

Prayers for use on 'Freedom Sunday' by those concerned at modern day slavery

Our Gracious God and loving heavenly Father,
you are the champion of widows and a father to orphans;
have mercy on all forced into slave labour or prostitution.
Deliver them to safety, and dignity,
and, above all, to the freedom that comes through your gospel.
Bring swift justice upon all who seek to exploit the poor and powerless,
turn the hearts of perpetrators towards you in repentance
and bring quickly the kingdom of your Son, our Saviour. Amen.

Gracious Lord Jesus,
you came preaching a gospel of deliverance,
and freedom for captives and the oppressed.
Have mercy on all those stolen from home and family;
especially we pray for little ones caught up in child labour.
Thwart the schemes of wicked men
and return the prisoners to their loved ones.
Bring justice to all afflicted by human trafficking.
We ask it for the honour of your coming kingdom. Amen.

Almighty Father,
you have appointed the Lord Jesus as judge of all the earth;
send out your Spirit of wisdom and justice
to all who determine, interpret and enforce the laws of this country.
Restrain their hearts from greed, dishonesty and pride.
Empower them to protect the vulnerable,
guide the foolish, and serve the common good.
Grant these things for the sake of your righteousness. Amen.

Background: From Monday 14 October, Synod will consider the following motion, prepared by the Social Issues Committee, "by request of Standing Committee" ...

Freedom Sunday 18 October 2015

Synod notes that slavery existed in various forms from ancient times, and likewise continues today, often involving child labour, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

Among other Scriptures that touch on the issue, Synod rejoices that even when urging personal contentment in our various circumstances, 1 Corinthians 7:21-23 encourages slaves to gain their freedom if they can and reminds them that they are the Lord's freed persons when called to faith in Christ. Being bought by Christ at a great price, Christians know that the trafficking of humans for the purpose of the enslavement of one human being by another is never desirable in God's economy.

Synod also recalls with gratitude the involvement of evangelical Christians and others, associated especially with the name of William Wilberforce, in the fight against the slave trade in the late 1700s and the early 1800s.

Therefore Synod commends to parishes' consideration observance of 'Freedom Sunday', on Sunday, 18 October 2015, and draws attention to the prayer resources prepared by the Rev Dr David Höhne of the Social Issues Committee for the occasion.