

For Private Circulation Only
February 2018
Volume 1



Truely I tell you whatever you did for
one of the least of these brothers,you did for me

Mathew 25:40



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OUR DREAM

REHABILITATION CENTRE

To have our own rehabilitation centre with the following facilities

- To host 20 - 30 victims.
- A Mission Office
- Residence for it's missionary-in-charge.
- Quarters for its employees

PALLIATIVE CARE CENTRE

A palliative care centre on site of the rehabilitation centre with the following facilities

- 24 x 7 doctor either on call or on full time basis
- An ambulance service

Account Name:
Shalom Charitable Trust
Bank: Axis Bank, Lamington Road Branch
Account No. :- 435010100004367
IFSC :- UTIB000465

"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full"

1 John 1. 4





“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10: 36 - 37

The verse above reflects the hope that Shalom Mumbai Mission wants to convey to those that have been left without

any hope for changing their lifestyle. The ladies that are sexually exploited in Mumbai’s red light district are in need of our empathy, support and aid through rehabilitation, not just in word but also in deed, like the good samaritan who took pity and helped the man that was beaten and left for dead by those that robbed him.

We praise God for helping us release the first newsletter, under the heading of Mumbai Bugle. Shalom Mission was created in September 2015, and I thank everyone who has tirelessly contributed to our mission over the the past four years, through financial contributions, prayer, time and active participation for every need Shalom has faced.

Our hope is that Shalom Mumbai Mission blesses each woman rescued from human sex trafficking, to help her gain her independence and to be able to take care of her family without having to revert to such measures as many do when the only option left for them is the trade they used to practise.

“As Indian citizens of the largest democracy in the world, we have been granted rights and freedoms that allow us to live with dignity, acknowledging that each individual deserves to be treated fairly and equally regardless of race, caste, religion, and gender”.

We need to stand up to ensure that the rights and freedom are given to all, especially to those who are suffering under the banner of human trafficking. Such kind of slavery and bonded labour is heart breaking as it ruins lives, and destroys families.

Our mission is to serve these women showing

them God’s love, and that their acceptance is not based on circumstance or status. Judgement is left outside the door and all are welcomed in at Shalom. Through basic education, vocational training, living in a stable family and with community support we would like to help them overcome the past and lead happy and healthy lives.

Rejuvenation, reintegration, awareness and support are the pillars of our mission. Based on them Shalom has built the foundations of how we can recognize and establish processes and procedures to help the victims emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually.

Today Shalom has collaborated with various government and non profit organizations that are willing to collaborate and work in our fight to end human trafficking by creating programs that raise awareness and remove preconceived notions about survivors of human trafficking.

During the Bicentenary celebration of MKD at Kerala, Shalom was declared has one of its projects by the Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen and decided to touch the hearts of many, not just by our words but also by our actions. The CSI Women’s Fellowship President Dr. Susan Thomas promised to take up Shalom as one of its projects during the meet on October 2, 2017 in Mumbai.

Please continue to keep us in prayer, and if you feel led to give, give freely! Our need requirement is INR 75,000 per month and this includes - training the women, their rehabilitation, their medical needs and ensuring that their care remains our primary concern.

We would like to appreciate the efforts put in by Ms. Soumya George and Mr. Lino James Abraham for putting together this newsletter.

We sincerely thank you and value your support to Shalom Mumbai Mission !

Sam N. Joshua



HOW IT ALL BEGAN



Mumbai, a city with a current population of 20.7 million people (2017) and the 4th most populous city internationally carries one of the largest rings of human trafficking involving prostitution.

October 24th, 2014 - The genesis for Shalom Mission came from the message delivered by Mr. Anson Thomas (A Christian social activist working towards the eradication of human trafficking in India) during the 10th North India Family and Youth Conference (NIF&YC) at Panvel, Mumbai.

January 4th, 2015 - The three hosting churches (The Church of St. Mary The Virgin Malayalam Congregation, Parel, St. James Church, Borivali and Holy Immanuel Church, Vasai) unanimously decided to set up Shalom Mumbai as a project under the Shalom Charitable Trust.

