

LIFE Meeting

Social Justice

October 9, 2013

Emcee: Victoria

1. Opening Prayer

Sarah

2. Speakers on Social Justice

3. Questions for speakers

4. Small Group (Be back in 211 by 8:00)

Hannah and Joe McCoy

Sarah

Wes and John

Abby and Gabby

Victoria and Joe Buck

5. Large Group: Share and U.S. Poverty

All groups

Hannah

6. Closing Prayer

Joe Buck

Next Meeting: November 13th

Vala's: October 19th

- Bring \$4 and sign up with Mike, Maggie, or Myself
- You still need to buy a ticket to get in
- We can carpool, but need to get picked up at Vala's

Hope Totes: November 11-26

CORE Team:

- Planning Meeting October 16th 6:00
- Topic: Respecting Your Body
- New sign for phone bin
- Clean out L cupboard
- Chips for Vala's and Other stuff

Meeting Intro

Tonight we will be talking about various different social justice issues. There are many different social injustices that have major effects on our world every single day. We make, as a country, enough food to feed the entire world, yet why are there so many people dying of malnutrition and hunger? There are children in our world who work in very crowded and unsafe facilities, yet why are there so many unemployed in this world? The government is foreclosing homes to people who cannot pay their bills, yet why are so many homeless in our world dying because they do not have adequate housing? These are just a few of the many social injustices that people deal with. If just take small steps we can make a big difference.

Opening Prayer

Imagine

John Lennon

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_YXSHkAahE

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Reflection

Living here, often we forget how great we have it. I'll admit, I'm guilty of this too. Usually my biggest worry is my next APUSH test or what I'm doing on Saturday night. I don't live in a war ravaged country. I don't fear for my safety in my own community. I'm not hungry or thirsty. I live comfortably. I can go to college. I can make a future for myself. I have the freedom to be who I want to be. It's important for us to take a step back and look around at what others are dealing with. Like John Lennon said in his song, "imagine all the people sharing all the world." Can you imagine if we all laid down our wants and needs to help people around the world? We could soon live as one and the world would be an amazing place. It all starts with us.

Small Group

Scripture

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

Matthew 25: 34-46

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

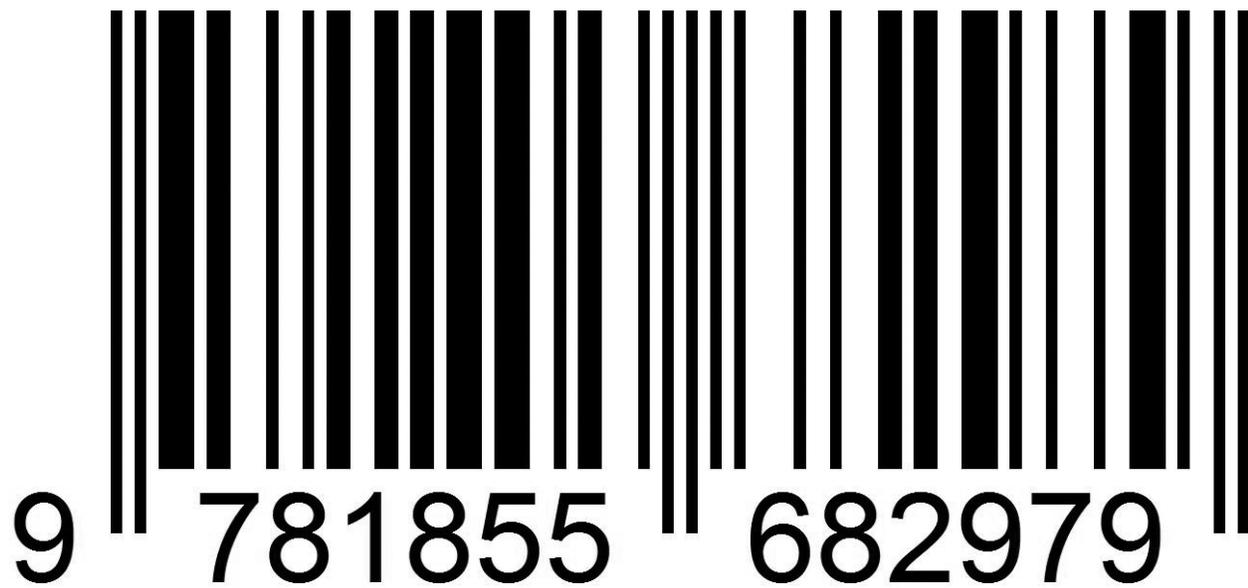
"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Reflection:

In this scripture Jesus is telling us that we should help anyone who needs help, even the lowest of society. Jesus says that when we help the poorest of the poor we are actually helping him. There are many things that we can do to help others such as collecting items for a food pantry and donating money to the poor. Jesus will reward people who help others but, he will cast away people who ignore the needy.





