

LOVE WITHOUT REASON

"UNTIL THE WORLD IS CLEFT-FREE!"



**GOOD
NEWS
IS COMING**

PROJECT BUTTERFLY

There is no social distancing when it comes to living in the slums. It is impossible, as the cardboard walls cave into the neighboring shanty and faded saris flutter and serve as wind-tossed doors.

Yet the women of Project Butterfly (PB) have taken initiative in this crisis. The leadership has taken small groups of women and gone door-to-door educating others about the importance of hygiene. The women used the sewing machines generously sponsored by the supporters of LWR to fashion facial masks. They have been distributing them along with packets of rice and lentils, to other women trapped in the cycle of slavery.



LWR PB staff making masks

Nearly 10,000 people reside in the red-light district outside of Mumbai, and we estimate about 1,500 women are trapped in sexual slavery. In the last year, over 200 women have come through the Project Butterfly Center. They have received love, emotional healing, education, and help with medical care. Children who are being raised in these slum areas have a safe place to learn, and to be fed physically and emotionally at the Project Butterfly Center several days of the week.

Love Without Reason is working to break the cycle of slavery in Mumbai.



Homes in Mumbai slums

COVID-19 brought challenges to the world, but people with an overcoming spirit know what to do when challenges arise. Before coming to Project Butterfly these women were stripped of their dignity and worth and confidence.

The Good News is they have been transformed, or gone through metamorphosis, if you will – from the caterpillar to the beautiful butterfly.



Project Butterfly meeting

THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

From LWR-Zimbabwe leadership team:
Pastor Shamiso Zengeni and Ida Madziwa

The measures in Zimbabwe to curb the spread of the virus have been effective, as there have been minimal cases in the country. However, due to the lockdown, other challenges have arisen in the interim.

To date, 9,200 people have been tested for Covid-19, and 34 have been positive with 4 deaths. Tests are done on the provincial level and have not yet come to the district and local health facilities. Lockdown for the rural citizens is a challenge. The health facilities are either not fully functioning or not available at all. Given the high number of people infected with HIV/AIDS this compromises their health, especially with respect to their necessary medications.



Zimbabwe in lockdown

The government has announced that businesses in the formal sector can open on May 17th however, over 90% of the economic activities are in the informal sector. This implies that the livelihood of most Zimbabweans will still be in lockdown. This could possibly be the cause of the increase in arrests by the police as people attempt to trade in order to make a living. The government announced that they would avail about the equivalent of \$5 USD to individuals in the informal sector to cushion people. Food and water is the immediate need, both in rural and urban areas. In the urban areas, shelter is an issue because many homeless have been removed from town centers. Now with winter approaching, warm clothing is greatly needed.

Team LWR Zimbabwe



Police stopping vehicles in Zimbabwe

Church gatherings are banned. Pastors are struggling as well as their families. The people they lead are as well. Spiritual support in these trying times is needed, but we are unable to reach the people.

Some markets have been allowed to open with restrictions on hours and number of customers. Travel and trade limitations have seen farmers experiencing losses. For the upcoming farming season, they would need horticulture seeds and inputs to continue their livelihood.



The LWR-Zimbabwe leadership team has been able to call many of the patients and to inquire on their health. As of right now, all LWR patients and families are healthy and well. Many parents have sent updated pictures of beautiful new smiles – from both the parents and their children who received free surgery. This has been a beautiful joy in the middle of this season of trials. Pray for our Zimbabwean team. The lockdown, we trust, will be lifted the month of May. The work will move forward!



FOCUS ON OUR STAFF: PASTOR PRADIP LAMA

Our Project Butterfly team is led by Pastor Pradip Lama. He was born in Nepal. When his sister was thirteen years old, she was kidnapped by soldiers of the Indian army. His panicked parents discovered that she was taken to Mumbai, India to be sold in a red-light district. Pradip and his parents moved to Mumbai to find his sister. He has lived and searched for thirty years in Mumbai. In the process, he discovered the horror, shame and trauma of the women who lived in the red-light area. No, he never found his sister. But the many women that he and his wife have ministered to over the years call him by one name. *Baba* meaning “brother.”

Pradip’s observation from his years of listening to the stories of his sisters is that the majority of the women are sold and then trapped in slavery because of lack of education, poverty and financial crisis. He is very concerned of the effect of COVID-19 on the women of India. Will women in rural India travel to the cities in hopes of any job and means of income?

With the increased awareness campaigns against human trafficking, many traffickers have chosen to “hide in plain sight.” The pimps are renting homes and apartments in residential areas to exploit women and children for sex. This approach is trending in the United States as well. We must all be aware of our surroundings. For example, seeing multiple different vehicles and people coming in and out of a home during all times of the day should raise some red flags. “If you see something, say something.” Don’t be afraid to stand up for the vulnerable. You may never know what your seemingly ordinary ‘tip’ could change for someone’s life.

As the LWR team works and plans for anticipated increase in the number of sexually exploited people, pray for wisdom to assist in jobs that will enhance the dignity and value of these women in India. Your generous monthly support of \$25, \$50 or more can empower these women with skills to stay free from sexual slavery.

P.S. As of today, May 13, 2020, the red-light area where Project Butterfly operates is on a complete lockdown. We are trying to get much needed basic and essential supplies to our dear ones. Funds designated to Project Butterfly will go towards food and essential supplies. Thank you for your prayers and support for this effort.



Pastor Pradip teaching a sewing class in Mumbai, India.

**Covid-19 could push
12 million Indians
into extreme poverty:**
World Bank

**Rise In Bonded Labour
And Human Trafficking
In India:**
Outlook Magazine



Tornado & Traffickers

Late in the night of Easter Sunday, EF4 tornadoes ravaged through the southern regions of the U.S.A. Love Without Reason's headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was in the path of the tornadoes. Even though our offices suffered no damages, the resulting chaos and trauma opened our eyes to see the ease with which traffickers could work. Over 600 homes were destroyed, families were separated, the basics of food, water and shelter were desperately needed. All of this during a time of 'social distancing.'

Mimi Nikkel, the founder of Love's Arm which fights sex trafficking in Chattanooga, noted that her teams have seen an increase in street prostitution, which is the later process of the trafficking continuum. "Trauma survival and addictive behaviors rise when there is a crisis. Fear tends to increase addictive behaviors. Fear is used to manipulate trafficking victims. Therefore, the demand increases as well as the supply," said Nikkel.

LWR has worked hard to protect children, raise awareness, listen to partnering agencies and share the National Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) in whatever capacity we are able. The work will not be easy for the next few years in Chattanooga. But we know there is hope in rebuilding and restoring people, their families and the communities.

RUN WALK STROLL CRAWL



SATURDAY
SEPT 19TH
2020

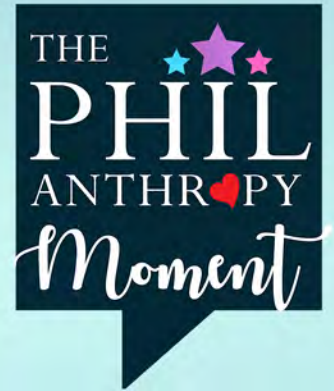
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www.5krun4love.com



Philip Mathews was the winner of the Youth in Philanthropy award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Southeastern Chapter in November 2018. He then started a Facebook live show on Sundays at 5pm (EST) to share his thoughts and experiences on topics from football to food to philanthropy. While Philip is no longer on this earth, his siblings, Sara and Caleb, have determined to continue his message of hope and compassion to a hurting, seeking world. Join them on Sunday!



EVERY SUNDAY
@5.00PM(EST)


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