

AN ALARMING NEED AND OPPORTUNITY

Rob Robinson

Sunday evening, Ron Brown gave a report on the work of the ministry called Saving Asian Souls. SAS is a ministry of Churches of Christ in Asian nations such as Nepal, Thailand, China, the Philippines and Japan. Ron gave an alarming report on the most recent developments in this work's efforts to bring the blessings of the kingdom of God into the lives of Asian people. His report was on efforts to save young girls from becoming victims of human trafficking. According to Ron's information, there are more persons literally enslaved in the world today than at any time in the world's history. Following is information from the ministry's website.

Thousands of teenagers are sold, entrapped, coerced, tricked, drugged and through other means made slaves of organized crime in many countries outside and inside Asia. For example, Japan's criminal underground brothels have approximately 150,000 Filipino girls in their prostitution racket. 20,000 young girls leave Nepal each year to become prostitutes in Arab countries. This is true of many Asian countries. The sex trade continues to worsen with each passing year. Human trafficking is the second largest growing crime in the world next to drug trafficking. The average age of teens trafficked is 14 years. About 17,000 enter the US each year and are sold into prostitution. Many, after their middle twenties, are discarded because they are no longer wanted and younger girls are brought to the US to replace them. Many are beaten and raped by the criminals who control them. They are illegal in the US and cannot go to the authorities. The criminals take their passports and identity papers so that they cannot leave the prostitution racket. Their lives and souls are destroyed. EVERY 30 SECONDS ANOTHER PERSON IS A VICTIM.

The SAS ministry diverts young women and girls who are vulnerable to this kind of trafficking into safe refuges where they can learn to live a normal life, and, most importantly, learn the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our congregation asked Ron to come and present the report on this work to inform us of the work and the need. You are encouraged to be informed about SAS and, if you wish, to become a supporter. For more information, please visit the website at www.save-asiansouls.org.