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Editor's note

Human trafficking is a deep-rooted crime around the world. It involves pecuniary advantage and exploitation of other people's lives. It is not easy to rescue the victims of human trafficking, and the road to recovery for the survivors is even more difficult. In this issue of *SHARE*, we will explain the anti-human trafficking efforts of CEDAR's partners in different parts of the world. The section 'Focus' introduces CEDAR's new anti-trafficking partner in Thailand. The 'Learn a Little More' section talks about the methods used by our partners in India in their fight against human trafficking. In 'Join Hands Join Hearts', several child survivors of human trafficking expressed their aspirations using pictures and words. The 'Back to the Bible' section inspires us to ponder how culture can make us ignore the value of other people's lives.

The sufferings of human trafficking victims break our hearts, but we are grateful to see some of them being rescued and their lives restored. We would like to invite everyone to bear witness to these happenings.

Focus

When Human Lives are Sold Online

Written by Ness Ma (Communications Officer)

'I used to live with my grandparents, my father and my three younger sisters.'

At an interview with CEDAR, Banya (pseudonym) sat on a wooden chair. With a microphone in his hand, he told us about his family members with shyness and purity in his eyes. He did not look any different to other children of his age. However, this ordinary child recounted his extraordinary experience a few moments later.

'A year after I came to Chiang Mai, I was betrayed by a friend and fell into the hands of human traffickers. I was locked in a room, forced to prostitute, and beaten.'

Every year, children in different corners of the world fall victims to human trafficking. For example, in Thailand, because

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of a lack of awareness about trafficking practices, many people are not aware of the dangers of human trafficking, and it has become a severe problem in the country. In recent years, COVID-19 has changed our social ecology, and the evil reach of human trafficking has now extended to the Internet. Technology has made this crime more rampant.

The Founding of IMF

CEDAR's partner in Thailand, Immanuel Foundation Thailand (hereinafter referred to as IMF), strives to combat local human trafficking. With the support of the Immanuel Church, IMF was founded in 2020. Jaruwat, the son of the church's pastor, was an indispensable and important figure in establishing this institution.

Jaruwat, the current Vice President of IMF, was already working in the Thai police force and various anti-trafficking-related organisations well before the establishment of IMF. Jaruwat wanted to reduce and even end human trafficking in Thailand. While fighting crime, he met like-minded Chayakorn, and the two of them became friends.

Chayakorn, the current CEO of IMF, used to be a plainclothes detective in the Thai police force. He was part of the investigative unit responsible for finding and helping victims of human trafficking. In 2019, Chayakorn left the police force for personal reasons. However, he still wanted to use his knowledge and experience to help victims of the crime even after leaving the force.

In July 2020, Jaruwat and Chayakorn founded IMF in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Their first operation was to rescue four children from human traffickers in the Nan province in northern Thailand. From its establishment to the end of May 2022, IMF has handled 17 cases and rescued 89 victims. Currently, 24 victims are receiving psychological counselling and taking education courses.

The Work of IMF

Formed by a group of Thai nationals, IMF bears a heavy responsibility. The ethnic minorities living near the border of the northern part of Thailand often lack identification documents, so when they are abducted, they often go missing without the authorities' knowledge; this makes the situation of human trafficking in the region exacerbating. Currently, the work of IMF includes three main aspects: crime prevention, crime detection and rehabilitation of the survivors of human trafficking.

First of all, in terms of crime prevention, IMF strives to increase the local community's awareness of human trafficking through talks and promotion so that they can prevent the crime from happening. Since traffickers sometimes lure children from low-income families by telling them it is a money-making opportunity, if these families can be made aware of the criminals' modus operandi, they will be less likely to fall victims to the crime in the future.

Secondly, in terms of crime investigation and prosecution, IMF is chiefly formed by former police officers with experience handling criminal cases. They screen social media to identify content posted by criminals courting customers; they also work very closely with legal groups and government agencies to push for reforms of the prosecution procedures for crimes such as child abuse and human trafficking.

Thirdly, IMF runs open shelter to help prevent child victims from falling into the traps of human traffickers again. IMF was the first organisation in the region to offer a shelter for boys. They noticed that there was only one government-run shelter in the area, so some boys had nowhere to go even when they had been rescued. IMF's shelter provide these boys with sanctuary, education and a chance to study the Bible and receive individual counselling.

Through the work above, IMF hopes to free child victims of human trafficking and help all sectors of society better understand the crime. CEDAR is happy to fight human-trafficking together with IMF, so we have provided funding to them to investigate online human trafficking cases, save the victims and allow the child victims to be educated and study the Bible. Furthermore, by liaising and cooperating with different groups and organisations, IMF hopes to benefit more people through crime prevention, awareness education and vocational training.

Human trafficking has undeniably become a serious issue globally, and the problem is even worse in poorer regions. But IMF's efforts show us that God will use the work of His servants for good purposes.