September 20th, 2015 - Shalom Mumbai Mission was officially inaugurated as part of the 80 year long faith journey of the CNI Malayalam Churches of Mumbai, with the primary goal of rehabilitating women who have been Commercially and Sexually Exploited (CSEW).

Though there are many Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and social activists working towards eradication of human trafficking, specifically sexual trafficking, there had been no previous involvement of churches in rehabilitation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Women (CSEW) within the city of Mumbai.

**NO PROJECT CAN BEGIN
WITHOUT
A DREAM AND A DREAMER**

January 2016 - Shalom Mumbai Mission was created to step forward and fill the gap, through the medium of trauma and psychological counselling, basic

STATS TO REMEMBER ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA*

What is Human Trafficking?

In simple terms, 'Trafficking in human persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation or receipt of persons, by threats of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, etc., for the purpose of exploitation.

Many people become victims to human trafficking because they cannot provide even the most basic needs for themselves or their families and become desperate for opportunity.

Traffickers prey upon these weaknesses and deceive people into leaving their home and travelling to a "better place" in order to provide the much needed basic necessities of life. With promises of better work and a higher standard of living for themselves or family, most victims go willingly only to become trapped upon arrival.

Agape Research Foundation's survey of the victims, showed that 76% of them stated they come from very poor families.

education – literacy programs that encourage them to pursue graduate programs and vocational training such as jewellery making, stitching, dyeing and other decorative crafts. The main objective of the project is to rehabilitate victims of human trafficking, primarily those sexually abused between the ages 18 - 25 in Mumbai and to ensure that they are able to change to healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

The Shalom Mumbai initiative was fuelled by many dreamers determined to reach out to the most exploited section of the Indian society and give them a second chance. Prominent among the pioneers were Rev. Sam Mathew K and Rev. Sam N Joshua, the current Missionary-in-Charge of Shalom Mumbai.

WHERE DOES SHALOM FIT IN?

Shalom Mumbai understands that undercover operations, rescuing girls and shutting down brothels, are not effective due to lack of adequate places for the rescued girls to go. There are only a few organizations running rehabilitation centres, consequently, a significant number of rescued girls end up in a vicious cycle that puts them right back in a brothel. Shalom Mission aims to bridge a small part of this gap through its vision and mission.

MISSION

Provide shelter, education, vocational training, moral and social counselling to the victims of exploitation and abuse and thereby give them the opportunity to live in freedom with dignity and equality in the city of Mumbai.



STATS TO REMEMBER ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

It is believed that these families encourage their kids to start working young, making it easy for traffickers to exploit them. Families in India, especially those in rural areas, have strong preference for male child. This has caused a gender imbalance in the country, opening a new opportunity for traffickers. Girls, aged 6 or less, are being sold into the areas with a lower female to male ratio and forced into marriages against their will which represents a form of human trafficking.

The bigger cities in the country are seeing increased migration and to uristic expansion which influences “demand for commercial sex” and need for sex workers. 150,000 women and girls were trafficked into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal. The primary destinations for the victims were Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata.



RESCUE PROCESS



Shalom Mumbai Mission has partnered with different organizations such as the International Justice Mission (IJM) and the Madras Christian Council of Social Service (MCCSS) in our efforts to rehabilitate the women from the red light district. They identify potential areas where young women and girls have been forced into sexual slavery and work with the local police to conduct rescue operations. Shalom aids in these operations when many of the women have next to nothing and provide care kits that contain the basic necessities. Victims comprise of minors and adults who have been forced into sexual servitude against their will, and are shifted to a safe location.

Where does Shalom step in?

After the victims are rescued from brothel centres, they are sent to a court appointed home, where they are kept for 21 days (for majors) and then released. Often times, they have no where else to go except right back to their pimps, who knowingly wait till they are released to receive them back into the brothels.

Some have no way of returning home (they would have been sold into a totally different state), due to the social stigma in the society. Shalom steps in here, and offers the victim a

place of rest and recovery, helping them regain their identity and dignity to live a socially acceptable life, to train and teach them skills and trades that they can use to become independent, provide them with a community of people within our churches, willing to show them love and warmth, connecting with them emotionally, where society would have rejected them, to helping them pursue higher education in whichever field they desire.



