

The background of the slide is a blurred image of a library or study area. In the foreground, an open book is visible with a black pen resting on its left page. The book's pages contain some handwritten text, including the words "Conclusion" and "Meeting". The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a scholarly atmosphere.

01.

# THEOLOGY OF MISSIONS

**A**t The Vine, we believe that God desires for all humanity to be in restorative relationships with himself, between each other, and with His creation. The demonstration of these relationships is reflected across scripture, from the story of creation, to the reconciling work of Jesus, to the future renewal of all things promised through Christ.

As we personally experience this restoration in our lives, God calls us to turn that transformation outward by caring for our neighbour's physical needs (Luke 10:25–37, Mark 12:30–31) and drawing them to Him through discipleship and evangelism (Matthew 28:16–20). These actions form the foundation of our approach to missional and justice efforts which seek the total transformation of our lives to align with God's purposes.

All Christian mission is grounded in the nature of God himself who redeems and restores all things through Jesus Christ, the self-sacrificing missionary sent from heaven to earth. Our missional efforts are used by God in the redemption and restoration of broken relationships between Him and His creation.

## OUR APPROACH

Our approach to missions and justice work is based on recognising the intrinsic value and dignity within humanity and all His creation. By acknowledging this we also recognise that any thought or action which diminishes or violates those principles should be seen as a sinful distortion of God's intention.

When we capture the true value and dignity of His creation, our response should be to reject activities that undermine God's original intention and work towards correcting the violations which distort it.

Our response in the face of injustice is to cry out as the Israelites did in the past. Our biblical mandate is to proclaim freedom for the captives, to care for the vulnerable, and humble the oppressors. Our desire should be for people to experience the full restoration of a redeemed relationship with their Creator. That desire is what underlines our approach to missions. Living missionally is our response in recognising that God created us with this purpose, and, that His creation exists to glorify Him.





**02.**

**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**



One of the ways we greatly undermine the value and dignity of another's life is to rob them of their agency and their ability to live freely. Human trafficking takes place when people are coerced, deceived, or threatened via physical or other forms of violence into exploitative situations, employment, or servitude. This activity occurs across the world and Hong Kong is no exception. The food we eat, the services we enjoy, or the clothes we purchase can involve people who are victims of trafficking. We can unknowingly pass by brothels, massage parlours, and bars where people are being trafficked.

Human Trafficking is the recruitment and transportation of people from one place to another, or one country to another, through deception or force, for the purpose of exploitation.

**United Nations OHCHR – Palermo Protocol**

The International Labor Organisation believes there are about 2.4 billion people at any given time who are involved in forced labor or subjected to exploitation from trafficking. Human trafficking is not a standalone issue. It is one that is deeply embedded within global systems that has widespread impact reaching across political and economic systems. Because human trafficking is a low-risk, highly profitable crime, there are significant incentives for organised crimes to continue trafficking activities.

Sin separates us from the intended union we are meant to share with our Creator and it also has the potential to diminish the dignity and value of others. The outworking of human trafficking is a direct reflection of sin's impact on our relationship with God and with one another. The power structure and dynamics within the trafficking system reveals the distortion which exists in:

- The relationship between traffickers and those being exploited
- The commoditization of human life
- The violation of individual's rights and dignity for the satisfaction or gain of another

**Traffickers often paint a picture of a better life to potential victims. Perhaps a good job, an educational opportunity, or marriage. They use vulnerability such as unemployment, poverty, political unrest or family dependency to their advantage when targeting people.**

– STOP TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE (STOP)

**[Read more](#)**



## JOSEPH SOLD

We even see examples of human trafficking across scripture. Joseph's story illustrates that the buying and selling of people took place long before we termed the act "human trafficking."

