

Thank you for joining our text-based prayer network. This is specifically set-up to support law enforcement and their efforts to recover victims of sex trafficking and to arrest buyers. It's our hope that you would stop and pray when you receive updates and prayer requests. There is a team of officers from various police departments, working together to specifically target sex trafficking leading up to the Super Bowl. Similar operations are run throughout the year as well, but there is a concentrated effort going on now, due to influx of visitors which increases the demand for commercial sex. Below is additional information that will help as you receive texts and join us in praying.

NOTE: Please do not publically share our text prayer requests or updates on social media. You are welcome to invite others to join the prayer network.

RECOVERY OPERATIONS

The law enforcement team has various means of identifying potential victims of sex trafficking, with an emphasis on locating minors. Once they have vetted their leads, they will likely reach out to a young women selling online, as if they were a buyer, and will then go to her location. This is done with a small team and a service provider advocate may join as well. Detective Carter, with EPPD, brings along a Blessing Bag, and uses this as a bridge to communicate to the young woman that there is support available and people who care.

During the Super Bowl operations, youth victims are connected with The Link and they have additional beds available and a drop-in shelter. Those over 18yrs of age are directed to a temporary shelter in Minneapolis, staffed by Source Ministries and Breaking Free in St. Paul also has shelter beds available. Women do not necessarily have to choose services. Often

times, it can take up to 6 encounters with a police officer or advocate before someone “in the life” pursues a way out. When we report recoveries via text, this means a teen or woman, has been removed from their current environment, offered support and likely brought to a drop-in center or temporary shelter. It’s our hope and prayer that those who are recovered would follow-up on the care and services offered to them.

DEMAND OPERATIONS

Buyers, sometimes referred to as “johns”, are those who are soliciting minors or adults women for prostitution. Law enforcement (LE) will run operations by posting fake ads online and targeting buyers. Their Guardian Angel operations specifically target men who are soliciting minors. And according to Sgt. Grant Snyder, they have arrested men from all walks of life, but typically they are white males, white-collar workers, mid-40s, married with children. This profile fits men who are seeking women and men who are seeking minors for prostitution. The primary difference they have found is heavier pornography usage at an earlier age by men seeking a minor. When a text update states the number of buyer arrests, this means men were arrested and charged with a felony for solicitation. Prayer is also needed for buyers as many are arrested for the first time and will soon return to home to explain their actions. Pray for Godly conviction that leads to repentance and restoration.

STT PRAYER GUIDE

Feel free to use this as a guide as you pray.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

"We pray, God, for our local law enforcement team focused on recovering victims of sex trafficking and arresting buyers. We ask that You would grant them wisdom and insight and lead their efforts. We pray that recovery operations would lead to many victims

choosing a path of restoration where they encounter the love of Christ and experience true freedom."

Psalm 103:6: The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

- Pray for the law enforcement team focused on human trafficking. Pray for wisdom and stamina as they run operations. Pray for their protection as they encounter indescribable evil. Pray for their spouses and children.
- Pray that justice would come swiftly to those who are currently trafficking youth and women in our communities.
- Pray that demand operations would run smoothly, sending a message that those trying to purchase sex in our city will be arrested. Pray that recovery operations would be effective, resulting in many victims recovered.

VICTIMS

"While most of us cannot imagine the pain and trauma that victims of sex trafficking experience, Father God, we know that You see, know and care deeply. We pray that the boys, girls and women who are recovered in our city, would experience Your love and care. We ask that You would remove the shame, expose the lies, protect them from further trauma and lead them on a path of healing and restoration."

Psalm 138:7: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

- Pray that the victims who are recovered would receive follow-up care that addresses their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.
- Pray that they would become survivors, healed and restored.

BUYERS

"We pray, Father, that the demand which fuels sex trafficking would stop in our city. We pray for the buyers and ask that You would open their eyes to the seriousness of their actions. We pray that they would experience Godly conviction, which leads to repentance. And we pray that the Church would rise up to embrace these men and point them to forgiveness, freedom and healing found in Jesus Christ."

Psalm 10:2: In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

- Pray that the buyers arrested this month would respond to offered help and pursue freedom in Christ.
- Pray that churches across our city who help those struggling with sexual sin.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

"We pray, Father God, for unity among churches in our city as we seek to bring an end to sex trafficking. We pray that You would help us collaborate effectively, show us how to support those caring for victims, and equip us to care for the vulnerable - children in foster

care, homeless youth and other at-risk populations. We pray that You would demonstrate Your love through us."

Isaiah 58:6: Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

- Pray that churches would effectively partner with frontline organizations working to help victims recover from sex trafficking.
- Pray that churches would focus efforts on preventing sex trafficking by caring for vulnerable children and youth.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

"God, we pray that sex trafficking would be eradicated in our city. We pray that our city would become a beacon of hope and light to our nation, as others see how Your Church stands for justice and righteousness. We pray that buyers, traffickers and victims would find hope, healing and freedom in Jesus Christ. God, we ask that lives would be redeemed for Your glory."

Isaiah 60:1-2: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

- Pray that we would see an end to sex trafficking in our city and across our state.
- Pray that our city would become a beacon of light to our nation, showing how the Church pursues justice and righteousness.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITIONS & STATISTICS

- Human trafficking is the selling of human beings for labor or sex. We have both labor and sex trafficking in Minnesota, but more attention is on sex trafficking.
- You can, but you do not have to travel across country borders or state lines to be a sex trafficking victims. It can happen to someone without leaving their home, if they are being forced, manipulated, coerced to have sex.
- Child sex trafficking happens when anyone under 18 is involved in commercial sex or prostitution. There does not have to be proven force or coercion. In Minnesota, we have the Safe Harbor law, which protects all those 24yrs and under who are found in prostitution. They are treated as victims and offered services.
- The average age of entry in the States is 12-14yrs old.
- In 2015, service providers in Minnesota began identifying and tracking victims of human trafficking who were offered help. They provided care for 943 minor female victims and 319 adult female victims.