

What can the local church and individual Christians in Africa do to help end trokosi?

CHRISTIANS CAN PRAY

- Pray that it will end or that remaining shrines will be willing to liberate.
- Pray that the efforts of the Afrikania Mission to stop liberation will be null and void.
- Pray that every curse anyone casts on those working for liberation will be returned undelivered on the head of the sender—not out of hatred or a desire to harm anyone, but so that those sending curses may know that they are dealing with the power of the Almighty.
- Pray for the miraculous salvation of shrine priests and owners, shrine elders, and the leaders of the Afrikania Mission.
- Pray against the spirit of idolatry, the spirit of slavery, the spirit of bondage, the Moloch spirit of child sacrifice. Pray they would no longer be able to operate in this region.
- Pray that spiritual lines of communication would be cut off so that shrine priests would no longer be able to consult their idol gods.
- Pray that Christians would have a greater understanding of how abhorrent idolatry is to God and how destructive it is to us.
- Pray that Christians would no longer frequent idol shrines.
- Pray that national and local leaders would be moved to call on the Almighty rather than idols.
- Pray that families would begin to give a firm ‘NO’ when the shrine priest tells them that some alleged offense demands the sacrifice of a virgin daughter.
- Pray that those already liberated would understand the Gospel and come to faith in Christ.
- Pray that those who have received Christ may stand firm and may become affiliated with Bible-teaching churches.
- Pray that churches may welcome former shrine slaves who try to visit or to affiliate with them.
- Pray that Christians may not fear former shrine slaves, but may reach out to them with love and an accepting heart.
- Pray that former shrine slaves may be unusually successful in business.
- Pray that former shrine slaves may find good Christian husbands and that their husbands may fully accept them and not resort to fear and accusation even in hard times.
- Pray for the physical and emotional health of former shrine slaves.
- Pray against all attempts to poison former shrine slaves. Pray that such attempts may be of no effect, and that anyone attempting such a thing may be exposed.
- Pray that Christians would increasingly speak up against shrine slavery at every available opportunity and through every available means.

- Pray that the communities surrounding shrines that still practice trokosi slavery may speak up, expose and denounce the practice.
- Pray for the liberation of shrine slaves in Togo and Benin where none have as yet been freed.
- Pray that God may direct agencies seeking to liberate slaves to effective methods of liberating and of rehabilitating.
- Pray that anyone who seeks to use this tragic situation for personal gain may be exposed and brought to public shame.
- Pray for the truth may become so manifest that shrine leaders will no longer be able to hide or deny the existence of trokosi in their shrines.
- Pray that former trokosi would find their voices and speak up loudly against the practice. Ask God to set an extra hedge of protection about them as they speak the truth.
- Pray for former trokosi struggling to forgive those who hurt them. May they be able to forgive and find peace of heart.
- Pray for those trying to spread misinformation and define terms in a manner that would minimize the severity of the problem. Pray that every effort at misinformation will instead bring the truth to light.
- Pray for those for whom the physical scars they received as shrines slaves are a source of ridicule and ostracism. Let them learn to accept those marks and use them as proof that God can save even shrine slaves. May those marks that were intended for shame rather be used to promote the Gospel.
- Pray that God may give wisdom, strength and health to those seeking to counsel and teach former shrine slaves.
- Pray that financial resources equal to the project needs may be released to those who need it for the work of this ministry.
- Pray that those receiving funds for this work may remain faithful in the utilization of those funds and in their reporting practices for the glory of God.
- Pray by name for every organization you know of that is seeking to liberate shrine slaves or helping them afterwards. Pray also for churches that are trying to help and those that are welcoming former slaves. Pray God's protection and a special blessing on them.
- Pray by name for every person you know of who is seeking to liberate shrine slaves or helping them afterwards. Pray God's protection and a special blessing on them. Pray for any specific needs you know they have.
- Pray especially for the leaders who are strategizing and organizing the campaign to end trokosi slavery. Pray that they may not be touched by the enemy. Pray they will be faithful in their personal and public lives. Pray they will be guided by God. Pray a hedge of protection around them.
- Pray specifically by name for any shrine slaves you may meet at the market or elsewhere. Pray for their liberation and for their salvation.
- Pray specifically by name for former shrine slaves you know who have been liberated. Pray they will be fully restored to a productive life in Christ.