We pick up the story in **Genesis 37:17-28**. Motivated by their jealousy towards Joseph – his brothers devised a plan to capture and kill him. As Joseph approached them one day his brothers grabbed hold of him and threw him into a nearby pit. As they argued on what to do next, Judah suggested that instead of killing him they should instead sell him to a group of slave traders who were travelling nearby. Conveniently this would spare them from carrying the blood of their brother on their hands, remove the source of their jealousy, and make a financial profit by doing so..

By following Joseph's story through to the end we see that despite the injustices – God is a redeemer and restorer of the vulnerable and oppressed. Joseph's story culminates with God raising him up to be a blessing to the Egyptians and positions the Israelites for the future He has planned for them.

**Our partners have a number of stories** which show how lives can be redeemed and restored after the trauma of trafficking. Not all stories end in family reunions and economic prosperity however by understanding how human trafficking takes place, the impact it has on the individual, and the urgency that exists for us to respond – we can begin to approach the question of **"what can I do to play a role in God's redemptive story?"**

## COLLECTION OF RESOURCES

The issue of human trafficking is complex and multi-faceted. To gain a deeper understanding of human trafficking, its impact, and how organisations are fighting against it the below are several resources to explore further:

- Agape International Missions Resources  
<https://agapewebsite.org/projects/course/>
- The Trafficking in Persons Report: 20th Edition  
**Read the Report here** (analysis of Hong Kong is on page 242)
- Research by International Justice Missions  
<https://www.ijm.org/studies>
- Awareness and Education by A21  
<https://www.a21.org/content/education/gn9vq0>



An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a dense, green forest. The river is a dark, winding line that cuts through the vibrant green canopy. In the upper left, a small clearing shows a dirt road and some structures. The overall scene is a lush, natural landscape.

**03.**

**MISSIONS  
PATHWAYS**



**M**issions was never intended to be restricted to a church ministry or special vocational calling. It is meant to permeate across all areas of our life. Each person's journey towards living missionally is deeply personal and reflective of where God is leading them. It is shaped by their skills, experiences, and passions. It allows for a personal connection between our faith and our skills to then influence systems of injustice and share the gospel.

Missions Pathways is designed to take you beyond knowing about an issue. It is a journey that empowers you to make a personal response. We do this by:

### **STEP 1 – COMMITTING TO PRAYERS**

We believe prayer is at the core of all effective and impactful mission. We cannot effectively engage in missional efforts without continually seeking God's heart for justice and restoration while following His guidance on our involvement. We learn to fight battles through the armour and strategies He gives us. The best devised plans that don't carry God's heart will always be limited in their effect and reach.



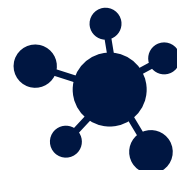
### **STEP 2 - BECOMING LEARNERS**

The majority of broken and unjust systems that we see and experience are complex and have interconnected issues. The visible action that we consider unjust can often be just an expression of a much larger system which perpetuates and empowers that injustice. By positioning ourselves as learners we can explore the complexities and interconnected nature of injustices. Taking this posture can go against our natural desire to respond quickly however without it we may unknowingly hinder the efforts of others or even hurt the people we want to help.



### **STEP 3 - EXPLORE THE CONNECTIONS**

The next step is to understand how the issue is interconnected across different people, industries, society, and perhaps even countries. With this knowledge we can begin to understand how we interface with it in our individual lives through the actions that we and others take on a daily basis. Gaining an understanding of the different components and our involvement will empower us to decide what we can do with our skills and resources to make a difference.



We can start this process by posing questions that are designed to understand the issue and direct future engagement. The resources highlighted in this pack are a starting point to gain a base understanding.

## KEY QUESTIONS

- What is the underlying issue and how does it express itself?
- Why do vulnerable people experience this?
- What is the full impact that this has on people and society?
- How does it express itself in my city? Or in my day to day life?
- What would restoration look like if this issue was addressed?



