



Tonya Stanfield Network Director

Director's Bio

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One year after moving to South Africa, I learned of the thousands of children and adults at risk for being trafficked into the sex trade in the lead up to the 2010 World Cup. I read in my local newspaper that children my daughters age were being kidnapped and groomed in the brothels springing up in stadium cities. I felt the spirit of the Lord ask me if I would focus on this one issue. My question to the Lord was one that most people ask when faced with a global pandemic like human trafficking. "What can one person do?" The Lord did not let me use that as an excuse. I began to network with those already involved in the fight against human trafficking in South Africa, learning the trends and issues unique to my adopted country.

At the same time an organization I partner with wanted to send a team out to do missionary work to the Eastern

Cape. I had just learned the Eastern Cape was one of the highest recruitment areas for traffickers who prey on the uniformed, rural Africans desperate for jobs.

I thought, "Why not raise awareness among the most vulnerable to human trafficking? Why not teach them to recognize it and empower them to protect themselves and their families from it?" I searched for a practical and easy way to equip this team. But, there was none. So, I sat down and wrote the first draft of Traffick Proof - a simple presentation that anyone can learn which empowers the most vulnerable for human trafficking to protect themselves and their children, and to report suspected trafficking.

I found one other of like heart, and we banded together to keep each other accountable to take Traffick Proof to at risk communities. Eventually, we

named ourselves Justice [ACTs]. Since that time, our team has grown and we have Traffick Proofed tens of thousands of South Africans. Thousands have been trained to take Traffick Proof to their own communities and spheres of society. Counter trafficking has become my full time job, as news of Traffick Proof spread through newspaper and magazine articles and word of mouth. We have marveled as God has used us to lobby parliament, educate government officials and law enforcement, to launch a media campaign, to rescue girls and reach out to prostituted women and the buyers of sex. We hope to do more in the future, such as open a safe house for victims and a centre catering to underage prostitutes.

I smile when I think I asked God, "But what can one person do?" He sure showed me.

