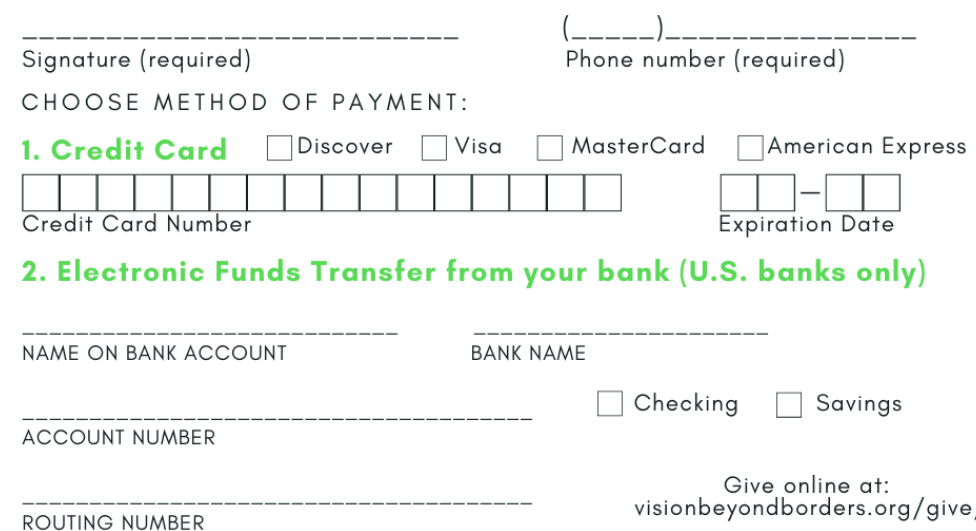
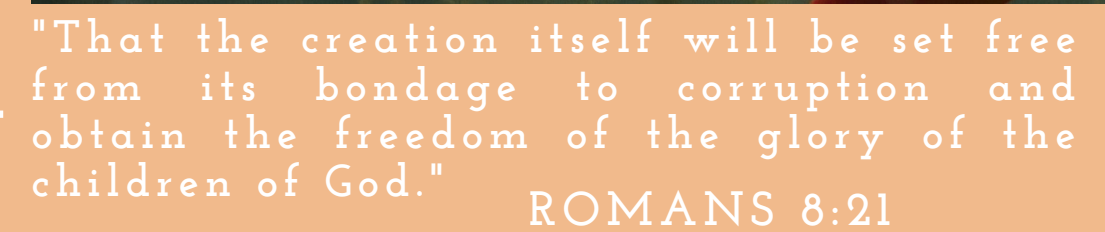




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VISION FOR WOMEN

It is time for the Church in the United States to wake up. For too long, we have stuck our heads in the sand, unwilling to admit that we have a problem when it comes to the issue of human trafficking. We write posts for our social media accounts and repost other's words on world trafficking day, but when it comes to really making a change, we remain strangely silent. That red x you drew on your hand may be inspiring, but what is it really doing to stop trafficking? What are you really doing?

Geoff Rogers, co-founder of the United States Institute Against Human Trafficking, said, "The United States is the number one consumer of sex worldwide. So we are driving the demand as a society." In 2018, the United States was ranked in the top three of the world's worst places for human trafficking. Over the last several years, due to increasingly conservative estimates, it has since dropped from that position, but, the reality remains that the United States continues to be one of the worst countries in the world for trafficking.

The pornography industry drives the sex trafficking industry in the United States. 40 million Americans admit that they regularly visit pornographic sites. 70% of men aged 18 to 24 visit a porn site at least once per month.

47% of US families say that pornography is a problem in their home. The average age of first exposure to pornography is 11 years old, and 94% of children will see porn at least once by the age of 14. This is just the pornography industry: this doesn't even begin to account for the thousands of "gentlemen's clubs", strip clubs, massage parlors, and other businesses that sell commercial sex all over the US and have thriving businesses.

The numbers in the Christian Church are no better. 68% of church going men, 50% of pastors, and 76% of young Christian adults between the ages of 18 and 24 actively search out or view pornography on a regular basis. 87% of Christian women say that they have watched porn at least once, and 15 % of them say they watch pornography more than once a month. Only 7% of pastors report that their church has a ministry program for those in the congregation who may be struggling with porn.

The Church has a problem; a serious problem that we can no longer afford to ignore. We as the body of Christ must come to terms with the fact that we cannot on the one hand say that we want to fight against trafficking but on the other hand be unwilling to talk about the true epidemic that is driving trafficking or, worse yet, taking part in the privacy of our own homes. We cannot be both countercultural and complicit in what the world says is acceptable. We must make a choice.

ONE WOMAN RESCUED.
ONE GIRL SAVED.
ONE LIFE CHANGED.

As the body of Christ, we cannot afford to sit idly by any longer and assume that secret sins affect only us, or that our posts on social media are keeping us sufficiently involved in the work of the Gospel. Jesus taught in Matthew 25:40, *"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"* Later he says that the opposite is also true: *"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'"* (Matthew 25:45). Jesus made it very clear what He calls us to: serve and love others actively without recognition.

We must pray for the Church. We must love our brothers and sisters as they struggle with pornography. We must have the hard conversations. We must call one another to more. So we want to ask you, what are you really doing to fight trafficking? What are you really doing to encourage the body of Christ to stand in the truth? What are you really doing to serve the least of these?

IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES, PLEASE EMAIL US AT VISIONFORWOMEN@VISIONBEYONDBORDERS.ORG



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