## STEP 4 - PLANNING OUR ACTION

With a broad knowledge of the issue, how it is connected across people and society, and an awareness on how we interact with it personally, we are now positioned to map out our personal response. There are a wide variety of ways we can respond to an issue and often the most impacting are determined by our skills, experiences, and passions. Planning our response takes discernment and wisdom – a plan that connects our skills and experiences can lead to long term and sustainable impact. Conversely, taking actions that are difficult to maintain over a longer term can short-circuit the impact or potentially create more damage.



Planning our response could include any or a mixture of the following:

1. Making lifestyle changes like consumption behaviors and how we interact with others
2. Supporting organizations financially or volunteering with our time and skills
3. Finding opportunities for short-term projects that allow us to engage more deeply with an organisation's work and add value to their efforts with our skills and experiences

Connecting with organisations that focus on the area that we are exploring can help guide the planning and future activities.

## STEP 5 – ACTION AND ADVOCACY

Bringing others into the journey by sharing our personal response to an issue is one of the most effective advocacy tools that we can use. It provides an opportunity for our friends and coworkers to engage in the process and opens up the opportunity to share the faith that drives our response.

One of our partners, Tearfund provides a range of resources that will help you in this process. You can read more about mapping out your response [here](#)



Missions Pathways also helps facilitate this process for you through both our Inspire events and Catalyst. These opportunities are created with the purpose to not only inform and equip you but also invite others into that process.





04.

# PARTNERS & ORGANISATIONS

**T**he partnerships between The Vine, external organisations, and missionaries are a central part of our church's ability to empower work that brings redemption and restoration. We believe for us to effectively encourage and partner with others in serving the vulnerable and disadvantaged, we need to be strategic in identifying and building long-term relationships that reflect where God is leading us as a church and our congregation.

In response to the issue of human trafficking we intentionally look for organisations that engage with a wide spectrum of interventions. Our partners carry out programs aimed at prevention, intervention, restoration, reintegration. Prevention includes raising awareness, promoting education among vulnerable people groups, and strengthening communities. Intervention may involve outreaches and direct efforts of helping someone leave a situation of labor and sex trafficking. Restoration includes the aftercare an individual would need after being taken out of a trafficking situation, such as counseling and mental health support. Reintegration into a safe community is crucial for a survivor to find new ways to live after a traumatic experience.

### STOP TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE (STOP)

STOP works in partnership with the local community to end human trafficking in and through Hong Kong. They work to raise awareness about trafficking, connect with key counter-trafficking groups, provide victims with support, allow their voices to be heard, and to serve as a catalyst for positive change in the fight against modern-day slavery.

<http://www.stophk.org/>



### HONG KONG DIGNITY INSTITUTE

Through collaborating with frontline expertise in the legal, social work and mental health fields, Hong Kong Dignity Institute aims to provide assistance to victims of exploitation, abuse and discrimination to find actionable solutions and restore dignity.

<https://www.dignityinstitute.com/>



### SONS & DAUGHTERS

Sons & Daughters exists to help those who are caught in sexual exploitation find freedom and restoration. Through a commitment of worship, prayer and outreaches, they strive to see an end to the sex trade in Hong Kong's red light districts. Through intentional discipleship, they also help those who have left the sex trade walk into their destinies.

<https://www.sonsanddaughters.org.hk/>





### INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

International Justice Mission is a global organisation that works with local justice systems to bring an end to violence towards those who live in poverty. Their efforts include intervention, restoration, prosecution and the strengthening of local judicial systems.

<https://www.ijm.org/>



### A21

The mission of A21 is to abolish slavery wherever it exists. They have currently set up 17 locations across the globe to raise awareness, partner with local judicial systems to identify victims, and to help the restorative work of a trafficked victim. Currently they do not have a Hong Kong office.

<https://www.a21.org/>



### AGAPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Agape International Missions is involved in efforts of prevention, intervention, restoration and reintegration of survivors to stop cycles of sex-trafficking and exploitation in Cambodia. Their holistic strategy ranges from outreaches to girls caught in sex-trafficking to families, children and men.

<https://agapewebsite.org/>

