

wednesday. dec. 1

world AIDS day...

scripture: isaiah 61.1 thru 3

**freedom fact:**

Victims of sex trafficking can be women or men, girls or boys, but the majority are women and girls. There are a number of common patterns for luring victims into situations of sex trafficking, including:

- A promise of a good job in another country
- A false marriage proposal turned into a bondage situation
- Being sold into the sex trade by parents, husbands, boyfriends
- Being kidnapped by traffickers
- Sex traffickers frequently subject their victims to debt-bondage, an illegal practice in which the traffickers tell their victims that they owe money (often relating to the victims' living expenses and transport into the country) and that they must pledge their personal services to repay the debt.

**prayer:**

Loving God, you are the great Comforter and Healer.. We lift up all those suffering from HIV/AIDS. God, where there is pain, despair, and shame, remove them and seed hope. Be with and set free those abused in the sex trade. And Lord, open our eyes and use our voices, our hands, and our feet to bring an end to this injustice, to your joy and glory. Amen.

**challenge:**

have a conversation with someone today about what our Christian responsibility is in the face of sex-slavery and the global AIDS pandemic.

friday. dec. 3

scripture: isaiah 42.5 thru 9

**freedom fact:**

Slavery is a thriving institution in the world, ensnaring 27 million people worldwide in forced labor, prostitution, debt bondage, and chattel slavery. More people are enslaved today than at any other time in human history.

**prayer:**

Lord, your name is Yahweh. It is "I am," but it also means "I am with." You are with the slaves. Comfort them. Empower them. Give us your heart of love for them, and let that heart of love lead us into a life that comforts and empowers slaves in our neighborhoods and around the world. Amen.

**challenge:**

given all the scriptures and facts we've read this week, journal, blog, or converse about what "hope" looks like in relation to Christmas and global slavery.

thursday. dec. 2

scripture: psalm 82.1 thru 4

**freedom fact:**

Slavery is an extremely profitable, international industry. Experts estimate trafficking in the US yields \$9 billion every year. Around the world, trafficking in women for commercial sex purposes nets \$6 billion per year.

**prayer:**

Caring and just Father, in a world of economic brokenness and uncertainty, it is scary to envision as huge an economic revolution as an end to slavery - when \$9 billion are at stake. But you and not money are our hope. Help us to put our hope in you and to risk loss in the West for the hope of your children around the world. Amen.

**challenge:**

Our economy is complicated. Slavery has been a key player in American economics from the very beginning. Have a conversation with someone about the complications and the hope of a slavery-free economy.

saturday. dec. 4

scripture: luke 4.16-20

**freedom fact:**

There are 8.4 million children in the world today who have been enslaved for purposes of forced labor, as child soldiers, for prostitution, pornography, and illicit activities such as drug smuggling.

**prayer:**

Saving Jesus, in a world where 8.4 million children are slaves, it is hard to hope. But it was hard for the Hebrews to hope when you came 2000 years ago. Your hope comes in the midst of hopelessness - your light in the midst of darkness. Give us the kind of hope that sets prisoners free and the kind of action that, springing from that hope, can free innocent children from bondage of all sorts. Amen.

**challenge:**

take some time to write your story as an abolitionist - even if it just began today!

# advent. week one. "hope."

nov. 28 thru dec. 4, 2010



## sunday. nov. 28

scripture: isaiah 40.1 thru 10

### sunday story:

visit [orangechristmas.com/daily-readings-facts-prayers.html](http://orangechristmas.com/daily-readings-facts-prayers.html) to read today's story.

### prayer:

Lord, slavery is a huge problem. We feel incapacitated as we learn about it. But you can make mountains flat and valleys rise. Our hope is in you. As we begin this journey toward a just Christmas give us the persistence that is born from sure hope in you - our God of justice and love. Amen.

### challenge:

share this story with someone else you meet today. share it as hope and as a way to honor this survivor of slavery.

**challenge:**  
With someone close to you, have a discussion about how slavery thrives in ignorance and discuss what an end to that ignorance might look like.

**prayer:**  
Lord, we thought we had done it. We thought slavery was made a thing of the past. But wickedness has grown as it has hid in darkness. Forgive and heal our ignorance. And, as the One who sees the afflicted and helps the fatherless, enable us to see a true end to slavery. Amen.

**freedom fact:**  
Slavery was officially abolished worldwide at the 1927 Slavery Convention, yet it continues to thrive thanks to the complicity of some governments and the ignorance of much of the world.

scripture: psalm 10.14-18

## tuesday. nov. 30

## monday. nov. 29

scripture: romans 8.20-21

### freedom fact:

Some 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked internationally every year. Approximately 80% of them are women and children

### prayer:

Lord, we know that you care of orphans and widows and that you call us to do the same. Yet, women and children are abused all over the world. You tell us that creation is frustrated but that, through you, creation will be liberated and that we will be brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. Bring this freedom in every possible way to the hundreds of thousands of women and children sold into slavery this year. You are our hope. Amen.

### challenge:

share today's fact with someone else and tell them why it matters to you.