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ARTICLE

HEAVEN-WARD THROUGH HAVEN

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

HAVEN PRAYER REQUEST





HEAVEN-WARD THROUGH HAVEN

Walking down Petaling Street, we hear the bustling of sellers convincing passers-by to purchase their counterfeit products, visitors talking over each other with the intention to haggle and negotiate prices, people standing

in line to buy the refreshing tau fu-fah, soya bean, or air mata Kucing, or the appam balik sold by the same Uncle for more than forty years now. Little does one know that these busy streets, highlighted as a tourism hotspot,









are infamously known to be one of the long-standing and active red-light districts in the Klang Valley.

I have heard so many people share: "I am Malaysian, born and bred, yet I never knew the dens were so open in broad daylight." With the distraction of the crowded streets and busy business, it is no wonder, nevertheless, they are there, garnering customers among Close to home is one street ministry known within FBC as Helpers Against Violent Exploitation Network introduced as "HAVEN" Ministry), which upholds the strong objective as a ministry aimed at alleviating the suffering of those caught in the world of violence and exploitation, and providing support to them. One would think that reaching out to these people could be a touch-base of just introducing Jesus and asking if they

would like to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. But it goes beyond that, putting into perspective, testimonies shared with us on how they got into this trade in the first place including being sold in financial desperation, being conned and trafficked, being abused and therefore falling into this work like escaping a crocodile's mouth only to fall into a tiger's mouth. The testimonies go on and on, but one thing remains, a part, if not the whole of themselves was murdered when they entered this trade, which is why this ministry could never be touch-and-go. It requires not just sharing the word, but invested perseverance, compassion, and commitment during the sharing of the Good News, to the unending aftercare which expectedly includes taking into account repeated relapse episodes as well.

Helpers Against Violence Exploitation Network

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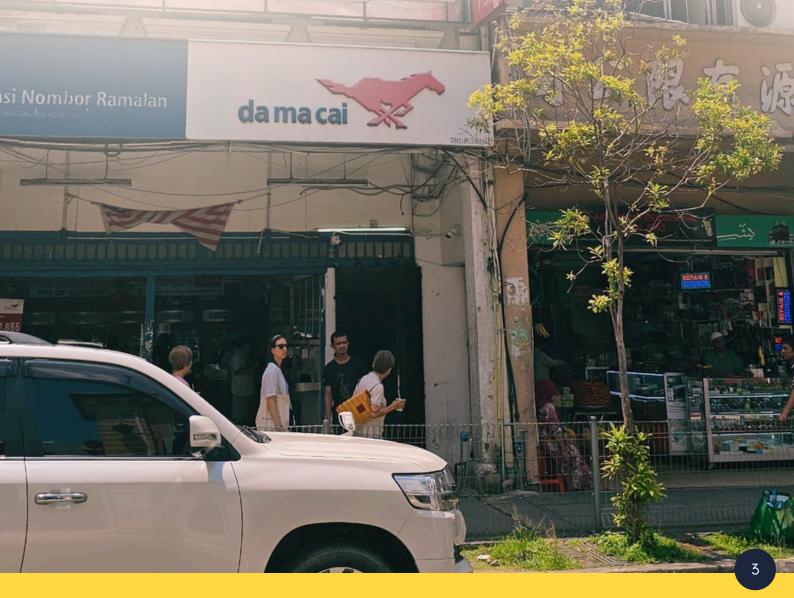
A ministry aimed at alleviating the suffering of those caught in the world of violence and exploitation, and providing support to them.





For generations, scorn and prejudice surround this trade that victims find it near-impossible to escape for the very reason that they are stigmatized and therefore choose to go back to the bondage of such familiarity. It is believed that Society can be more harsh and unforgiving than the law of the land, what more these individuals who are already considered outcasts and view themselves as such in the eyes of society? Yet we are called not to see people through the lens of the world, but to compassionately love and accept through the lens of Jesus Christ and this is exactly what Haven Ministry has aimed do and will continue to ambassadors of - that is to be an instrument used by Christ to help victims and perpetrators alike to find their freedom in Christ and to know their identity in Jesus.

This ministry is about loving, and loving them from the time these individuals are still in the streets, to the point of regeneration, throughout the time they try to find their footing outside of the trade where relapses are common and they are in need of people to hold them closely and steadfastly love them in Christ, till they find their ground again and again and thereafter become testimonies and themselves instruments for furtherance of the Kingdom. This could take years, decades of walking closely with them and being their confidant, a channel in guiding them to experience the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Perhaps one may have the assumption that this ministry is not for everyone. Sure, not everyone could be on the ground for this ministry, but bearing in mind that the sole instrument for this ministry is loving because God first loved us, one need not necessarily go into the streets. Intercessors are vital to cover each other from the oppressions battling in the spiritual realm for murdered souls, volunteers with creative ideas for contents or for little gifts and trinkets to the gatekeepers and workers alike are embraced - as basic human rights and needs that we so often take for granted are not permitted to them and of course financial assistance is by no extension pivotal in this effort and every penny counts. There is always something anyone can do when we choose to serve the Kingdom of Heaven.

Isaiah 1:17 says "Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows."

I cannot stress more that this is a longministry, one not lacking frustrations and worry because even when the regenerated have given up all hope and strength within themselves to persevere against the attacks oppressions of the evil one, through the Holy Spirit and divine strength of the Lord, we must keep up the hope, strength and perseverance for them, to pull them back up and especially never let them go, "... for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."





Yet, the encouragement and sweet note are the testimonies of the love they experience in Christ, the hope and new life they have found with Jesus. It may be one that, in all literal sense, squeezes out blood, sweat, and tears, but in these small victories won throughout their journey, unending testimonies bloom to encourage that God is in this ministry and he never leaves anyone behind.

SHOULD YOU BE
INTERESTED IN
KNOWING MORE ABOUT
THIS MINISTRY, PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO REACH
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HAVEN PRAYER REQUEST

- 1. God to raise up workers to reach out to those caught in the sex trade.
- 2. Haven's beneficiary divine healing psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually, and desire to help others like themselves who have experienced trauma, addiction, etc.
- 3. Volunteer workers to be committed, and passionate for the things of God, serving joyfully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