Child Soldiering

Facts

- There are 300,000 children involved in conflicts world wide
- What is a child soldier?
- A child soldier has been defined as a person under the age of 18 who directly or indirectly participates in an armed conflict as part of an armed force or group. While
- Some children wield assault rifles, machetes, or rocket propelled grenades on the front lines, others are used in "combat support" roles as messengers, spies, cooks, mine learners, porters and sexual slaves. It is not uncommon for them to participate in killing and raping.
- Some children are under the age of 10 when they are forced to serve
- Girls make up an estimated 10 to 30 percent of child soldiers used for fighting and other purposes. They are especially vulnerable when it comes to sexual violence.
- Children who are poor, displaced from their families, have limited access to education, or live in a combat zone are more likely to be forcibly recruited

Scenario:

Let's say that this whole room is a village and the mafia have invaded and are taking over. Any child under the age of 18 would be taken hostage and possibly taken in as a soldier. The men would be killed right on the spot along with the women and small children. As they took you away from your family and burned your village they would begin evaluating you and your possible strengths. If you were too small or did not show a lot of potential you would be killed. Most of the girls would be kept to become sex slaves to the men. Children from the age of 7 - 18 would be recruited and if they eventually died along the way from disease you would just be left there. The women would have no say in who they were forced to have sex with and if they got pregnant, depending on the group they were with, they might live or die.

Kony 2012

- Some of you might have heard of the "Kony 2012" movement. To a lot of us it was just a video that went viral and then everybody forgot about it until they heard that the guy who made the video went to jail.
- The war criminal Joseph Kony is a very real, sad, and terrifying subject.
- Kony was born sometime between July and September 1961) is the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a guerrilla group which used to operate in Uganda.
- Kony has been accused by government entities of ordering the abduction of children to become child-sex slaves and child soldiers.
- An estimated 66,000 children became soldiers. And from 1986 up until about 2009, there were at least 2 million people internally displaced.
- Kony was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2005 but has evaded capture. Since Juba peace talk in 2006, the LRA no longer operate in Uganda. Sources claim that they are in Democratic Republic of Congo, or Central African Republic or South Sudan.

Large Group

Food Stamps Facts

1. About 200,000 people in Nebraska are on the Food Stamp Program.
 - a. A very large portion of that is children.
2. On the Food Stamps program you get about 3-4 dollars a day for meals per person.
 - a. Most people spend more than that on 1 coffee form scooters.
3. The food stamp Challenge
 - a. Eating on 3-4 dollars a day.
 - b. In Operation Others we did it.
 - c. Went to the store and found that it was very difficult
 - d. Most people bought
 - i. Cans of soup
 - ii. Green beans
 - iii. A very small portion of milk
 - iv. Cheap bread
 - v. Barely any fruits and veggies
 - vi. Mac and cheese
 - vii. Potatoes
 - viii. Pancake mix
 1. No butter, no syrup
 - ix. Peanut butter
 - x. Pasta
 - xi. Tomato sauce
 - e. What is an average meal at your house?
 - f. Breakfast on food stamps
 - i. Half an apple
 - ii. Small serving of oatmeal or cereal
 - iii. Small serving of milk
 - iv. Maybe some toasted bread
 1. Buttered if they have any
 - g. Lunch
 - i. Peanut butter sandwich or soup
 1. Maybe jelly
 - ii. Maybe some pretzels or chips
 - h. Dinner
 - i. Pasta
 - ii. Tomato sauce
 1. Not much seasoning
 - iii. Maybe some potatoes.
 - iv. Canned green beans
4. So compare these meals to your diet today!
5. It may not seem that bad but try eating this kind of stuff every day and not having your favorite foods.

Sex Trafficking

Long, mottled scars running from her inner thigh down her leg are the only physical marks left you can see. Jane* was raped, beaten and threatened with her life every day in the west African country she was born in.

So when a man offered her romance, marriage and a better life in America, she went with him.

