

Unificationist Mom Joins Ballot Campaign To Stop Human Sex Trafficking

Pat Detlefsen

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The following is a testimony from Pat Detlefsen, who joined the Unification Church in France in 1978. She was blessed in marriage in 1982, at Madison Square Garden, to George Detlefsen, who passed away in 2005. Mrs. Detlefsen is the mother of two sons, Nathanael and Shinghi. She has resided in the Bay Area from 1986 to 1998 and has been living in Valley Springs, California, since 2003.



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A couple of months ago, I saw a flier in my small town about a meeting addressing the issue of sex trafficking in the foothills. I had heard In Jin Nim's sermon on the topic, and here it was, in my own backyard. I felt that God wanted me to look into it. So I did. I went on the internet and looked for ways to get involved. To be honest, I felt overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. I had to face the sobering reality that the Bay area was Satan's nest for human trafficking. I did not know where to start and where to go with it.

A few weeks later, at the Original-Substance-of-the-Divine-Principle (OSDP) workshop in Las Vegas, they replayed In Jin Nim's talk on Human Sex Trafficking and we were given fliers that invited us to join the Unificationist Coalition Against Sex Trafficking. Back home, riding on the spirit of the workshop, I surfed the web again, more determined than ever to find a way to get involved.

After some serious search, I came across an organization called California Against Slavery (CAS). The video featured on their home page caught my attention, and right away, I felt that it was the answer to my prayers.

CAS was started by Daphne Phung, a young Vietnamese woman, who got introduced to the issue of human trafficking through watching a documentary called "Sex slaves in America." Greatly troubled by the injustice and the abuses exposed in that video, she turned to God, who told her to take the matter in her own hands. That's how CAS was born.

The goal of CAS in a nutshell is to put an initiative on the ballot in California for next year's election, an initiative that will strengthen the California state laws to better reflect the personal and societal impact of

human trafficking. The harshest sanction for sexual exploitation is eight years in jail. The fines are not adequate. Today it's more profitable and less risky to sell sex than to sell drugs. To get to the ballot, the initiative requires a certain number of signatures from registered voters. Many volunteers are needed.

Reading about this initiative, I right away saw a great opportunity for our whole community to get on board with the human-sex-trafficking issue: first- and second generations, the American Clergy Leadership Conference (Aclc), the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP). What a great way to meet our neighbors, to visit churches, to get involved with other organizations! I shared my inspiration with our local pastor, Rev. Thompson, who right away suggested Daphne as our next guest speaker for the Community of Faith breakfast in December. He added that I should invite her as well to the prayer breakfast the following Saturday.

It took me some time to get hold of Ms. Phung. We finally met for lunch. I introduced myself as a member of the Unification Church. I shared how our senior pastor, Rev. In Jin Moon, had urged us to be involved with the issue of human sex trafficking. Daphne responded that she was eager to work with churches. She gladly accepted the invitation to speak at our event in December, and she said she would join us briefly on Saturday, which she did. She got to meet Pastor Lowery, an ACLC minister who is well known in Oakland. He had just come back from the OSDP in Las Vegas. Pastor Lowery agreed immediately to partner with CAS. In fact, he is about to move his ministry to a building on International Boulevard, the hub of prostitution in Oakland.

Our second-generation Unificationists are getting on board as well. I introduced CAS to the CARP members in Berkeley. They are quite inspired to get involved.

The signature campaign will start in a couple of weeks and last for five months. If passed, this initiative will give California a great opportunity to take a stand against the modern version of the fall in the 21st century. I believe that this partnership with CAS will open many doors and prepare the way for True Parents.

There is no question that God has His players in place already. Our main task is to connect the dots and get ready to sail with our Father, our True Parents and In Jin Nim.