

Day 8 - Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Kidnapping

Rescuing Hope: A Story of Sex Trafficking in America

Written on February 22, 2013 by Leah Adams 21

“Every two minutes, evil strips innocence from a child and sells her into slavery for sex. Not in a third-world country, but in the United States of America. Before you take another breath, the next victim will be tricked or taken from her family by a profit-hungry criminal.

“She could be a neighbor. A friend. Your sister. Your daughter. You.”

Rescuing Hope is the culmination of hundreds of hours of research into a topic that is quickly becoming a very public issue in America today...and rightly so. As Susan sought God's path for her writing, she began to be involved in relationships that were outside her usual circle of friends. She discovered that the devastation of child sex trafficking was happening in her own suburban Atlanta neighborhood.

CHILD, not just adult, but child sex trafficking. I'm talking children as young as NINE years old being abducted, placed in captivity and sold for sex by pimps. This is happening in cities all over the United States, but especially in Atlanta, the buckle on the Bible belt. In fact, Atlanta is one of the top cities in the world for sex trafficking.

Consider the teaser from the back of Rescuing Hope:

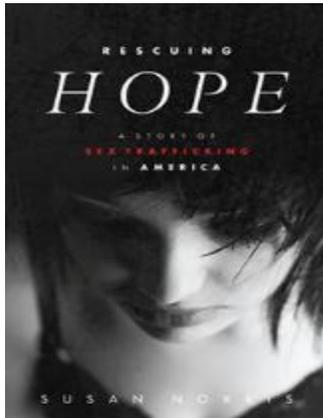
“At fourteen, Hope Ellis is the all-American girl with a good life—until the day she tries to help her mom with their cross-town move by supervising the movers. When they finish, one of the men returns to the house and rapes her. Held silent by his threats, darkness begins to engulf her. But the rape proves to be the least of Hope's troubles. In a gasping attempt at normalcy, she succumbs to the attention of a smooth-talking man on the subway. He promises acceptance. He declares his love. He lures her out from under the shelter of her suburban life.

“Hope's disappearance sets a community in motion. She's one of their own. They determine to find Hope, whatever the cost, before she's lost forever.”

Friends, this fictional story is not really fiction. Rescuing Hope is a compilation of the stories and testimonies that Susan heard from survivors of sex trafficking, their families, the police who rescued them, a former pimp, and wonderful people who work for organizations that seek to help the victims of this horrific crime.

If you want a feel-good story, let me assure you, this isn't it. Long after I put the book

down, I could see the Hopes of this world in my mind's eye being held captive, violated in horrific ways, and emotionally destroyed in order to make money for their pimp. With that said, I urge you to read this book. Do not stick your head in the sand. This is happening in your back yard and it could be happening to someone you love. Be informed about the ways this happens so you can recognize the warning signs. You just might be the one who saves a child from these horrors.



“It ought to concern every person, because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community, because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business, because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime. I’m talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name — modern slavery.”

President Barack Obama

The modern-day slave trade is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, enslaving more than 30 million individuals today. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “After drug dealing, trafficking of humans is tied with arms dealing as the second-largest criminal industry in the world.” Combating this \$32 billion-dollar-a-year industry takes enormous effort as well as a large framework of diligent abolitionists. Slavery is wrapped up in almost every industry’s supply chain, tainting the food we eat, the clothes we buy and the electronics we love.

We Must Pray! Don't wait until it happens to someone you love...