"He told me he was going to marry me. When he married me, I would become a better person," she said. "He told me that 'if you stay in this country they are going to catch you, they will find you so I am going to help you. Then I said 'ok, I'm happy'"

The man, known to Jane as Mike, smuggled her out of Africa, but once the plane landed on American soil:

"When we came in he totally changed. These men would come sleep with me. I didn't know how to speak the English. I would just say why why why? They would say shhh... you know? They do that then they go. It's so shameful," she explained.

The man kept her locked in a basement, away from the outside world. He told her police would take her back to her country where she would be killed if she ever left.

She has no idea how long she was in captivity. She doesn't know how many men there were. She didn't even know she was doing it for money.

"You don't know somebody. That person will come, different different people will come have sex with you. That is bad. I didn't want it. I would have rather died in my country than have somebody else have sex with me when I'm not ready and I don't even know you. Not him alone that brought me, but somebody else I don't know. More than one, two or three. I was going to kill me if I [had] any way to kill myself at that time when I was with him I would have done it," she said stoically.

Jane managed to escape her captor by tricking him into taking her to a friend's house. She told him she had "pretty, skinny, tiny" friends inside.

It's been five years since she last saw the man who forced her into sex slavery. The FBI has never found any leads on who he might be.

"In many cases the woman feels so vulnerable and feels so afraid she doesn't go and rat out the man in charge, she's afraid he's gonna beat her up or that's the person who feeds her," said Nebraska State Senator Amanda McGill.

She's been working tirelessly to pass legislation to help with the problem.

She introduced and helped pass a bill that ups the prison sentence to maximum of 20 years. Before, a person convicted of pandering--coercing or forcing a person into prostitution--would only face a maximum of five years behind bars.

Local:

<http://www.ketv.com/news/local-news/task-force-tackles-sex-trafficking-during-cws/-/9674510/20565358/-/5s38jx/-/index.html>

<http://videos.huffingtonpost.com/fbi-omaha-area-sex-trafficking-cases-increase-517687880>

1. 2,000 People in Nebraska who are forced to work as prostitutes.
2. One of the biggest obstacles in helping these people is that the public does not know-or believe- that people are sold for sex in Nebraska.
3. **The Polaris Project** is a national organization working to end modern day slavery.
 - a. It rates each state based on the type of legislation and services available to trafficking victims
 - b. Nebraska is the second worst.
4. In Nebraska it is not just North Omaha or South Omaha, It is everywhere
 - a. Along I-80
 - b. Anywhere there is a highway with truck stops.
5. The average age of entry into prostitution for a child victim in the United States is 13-14 years old
6. The average victim may be forced to have sex up to 20-48 times a day.
7. A pimp can make \$150,000-\$200,000 per child each year and the average pimp has 4 to 6 girls
8. The sex trafficking industry creates more revenue than the NFL, NBA, and the MLB combined.

Stories

1. A mother in India had a child born with his intestines on the outside of his body. She did not want to deal with him so he was sold to a man on the streets. As the child got older, he was filtered into the Sex Trafficking World and by the time he was 3 years old he had already been raped a number of times.
2. A woman has testified saying that while being raped, she would not cooperate and her punishment was getting chili powder put into her vagina.
3. A mother was a prostitute for a long time. She had to stop this because she became HIV positive. This cancelled out her income. In order to make ends meet for her family, she sold her daughter to her Pimp. That daughter is now dead because of being beaten to death after trying to resist a rape.
4. In and out of foster homes in Southern California, USA, 13 year old Denise craved the love and support of a parent figure. She found that in an older boyfriend she met in her neighborhood. He slowly convinced her that she could earn a lot of money in

prostitution and acted as her pimp. She was arrested multiple times and served time in jail. Law enforcement did not identify her as a human trafficking victim so she did not receive social services and, instead, entered the juvenile justice system as an offender. She has never had her prostitution convictions expunged. Those convictions have made it nearly impossible for her to find work. She admits that most in her financial situation would have returned to prostitution by now.

5. Seventeen year old Chanary was recruited from her village in Cambodia for a job in Malaysia where she was promised a job paying US\$250 per month. Upon her arrival at an electronics factory, managers told her about various deductions that lowered her pay to US\$100 per month. They also claimed that she owed them US\$1000 and she could pay it off through work. The work however was not putting together electronics it was having sex. Her recruitment agency held her passport. Under pressure to pay this debt, feeling far away with home with no other choice, and not having her passport, Chanary worked 12-hour shifts often seven days a week.