Banya, a 15-year-old boy currently living at IMF's shelter, had been betrayed by a friend and fell into the clutches of human traffickers. His friend had been coerced by traffickers to 'recruit' young people for them so that he himself would be released from their captivity. As a result, he lured Banya into the trap and Banya was imprisoned in a room by the traffickers, where he was raped by them and their customers at least three times a day. During this period, he was often beaten and starved.

When Banya was abducted, he was holding his father's mobile phone in his hands. The traffickers took away his phone by force. Banya did not know how to return home alone, and he had no way to communicate with the outside world. He was worried that his father would be angry with him if he went home, so he was forced to succumb to the criminals.

Six months later, he pretended to be sick, and the traffickers took him to the hospital for medical treatment. After arriving at the hospital, he ran away and eventually went to a grocery store to ask strangers for help. He borrowed a mobile phone and used social media to connect with a friend who had also been trafficked but was then rescued by IMF.

By the time Banya was imprisoned, IMF knew these traffickers were keeping several children captive. Therefore, IMF's staff told many children in advance that if they came across a child being trafficked, they could ask IMF for help; one of these children is Banya's friend whom he contacted. So, when this friend received Banya's distress message, he immediately informed IMF.

Now, Banya's body and mind are recuperating. He hopes to become a barista and make a living out of it in the future. From Banya's story, we witness how criminals used the trust between friends to prey on new victims, but a friend rescued Banya in the end. Although friendship can become bait to lure someone into a trap, it can also become a timely aid for someone. In the same way, how well we allocate our resources depends on our intentions and beliefs.

With a mission to save the children, IMF has been working hard to combat human trafficking. The Thai government has recognised their work. In June, IMF received the 'Outstanding Performance Award for Anti-Human Trafficking.' We are delighted that our partners have received their well-deserved recognition, but we would be even more grateful if no more children were put in harm's way. This award was an encouragement.

If you share this mission, we invite you to learn more about anti-human trafficking, pray for the victims and consider donating to support the work of IMF.



IMF Vice President Jaruwat (left) accepted the 'Outstanding Performance Award for Anti-Human Trafficking' from the Thai government on behalf of the organisation.

Back to the Bible

Good Deeds out of Goodwill

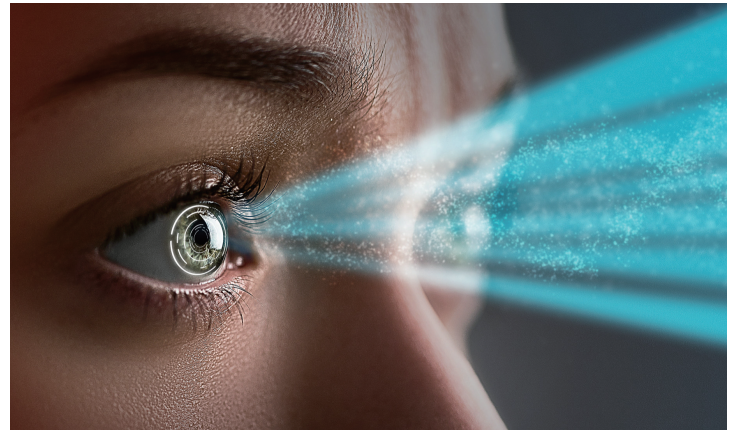
Written by Alex Ip

Scripture: Philemon 14

Paul specifically mentioned in Philemon 14 that he did not want Philemon to do what he deemed suitable but to do what was out of Philemon's wish. An enslaver should be able to spot Paul's underlying value: 'not to force others but respect their freedom'. In a society where you could control a slave's life or death, Philemon, as an owner of slaves, might have gotten used to exercising his power and forgotten the humanity of slaves. He was used to an owner's identity and forgot that slaves were also created by God.

In a capitalist society, we may have gotten used to living for personal interests. In this parody shaped by capitalism, we are living to accumulate wealth and forget about the exploited farmers at the rear. When we rely on this system to accumulate wealth, another group of people are living in extreme poverty under the same system and facing a rampant problem of human trafficking.

Trafficking children has become an 'acceptable' culture in some countries. Even if voluntary organisations rescued the children, they might be coerced to return to prostitution when they reach a cul-de-sac. Our society utterly prevents us from



seeing their tragic situation and the evil results caused by disparity.

As Christians, we should not only avoid the socially constructed high walls that block our sight of values in others and God's creation but also shoulder Paul's mission. Therefore, more people could see the victims' situation and be their support and neighbour.

Let's think:

In your routine, where can you see others' circumstances? And what blocked your sight of others' values and needs?

Editor's note: For more devotions about anti-human trafficking, you may read from CEDAR Fund's Devotion App. To download the app: link.cedarfund.org/app-245

Learn a Little More

5P-Approach to Combat Human Trafficking

Written by Ness Ma (Communications Officer)

Once mentioned human trafficking, some cinematic scenes might pop into our mind: how the police get deep into a criminal organisation and make arrests. However, this is just part of the anti-human trafficking work. The following list is the 5P-Approach adopted by our Indian partner, Evangelical Fellowship of India Children at Risk (EFIC@R), to combat human trafficking:

Methods and Objectives

Prevention

Prevent or reduce harmful risks.

