

# Sex trafficking of children 'growing' problem in U.S.

American children are becoming victims of human sex trafficking, according to statistics released by Shared Hope International (SHI).

"The figures we use say between 100,000 and 300,000 American children are at risk of trafficking," said Karrie Delaney, director of communications for the Vancouver, Wash.-based organization that seeks not only to prevent sex trafficking but to rescue and restore women and children trapped in it.

"At least 100,000 American children are trafficked each year," Delaney said.

Based on these numbers, domestic minor sex trafficking has become a serious problem in many locations across the United States.

A fact sheet on the SHI Web site reports age 12 as the average age of entry into illegal pornography and prostitution.

## Lured off street, Internet

How are young girls lured into the trafficking business?

"Luring happens in a variety of ways," Delaney said. "In interviews with victims, we have had reports of girls being lured at 12 years old by a pimp or a trafficker by him approaching them at a mall or on the street. He is usually an older boy and buys her presents, making her believe he's her boyfriend."

"One girl got in the car with [a pimp] because she thought he was her boyfriend, and he drove her to another city, became violent and forced her into prostitution."

According to the SHI Web site, pimps can earn up to \$632,000 per year by selling four young women or children. Seventy-five percent of minors engaged in prostitution have a pimp, and most pimps have more than one minor working for them.

Many of these girls are taken off the street.

The SHI Web site says a third of the 2.8 million children living on the streets are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.

Since trafficking is such a hidden crime, however, it is difficult to manage an accurate count of how many young girls are lured each year.

Many girls do not realize they are being lured until it is too late, Delaney said.

Demand is a major cause of the rising trafficking business, Delaney and an awareness video on the SHI Web site point out.

"As long as there is a demand that fuels this market, there will be a supply," Delaney said. "We feel that since there is a growing demand, it is going to be a problem that grows as well."

"Across the United States, there

## Senators urged to toughen trafficking bill

Southern Baptist ethics leader Richard Land is part of a diverse coalition calling on United States senators to pass improved legislation to combat human trafficking.

Land, president of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, is one of 150 people — from conservative Christians to liberal feminists — who signed on to a letter by the National Black Leadership Roundtable urging senators to support legislation already passed by the House of Representatives.

The House approved the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007, H.R.3887, in December 2007 with a 405-2 vote.

The legislation "will rescue millions of enslaved girls, women and children within our borders and throughout the world," according to the letter to senators.

The bill's adoption "will allow the United States to combat modern-day slavery with an effectiveness comparable to [19th-century] efforts to end the chattel enslavement of Africans," the letter to

members of the Senate Foreign Relations and Judiciary committees said. "The parallels between both efforts are made clear by the fact that [African-Americans] and Latinos are those most victimized by domestic traffickers, and by the fact that today's traffickers inflict their harm on those who are most vulnerable: young people of color, often immigrants, often children, almost always women, almost always poor."

## 50 percent of victims are minors

About 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year, according to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

This does not include millions of victims who are trafficked within their own national borders, the office says.

About 80 percent of the transnational victims are females, and up to 50 percent are minors.

The data show the majority of those trafficked across international borders are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. (BP)

is a culture of tolerance in the media really sexualizing children and making sex scenes the norm. Men often feel very entitled to buy sex."

Trafficking is not booming merely because of the illegal sex market but also with the help of the legal market and men who feel the need to buy sex.

"There is really no safe way of participating in the commercial sex industry," Delaney said.

"[T]he legal market is really just a fine line between that and the illegal market that exploits children."

Statistics about the extent of the problem that may be surprising:

▶ The sale of child pornogra-

phy is a \$3 billion annual industry in the U.S.

▶ 55 percent of child pornography on the Internet comes from the U.S.

▶ One in five pornographic images on the Internet is of a child.

▶ One in five American youth who regularly use the Internet has been sexually solicited. (BP)

## Someone You Should Know

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YK

By Josh Rutledge  
The Alabama Baptist

### IRIS LUNDY ANDERSON

Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile  
Mobile Baptist Association

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Psalm 121  
**FAVORITE HYMN:** "Blessed Assurance"  
**HOBBIES:** Traveling and sewing  
**FAMILY STATUS:** Married to Billy Ray;

four children, Wanda, Iris, Sandra and Ameer; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren



ANDERSON

Iris Lundy Anderson first began playing the organ for Zion Baptist Church, Mobile, at the age of 15. At 17, she married and left Alabama in the first of several moves that would take her across the United States. During that time, Anderson played the organ for churches in Mississippi, Arizona and Michigan as well as Alabama in the midst of her moves. She was the organist at First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Miss., for 32 years before returning to Mobile in 2003, where she has continued her music ministry as organist at Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, in Mobile Baptist Association.

**Q: What led you to play the organ in church for so many years?**

A: In the beginning, it was because my pastor's wife wanted someone else to play so she

taught me how, but over the years, I've seen how God has led me. When I came back to Mobile, I wasn't looking to play but they found me.

**Q: What does the ministry as an organist demand?**

A: It demands time most of all. You have to have a family that understands that it takes lots of hours of practice. Organists in a church are not performers but worship leaders, and it takes a lot of time to get the music right.

**Q: How has the role as organist impacted your own life?**

A: It's kept me in church, and my family, and I've done a lot of Bible studying that I wouldn't have done otherwise.

**Q: How have family or church members supported you?**

A: My family has always been behind me the whole way, even when my children were young. My husband has backed me completely. And that's something you've got to have.

**Q: Do you see yourself continuing to play in the future?**

A: I ask myself that question every day, and my greatest wish is that I will know when it is the right time to leave.

**Q: What difference do you think playing the organ in church has made in the lives of others?**

A: I only know what other people have told me. People have said they were able to worship better or were able to reflect on things better because of the music, but I can only know what others have said.

## Retired pastor Martin dies at 85

Retired pastor and Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM) missionary Charles L. Martin Jr. died March 8. He was 85.

Martin led the Baptist Campus Ministries office of the SBOM from 1977 to 1988. In this role, he worked with campus ministers on 35 Alabama college campuses.

Prior to working for the SBOM, Martin was pastor of Parker Memorial Baptist Church, Anniston, 1962-1976, and First Baptist Church, Oxford, 1952-1956.

In between these two pastorates, he and his wife, Anne, served in Japan. Martin served as associate secretary of the youth department of the Japan Baptist Convention

and worked with college students in Tokyo, where he led in the creation of a student center.

A native of Fort Payne, Martin received his undergraduate degree from Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham and divinity and theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He received an honorary doctorate from Judson College in Marion.

Martin served in the Air Force during World War II, flying 31 missions over Japan, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his efforts.

He was preceded in death by his wife and is survived by three children and four grandchildren. (TAB)

## Former Alabama pastor Inman dies

Charles Richard Inman, a former Alabama Baptist pastor, died March 20. He was 84.

Inman served as a church starter and bivocational pastor for several churches in Alabama and Tennessee.

In Alabama, he served as pastor of Valley Grove Baptist Church, Tuscumbia; New Bethel Baptist Church, Tuscumbia; and Donald Baptist Church, Town Creek. In addition, Inman served for a time as minister to senior adults at Valdosta Baptist Church, Tuscumbia. He was employed as an admin-

istrative officer by the Tennessee Valley Authority for more than 20 years, including a stint at Colbert Fossil Plant on the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama. Inman attended Tennessee Temple College (now Tennessee Temple University) in Chattanooga.

He is survived by wife Agnes, his five children, three stepchildren, 13 grandchildren, six stepgrandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and seven stepgreat-grandchildren.

Inman was preceded in death by his first wife of 45 years, Margaret. (TAB)