Barcodes

1. If your barcode starts with a 9.
 - a. You are just like 13 year old Denise from California.
 - b. Bad family life. Very poor.
 - c. Finds someone who you think is helping you, but in reality they are making money off of you.
 - d. You begin being a prostitute and at first you are not okay with it, but after a while it is normal for you.
2. IF your barcode starts with a 6.
 - a. You are from India. You are 6 years old and your mother could not pay or care for you anymore so she sold you to a man on the streets.
 - b. You grow up with this man, scared to death of him.
 - c. You try to ignore the disgusting men that come and have sex with you, but you just can't
 - d. After a while, you try to escape, but you get caught.
 - e. Your punishment. → Slaps, and kicks, and punches, and elbows until you are unconscious.
 - f. The next day, your owner finds you dead because of the beating and throws you in a dumpster.
3. If your barcode begins with an 8
 - a. You are 17 years old and from Omaha.
 - b. You decide to go to the College World Series with a group of friends.
 - c. Somehow, you get separated and begin to panic.
 - d. You call them over and over but because there are so many people there, the cell reception is not working.

- e. You go to the hotel across the street to ask if you can use their phones.
 - f. Before asking to use the phones, you use the restroom.
 - g. The restroom is located down the hallway away from almost every one.
 - h. After you come out of the restroom, a hand from behind you covers your mouth and snatches you into an elevator.
 - i. You arrive on the 3rd floor, still unseen by anyone.
 - j. You are pushed into a room with about 7 scary men.
 - k. You are now a victim of sex-trafficking.
4. If your barcode begins with a 1.
- a. You are 9 years old and live in China.
 - b. Your family does not have enough money to survive so you volunteer to go to the city and work.
 - c. You are told that you will be working in a factory, making goods to be shipped to America.
 - d. Little did you know, that is not the case.
 - e. When you got there, You were shoved into a room with 40 others kids just like you.
 - f. You try to ask what is going on, but every time you talk you get yelled at or kicked.
 - g. You are told you are about to start your job when you are put into a dark, cold room, with a queen size bed in the middle.
 - h. An older man comes in asking if you are ready to work.
 - i. You do not know what to say.
 - j. The man slams you onto the bed and begins to strip you down.
 - k. You are not strong enough to fight back. The man penetrates you and you don't know what to do. When he is done, he leaves you there alone and naked.
 - l. The next day, one of the other children tells you that the man who raped you is HIV positive.
 - m. You know have the virus.

Sweat Shops Info

Wes' Pezi

<http://prezi.com/-vvqvhwuoaoom/social-injustice-project-child-labor/>

Sweatshops

- A study showed that doubling the salary of sweatshop workers would only increase the consumer cost of an item by 1.8 percent, while consumers would be willing to pay 15 percent more to know a product did not come from a sweatshop.
- Sweatshops do not alleviate poverty. The people who are forced to work must spend the majority of their paycheck on food for their families to survive.
- According to the National Labor Committee, women sewing NBA jerseys make 24 cents per garment that will eventually sell for \$140.
- Because women make up 85-90 percent of sweatshop workers, employers force them to take birth control and routine pregnancy tests to avoid supporting maternity leave or providing appropriate health benefits
- In a sweatshop in Capetown, South Africa theres only 3 toilets for about 2,000 workers.
- 22 million children die annually due to the hazardous conditions in the sweatshops.
- 1/6 of the children in the world work at a sweatshop

Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEm7nsD-xBk>

Sweatshop Questions

1. Do you ever think about where most of our products come from?
2. What are some ways we can help stop sweatshops?
3. Could you imagine your younger brother or sister working in sweatshops?

Presenting Information to Large Group

What was the most surprising piece of inform

Closing Prayer

Send Me Out

Steve Lee

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8ZGQPW7OXg>

Verse 1

Jesus, Lord of my salvation, Savior of my soul
Send me out to the world to make You known
Jesus, King of every nation, this world's only hope
Send me out to the world to make you known
Send me out to the world

Chorus

I wanna be Your hands & feet
I wanna be Your voice every time I speak
I wanna run to the ones in need
In the name of Jesus

I wanna give my life away, all for Your kingdom's sake
Shine a light in the darkest place,
In the name of Jesus
In the name of Jesus.

Verse 2

Carry to the broken-hearted mercy You Have shown
Send me out to the world to make You known
And to the ones in need of rescue, lead me I will go
Send me out to the world to make you known
Send me out to the world

(Repeat Chorus)

Bridge

Here am I, I will go
Send me out to make You known
There is hope for every soul
Send me out, send me out

Reflection

As we end tonight's meeting, we are reminded that God is Sending us out to do his will. This song reminds us that we need to try as hard as we can to be a servant to God.