



Wednesday Prayer

8th Sunday after Pentecost – Recovery and Resilience, not rescue.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Psalm 86:11-12

There's a new movie out about trafficking, and I hate to even name it because then it might heighten your curiosity to see it, sort of like banning books does for some of us – now I want to read it. Regardless, I'll name it in order to give another perspective. The movie "Sound of Freedom" claims to be a film that can change the world by lighting a fire within us to end child trafficking. Sadly, this film focuses on "rescuing" and "saving" children in faraway communities, replaying dramatic saviorism that centers the "rescuer" as hero to helpless individuals. Not to say that trafficking doesn't happen in faraway communities, but the need to travel across the globe to "save" children doesn't tell a full and true picture.

For many organizations that have worked with survivors for decades, this film sets the anti-trafficking movement back again. Organizations that have been working to center survivors, offering recovery rather than rescue, ongoing support with individuals for the long-term process of healing rather than the swift and dramatic "save", working to dismantle inequities that are at the root cause of trafficking – these are the real narratives we need to be engaging with. Focusing on the individual's resilience and strength to start anew and be agents of their own change – these are the more truthful ways to work in the reality of anti-trafficking.

My Life, My Choice is a leading provider for young survivors of sexual exploitation and a model for anti-trafficking organizations across the country. [Read more about their review](#) of "Sound of Freedom" and make a choice to view more accurate films to tell the story and engage in action.

- ["A Path Appears"](#) is a 4-minute look into My Life, My Choice's work with survivors.
- ["What is Sextortion"](#) is a 6-minute introduction to the fastest growing online crime against boys and girls, provided by the Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- ["I am Jane Doe"](#) 2017 documentary tells the story of mothers acting to shut down backpage.com on behalf of their middle school daughters and all who are trafficked through this site.
- ["Very Young Girls"](#) is the 2007 story of 12-14 year-old girls in New York City seduced and sold in sex trafficking, treated as adult criminals, and the very real journey towards getting out of the life with the support of GEMS.

Let us open our minds and hearts to be able to walk in God's way. Lord, teach us over and over again what is the truth and how to live out the truth of your way. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.