

Living on Mission

# Mission Partner Update

## Freedom Team: *April 2023*

FBC's Freedom Team is comprised of volunteers who are dedicated to bringing awareness to the human trafficking epidemic. By strategically placing information about available resources throughout the community, they seek to help potential victims of human trafficking to break the cycle of abuse.

The Freedom Team places stickers, posters, and postcards at gas stations, rest areas, and restaurants that contain information about available resources right here in our community for victims of human trafficking. The team also partners with area hotels to distribute travel soap bars with the number to the National Human Trafficking Hotline located on the back of the packaging.

### **Q: What is human trafficking?**

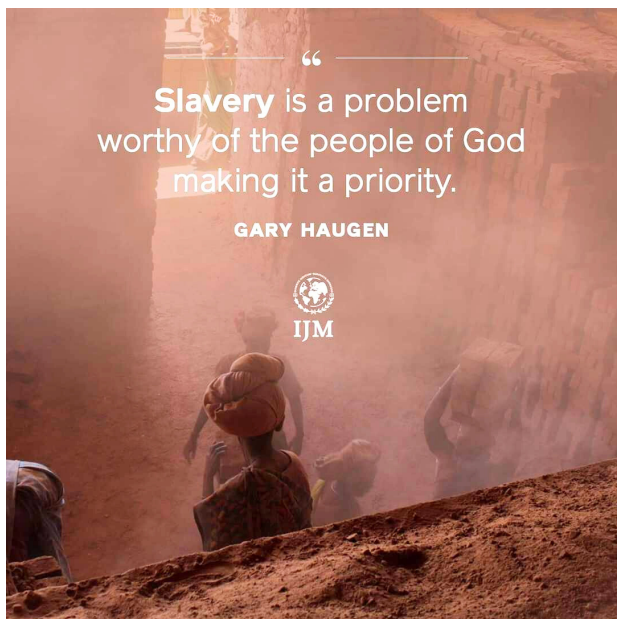
**A:** *Human trafficking is a crime by which people profit from the control and exploitation of humans for the purpose of forced enslavement.*

- There are an estimated 40-50 million people being trafficked and held in slavery today.
- Every 26 seconds a child is sold into slavery. The average age is 9.
- Human trafficking generates over \$150 billion in illegal profits for traffickers every year. Most of that comes from exploitation.

**Q: Is human trafficking that prevalent in NC?**

**A:** *Yes. North Carolina is ranked 9th in the US for human trafficking. Several factors contribute to making NC a hotbed of human trafficking including: major interstates, large and transient military population, rural agricultural areas with a high demand for cheap labor, and increasing number of gangs. Also contributing to our ranking are several high profile events such as Furniture Market, ACC Tournaments, numerous regional fairs and the state fair.*

Human trafficking is the second fastest growing crime worldwide. Approximately 70% of enslaved individuals are female and 30% are male. It's estimated 50,000 people are trafficked into the US each year and human trafficking is the second fastest growing crime in the world.



<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en>