I Am Liberty-A Faith Journey

memoirs written by Jacee Webber

of Refined/Undignified

*I Am Liberty* is a story about modern day slavery. A dramatic dance production portraying an average North American teenage girl telling her story of how she ended up in the industry of prostitution through the means of human trafficking. A fictitious story, inspired by the lives of so many in our world today, told in first person in the hopes that less and less will end up like her as more and more light is shed on this dark and quiet issue.

Here’s how it all began…

**Summer of 2011**

Tara Teng, Miss Canada 2011, toured across Canada with the purpose of raising awareness on the issue of human trafficking and calling all (specifically the church) to action against this issue. Several of us from the RU team went to this presentation and were immensely blessed by it. Most of us had never or barely heard about human trafficking and had little knowledge of what it was. We actually only went because a dear friend of the ministry, Jared Martens-who had toured with us to Ontario as our lighting technician, was playing bass in Tara’s worship band. We hadn’t seen him in a few months and wanted to go support him as he toured and played. Little did we know, Tara would have us all broken yet hopeful as we were each challenged in our own hearts to stand for justice and love in this issue, even though we didn’t know what that looked like yet. Standing next to each other in the pews during the moment of calling the audience to commit to participating, none of us knew how to move forward practically, yet we all silently agreed that human trafficking needed to stop.

**November 2013**

Over two years later, none of us completely forgot that night, but also none of us had moved forward with anything particularly practical on the issue. Not because we didn’t want to, simply because we had no idea how to get involved in this issue. We live in a tiny village inside the bubble of a Bible college, and absorbed in our own ministry and work with Refined/Undignified and with the students of Briercrest and CHS. Life was simply too full and focused on other things to be able to do anything of value or worth. Always excuses.

When the Spirit of God calls, there is no ignoring Him

We didn’t feel guilty mind you, nor did we end up doing anything out of guilt. We just knew that it was a big issue and we didn’t know how to make a lasting impact on it feeling so far away from the situation not being in a city (far from both the victims and from organizations helping the victims).

But when the Spirit of God calls, there is no ignoring Him.

In the midst of a normal, full-scheduled day of RU work and practices, I had to run home quickly for something I had left. Being in a hurry and having walked to the studio earlier, I grabbed Adrian’s keys. As I started up my husband’s beloved old jeep, the song “Royals” by Lorde was playing on the radio. It had come out earlier that year and I really liked this song. I had no idea what it was about mind you (I figured out later through a friends explanation) but I loved the beats. I was not exactly an aspiring choreographer but I had really wanted to choreograph a dance to this song. As I pulled out of the parking lot and drove the short distance home listening to the song I questioned what a dance to this song would even portray; what would be it’s purpose? Suddenly the idea popped into my head :

“This would be perfect for a trafficking show!”

Now, I have had thoughts like this before. Not about the trafficking show, but thoughts about something particular that come out of nowhere with absolutely no way to track the thought process up to them…because there isn’t a thought process up to them. I have learned that often these thoughts are not mine but are planted there by the Holy Spirit. Not always, but often.

I pondered this curiously as I ran into the house and back, getting into the idling jeep to zip back to practice. I was quite surprised by this thought because, though back in the summer of 2011 we had discussed briefly as we left Tara Teng’s presentation what it might look like to do a dance about human trafficking, we had never once mentioned doing a show about it. A dance about an issue is one thing, but a *show* is an entirely different concept on an entirely different level, requiring significant amount of time, thought, planning, prep, and then a team to learn and perform it…to give a tiny glimpse of what that could look like. I was encouraged however, one of our college teams that year had managed to create a show of their own, finishing the creation and teaching process in a mere 5 weeks which was quite incredible. So maybe it was possible to do this.

“…I can’t create a show around something I know nothing about. I need to research somehow.”

Arriving back at practice, I expected to quickly forget about this and maybe pick up the concept in a month when things were slow over Christmas. God had other plans. Over the next 24-48 hours I could not stop thinking about it. Not to mention I heard Royals on the radio more than once over that time.

Feeling at a loss of what to do though, I thought “If I’m going to do anything with this show idea I need a lot more information and understanding on the issue. I can’t create a show around something I know nothing about. I need to research somehow.”