Protection

Support victims to rebuild their dignity.

Prosecution

Prosecute offenders.

Partnership

Partner with multidisciplinary experts to share resources.

Policy

Promote the anti-human trafficking work and maintain its effect.

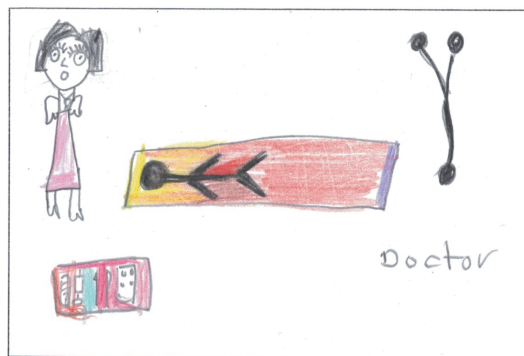
As seen in the above, if we have to combat human trafficking effectively, we must work from prevention to survivor's rehabilitation. The prosecution is just part of the process. Improving the public's knowledge and building a mutual support network are more critical. Let's read Vanya's (pseudonym) story of the rescue below.

Vanya, a 15-year-old girl, was forced to marry a 41-year-old man because her parents needed urgent money. They thought such an act could relieve their burden and sustain their livelihood with the 'profit' made from daughter-selling.

Vanya's marriage was known by one of the students in EFIC@R's learning centre, who learnt how to prevent child marriage. The student told the centre's staff about the marriage, and the staff immediately went to the wedding venue with community leaders and the police to stop this unlawful wedding. Vanya was rescued, and that 41-year-old man was charged with violating the ban against child marriage.

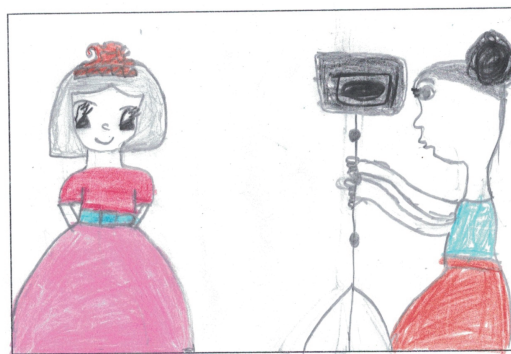
Vanya's experience upsets us that a child of a low-income family became her parents' goods for money. Indeed, the Indian government passed the Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1929 and increased the marriageable age of boys and girls to 21 and 18 in 1978. Pitifully, child marriage still happens occasionally.

Children deserve a merry childhood and grow freely and securely. Yet, they are sold and harmed in reality. Would you like to support CEDAR Fund and our partner in anti-human trafficking work?



Alpana (pseudonym), eight years old, female

She said: 'I want to be a doctor. This is me curing my patient because he got ill.'



Moubani (pseudonym), twelve years old, female

She explains: 'There is a girl acting in front of the camera in this picture, so my dream is to become an actress.'

As we witness how these children have dreams again as they run freely in their life journeys ahead, we thank our Lord for saving lives and for all your prayers on our rescue and recovery ministry.

Join Hands Join Hearts

Look at Their Dreams

Written by Ness Ma (Communications Officer)

In the 'Focus' article, we wrote of the testimony of a child being rescued out of human trafficking in Thailand and given new life. CEDAR also has its anti-human trafficking ministry in Nepal, saving Nepalese women, who were sold to work in the red-light district of Mumbai, India, and their children. We also shelter survivors as we help them recover and reintegrate into society. Not long ago, we invited children to express their dreams by drawing pictures; now, let's dive into this issue of 'Join Hands Join Hearts' to look what the sort of future they anticipate.



Adarsh (pseudonym), six years old, male

He explains: 'I drew an aeroplane. I want to be a pilot. There are many birds and clouds.'

2021/2022 Operating Statements

In the period of Jul 2021 - Jun 2022

Income	HK\$ 21,680,535
Donations	16,812,336
Grants	91,009
Appeal for Relief	4,692,609
Other Income	84,581
Expenditure	HK\$ 23,626,677
Development Projects - Asia	7,516,026
- Middle East	871,556
- China & HK	3,027,425
- Africa	2,390,787
Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation Projects	4,120,667
Partnership Development	2,959,524
Administration	1,998,784
Annual Depreciation	741,908

Annual project overview and appropriation account / (Deficit) HK\$ (1,946,142)*

Special income

Sale of property and Employment

Support Scheme HK\$ 15,271,523

Account profit and loss / (Deficit) HK\$ 13,325,381

*Excluding the special income generated from sale of property and Employment Support Scheme, the exact value of deficit this year is HKD 1,946,142. // The total expenditure projection for the year of 2022-2023 is HKD 26,156,000. Please support CEDAR's ministry and partners with prayers and actions. // Financial report not yet audited nor certified by an accountant.