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Empowering Women in Africa

Hope Battles Human Trafficking

Lott Carey Explores Programs in Ethiopia and South Africa that Help End the Exploitation of Women and Children

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Team Johannesburg: Basic necessities can fuel hope, life the spirit, and strengthen the body. An area food bank understands empowering the needy can sometimes be achieved through distribution of groceries and living supplies. Team writer Brenda McBorrough says there was "hope in every touch, every kind word, every smile."

Team Ethiopia: Thirteen women were given a simple assignment: Look, listen, learn, and encourage. But the experience was more complex and life changing as they learned about an organization that empowers women with HIV/AIDS prevention education and life skills.



Human Trafficking: A Global Tragedy

It is estimated that up to 900,000 men, women and children are victims of human trafficking around the world—generating as much as \$31 billion annually. Many children are sold to traffickers by parents to pay off debts, gain income, or believing their sons and daughters will obtain better lives. Women are especially at risk for sex trafficking. They are lured with promises of employment or education and then forced into prostitution. Men are mainly trafficked for unskilled labor.

Online Resources

The 2010 Trafficking in Person Report | U.S. Department of State

(features a country-by-country analysis)

http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm

Human Security | Report of the UN Secretary-General
(available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian)

http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/64/701

Equality Now (Offers information in English, French, Spanish and Arabic)

http://www.equalitynow.org/

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html

Cover Photos by Tonga Peterson

Lott Carey Seeks Way Out for Victims of Human Trafficking

Their voices cry out for relief, rescue, and redemption

decade ago, Lott Carey made an institutional commitment to engage in the global battle against AIDS. Our work to advocate for greater funding, to provide health care, to eliminate stigma, to empower churches for ministry, and to facilitate income generation for women, orphans, and vulnerable children led us into additional work that we did not expect. We began to recognize more clearly the crisis of human trafficking of women and children for the purpose of commercial sex work in Africa.

A decade ago, I attended a global missions conference in Swanick, England, where I had extensive conversations with Lauren Bethel, a Baptist missionary doing pioneering work in Asia and Europe with women engaged in prostitution. Lauren has been a voice of education and advocacy to mobilize people around the world to minister to women who are commercial sex workers. She has worked to give comfort, offer friendship, and facilitate liberation.

These two developments were not accidental. They were providential. God was growing my awareness of the scale and scope of the problem of human trafficking. And God was calling the Lott Carey family to join in this heartbreaking and lifesaving ministry.

Women Auxiliary Presidents Colene B. Stanley and Ida B. Finney have given courageous and compassionate support for pursuing this work as a strategic priority. With the leadership of Dr. Yvonne Best, Lott Carey's former Associate for Program Development, a task force of Mrs. Tiqua Davis, Mrs. Brenda Troy, and Mrs. Ellyn Waller researched the field and framed a strategy for Lott Carey to begin to work for and pray for women and children forced into commercial sex work. Building on the task force, Min. Angelita Cooper and Min. Brenda McBorrough helped us enlarge the possibilities of our work during graduate school field placement assignments with us. They and Mrs. LaKeeyna Cooper have shaped a training component for us to build awareness, mobilize advocacy, and encourage action on behalf of people who are victimized by human trafficking - modern day slavery.

Human trafficking is a lucrative

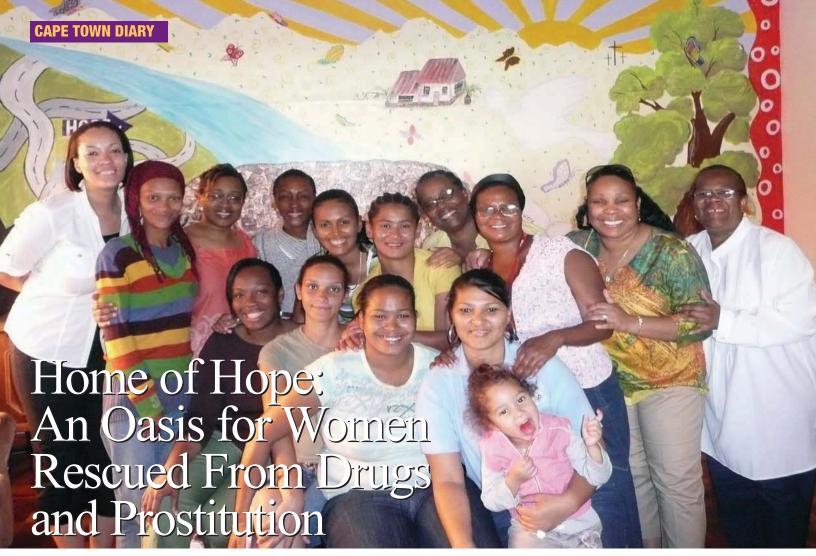
multi-national industry that treats people like disposable property intended for demonic abuses and distorted entertainment. Perpetrators of human trafficking demonstrate evil in particularly vile ways by seeking to dehumanize people that are created in the image of God. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to forced labor and sexual exploitation, and women and children are especially susceptible to sexual exploitation. Their voices cry out for relief, rescue, and redemption. Lott Carey is seeking to answer.

