11:28 ó NASB)

Ask God to provide rest for those coming out of the world of trafficking as they come to Him. They are tired and burdened and need His peace that passes understanding.

Day 15, Tuesday, February 12, 2013

ōBless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercyö (Psalm 103:1-4).

Praise God for His many benefits in your life, including the forgiveness and healing you have received. Ask Him to heal the physical and emotional diseases of those in bondage who have been living in the pit here in our city. Pray that those considering breaking free from trafficking would see the benefits of God's love and mercy when they call on Him to be their Healer.

Day 16, Wednesday, February 13, 2013

ōThere is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.ö (Proverbs 12:18)

Father, who you be the Lord of my words? Would you tame my rash words and teach me to use wisdom to bring healing and comfort to those hurt by hateful language? As I speak about trafficking, help me to be wise with my words. When I have the opportunity to talk with someone, knowingly or unknowingly, who has been tangled in the world of commercial sexual exploitation, help me to be a voice of kindness and wisdom to deliver your comfort.

Day 17, Thursday, February 14, 2013

ōAnd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.ö (John 1:14)

Precious Lord who became like us and lived among us, Who are we to have been invited to see your glory? Because you became a man like we are, you understand what it is to be despised, to be a captive, to be hated, to be rejected, to be used. Would you give those in the bondage of trafficking opportunities to hear that you do understand their pain? We praise you for being completely full of grace and truth, and we ask that your will would be accomplished in bringing that truth and grace where there is darkness.

Day 18, Friday, February 15, 2013

ōRescue me, O Lord, from evil men; protect me from men of violence.ö (Psalm 140:1) (NIV1984)

Dear Lord, please protect young women in Knoxville today from violent men who want to hurt and use them.

Day 19, Saturday, February 16, 2013

ōO Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.ö (Psalm 30:2)

Ask God to do a divine work of healing among the hearts and minds and bodies of those who have been brought of the darkness of trafficking. Pray that in cases where victims were caught up in exploitation at a young age, the Lord will restore their youth in a way only He can.

Day 20, Sunday, February 17, 2013

ōThere is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.ö (Romans 8:1)

Entreat the only wise God to enable government officials to bring perpetrators to justice under laws of the State of Tennessee, the United States, and foreign governments. As people are pronounced “guilty,” pray that they would hear the gospel of true forgiveness through prison ministries. As victims feel a deep sense of shame, pray that they would have hope in the freedom God promises through His Son, Christ Jesus.

Day 21, Monday, February 18, 2013

ōAnd Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” (Exodus 14:13-14)

O Lord who fights for Your people,

Would you defeat those who make a mockery of Your creation and Your truth? Would you raise up leaders and bring salvation for those in slavery? Help us not to be afraid when we encounter intimidation or skepticism. Give us boldness and moments where we see You working out salvation for the vulnerable.

Day 22, Tuesday, February 19, 2013

ōJesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” (John 4:13-15)

Pray that those experiencing an unquenchable thirst will search for the Living Water who can satisfy. Ask Him to provide divine appointments with those who know Him, and prompt them to lovingly share of the difference You have made in their own lives.

Day 23, Wednesday, February 20, 2013

ōFor our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.ö Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

Lord, we recognize that our fight against human trafficking is first and foremost a spiritual one. Bring your people together through prayer and unity of purpose. Empower us to take spiritual authority over the evil spirits that influence the spread of slavery in East Tennessee.

Day 24, Thursday, February 21, 2013

ōGracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.ö (Proverbs 16:24)

Pray that God would use His people around those fragile and broken by crimes of trafficking to be a sweet balm to hurting souls and healing to injured bodies. Help us as the community of faith in our city to be known by gracious words.

Day 25, Friday, February 22, 2013

ōAnd he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of usö (Acts 17:26-27).

Ask God to stir up a movement around the world, in every place where human trafficking thrives, to stop the enslavement of people made in His image. Pray that people in every nation would seek the true God and search for Him, discovering how He loves mercy and compassion. For those in bondage who feel totally alone and without a protector, help them to know that God Himself is not far from them.

Day 26, Saturday, February 23, 2013

ōDaniel answered and said: ðBlessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.ø (Daniel 2:20-22)

Since He is the One who removes and sets up rulers, ask God to put people in positions of influence who will hear the cry of those victimized by human trafficking. Pray that He would put strong leaders in place in our State and give them wisdom and understanding. When rulers don't understand the severity of the crime we face, pray that God would show them what's hidden from them and make the darkness clear. Ask Him to give our government leaders a desire to make way for the light of God's ways.

Day 27, Sunday, February 24, 2013

ōPut on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.ö (Ephesians 6:11-13)

Ask God to strengthen and protect those standing up against the spiritual forces of evil, teaching them to be mindful of putting on the whole armor of God. Pray that He will empower His people in Knoxville and all over Tennessee to withstand opposition in evil days. May we stand firm as lights in our State and Nation.