I found out in the evening within those 24-48 hours that Briercrest student government was hosting a documentary viewing. The documentary was “Red Light, Green Light” and was a film by Canadian filmmakers addressing this very issue and how it relates to Canadians. The couple who had put the film together were touring across Canada showing it to whoever would come see and offering the opportunity to sign a petition to change Canada’s laws on prostitution to match that of the Nordic model. My friend who told me about the film said it started in 15 minutes. I left my husband with our 9 month old baby and arrived (slightly late) to a packed classroom of people, both male and female, watching this documentary. I left with a better understanding of the issue (especially the political side of things), with a burning in my heart to see something done about this, and with yet another confirmation that the Lord was indeed leading me to do something about this. I began to realize that though I live in a small town and have next to no personal connections (or even locationally close) connections to anything within this issue, that as Refined/Undignified we could do something. We may not be able to on the frontlines of this issue, rescuing or working with victims, fighting for political change, or even able to educate people from personal experience. But what did we have? A dance and drama ministry team that is passionate about addressing issues of the youth of our country and our world. A team of leaders who love justice, helping others, and seeing people set free. A group of choreographers and teachers growing in their giftings and longing to continue to improve and be challenged in them. Above all, a large group of people that love God and love others.

God can use **anyone**, and **anything**, and He doesn’t expect us to live inside the box. He knew we had something to offer to this fight…And He wanted us to heed His call and **follow Him**.

Remember, God can use anyone, and anything, and He doesn’t expect us to live inside the box. He knew we had something to offer to this fight, no matter how unique, no matter how different or unexpected. And He wanted us to heed His call and follow Him. This I now knew without a doubt.

Now this was a big deal for our team to tackle because A) everyone was busy with their own team projects and B) though many were passionate about the issue and wanted to do something, the understanding that there was a call to obedience (which can be different than a burning passion placed within) seemed to reside with me. This did not make me feel better or more equipped to do something, rather I felt quite nervous and insecure about tackling this issue. I have the ability to lead others, but personally I much prefer leading small areas of things and allowing other stronger leaders to take the full responsibility of being in charge. I am also more of an instigator of instigators in that when I have what I think is a great idea I usually share it with a strong leader in the hopes that they will then lead others into my idea, rather than lead it myself. That, or I seek many people’s affirmation into the idea before presenting it publicly, knowing then that I will have several people’s support before actually diving into the leadership. Fear of rejection, insecurity in my gifting and who I am in Christ, and fear of how others view me drive this. Well, now I was being called to do something, and no one else was willing to take this responsibility from my hands. Talk about nerve-wracking. Yet the call never got any less strong. Here we go…

**January 2014**

Over the next few months I listened to the radio every time I drove somewhere. This is not a habit for myself as I am often turned off of the many love songs, sexual content, selfishness and stupidity that is portrayed in much of the popular songs played. However that was now exactly what I was looking for and I was blown away by how many songs could be used for this show. I wrote down every song I heard that could fit in some area of the performance, and over the course of several months I had a list of over 60 songs. Added to this were several songs people sent me as they heard about the project. I would often share a bit and someone would say “Oh I know a great song for that!” or I would receive a random message from someone with a list of song ideas.

I wanted to push to get this show done soon so I got together with a couple of our very capable leaders-Jana and Shannan-who had already taught their team 2 shows by this point. We met and brainstormed and while we got more ideas and songs for the performance, it was clear it wasn't the Lord’s will for this to happen just yet. Things were getting busy with the ministry so we all needed to focus on our roles and the end of the year, including the missions tour we would be taking to Mexico that May as a team.

**June 2014**

Normally with things moving so “slowly” (not to Jesus, it was definitely right in His time, but it did seem to take a long time) I would have become quite discouraged by this point. Surprisingly I wasn’t. I did come to an important realization however that had been lingering for awhile (I mentioned earlier) before I really acknowledged it: If I was going to create a show on this topic I needed to understand the issue better. Though I would still need to rely on the Spirit for the revelation and wisdom needed to create this, I still felt I needed to be responsible and research as best as I could. I ordered several books and a documentary off of Amazon. I am not an avid researcher, and I am a very very slow reader so this was an intimidating task for a mom of a toddler. I am so glad I took this challenge though. I really felt I understood the issue more and more with each chapter, especially since most of the stories were true. My research sources are listed at the end of this document.

