

Human Slavery and Bondage of the Human Mind:

(Client Information Disguised to Protect Privacy)

By Dr. Ericha Scott, Primary Author

Ms. Diane Malecha, Second Author

Whole Living Journal, July 2014

I can remember the first time I heard about human bondage. It was in 1987 when I was working as a new counselor in the Park Cities near Highland Park, a Dallas community I call, "The Malibu of Texas".

An extremely bright middle aged client, with a successful career as a lawyer, began weeping in a hysterical panic, shaking, covering her face as she said in a child's voice,....."and and and and he put a loaded gun in my vagina and said he would kill me if I screamed or told anyone," and at that moment the oppressed scream from 45 years before emerged with so much childlike angst I had to concentrate to suppress the urge to burst into tears along with her.

A few months before Renee Fredrickson, PhD, the co-owner of the counseling center where I worked, had warned me that I would hear about bondage. As she spoke my mind drifted to consensual adult pseudo-

sadomasochism..... the kind I had seen represented or at least implied in the photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe. Renee sensing that I had missed the point, looked me in the eye and said,..... "of children." I swallowed and said quietly, "Oh". Even then I truly had no idea what she meant.

How can it be that one of the most wealthy, prestigious, proper Christian neighborhoods in the world harbors this kind of criminal activity outside of our sight and awareness?

What does bondage mean when it involves the mind, not just the body? It is confounding when bondage involves no physical restraints that we can see. Dr. Richard Kluft in the book, *Incest-Related Syndromes of Adult Psychotherapy*, revealed a conversation he had while a young soldier stationed in Italy. He spoke with a man in a bar who revealed to Richard that he was a pimp. The pimp volunteered in a braggart sort of way, that the best prostitutes, like the two sitting with him, had been initiated to the world of sex by their fathers.

Yes, this is very shocking, but in fact, research supports the pimp's comment. The large majority of prostitutes were sexually abused as young children, not necessarily by their fathers, but often by a much older and often trusted person. Some studies reveal that as many as 80% of prostitutes were sexually abused in childhood.

Many prostitutes acknowledge that the early abuse has restricted their life choices, but without adequate familial or social support they do not feel as if they have better options. In other words, they do not have alternative options to prostitution due to such correlational problems as lack of education, self-esteem, early pregnancy, poverty or addiction.

I have heard prostitutes, a few were my clients, vehemently deny that prostitution as a career choice was associated with their early childhood abuse, and a few others either lie about or repress the earlier trauma.

Once a very sophisticated call girl, when disclosing her profession for the first time, explained to me, insisted really, that she was in charge, not the Johns. While speaking I could not help but notice the lack of congruence between her words and dress. This day she was not dressed in her typical casual but powerful business suit. This day she wore tiny pink plastic little girl barrettes in her hair, black patent Mary Jane shoes that pointed inward as she fidgeted. In a way that was even more incongruous she coupled her childish dress with a plunging and very revealing buxom décolatage.

The chains of her early trauma, seemed to have kept her mind stuck in childhood, even as her body was aging. If this is so, then how is prostitution a choice?

Even without physical restraints, the mental bondage of early childhood sexual abuse enslaves the mind. The long-term effects of early childhood sexual abuse, which happens long before the body, mind, and hormones are ready to be sexual, limits an adults' capacity for choice and undermines escape as if time had warped and stood still at age five.

This is why crimes against children and adult victims of human slavery can happen and we do not see it, the prison bars of the mind are invisible, but more powerful than steel.

According to the Director of Homeland Security in Ventura County California (2013), San Diego now has the worst human slavery problem of any city in the world. In the United States, the Human Slavery problem is the second fastest growing illegal industry in our country. It is easy to dismiss this statistic as an issue of children and women from the other side of the US border, but in fact about 70 percent of the victims were born in the United States. The largest majority of this group are Women and Children tricked, manipulated or kidnapped into the sex trade, and the remainder are those caught in various forms of slave labor.

According to the Global Slavery Index there are 29.8 million people enslaved in some form of bondage around the world. Government statistics

are clear that victims come from all socio-economic groups, and so education, wealth, and privilege are not always able to provide the protection we wish to have for our children.

If one person in the United States is enslaved then, morally and spiritually, none of us are free.

For questions about this article please contact Dr. E. Hitchcock Scott, PhD, LPCC917 at 310-880-9761, or visit her web site at www.artmanna.com.

For information about the Freedom Road Project, a non-profit agency organized to educate and contribute to the safety of victims of human slavery, please contact Ms. Diane Malecha at the Malibu United Methodist Church at 310-457-2102

To contact the editor, please contact Ms. Tara L. Robinson, at 513.752.9288/ fax-513.722.0752 , 10663 Loveland-Madeira Rd., Suite 162, Loveland, OH 45140, www.WholeLivingJournal.com.