



ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN HOUSTON

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Portland's Quiet Abolitionists **Katelyn Beaty / OCTOBER 31, 2011**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/november/portlandabolitionists.html?start=4>

"With sex trafficking, unless you are a trained social worker, FBI agent, or DA, there's not much for you to do on the front line," says Weigel. "I'm creating places where people don't insist that they have to be on the front line, but still see they are helping."

Insiders are eager to see churches provide kids mentors and a sexual ethic that emphasizes their God-given dignity.

"The church is in the best position to take the lead on morality issues in a way that government can't," says Baker. "At the end of the day, we put the bad guy away and get [the girl] clothes and health treatment. But who loves her? Who tells her a story other than, 'The only thing you're good for is selling your body?'"

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 "It's not just about rescue, it's also about prevention," says Bellavia. "Sometimes that's hard because it's not exciting or notable. But you're having a long-term and probably more significant impact investing in a 9-year-old boy who doesn't have a good role model.

"If it's just about building a shelter, people think the only way to contribute is financially. I'm encouraging the faith community that they can be involved, even though it doesn't look like it's directly involved."

"The church has something special: We have the Good News," says Tama-Sweet as we leave Popeye's so he can join his wife and 2-year-old at

home. "We have a vision of the way the world is supposed to be. And it doesn't include the rape of children on our streets.

When you realize that God loved every victim when they were born, that he's with them every day they're traumatized—it's incumbent on believers to protect them, to help them become whole, and to insist that, in our society, we are not going to tolerate the antithesis of God's beloved community."

WHAT CAN I DO?

- *Be intentional in purchasing. Fair Trade chocolate, tea, coffee, etc.*
- *Report any suspicions, always, everywhere.*
- *Support organizations that battle trafficking.*
- *Pray! Believers who commit themselves to pray for a specific organization, caregiver, ministry, or region are investing deeply in the work of abolition.*
- *We can be involved in local anti-trafficking efforts. Human trafficking does not exist "out there." It is in our backyards. Whether we are best gifted to work in prevention or intervention or in recovery is determined by the community's specific needs and our own passions and skills. Taking the time to evaluate both of these things in a prayerful*

way will lead us to the work God has for us in our own local contexts.

- *Have ZERO tolerance for porn, even jokes and casual references.*
- **Download and use the App TraffickCam in hotels.**
- **Support and attend this event: Vulnerable: Gender, Race, Poverty and Human Trafficking on October 29th, from 8-12. Lunch Sponsor.**
- **Support and attend event in February 2017 for Super Bowl prep.**
- *Ask God to guide your steps and go before you and to surround you.*
- *Do simple Google searches for groups fighting trafficking in your local area: church, NGO, non-profits, government agencies, IJM, etc.*
- *Call and talk with the local police department.*
- *Talk to Child Protective Services.*
- *Call any Foster Children Group Homes.*
- *Contact Child Abuse Prevention centers in your area.*
- *Reach out to the Task Force fighting Human Trafficking in your area.*
- *Look up to see if your State Representatives have written or endorsed any bills focused on Human Trafficking.*