

AWARENESS

The focus of this prayer session is to increase our knowledge of the facts about child sex abuse in order to hone our prayers more specifically and to share with others the seriousness of the issue. The information you will be reading comes from reputable health, and social and behavioral science organizations. It is calculated only by what has been disclosed to law enforcement and counseling groups. Professionals consider the statistics low because many people don't tell reporting agencies. Many never tell. Recently here in central Ohio, an Art Therapist working with terminally ill patients had a 102-year-old woman disclose to her that a family member chased her down and forced her into sex acts when she was a child. She had kept that secret for ninety some years and only told when on her deathbed. Ask yourself as you read this information how many more are not included in this data.

- The World Health Organization estimates that globally, 150 million girls and 73 million boys will be sexually assaulted this year. That is **223 million** kids.
- 90% of sexually abused children know their abuser, the offender being either someone known and trusted by their family or someone in their family.
- According to research almost all children being sexually abused currently will experience consequences ranging from mild, to severe, to life threatening both during their childhood and in future as adults. 20% will suffer serious long-term psychological problems.
- As teens, they will be more likely to engage in risky behaviors such as the use of drugs and alcohol, criminal activity and promiscuous sex.
- They will be 3 times more likely than the rest of the population to develop problems with substance abuse, addiction, extreme depression, anxiety, memory loss, eating and sleeping disorders and self-mutilation.
- Research tells us that these children will have increased difficulty with interpersonal and intimate relationships which will result in higher rates of divorce, domestic violence and suicide.
- The children being abused now, in future, will have a 30% higher chance of developing chronic illness, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
- In a study released recently it was found that the economic burden of child sex abuse in the United States alone, in 2015, was **9.3 billion dollars!**

“This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hands of the oppressor, the one who has been robbed.” (Jeremiah 22:3)

Jesus, we want to do what is just and right. We want to live as Your disciples. Please help us to let Your love work through us for the rescue of children being sexually oppressed. Stop the oppressors who are robbing them of their innocence. God speed and endurance to all individuals and agencies called to make such rescues. Lord hear our prayers.

You are encouraged to click on the link below and listen to a rendition of **Jesus Loves The Little Children**, as you enter into your own thoughts with God about what you have just read

 [Jesus Loves the Little Children](#)