Shanti Niwas Rehabilitation Home for Rescued Girls

The story of Soniya is one of the many stories of how women have been trafficked into prostitution. She came from a family where her parents earned as daily wage earners. It left the family in debilitating financial straits, as they struggled to provide for their daily needs. As the oldest, Soniya felt the need to relieve them of their financial struggles, and met a lady who offered her a garment factory job in Mumbai. Without consultation of the proper channels such as the local authorities or her guardians to validate this offer, Soniya travelled with this lady to the city, hoping to be able to earn far more than what she could have provided back home.

Soniya was handed over to a brothel where she was forced to engage in prostitution. Although rescued two months later and kept in a Government home for women rescued from trafficking, she escaped to continue helping her family and returned to prostitution of her own will as the alternative sources of income without knowledge of a skill or trade were unavailable to her. She also brought her sister to join her in

Mumbai where they were finally caught in a raid at a hotel.

Soniya's story reflects the experience of thousands of young girls from vulnerable circumstances who fall into traps of deception by people (traffickers) who promise them a better life. Yearning to escape dire poverty, debt or domestic abuse, these girls most of whom come from rural villages with no educational background are easily lured by the prospects of a stable job and the glamour of seemingly prosperous cities. The traffickers portray an image of prosperity and wealth, promising to care for the girls' well-being and offer their support; as a result the girls trust them and believe that they will sincerely help them secure a decent job or career in areas such as modelling, acting, etc. Most girls have no idea they are being trafficked until they reach the brothel where they are sold to a pimp or madam and forced to provide sexual services to 10-15 men per day. Those who refuse to succumb to the demands of prostitution are beaten, raped and tortured to the point where they have no choice but to surrender.





3 STEP PROCESS

REJUVENATION

The action or process of making someone or something look or feel better, younger, or more vital.

REINTEGRATION

The action or process of integrating someone back into society.

REHABILITATION

The action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.

REJUVENATION

Sex trafficking causes adverse physical, psychological and moral consequences for the victims. We try to ease the victims through counselling and other personality development exercises. But we believe a victim can stand on her own only when she is socially secured as well. To help the victims in their journey to be socially secured, we have opened the gates of our churches for the benefit of these victims and also undertake many social events for and with them.

REINTEGRATION

In association with Madras Christian Council of Social Service (MCCSS) we have undertaken reintegration of more than 10 women with their respective families.

Under reintegration if the victim of human trafficking wishes to go back to her family and her family is willing to take her back, we in association with MCCSS do all the necessary legal and travel related formalities. We have helped in the reintegration of over 10 women in the city of Mumbai and those located in the North-eastern region of Assam.

REHABILITATION

Shalom Mumbai initiated its rehabilitation program with 2 women by setting aside a home for them and ensuring their basic needs are livelihood needs provided for. Sponsoring churches have opened their doors and welcomed them to be a part of their fellowship. Both girls have now shifted to their own homes and are working as house-nurses taking care of the elderly and are living independently. In collaboration with Shanti Niwas (a home run by

Radiant Assembly of God Church, Vashi) Shalom is rehabilitating a total of 7 girls currently at the centre. The home has the capacity to accept more than 12 women and are looking forward to adding 2 more women in the coming months.. The home teaches women skills like embroidery, dyeing, tailoring, making ornaments, etc. as part of their curriculum. The girls have made Christmas ornaments and scarves, which have been sold and the money used for further training.



Christmas Programme

Christmas programmes were organized at David Sasson Home for Boys, Matunga and Shanti Niwas, Karjat. The youths along with elders organized various singing, dancing and game sessions.

Onam Celebration

In a bid to share a piece of the culture of Kerala with the women in Shanti Niwas Home in Karjat, the traditional Onam Sadya was prepared at Shanti Niwas and various traditional songs

CWC Renovation (Child Welfare Committee)

Shalom aided in the CWC renovations as well as donated desktop computers for court usage and the emphasis of Onam was shared with the women.

Contribution of rescue kits

Shalom Mumbai donates rescue kits every month for the use of newly rescued women.