I began to feel a deep sense that we needed to share someones real story…

As I read books both fiction and non-fiction, I began to ponder how we would tell our story. Would I try to learn everything I could a create a fictional story around my findings? Or did it need to be more real than that? I began to feel a deep sense that we needed to share someones real story. Unsure of how that was going to happen, I prayed for guidance. In talking to an older friend about my heart and plans she revealed to me that she herself was a victim of trafficking. I was amazed and asked if she would allow me to interview her. I spent 2 hours listening to her share her sad story with me. The many horrors she went through since being trafficked at the age of 12 and forced to prostitute herself, opened her up to a life of darkness for the next decade until she was saved by Jesus. Through talking to her I began to understand trafficking in a Canadian context better through her, that while trafficking can occur on a large scale involving mobs and higher up bosses and such, it also happens in small ways; street wise people find a young loner or runaway (often native) and take them in, forcing them to prostitute themselves either on the street or locked up in apartments and houses. I was so grateful to the Lord for her sharing her story with me, and I also am very blessed to see how much the Lord has done in her life. She admitted she struggles daily still, years later, with the lies and fears that come from her past life of abuse. There is still a constant battle with these, although no matter what God keeps drawing her to His loving arms.

Around this time I invited my dear friend Sammy to join me on this journey of discovery and creation around this project. I knew she was very passionate about this topic and would be an incredible advocate for the issue. It turned out we worked very well together, complimenting each other’s God given hearts for this topic. Sammy had the burning passion in her heart that was needed to fuel the fire in the hearts of our team members, channeling that also into much emotion filled prayer and fighting for freedom for those affected by trafficking. I was the driving force in terms of making sure the necessary practical things were delegated and accomplished. Both roles turned out to be so important and were so needed to work together to achieve this and God wanted both of us in charge of this.

**July 2014**

Hoping to interview more people (with Sammy now alongside me) to get an even broader perspective on the issue I contacted an acquaintance of mine who works with ex-sex trade workers and asked her if she knew anybody who might share their stories with me. She connected me with Shamin Brown, author of *I’m An Addict*. Shamin connected me with 2 other women. All three shared their stories with us, each an individual story of sadness….. and yet 2 of them have found Jesus!!! Well rather HE found them! And they are SO in love with Him its amazing! We are still praying for the third woman who so desperately needs a deeper hope. To interview two of the girls Sammy and I took a weekend road trip to Winnipeg. While we were there we also had the opportunity to join a women’s support group meeting at a nearby church. There were a dozen women there of all different personality types ,but they all were so vulnerable which allowed us to see how broken they were. They were very honest with each other about what was going on in their lives. Some wrestling with self hatred and depression, some fighting addiction, others sharing their fears or insecurities about things in their lives. We learned later that this group meets weekly, and most of the women in the group are ex-sex trade workers themselves. It was amazing to see these once probably hard and sad or angry women be so vulnerable and willing to be weak to allow others to support them in their difficulties. And (almost just as amazing) all the meetings were led by a male pastor who was so gentle, loving, and paternal with the women, some up to their 40s and 50s. He had the Father’s heart for loving them and we were blessed to see that there are churches helping these broken women heal, giving them a safe place to be themselves.

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The Dream

While spending the night at an acquaintances house in Winnipeg I felt a dark presence more than once throughout the night. I slept deep, yet woke often. I was scared upon waking, but then I remembered how big our God is and wasn’t as afraid. I chose to worship and pray, ignoring the dark presence each time I woke. In the night I had a dream in which I found myself trafficked, and one of the oldest in a room full of mostly children, all of us wearing white. The children were being taken in small groups from the room and led somewhere unknown. As I awaited my turn to be taken out with a small group, a terrified young boy pulled at my skirt. I lifted him up, trying to comfort him. He was about 3 years old, not much older than my own son. “Don’t let them take me” he begged me. I knew there was nothing I could do so I tried to give him what hope I could. “No matter what happens, always trust that God is with you. Keep your heart soft, and forgive” I told him, then I asked his name. “Ryan” he whispered. I held him for a moment, cuddling the poor boy wondering what horrors in life awaited him and praying over him. I also had an immense peace, despite the awful situation. Then I woke up and sobbed for a long time. I cried and prayed for this young boy. I believe he is a real young boy somewhere, though I will not know whether 3 year old Ryan truly exists until I get to heaven. Regardless, many young boys and girls just like him exist and I pray for all of them as I pray for him.

