

Annual Report of the **CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION AND DISASTER RELIEF**

COMMITTEE 2023-2024

During the period since our last report, the CSADR Standing Committee has met by Zoom for quarterly meetings and via email correspondence several times. The Committee has also met with Jeff Hancock of the International Justice Mission and Andrew Camenga, Chairman of the SDB General Council.

Our discussions have been focused on action items given at the 2023 SDB General Conference Session. In conjunction with the SDB General Council, represented by Chairman Andrew Camenga, we have drafted a Proposed Resolution on Human Trafficking to present at the 2024 SDB General Conference Session (see below). We have also undertaken specific work to actively confront Human Trafficking through strategic partnerships.

We continue to ensure that donations for Disaster Relief are making a difference in the recovery work of our SDB Conferences globally. Receiving photos and letters from the pastors encourages us to keep up our efforts to provide assistance.

We continue to monitor multiple grants that Executive Director Carl Greene has received from The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, The SDB Memorial Fund, and The Lily Foundation. Several of these grants leverage the Christian Social Action undertaken by the SDB General Conference.

Specific Christian Social Action work by the committee includes:

Active opposition to human trafficking was undertaken through strategic donations to: the **Tim Tebow Foundation** (\$1,000), the **Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAST)** sponsored by World Relief (\$1,000), and the **International Justice Mission (IJM)** (\$2,000). Executive Director Greene established personal contact with representatives of the International Justice Mission through the National Association of Evangelicals—Miguel Lau and Jeff Hancock.

The committee met with Jeff Hancock and established that a partnership with IJM Ghana would be a way to focus specific efforts for opposing human trafficking. SDB Missionary Society Chief Executive Andrew Samuels established contact with the IJM Ghana Field Office and met personally with SDB Leadership of the Ghana Conference. Rev. Samuels further coordinated a meeting between SDB Leadership in Ghana with the IJM Field Office to establish coordinated efforts.

The CSADR is continuing to facilitate the partnership with IJM Ghana, the Ghana SDB Conference, and the SDB General Conference of USA and Canada. \$1000 is being sent to IJM Ghana from CSADR funds to partner in the work. This partnership will also allow local SDB churches and individuals to directly join the work of opposing human trafficking. More information about this will be forthcoming.

CSADR intends to continue to focus on this work of opposing human trafficking in the coming ministry year. The committee plans to further the partnership with IJM Ghana and also engage in work that directly involves opposing trafficking in North America.

Specific Disaster Relief work by the committee includes:

A donation in the amount of \$1,000 was sent to **the SDB churches in Burundi** in response to the natural disaster that struck there. The support was sent in April and has been monitored by the SDB Missionary Society.

A donation was sent to the **SDB Churches of Kenya** in May (\$1,000) and again in June (\$1,000). The SDB Missionary Society is once again overseeing the response. The situation in Kenya has been especially dire. One SDB family was washed away in the flooding leading to the deaths of parents and 3 children. Significant property damage has taken place as well.

All funds have been sent through our partnership with the Missionary Society to the secure contacts in those locations. The Request Template has helped in facilitating and processing the requests we receive for aide during times of disasters.

We encourage everyone to give as led by the Lord to support the SDB work of Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief. We can all help make a difference by showing the Love of Christ to those in need.

As always, we ask for anyone to let us know of a need or prayer within our Seventh Day Baptist family here in the United States and Canada or far across the globe with our fellow Seventh Day Baptists in all the other World Conferences.

Proposed Resolution on Human Trafficking

Whereas human trafficking refers to all activities that cause or coerce involuntary servitude especially in the realms of prostitution and forced labor¹; and

Whereas the government of the United States and reporting agencies of the United Nations identify human trafficking as a contemporary scourge touching the lives of people around the globe; and

Whereas human trafficking currently causes more than 27 million people to endure forced labor² and traps more than 22 million people in forced marriages³; and

Whereas more than 6 million of those enduring forced labor are in situations of forced commercial sexual exploitation and more than half of these people are children⁴; and

Whereas this contemporary scourge is evidence that the “prince of the power of the air” is “now working in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2) because those who make their livelihood by acquiring people for the use of others⁵ in involuntary servitude are acting in a way that is contrary to the glorious gospel of the blessed God (1 Timothy 1:8-11, especially verse 10); and

Whereas “our Lord Jesus demonstrated his righteous anger at his own disciples, rebuking those who would do anything to prevent children from coming to him, saying ‘to such belongs the kingdom of God’ (Mark 10:14), and condemning those who would harm children, saying ‘it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened about his neck and to be drowned in the midst of the sea’ (Matthew 18:6);”⁶

Let it be resolved that the delegates of the 2024 General Conference sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference U.S.A. and Canada, Ltd., affirm that we oppose all human trafficking and especially oppose child trafficking; and

Be it further resolved that we support the financial contributions made by the Seventh Day Baptist Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief (CSADR) to organizations actively engaged in preventing human trafficking and rescuing those people who have been trapped by it; and

Be it further resolved that we encourage CSADR to explore ways in which they might connect concerned Seventh Day Baptist individuals with reliable organizations which actively oppose human trafficking; and

Be it further resolved that we encourage individual Seventh Day Baptists to become more informed about this contemporary scourge and to prayerfully discern whether God is calling them to be more actively involved in the effort to eradicate human trafficking.

Danita Lee, Chairman

Dr. Ron Davis

Norman K. Burdick

Carl Greene, ex-officio

Pastor Andrew Samuels, ex-officio

¹ https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/fact_sheet_child_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf (accessed January 8, 2024)

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/12/29/a-proclamation-on-national-human-trafficking->

prevention-month-2024 (accessed January 8, 2024)

³ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf page 5 (accessed January 8, 2024)

⁴ Ibid, page 4

⁵ BDAG, 3rd Edition, page 76, definition of άνδραποδιστής (frequently translated kidnapper)

⁶ Resolution on Child Protection (2015), Seventh Day Baptist General Conference