

## Hope Bag Ministry

Our "Hope Bag" ministry was birthed to give help to  
Abused Women and Children

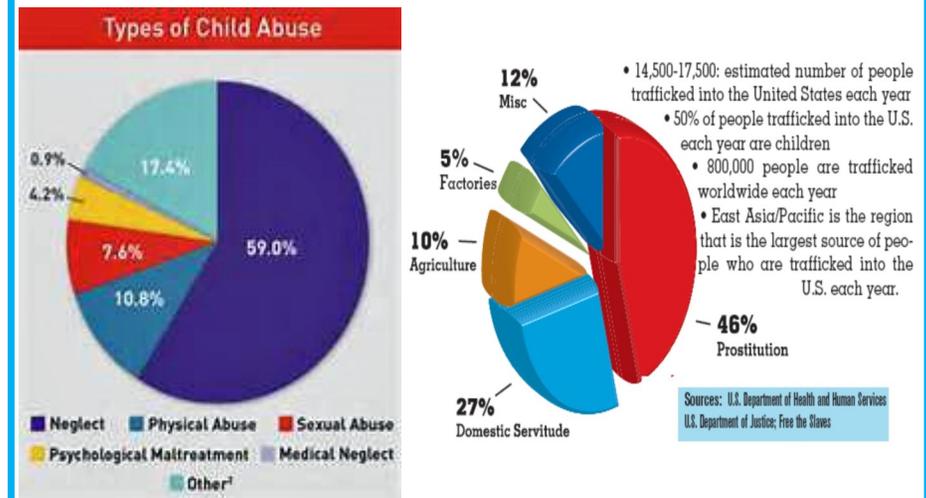
"Hope Bags" has been planting seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 30 years. In this world we live in today, it is more vital than ever that we spread the Gospel message to those who are so much need of **HOPE** and answers to their abusive situations in life.

*They see no way out....*

*You might ask, "how do these little bags of items help anyone so desperate?" Well, put yourself in their shoes for a moment.*

You are abused daily...abuse can be:

- ◆ **Physical**, pushing, kicking strangling, burning with cigarettes, punching, using a knife or weapon
- ◆ **Social abuse** where a woman or child is forced to live in isolation, may not have friends, family, etc. contact
- ◆ **Sexual abuse** against a woman or child...it can be from a husband, father, friend, neighbor or stranger
- ◆ **Psychological, Emotional or Verbal abuse** ... a woman or child is constantly criticized, called names, being constantly put down, humiliating a person in front of others
- ◆ **Economic abuse**... all finances are controlled and the woman is kept short of money for essentials...her income and wages are "his"...he sabotages her attempts to get a job.



Most people think abuse is a problem of the economically poor. However, victims can be of any age, sex, race, culture, religion, education, employment or marital status. Most victims are women and children. Most abused children have emotional and behavioral problems.

Back to the question: "How do the Hope Bags help?"

Each Hope Bag contains personal care items, Bible coloring books, toys ... most important item in each bag is the **BIBLE**. The salvation message is placed inside the front cover of the Bible along with a little card with the sinner's prayer and encouragement to take the steps to follow Jesus. We believe that **JESUS IS THE ANSWER** to a new life for these victims.

We currently support three Missions in our Valley: Phoenix Dream Center , Phoenix Rescue Mission and Neighborhood Ministries. Two of these missions require the women and children to attend Bible studies and church as part of their programs, along with their other required classes, such as: cooking, taking care of a home, child a trade or receive a degree. The goal is after 12-15 months of this program, they will transition into society as whole persons, able to support themselves and their children. Neighborhood Ministries in Phoenix is helping break the poverty and abuse cycle with their programs based on Christ, along with our Hope Bags, clothing, furniture and household items.

## HOPE BAGS SPREAD THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

*Palm West Community Church is committed to helping these victims of abuse... (some are newborns, and their mothers have no safe place to take them)... our members have been donating items from the lists available in the narthex,*

*We provide a "Red" plastic container just inside Hoover Hall marked "Hope Bags" for you to place items. We collect these precious products throughout the year.*

*Our women quilters of Palm West have been making quilts for the mothers and children, and currently have given over 1000 quilts, and continue with their labor of love for these victims.*

*The problem of abuse continues to grow, as the situation in our Country escalates.*

*If you would like to volunteer to be part of this ministry, we would welcome your help. Please pray about how God can use your talents, time and resources to help these women and babies.*

*For further information or questions please contact:  
Jimmy and Claudia Smith 623-933-3054*



### A CRY FOR HELP

A baby was born in our town today  
 Hid under a bridge, with no place to stay  
 No doctor there to check his health  
 For his mother, you see, has no wealth  
 She's been abused...had to run away  
 Inside her heart the world looks gray  
 She makes a call to a "Safe House" for help  
 As her hungry child wails out a yelp  
 "Please", she cries, "We've no where to go  
 We're along and afraid of someone we know  
 If he finds us he'll beat us and drag us back  
 To a life where each day we'll endure his attack  
 Please help me, my baby's growing weak  
 Food, home and some love is what we seek  
 Teach me to help my child and myself  
 Don't push our need to the back shelf  
 Show me that Jesus truly loves me  
 By helping us from this abuse to be free."

*Ms Puff*