This edition of the Lott Carey Herald highlights international shortterm missions assignments to South Africa and Ethiopia where a particular focus was on our ministry with partners among victims of commercial sex work. The diaries from team members shared on these pages are tame compared to the gruesome realities that our sisters and daughters are experiencing. To keep them in your prayers, this issue features a beautiful photo that can be clipped, framed and placed in your home or office. Each time you see it, ask God for discernment so that you will be able to hear the call of the exploited and to answer faithfully.

With hope,

Barid

David Emmanuel Goatley
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Lott Carey



Outreach programs demonstrate what can happen when education, faith, action converge

uring a South Africa 2010 Cultural Immersion/Mission Trip, Lott Carey team members immersed themselves in the work of the Kasigo Baptist Church Home of Hope in Cape Town, South Africa. The Home of Hope is under the directorship of the Rev. Jacobus Nomdoe with the support of Lott Carey and is making a difference in the community and the surrounding Johannesburg area through the Carroll Shaw Christian School, the Home of Hope residence, and Teen Challenge International.

One of the outreach endeavors of the church is the Carroll Shaw Christian School in Brandvlei,

Randofontein which provides educational services to children of one of the rural farming and "peri-urban" areas of Johannesburg. When the school opened in January, the initial enrollment was 100 students. In February 2010, it grew to 177 pre-Kto-grade 12 students, 77 of them boarders. The school approaches learning through a holistic model within a collaborative environment, and the dedicated teachers and staff, led by Principal Denise Haywood, "prepare young men and women to succeed at the best universities in the world and to become effective leaders and ambassadors for our country, South Africa."

The Home of Hope is the former residence of the Rev. Jacobus and Erica Nomdoe, which they converted into a long-term facility for young girls and women rescued from substance abuse and forced prostitution. The ministry seeks to restore lives

through a fourteen- month program. After completing the program, many of the young women remain to volunteer their time for the next group of girls entering the program.

One of the challenges that the Home of Hope faced was the need for appropriate housing for women who came into the program with young children because the dormstyle bedrooms were not accommodating for young children. The challenge was met with guidance and hard work of the young men from Teen Challenge, the men's facility operated by the Nomdoes, who built small one-bedroom apartments directly behind the main house.

Team Cape Town was moved and inspired by the by the candid testimonies of healing and faith in God from five young women in the Home of Hope program. It was clear that the Home of Hope is place where lives are transformed and restored.

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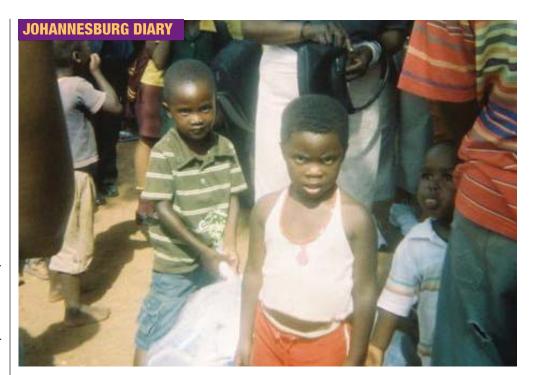
The same was apparent during a visit with Teen Challenge
International in Cape Town. The praise and worship service led by Rev. Jacobus Nomdoe was spirited and spirit-filled. Teen Challenge is the rehabilitative component of the Home of Hope, where praise and worship are a morning tradition. Much of the prevention outreach takes place at a local high school, where we watched the program in action.