Day 28, Monday, February 25, 2013

ōIn him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.ö (Ephesians 1:7)

Redeemer,

Thank you for your forgiveness for all of my offenses. You didn't just forgive part of my ugliness, but according to your riches, you forgave it all completely. Those driving the demand for human trafficking need your forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ, and they need it completely. Would you increase their dissatisfaction with their appetite for evil? Would you help them search for forgiveness and grace?

Day 29, Tuesday, February 26, 2013

“The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.” (1 Sam. 2:10)

Ask God to intervene where His adversaries prey on the vulnerable to enslave them in trafficking organizations. Pray that He will thunder against them, judge them, and make those who act for His good ways stronger and victorious.

Day 30, Wednesday, February 27, 2013

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

Praise God for the promise of peace to come, for the hope of a day when there will be no more victimization and manipulation, for a time when pain will cease and all of the offenses private and public will be gone. Ask Him to reveal this hopeful guarantee to those who need a reason to live.

Day 31, Thursday, February 28, 2013

“And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” (John 8:7-11)

Ask the Lord to show His own, in a fresh way, how great the grace is that they have received. Pray that the Church would not be a voice of condemnation for the victims of trafficking, but that they would respond with compassion.

Day 32, Friday, March 1, 2013

“And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:25-27)

Praise God for His word that shows us so much about His character and His plans for us. Ask Him to guide people of faith in Knoxville to love Him with all of our hearts, souls, strength, and minds. Pray that the world around us would see that we love them, our neighbors, as ourselves. As we consider those caught up in the commerce of human lives, help us to love them as we would want to be loved.

Day 33, Saturday, March 2, 2013

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

Praise God for wanting to take our offensive dirtiness and make us clean before Him. He is able to change the life of any perpetrator and any victim to make them new again. Ask Him to work in mighty ways to transform the lives of those coming out of a lifestyle of trafficking and exploitation. Whatever their role in "the Game," ask Him to wash them clean and pure by His life-changing power.

Day 34, Sunday, March 3, 2013

öBut by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.ö (1 Corinthians 15:10)

God of grace,

As hard as I work to make myself acceptable before you, I know I never can on my own. It's only because of your undeserved love to me that I am not consumed with evil. For those who are without you, who know nothing of your grace, would you reach into the groups of sexual slaves and into the alliances of pimps and johns and give them a thirst to know your full and satisfying grace? It is only by our grace that we can be and do any good.

Day 35, Monday, March 4, 2013

öFor I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong.ö (Isaiah 61:8a)

Father,

You are the Lord who feels strongly, who is completely right and yet completely compassionate. Teach me to discern justice and wrong, to love what you love and hate what you hate. Give me a love for people, despite a strong hatred of evil.

Day 36, Tuesday, March 5, 2013

öGreater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.ö (John 15:13)

Lord, Your example of love is the greatest of all. While I was still completely unworthy of Your mercy, You died for me. You loved me first. Call Your people and Your church to a response of love, to lay down their time and their resources in order to extend mercy on Your behalf to those in the ugly hold of human trafficking. They need to know that You have covered all their sin and long to call them "friends."

Day 37, Wednesday, March 6, 2013

öWhere there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.ö (Proverbs 29:18) (KJV)

Messiah, we need revival in our nation. This land has become broken as we have stepped away from Your will and Your way. By not seeking Your vision, Your restraint, we are perishing. Help us see Your vision and abide in Your ways. Please give us new life as a nation.

Day 38, Thursday, March 7, 2013

"I am losing all hope; I am paralyzed with fear. ...Come quickly, Lord, and answer me, for my depression deepens. Don't turn away from me, or I will die. Let me hear of your unfailing love to me in the morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I have come to you in prayer. Save me from my enemies, Lord; I run to you to hide me. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing. For the glory of your name, O Lord, save me. In your righteousness, bring me out of this distress." Psalm 143:4,8-11.

Let us pray for the victims of this terrible issue: for physical, emotional, spiritual, mental protection. Bring them to safety, Lord. Please let them hear of your love. Bring people in their lives that will share Your love with them and help them accept you as their Savior.

Day 39, Friday, March 8, 2013

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58:6-8)

Lord God, there is so much oppression in the world, and we know it breaks Your heart. You have called us to serve those who are oppressed by breaking yokes of bondage. Please help us see what needs to be done, and act wisely to follow your leading. We lift up to you Lord, those who are bound. Please free them. And for those Lord, who bind, please free them as well through the saving power of Christ.

Day 40, Saturday, March 9, 2013

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Savior, You have given us a charge, and we know that You are with us in all things. We recognize Your Ultimate Authority. Please help us to fulfill the commission You have given us. Thank You for Your constant presence.

Notes