

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group April 2012

This year April is the month of Easter; the month of the Crucifixion and Resurrection; the month of the darkest day in the Christian liturgy and the day of the greatest sunrise and surprise.

Many immigrants have lived the Crucifixion and Resurrection stories in ways that other more settled sections of the population may not have experienced.

Some immigrant people have faced and endured the crucifixion of their hopes and prospects for a more equitable life – whether economically, politically or socially - in their country of origin. They have endured the despair of leaving beloved family members, environments and loyalties to venture to new and unknown lands where only an immediately difficult future awaits. When Immigration authorities view migrant people as numbers, people without rights, even mentally removing their humanity, then their identity is crucified. They may be regarded as expendable as Pilate regarded Jesus - a laughable “King of the Jews”; a person less important than the thief, Barabbas.

But in the midst of this darkness are the seeds of resurrection; the overwhelming hope that the stone will roll away from the tomb, that migrants may rise in a new world of economic, political and cultural opportunities for both themselves and for their children. Then Joy will indeed rise in the morning!

Contributed by Helen Delahunty

We give thanks for:

- The South Tyrone Empowerment Program (STEP) for their highlighting the distressing issue of human trafficking in Northern Ireland at a conference in Dungannon on March 21 2012.
- The work of those MLAs and MPs such as David Simpson and John McAllister who have spoken out against the evil of human trafficking.
- The work of various government and non-government agencies such as PSNI, the Law Centre , Migrant Help and Women’s Aid in the vigilance against what has been called “the exploitation and dehumanising of labour...(in the case of) people who are vulnerable.”

We pray for:

- Those women, men and children who have been forced into domestic servitude, slave labour and prostitution.
- All those who work with and on behalf of others who are suffering because of economic and political circumstances outside their control.
- Continued emotional and practical support for the victims of trafficking, from church members and from organisations such as EMBRACE NI.
- the signs of the Kingdom when people who are different come together to worship
- Christian pastors and leaders who were born in other countries but have answered the call to minister here