Driving home that day, we talked through all we had learned, and really wondered what God was going to do with this show. It was still a big mystery, but our hearts were full of His Spirit that kept spurring us on a whispering “keep on” to our hearts.

**August-December 2014**

The next months consisted of Refined/Undignified starting up again as we have end of summer meetings to plan, and auditions every September, and so our focus was split between beginning a new school year and dreaming about the trafficking show. During this semester however, Sammy was able to go to a large conference in Saskatoon on the issue of human trafficking and how it often works in our Canadian society, and there was much explained about the particularly vulnerable in our society: those in the foster care system and Aboriginals. Of course, they are not the only ones vulnerable; we wanted to portray with Liberty, purposefully presenting her as a middle class caucasian teen to break down any lies people have in their mind that it only happens to the impoverished, parentless, or any other stereotypes. But it is true that those are often the most vulnerable, and often the least educated in this area.

The Name

Mid-semester, as we were in the process of focusing on 3 teams, and creating a new show with one team, we continued to converse about the trafficking show. I wanted so badly to speak “Freedom” over these men and women involved. We knew we wanted to name our main girl “Liberty” for this reason. We now were wrestling with a title for the show. Something powerful, catchy, memorable…”Freedom” was the best I could come up with, but though it blatantly said what I wanted it just didn’t speak to the content of the show whatsoever, not to mention an easily twisted word. One day Sammy came to me and said “What about naming the show *I Am Liberty*?”. I responded with something along the lines of “Yes. Love it. Done”. It was perfect. Thus was born not only the name of the production, but the clear purpose of it as well: To not just tell the story of Liberty, but have her tell it to us first person. And through her journey she and the audience would discover the true source of Freedom—Jesus Christ—and his powerful working.

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**January 2015**

It Begins

After over a year of dreaming, researching, praying, processing, planning etc etc etc, the moment finally came. We began with music editing, editing together our first “draft” if you will of music for the 1st Act. As with all 1st drafts, it was changed several times over the next couple months until we settled on our final draft after voice recording. At the beginning of January, Refined/Undignified was given a chapel time at Briercrest College and Seminary, this was a time to show the students what we do on our team, and near the end of out time together we shared our heart about the trafficking show, asked for the students prayer and encouragement, and announced the plan to release *I Am Liberty* in March. We did one dance from the show (the only one we had ready, the girls had learned it only in the previous couple days), and had great feedback from many people.

That “teaser” performance seemed to start us on a roller coaster ride that took us through a whirlwind of 3 months of production creation. People were sending me song ideas left right and center, we were still wrestling through our storyline and really struggled with knowing how the story ended, and the whole process was more like creating a puzzle that we didn't have a picture to follow, and we really didn't know what the whole picture looked like until we put the last few pieces in.

At the end of the month, our dear friend CJ Edwards from The Recipe Dance Company in Los Angelos, CA came to spend a few weeks with us. He came all the way up to Canada to hang out with us with the main desire to bless our team in any way we needed. We asked him if he would be interested in choreographing some of *I Am Liberty* and he was very willing and volunteered to do 6 or 7 pieces for us which was huge! It was very encouraging to our own choreographers because we were having difficulty getting dances choreographed fast enough, but CJ inspired us to speed up and we starting putting out a usually 2-3 dances a week (which was needed to complete the 30+ dance piece production in only 2.5 months (keeping in mind we are using full-time college students that rehearse 3 evenings/week and the odd Saturday rehearsal). Before CJ came we had wondered how the heck we were going to learn all the dances we had lined up already for Act 1 by the end of March, let alone how we were going to finish Act 2 which we hadn’t even confirmed songs or storyline for it yet, and weren't sure how long it was going to be! But by the time he left mid-February we were already nearly done Act 1! Like I said, pieces of the puzzle coming together really just a few at a time.