The students' excitement and curiosity were intense with endless queries to visitors. Afterwards, a Teen Challenge staff member, Lloyd, led the students in an interactive intervention exercise, designed to illustrate vividly the addictive dimensions of illegal substances. His delivery was passionate and sincere as he used a simple chair as his prop. In the midst of hallowed hearts, bright eyes, and smiling faces, the team witnessed the powerful impact of the therapeutic community at Teen Challenge.

The success and impact of these outreach programs demonstrate what can happen when what we say about our faith converges with what we do through our faith. The result is people making a connection to the grace of God through compassionate acts of service.

Team Cape Town: Rev. Angelita Clifton, LaKeenya Cooper, Dr. Brenda Grant Davis, Ida Finney, Pamela Keys, and Min. Brenda McBorrough.





Food Bank Brings Hope, Humanity to Body and Soul

"Lord, please remember those who have nothing to eat this day and provide for them"

Sitting around the table with my family on the day I returned from South Africa, I heard my father pray these words while thanking God for our meal: "Lord, please remember those who have nothing to eat this day and provide for them." I had an instant flashback to my day of mission service at the Gauteng Food Bank. I rejoiced in how God is answering such prayers through the work of Lott Carey's mission partners in South Africa.

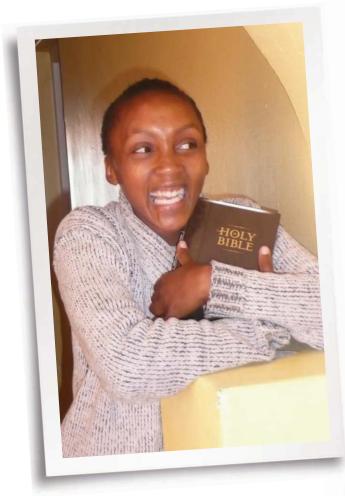
Gauteng Food Bank is a ministry of Kagiso Baptist Church—Carroll Shaw Missions. It operates under the leadership of the Rev. Zacharias Motaung, Pastor of Kagiso Baptist Church and President of South African Baptist Convention. On the front of the Gauteng Food Bank is a sign: Buyisa Ubuntu—Bringing Back Humanity ... It Starts Here. For those who have little or no means, bringing back humanity begins with providing the necessities, such as food and clean water. The program provides bimonthly food relief and basic supplies to needy and distressed people living in the communities on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Once inside, we saw rows of food and supplies, as well as packages prepared for the day's distribution.

Our assignment for the day was to visit a family who had lost a child in a house fire and to assist with a food distribution mission. At the first home we visited, we met the mother, the grandmother, and several other family members. The mother was preparing cabbage for the family's meal in one room, and in the next was the evidence of the electrical fire

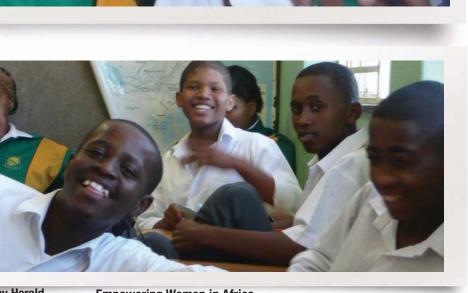
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Empowering Women, Protecting Children

Hope Battles Human Trafficking in Ethiopia and South Africa

















Empowering Women in Africa



Continued from page 5 that had ravaged their home and taken her child's life.

In times like these, there is not much that can be said, even if we spoke the same language. Yet, our presence reflected God's care and concern. We prayed with the family, and I could hear a family member next to me call out to God. It was evident that God was their refuge and strength. Later, as the eight bags of food and six new blankets were presented to the family, grandmother smiled for the first time since we entered their home. Yes, the Lord had sent someone to see about them. Even in the midst of destruction and loss, there was hope as we loved in deeds and words ... hope in every touch, every kind word, every smile, and in every gift offered to this family in their time of distress.

Our next stop was a community at the foot of an abandoned gold mine. Until a few months ago, these people had been abandoned just like the mines that once served as their source of employment. Furthermore, many of them are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Upon arrival, we saw people gathered under a tree that served as the community center, health and welfare clinic, as well as the food distribution center. The social workers were already attending to the families under the tree. I wondered how the rainstorms would impact the effectiveness of this ministry.

