

THE MESSENGER

Volume 61 | April 2017 | Issue 4

Wednesday Night Live

Children's classes and Adult Bible Study continue at 6:00 PM. The adult class will be continuing the study of Hebrews.

Men's Breakfast

And Monthly Board Meeting.

Saturday, April 8

8:30 A. M.

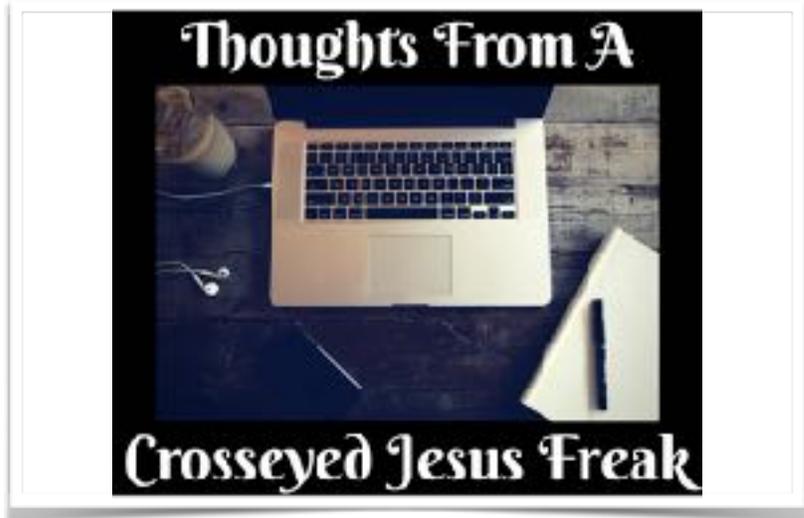
Steven's Inn

Adult Sunday School

We are studying the book of Romans at 9:30 each week. We would love to have you all join us.

SoundCloud

To listen to past sermons, you can go to <https://soundcloud.com/kraig-birchfield>



“In It To End It: The Fight Against Modern Day Slavery”

We are going to do something a little different this month with The Messenger. I contacted our friend Em Falls, and asked her to write a guest piece for “Thoughts From a Crosseyed Jesus Freak” because we wanted to shine a light on slavery. Em has been involved in a big way in raising awareness, and fighting against human trafficking since we first got to know here in 2010. She’s a nurse who loves to travel, but her passions are Jesus Christ, and helping to bring an end to this epidemic of modern day slavery. Here are her words from her own experience!



Years ago human trafficking wasn't something that was talked about. This is mainly due to the fact that most did not know it existed. Over the years more awareness and light has been shed on this increasingly growing epidemic. I first

Verizon Tower

We signed and returned the contract and are awaiting the next step from Verizon.

April 16

Easter Sunday!

9:00 AM Carry-In Breakfast (with donation for the Youth Fund)

10:30 AM Worship Service
Easter Egg Hunt for the kids directly following the service

Note: No Sunday School Classes

Current-Argus

Kraig is writing articles for the *Current-Argus*' "Faith" section that runs on Saturdays. Generally, he is submitting articles every other week.

heard about human trafficking at a Christ In Youth (CIY) conference going into my senior year of high school. Patty Fancher, Program Director for ENGAGE at CIY, talked with such passion about this horrible injustice that was happening not only across the world but right here in America.

As she continued to speak a fire sparked and was raging inside me. I NEEDED to do something about what was happening to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Human trafficking isn't limited to 'sex trafficking'. Although many victims start out in other forms of slavery and a majority of them end up falling victim to sexual exploitation. According to dosomething.org, nearly 80% of human trafficking involves sexual exploitation and close to 19% is labor exploitation. Human trafficking includes; sex slavery, domestic servants, forced labor, bonded labor, forced marriage, and child labor according to enslaverynow.org.



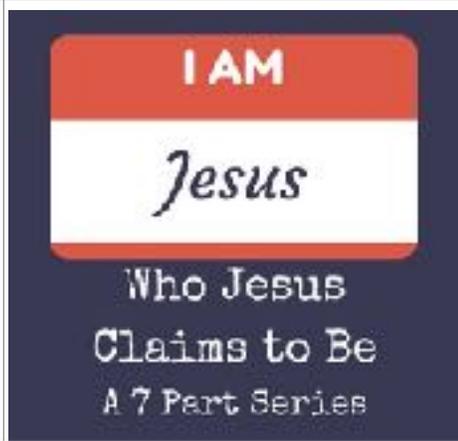
That next summer I took my first trip to Cambodia with CIY to learn about the culture and why their society has accepted human trafficking as a way of not only survival but a 'normal' way

of life now. I met with so many young girls of various ages, some as young as two years old, who were rescued from the injustice that was forced upon them. Many girls were sold into sex slavery by their own parents for money to feed their other starving children. These girls were brought to Rapha House, a non-profit safe house program to help combat the trafficking of children in Cambodia and now other countries who have a high population of child exploitation.

These young girls are given counseling, protection from their predators, and, they are taught English and a trade. Now when their predators are prosecuted and they are of age they can go back out into the world, having hope, and something to help them make a steady income. Many girls told their horror stories and with tears streaming down my face they would come and wipe my tears away. They would hug me and tell me not to be sad because they were healing and they had hope. The love and healing I witnessed could only come from God.

While we were there we heard of a young girl being trafficked at an Oklahoma City Mall. Many of us were shocked at the time because you don't think of the U.S. having these issues. You assume that these problems are mostly in third world countries where governments are broken and societies are in chaos. Human trafficking here at home is at the worst it has ever been. Many people see huge supporting events like the

Sermon Series



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dorie Fannin, 4/3; Glenda Bushman, 4/6; Gary Webb, 4/6; Misty Eagle, 4/10; Valarie Waddle, 4/15 (If we missed anyone, please let us know so we can update our records).

Super Bowl, college game day tournaments, The Olympics, and The World Cup games as a time for the world to come together and celebrate. Human Traffickers see this as a perfect opportunity to expand their business.

"According to the U.S. State Department close to 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. 80% are female and 50% are children.-dosomething.org" That would be like the entire population of Denver, Colorado being trafficked in one year. In 2015 it was estimated that human trafficking brought in nearly \$150 BILLION according to Fair Trade Winds. That means human trafficking made more money in 2015 than Google, Nike, Starbucks, and the NFL COMBINED. Let that marinate for a minute. Those numbers and statistics are astounding and cannot be ignored. We are called by God in Isaiah 58:6,7;

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

We have a duty as to loosen the chains of injustice of our brothers and sisters. Realize that human trafficking isn't just in some far off land away from our home soil, it's here, hiding in plain sight. Be aware and educate yourselves. There are so many recourses now that people are becoming more aware of the injustice that surrounds us. —Em Falls

If you would like to do more research on the topic, you can find information at raphahouse.org, endslaverynow.org, and dosomething.org. Or, get in touch with me, and I can get you in touch with Em if you would like to discuss her work with her more. God Bless!

Because of Him,

Kraig B.

Serving in April	2	9	16	23	30
Greeter	Hutchins	Kayser	Waddle	Webb	Awbrey
Meditations	Barry	Kraig	Dorie	Kraig	Kelley
Kid's Church	Liz	Robbie	TBA	Christina	Kelley

Central Christian Church

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Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 A.M.
 Worship Celebration 10:30 A.M.
 Wednesday Night 6:00 P.M.
 Office Hours:
 Wednesday 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
 Thursday 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.