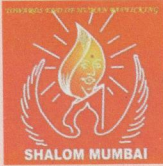
Association with Justice Ventures International

Hosted a 5 km run that Shalom Missions participated in, to free the captive and fight the trafficker

Contribution of tailoring machines

Shalom Mumbai has donated tailoring machines and interlocking machines to Navjeevan Shelter Home, Chembur.





Medical Camp

Provides medical consultation and medicines required to the women from the red light areas to help them lead a healthier life

Inauguration Ceremony

Shalom Mumbai was officially inaugurated by Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen (Moderator of CSI & Bishop of MKD) and Rev. Avinash Rangaya (Bishop Secretary of CNI Bombay Diocese) on September 20, 2015

Social Trip to Kerala

Shalom Mumbai organised a trip to Kerala for 20 women from the Red-light area of Mumbai and were provided accommodation at MKD's retreat center at Kottayam. During their stay several sessions were organized for their social, mental and spiritual development.

AccessLife Centre

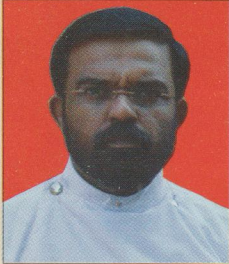
A centre that provides a home for underprivileged families with children undergoing cancer treatments. Shalom looks forward to collaborating with them.

Visit of CSI WF President

Visit from the Women's Fellowship President, to the government run home in Mankurd.



Rev. Samji K. Sam, Presbyter in Charge, The Church of St. Mary the Virgin Malayalam Congregation, Parel



By leading Shalom Mumbai Mission, we seek a major difference in thinking that charity is no substitute for justice withheld. Moreover we believe Charity is not a duty but a joy. When moving to the red light area we see only the need, not the cause. I urge all faithful Mumbaikers not to limit yourself with donations but to involve in the ministry that revitalize lives.

Rev. Asish Varghese Idiculla, Presbyter in Charge St. James Church, Borivali



Life is a gift and is given to us by the grace of God. Shalom Mumbai Mission promotes opportunities for each girl rehabilitated to enjoy the life and human rights that she deserves.

Rev. Binju Varghese Kuruvilla, Presbyter in Charge Jubilee Malayalam Church, Sanpada & Union Chairman

Shalom Mission in Mumbai gives warmth to the society depicting God's love and liberating the bondages of human trafficking. It provides shelter and guidance to the victims of the social evils, and a new hope and energy to live. A light to shine and showing pathway to life in its fullness.



**Mr T. G. George
Shalom Mission Secretary**



Our aim to uplift our sisters who are victimized in the Red Light Areas of the Mumbai City and its suburbs to freedom, liberation human dignity and guarantee them a new life by providing shelter, education, vocational training, moral and social Counselling.

**Rev. Johncy Verghese K
Presbyter in Charge, St. Christopher Church, Kalyan**



The Shalom Mission found a new way for Christian mission through a path that no one has travelled. Prayers and greetings to Shalom mission travelling through louder than word.

**Rev. Sam Raju
Presbyter in Charge, St. Paul's Church, Vakola**



Shalom Mission brings the hope to deprived women and children who are facing physical, psychological, emotional and cultural abuse.

**Rev. Dr. J Matthews
Presbyter in Charge, Holy Trinity Church, Chembur**

It is a great thing to give these women hope and a chance for a future. It is a great initiative that our Diocese is taking to spread the gospel and uplift those suffering.



**Rev. Christy David Daniel
Presbyter in Charge, St. Paul's Church, Pune**

Great minds have great purposes, others have wishes. Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above them. I thank the Lord for helping our churches to rise above and help the oppressed and take a stand against these oppressors.

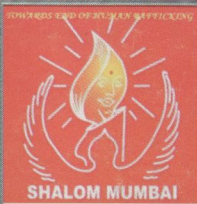




Christmas Programme at Shanti Niwas, Karjat



David Sassoon Christmas Programme, Matunga



SHALOM MUMBAI MISSION

Shalom Charitable Trust
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We're on the Web! Email us at
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If we do not stop trafficking now, our children may be
spotted on street corners.