In the past, our shows have been entirely dance and drama but we really wanted to bring *Liberty* to a whole new level. We proceeded to create multimedia (video and graphics) to help us tell the parts of the story we couldn't tell clearly on stage, and to make it a more engaging experience. Katie Alock from Alcock Productions graciously volunteered to film and edit our videos for us, and create our graphics. She did a lot of volunteer work for us and we were so grateful! What provision from the Lord! As we were all busy with so much work of our own, someone was able and willing to do these many hours of work for us. We used that video and graphics for the debut weekend, however when we brought the show back the next September, we had to recast some of the parts due to team members changing. Adrian Webber did a phenomenal job of redoing our video and graphic as we needed with the new cast. Both Katie and Adrian put in many hours of hard work to make these videos happen with both casts and I loved the level of professionalism it brought to the performance, unlike anything we had ever put forth on a stage before!

**March 2015**

We began choreographing a few dances for Act 2, knowing we wanted to use certain songs and knowing a few aspects of the story. But again, we really still did not know the rest of Liberty’s story. Keeping in mind that we felt were sharing SOMEONE’s story, even though we didn't know them, the Holy Spirit was guiding us and it felt like that SOMEONE’s story wasn’t complete yet for themselves, but that we were going to be leaving the show a bit open ended. But still no clear details.

And THEN…

A past RU high school team member from a few years previous came to visit us for a weekend! She was in town visiting a few people and we discovered through talking to her that she had just come home from a YWAM (Youth With a Mission) time in Las Vegas at a school/home in one of the roughest neighbourhoods, that resided next door to a well known brothel in Vegas. Every YWAM usually does school time, then goes on outreach elsewhere. This YWAM however was focused on ministering in the neighbourhood, and Jazmine because very well acquainted with the workings of the sex trade. They worked closely with the brothel, miraculously being allowed access to the girls in the brothel where they were able to share the love of Jesus in practical ways such as bringing groceries for the moms and children (yes, they all lived in the brothel together, which blew my mind), getting them medical help as needed, talking and praying with them, listening to their stories, hosting “spa days” for the girls to do their hair and makeup to try to help them feel pretty, and even helping a few escape the brothel (which they were still miraculously given access to the brothel by the pimps even after such escape-helping). She explained that most of the girls in the brothel had been normal teenage girls and had been recruited by a “Lover Boy” much the same way that Liberty is in the show. It was such a confirmation for us that we were on the right track with the storyline. She explained that most of the girls met a man that loved them deeply and eventually convinced them to move in with him or run away with him, upon which they would usually end up put into a room alone and sold out of the room in an unknown house, abused in every way, and psychologically messed with until they remained submissive and loyal to the man. Later the girl would end up in a full blown brothel situation, either sold to another pimp, or owned by the recruiter or recruiters boss where she would join several other girls in regular work. The average time from the initial lovers running away until the girl ended up in the final brothel situation was usually 3 around months. This was all heartbreaking to hear. And encouraged us even more that we were on the right track and we NEEDED to get this show out there.

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Jazmine shared her experiences and knowledge with our team in our daily devo/info time (every rehearsal we were having training time with the teams to share more of the facts of trafficking, look into the Bible, and pray intensely for the show and the entire issue). She shared many stories with us and helped us all see the reality of the issue in North America was far deeper and more real than our minds had grasped.