The women welcomed us with songs of praise to God. They, too, knew that God had sent people to see about them.

Dr Yvonne Best Motaung shared how the food program opens the door for dialogue and other opportunities to offer care in word and deed. We rejoiced with them as each family received the blessing of food on that day.

Then I saw a school bus approaching, another way in which God is providing for their need. Six months ago, children did not have the opportunity to attend free public school. Today, because of those who reached out to them in Jesus' name, they have clean water and food, and their children are

in school. According to Rev.

Motaung, this is just the beginning of "bringing back humanity." He spoke of the need for a community center/clinic to shelter them from the elements, pre-school for their little ones, and skills training for the adults.

For this community and many others like it, the presence of Carroll Shaw ministries and the food relief program represent a ray of hope—God has not forgotten them. Yet they desire more. Rev. Motaung shared that on one visit several members came to him with one request. "Moruti (Pastor), we need a church!"

While the needs among these people are great, there is hope that the God who sees and cares will provide for the need of both the communities and this ministry according to his riches in Christ Jesus. This food relief ministry continues to reach out with arms of love to care for those in need as they seek to bring back humanity.

Team Johannesburg: Rev. Angelita Clifton, LaKeeyna Cooper, Dr. Brenda Grant Davis, Ida Finney, Pamela Keys, Bernard Lott, and Min. Brenda McBorrough, team writer.

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Health Organization Provides Hope to Commercial Sex Workers Through Education and Training

Lott Carey's "Team Ethiopia" hears stories, witnesses struggle, and vows to be instruments God can use to affect change for the women of Ethiopia and women around the world

n his book *Operation Inasmuch: Mobilizing Believers Beyond the Walls of the Church*, David W.
Crocker aptly addresses the
need for Christians to do the "work of
the church instead of church work."
The work of the church, he says, is
"going outside the walls of the church
buildings to apply God's love to
human hurts and hopes wherever
they are found."

Recently, 13 women in the Lott Carey network left on a short-term missionary journey to Addis Abba, Ethiopia, to witness the work of the African AIDS Initiative International (AAII), which works to prevent HIV/AIDS infection and give women engaged as commercial sex workers better opportunities for sustaining their lives and families. Prevention methods focused on behavior change, care, support of both those infected and affected by HIV and are the organization's major goals.

Before AAII, founded in 2004, commercial sex workers had no voice, no support, and no way out. Today, AAII is empowering women with knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention providing life skills they can use as community leaders.

The Lott Carey group—known as "Team Ethiopia"—was given a simple assignment: Look, listen, learn, and encourage. But the experience was more complex and life changing.



The journey was tedious, accentuated by flight delays due to the volcanic ash lingering over Europe. But the team arrived safely in Addis Abba, the capital city of about three million. Traveling the main streets to our accommodations was a unique experience as donkeys and mules transported goods to market, sheep ambled on sidewalks and goats wandered aimlessly along the roadways.

On our first morning, we awoke to

the sounds of a woman singing, Islamic prayers over a loud speaker, a rooster crowing, and a goat making its presence known. In the midst of this cacophony was the early morning chatter of children rushing to school with friends and parents, and the joyous laughter of children playing at a nearby school.

Each day presented strong visual images of a country of contradictions.

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There was the hustle and bustle of crowded thoroughfares as residents rushed to work or market in rushhour traffic without stoplights, stop signs, or traffic directions. There were also the impoverished among the wealthy, homeless children and adults begging in the streets, shanties between luxurious buildings, all-night entertainment lounges, inequities between male and female dormitories on the Addis Abba University campus, and the inequitable, oppressive lives of women forced into the sex trade to provide for themselves and their families.

Despite the seeming hopelessness, Team Ethiopia saw hope.

At the main campus of Addis Abba University, which houses the AAII Voluntary Testing Center for students, faculty, and staff, witnessed the support of Lott Carey, which helps the center provide free HIV testing, counseling, and diagnosis.

It was disturbing, however, to observe the huge gap between male and female students at Addis Abba

University in terms of access to computers and the Internet, textbooks, libraries, and social support. But AAII has set up computer labs, libraries, and support groups at four of the 16 campuses. The support includes a computer lab—African Virtual University—on one of the 16 University campuses and a reading room to provide young women a greater chance for academic achievement. University students have even formed a Girls' Club that supports incoming coeds, encourages other young women to recognize their own value and pursue their dreams, and encourages them to complete their education and resist the lure of commercial sex work.

