

[International Focus]

The price of life

Intervarsity members educate students on human trafficking

By MARISSA DENNEHY ('11)

Do you think slavery still exists in the world today? If so, how many slaves do you think there are? Intervarsity Christian Fellowship's Justice Team asked these questions and more of JMU students during their "Price of Life" three-day series of events in October.

Now called "human trafficking" by human justice groups, the term is defined as "the use of force, fraud or coercion to detain a human being for the purpose of profit." International human justice organizations estimate that there are between 12.7 and 27 million people in bondage today. Out of that total sum, nearly 20,000 are imported into the United States annually.

Kendra Miller ('12) a social work major and co-leader of Intervarsity's Justice Team,

'We realize many people haven't heard about human/sex trafficking and have misconceptions as to why it exists.'

— KENDRA MILLER ('12)

says, "We realize many people haven't heard about human/sex trafficking and have misconceptions as to why it exists. As Christians we are called to restore peace by not only meeting the physical needs of humans but also the emotional and spiritual needs of people."

Price of Life events included a guest speaker and two outreach projects. Intervarsity Justice Team members hosted a table on The Commons to raise awareness and ask for donations. For each \$10 gift to World Vision students were given a Price of Life T-shirt and information about human trafficking and World Vision outreach. Students could also

pick up a pair of bolt cutters and snap a metal chain link for \$1. The action symbolized the significance of their gift and gave a visual example of their personal involvement in breaking the chains of slavery. Students were encouraged to drop off pocket money into a "Loose change to loosen chains" bucket. When pooled together, the pennies and dimes of a few hundred passing students made a signifi-

cant difference; the organization raised more than \$2,700.

On the third day of Price of Life events, the Intervarsity Justice Team hosted World Vision guest speaker Jesse Eaves, who urged students to take action through advocacy. He told students to ask policymakers to pass laws to bring about change and end human trafficking. "How do you fix a problem this big?" he asked. "By taking action and bring-



JMU Intervarsity members educate fellow students about human trafficking in the Price of Life event in October. (Left): Guest speaker Jesse Eaves of World Vision urged students to take action.

ing issues to the attention of policymakers."

Ryan Dennehy ('12), a kinesiology major and co-leader of the Intervarsity Justice Team, says, "We hope that this event sparks enough interest that people begin to own the issue for themselves. That is how we can start to make some real change."

* Learn more at about human trafficking prevention at www.worldvision.org and JMU's Intervarsity chapter at www.jmuiv.com.

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