So much beauty. Such inspiration. A wonder so great that we welcome it every year on Christmas Day. Of course, we mean our Lord. And, we also mean the whole spirit of the season! Why has gift-giving become such an important part of Christmas? As Christians, we believe that God gave us life… a gift that can only repaid by our own gift-giving. It’s a way for us to express our gratitude for all the gifts we’ve been given... all creation, our family, friends, sunrises, and the smell of koulouria baking; and certainly, our safety and well-being. How do we translate our gifts, given to those we love, into helping victims of human trafficking?

We care about the issue of human trafficking and modern slavery because we believe that every single person, whether child or adult, female or male, is made in God’s image and is, therefore, valuable and worthy of dignity. Human trafficking dehumanizes people, turning them into objects and commodities. Our hope is to see people restored into the fullness of who God created them to be.

Fair trade means workers receive fair wages. Poverty is the #1 factor worldwide that feeds the supply of sex slaves. Families who cannot earn fair wages sell their children and even themselves into slavery, most often the sex trade.

Not all human trafficking revolves around sexual exploitation. Approximately 20% trafficked persons are slaves of forced labor. Men, women, and children are held captive to keep costs low and production high within the industries of fashion, chocolate, coffee, and jewel mining, just to name a few. If you’re paying less than you should, you can bet injustice — even slave labor — was involved.

**WHY PURCHASE FAIR TRADE?**

To believe that everyone can do what’s right — for their families and fellow global citizens. Based on the simple idea that the products bought and sold every day are connected to the livelihoods of others, *fair trade is a way to make a conscious choice for a better world.* When you purchase a product that is
certified fair trade, as a gift or personal use, you can be sure it was made according to rigorous social, environmental, and economic standards.

To quote the World Fair Trade Organization, “Fair Trade is a trading partnership based on dialogue, transparency, and respect that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers.”

Purchasing products that are fair trade certified can reduce poverty, encourage environmentally friendly production methods, and safeguard humane working conditions. Simply look for the fair-trade label on products such as coffee, chocolate, or clothing. Whether you are last-minute gift shopping or purchasing items for Christmas dinner, consider looking for that label and consider making choices that reflect these values as an educated consumer.

Take time to pray for protection and deliverance for victims of human trafficking in all its’ forms. Pray that they would feel and know God’s presence and experience the gift of free life that he gave to all of us. Make your gifts count.

Defeat Human Trafficking Ministry
Awareness is Our Weapon