The Picture Becoming More Clear…

We had a couple meeting times to chat with Jazmine and get more details about the situations she experienced. As we chatted with her and asked questions about what would be most realistic for Liberty’s story, those conversations ended up being the key to unlocking the story, and we began to see what the picture of the entire puzzle was. The Lord gave us the ending of the story: Liberty would escape the brothel, only to choose a similar lifestyle to the one she just left, believing the common lies that she could not go home, would not be accepted at home, and would always be “just a prostitute”. Most girls who have been forced into the sex trade will stay there by choice for these very reasons, even if given a chance to escape. Beyond the lies, the reality that the “game” (the industry) is so incredibly different from normal society that they no longer feel they fit in normal society, nor can they grasp the way the world works easily after so much psychological abuse. Pimps are often trained in the art of psychological manipulation, and know how to abuse the women in such a way that makes them unable to function mentally/psycologically, and many women that come out of the sex trade (even those who weren't specifically trafficked) often deal with a personality and/or mental disorder of some kind (ie-borderline personality disorder, split personality disorder, bi-polar, anxiety, etc). So we would show Liberty “choosing” (in quotations because due to her circumstances many would consider her “unable to choose” recognizing the difficulty in leaving that world) a street prostitution lifestyle. During this time we brought in a man who would give her a Bible. This was a clear part of several real-life stories we read and heard personally—somebody stepping out in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, resulting in the beginning of the journey out for many of these woman. Something as simple as sharing the love of God while buying a McDonalds for a girl, paying her for 20 minutes of her time just to sit in a warm car on a cold winter night and giving her a Bible, or continually visiting her home to share the gospel with her and helping her until her heart softened. These are real stories. And through these simple acts of obedience and love, God saved lives and souls. After receiving the Bible, Liberty then has a dream of her spending time with Jesus. This also is a real part of women’s stories. Sometimes only God Himself can share what is needed to heal a broken heart, and we wanted to show this in a dream. Finally, we wanted to show where God WAS during all bad times. Answering the age old questions: Why does God let bad things happen? Where were you God?. Upon waking up from the beautiful dream, Liberty asks this; and God answers her. We know that it is a hugely healing process to go through specific moments in the past and ask God where He was, and have Him reveal where he was in the worst of times. This is an incredible Spirit led method of healing for many people, and we wanted to present it in our show. So God takes Liberty through flashbacks that eventually show her where God was and how He was taking care of and protecting her, within her situation. Completing the show with Liberty reading and Jesus speaking to her through His word, verses from Isaiah 61:1-2, Liberty comes to the realization that “Freedom is Possible”. The first step to true freedom for anyone is to realize you can actually attain it, giving hope and purpose to living and fighting. And the show ends. Our desire was to leave hope in the hearts of the audience, and room for those in similar situations to choose their own ending for their own lives which we felt was more empowering and encouraging than showing a “Hollywood style” happy ending that would seem unattainable.

Answering the age old questions: “Why does God let bad things happen? Where were you God?”

Wide Awake-The Healing Flashbacks…

As we developed the idea of creating flashbacks and having Jesus show Liberty how He had been with her through everything, we were AMAZED at the intricate details God had put into this puzzle picture! We used a remix of Wide Awake by Katy Perry, and it was incredible how perfect the words and timing were for each flashback we decided to use, and how even our choreography we had created 1-2 months before this time (without any expectation to be reusing it in a flashback) fit perfectly in the Wide Awake flashbacks. Then as we added Jesus to several of the flashbacks, it became even more amazing! For example, in Move Like a Soldier, one of the early abuse pieces we had choreographed Liberty getting hit across the face, then immediately after had a threat to hit but the man would stop. It worked perfectly in the flashback as we put Jesus in that scene showing him feeling Liberty’s pain, then placing himself between Liberty and the man for the second hit, showing how He stopped Liberty getting hit that time and took the hit himself in a way. Wow. Then showing him open the unlocking the door for her escape (which the audience sees during the initial piece, but Liberty does not see Him until the flashback). Jesus holds her when nobody else notices her on the street, and gives unseen comfort which she now sees. And it is His Spirit that she sees guide the man to give her the Bible. Everything just worked out so perfectly, I just cried. It blew us all away. And I still cry every time I watch it.

Last Tidbits

Once we had the ending of the show we were able to finish the production creation. Now we could mix the final songs, choreograph the last pieces, and finalize details! Sammy and I wrote a script together, and our dear friend Jason Bowen recorded and mastered it for us. Jason has done several shows for us before, but we all knew and he said himself that this one was a real masterpiece audibly (he had never seen the dances yet, and he wouldn't until opening night!). He did a phenomenal job recording, and we were so grateful to him for his professional perfectionism, guidance to all of the inexperienced recording artists, and his incredible mixing and mastering. We included a few spoken words by different people, and Sammy ended up being the perfect voice for Liberty. I was blown away by the final product of audio.