At Addis Abba University, five female college students shared the challenges they faced on campus with their professors who demanded sexual favors in exchange for better grades and sexual harassment from male students. These college women are not able to seek out assistance from female university professors or workers because they have no power or influence in the university system. In addition to the sexual harassment, female college students live in inferior facilities that lack water and supplies. However, these women say they're determination to succeed despite the obstacles.

Our meeting with commercial sex workers supported by AAII was inspiring and a testament of faith. We met at Coffee for Change, a restaurant that employs former sex workers who grind and roast their coffee. The facts are grim:

Ethiopian women have few if any opportunities for financial independence, higher education, political empowerment compared to their male counterparts.

In a country where about 980,000 are living with HIV/AIDS, many women enter the sex trade to support their families; others are abducted or enslaved.

We heard from women, aged of 14 and 46, who shared their stories and participated in a question-and-answer

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session, translated by Elleni Gebreamlak, President of AAII, and a staff member. Elleni has been involved in HIV/AIDS prevention since 1996 and has committed her life to HIV/AIDS awareness.

The women talked openly about how they came to be commercial sex workers, how the training and education they received through AAII was making a difference in their lives, how they were learning to protect themselves, and how they now test themselves for the virus every three months. Because of the training they have received, some hold regular jobs and go to school, and several have left the left "the business."

While the stories shared by the women were tragic, their "praise reports" provided hope and encouragement. Through AAII, women receive skills training, find jobs, and even enroll in night school. AAII has created the Women's Empowerment Project (WEP) to help women develop self-esteem and life skills. And providing marketable skills training means women have alternative, safer ways to generate income.

The training programs through WEP include carpet weaving, embroidery, catering, tie-dyeing, business management training, and start-up funds and equipment for businesses. Many have left the commercial sex trade after training through AAII and have become home-based providers for others who are house bound with HIV/AIDS, small business owners, and college students. Each woman praised the work of AAII that, in addition to skills training, also includes teaching them how to protect themselves and the importance of knowing their HIV/AIDS status. As one women expressed, "The support received has been life saving, next to God."

Few, if any, of Team Ethiopia were prepared for the impact of the heartbreaking accounts. Even the need for a translator could not dilute the suffering the women had endured.



Their inner strength to strive for a different kind of existence was truly amazing. The tenacity and sense of hope of the beneficiaries of AAII, the efforts of the dedicated, competent, and determined staff of AAII, and the work of Lott Carey in Ethiopia have motivated and inspired us.

Team Ethiopia's immersion into the African AIDS Initiative International culminated on an overcast day at a worship service at an Eastern Orthodox Church. Several blocks from the church worshippers hurried toward the edifice. The team joined the throng with heads and arms covered as instructed. Though service was not due to begin for 45 minutes, there were worshippers on the steps and in the courtyard, prostrate on the bare cement in prayer. As they ascended the stairs to the portico, more worshippers were praying silently or aloud on rugs while others were singing. No one seemed to notice the 13 strangers entering their midst.

The altar was filled with priests, bishops, and varying other clergy with appointed functions. Scriptures were read, and there were congregational responses, in song and in word. Heads bowed, knees bowed, and arms were raised in recognition of the presence of God. There was much we did not understand, but with the prayer to God the Father, Jesus the Son, and The Holy Spirit, words were no longer an issue. No longer were we strangers in a strange house; we were sisters and brothers united in the Spirit of One God.

We left Ethiopia with a deeper, more profound understanding of the challenges faced by the AAII and decided to raise funds to provide computers, sewing machines, and other supplies and equipment. We heard the stories, witnessed the struggle, and have now vowed to be instruments God can use to affect change for the women of Ethiopia and women around the world.

Team Ethiopia: Barbara Crump, Min. Sheila Brown, Niasha Brown, Alice Bennett, Pamela Goatley, Tracy Jones, Patricia Mason, Min. Brenda McBorrough, Tonga Peterson, Denise Rowson, Rev. Angelita Clifton, and Emilye Williams.





202-543-3200 = $\frac{11}{11}$ = LottCarey.org = $\frac{11}{11}$ = LottCareyTV on YouTube