CHRISTIANS CAN SPEAK UP

- Use every opportunity to speak up against trokosi boldly, trusting in God's protection. This means speaking up to committees that may come to your neighborhoods investigating the practice. Tell them everything you know. It means writing responses to articles in newspapers, calling in to radio talk shows, writing letters to public officials urging them to take action, taking any other opportunity to expose or denounce the practice. Every Christian can do this, and those in leadership have an even stronger voice by reason of their influence and position, and therefore an even stronger responsibility.

CHRISTIANS CAN MINISTER TO SHRINE SLAVES

- Welcome former trokosi slaves to your services and membership, after they have received Christ. Let them feel a warm welcome when they come to your church. Sit with them and talk to them after the service.
- Teach your people to welcome former trokosi, both why they should do it and how to do it.
- Seek out former trokosi living in your area. Invite them to church and seek to befriend them and help them in practical ways, much as you would widows and orphans.
- Purchase goods made and/or sold by trokosi when feasible to do so.
- Seek to befriend and to take the Gospel to any slaves still in the shrine when you see them at the market or anywhere.

CHURCH LEADERS CAN TEACH YOUR PEOPLE

- Teach your people about the horrors of idolatry. Teach them to seek God's help in every situation and to accept His answers as best and right so that your people will not be tempted to consult idol shrines.
- Teach your people that the Bible forbids divination, because God will tell us all He wants us to know, and secret knowledge obtained from other spirits is not from God. Such spirits are called lying and deceptive spirits, so we cannot trust the information they give during divination sessions.

CHRISTIANS CAN EVANGELIZE THE COMMUNITY & DISCIPLE THOSE WHO COME TO CHRIST

- Those who have come to Christ and grow in their Christian commitment are much less likely to consult the shrine, and families who do not consult the shrine do not end up with their daughters in slavery.

CHRISTIANS CAN KEEP THEMSELVES PURE FROM IDOLATRY

- Avoid consulting the shrine yourself. Any answer and any power that does not come from God is not an answer Christians need or want.

CHRISTIAN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS CAN ACT:

- Politely and respectfully express your concern about these issues to your pastor and church leadership. Ask them to please take action.
- If they don't, you as a family or as an individual Christian can do so anyway.
- Parents, teach your children about these issues.

What can government officials do to help end trokosi?

- Refuse any corruption connected with the practice. Refuse to seek personal benefit from the practice in any way.
- Encourage those working against the practice by offering your services for free and following through on what you promise to do.
- If you are invited to attend a liberation or speak publicly, speak the truth. Don't promise help or information at the liberation and then deny it privately when NGO representatives visit you at your office.
- Report known trokosi practices in your area. Report what you know truthfully to commissions when they come to study the practice. Report it to NGO's seeking to liberate remaining slaves. Report it to those over you in authority. Report it in writing so that your report becomes official and helps to document the practice.
- Help practitioners of trokosi to understand that they are violating the national law of Ghana and that when prosecutions begin, they will be subject to a mandatory punishment of three years in prison.
- Help practitioners of trokosi to know that times are changing, that the mood of public sentiment is against the practice.
- Speak out publicly against the practice.
- Cooperate fully with the first person, family or group brave enough to bring a lawsuit against the practitioners of this practice.

What can villagers do to help end trokosi?

- Stop hiding the practice in your area. Speak up to investigating commissions and NGO's and government officials. When a commission visits and the shrine leaders have sent the trokosi away and tell the commission there is no such thing as trokosi

there, you speak up and tell the truth. Tell it quietly or privately if you must, but **DO TELL IT**. Don't let the shrines keep lying and keep hiding the practice.

- Speak up against the practice at every opportunity.
- Refuse to send your daughters to be trokosi. God will protect your family if you call on Him.
- After they are liberated, accept trokosi back into the community as normal members of society.

What can African schools and teachers do to help end trokosi?

- Educate students about these issues. Help them understand that ritual servitude is against the law of Ghana and punishable by a mandatory three year prison sentence. Help them know that times are changing and that soon practitioners of trokosi will be prosecuted under the law. Let them know that it is against the United Nations Conventions on Human Rights.
- Encourage students to know that once a trokosi is liberated she is fully free and a real person like them in every way except that she will be behind in her education. Teach them that liberation breaks all ties with the shrine so there is nothing to fear.
- Encourage them to accept former trokosi who have been liberated and to befriend them.
- Teachers and administrators can set an example themselves by accepting and befriending former trokosi who have been liberated.