Debuting I Am Liberty

Needless to say, it was a CRAZY last few weeks of March, but FINALLY on March 27th and 28th, 2015 we released *I Am Liberty* at Moose Jaw Alliance Church, and the Briercrest Hildebrand Chapel. We had hundred of people come, and gave the profits to Defend Dignity, an organization we had decided to partner with. The response was powerful from people, and Defend Dignity’s own Beatrice Littlechief shared her amazing story of heartache and redemption, and the lifelong struggle toward the light afterwards, through tears, as she expressed “it was like watching my own life on stage”. We believe God used this show to bless, inspire, and spark hope in many. Our desire is that it will always be able to have an impact, giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves, and giving a visual reality of the situations which cannot be described in words. We ended both nights with our final challenge: a call specifically to the Church to join the frontline in the battle for freedom, and to choose to love and walk alongside those who need it desperately. As we know from stories, freedom (from most things even) especially from these kind of sexual/mental/psychological etc abusive situations, are almost never a one-time escape, but usually a lifetime of daily battling the intense fears and lies. So finally…

Holy Holy-our dream for the church

After a personal testimony, a Refined/Undignified leader would come out and share our heart behind the show, our three-fold desire in performing (To raise awareness, spark hope, and inspire action), and introduce our final dance piece. It is a dance we choreographed that represents what we believe Jesus wants the church to do and to be in the healing process of each individual that we encounter. Our challenge to the Church, and our hope and dream for how those who have the hope of Jesus Christ can share it with the broken. Then the dance begins, a passionate dance portraying through the words and movements of the Love of Christ for His Bride-that being the church, and in this case we portray Liberty as an individual representation of His Bride. And as the words portray her being “a Bride in white” we see Liberty in her same, torn clothing, representing her torn heart. And the church continues to celebrate and love her. Like the father when his prodigal son returns home-an unexpected welcoming and celebration! God loves us where we are at. He will accept anyone from ANY level of damage or depth of sin. You do not need to change or clean up before you come to God. His love will change you and clean your heart to be good as new. Just come to him. And since the Church is embodied by the Holy Spirit, it should be the clear representation of God’s love for the nations. Not God’s judgment on the unbelievers-that is not our job. Our job is to “Love God… and love our neighbour as ourself”. Do we do that? Do our actions show this? Do we reach out to the broken in grace and love? Or do we judge them, or stay a comfortable distance away from interaction with them? Jesus constantly dove straight into opportunities he was given to love the broken and be a practical part of their healing process. Let’s let Jesus live through us to the world.

Thank you for reading this Journey of the creation of *I Am Liberty*-a story about modern day slavery. It was a long journey as you can see and I’m still sure I’ve forgotten details and miracles God did during the process. If you have questions about this Jesus we serve and love so dearly, please contact us. He is our favourite thing to share about! Also, if you have questions about the performance, our research, our touring, or anything else please feel free to contact us through our website. Overall, I hope you were blessed and can take the following with it: more knowledge of this issue, more understanding of the need for raising awareness, and inspiration to live the love of God to the broken and practically participate in ANY way in this area, of in any areas you are passionate about. We used our gifts (dance, performance, story-telling) to make a difference. What are the gifts God has given you? How would He like you to use those gifts to further His Kingdom of Love? Try asking him :)

Blessings in Christ on you,

Jacee Webber

Refined/Undignified

www.refinedundignified.com

Research Sources:

*Trafficked* by Sophie Hayes (autobiography)

*I’m An Addict* by Shamin Brown (autobiography)

*Where Was God? The Life Story of Sherry Lynne* by Dorene Meyer

*Trafficked* by Sibel Hodge (award winning fiction)

*Oral Sex is the New Goodnight Kiss* by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (compiled research)

*Invisible Chains* by Benjamin Perry? (compiled research)

*Nefarious* Documentary

*Red Light Green Light* Documentary