



*Breaking the Chains of Poverty Through
Education, Housing, Healthcare, and Sustainable Development*

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and esteemed Committee members.

My name is Pastor Mark Ehrmantraut. I am the Community Engagement Director for The GOD'S CHILD Project.

The GOD'S CHILD Project is a non-denominational, non-political, nonprofit organization. The GOD'S CHILD Project was founded in Bismarck thirty-four years ago.

Since 1991, the Project has raised and educated over 130,000 orphaned and abandoned children in Africa, India, the United States, and across Central America.

The GOD'S CHILD Project has an anti-human trafficking arm – ITEMP. ITEMP, the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons, founded in 2001.

ITEMP has had 'boots on the ground' in 38 different countries worldwide and has rescued and returned home hundreds of children and women in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America.

The ITEMP team has given several hundred human trafficking prevention presentations and trainings. These presentations have ranged from Canada to Peru and they include many with North Dakota's Sexual Assault Response Teams, law enforcement groups, and at many of North Dakota's high schools and all the universities.

You may have seen, in recent weeks, the sting operation breaking up a trafficking and prostitution ring around Stanley and Ray. You probably saw where a truck driver, from New Jersey, was arrested last week in Bismarck for luring what he thought was a 16-year-old girl. He tried to meet up with this young person who was actually a member of law enforcement working undercover.

We cannot let up on the gas as we are making strides to combat human trafficking and to care for those exploited through forced labor or forced sexual activity.

Please know we are here, and we want to support your work and be a resource for you. The ITEMP part of The GOD'S CHILD Project brings decades of professional work combatting and preventing human trafficking while providing detection, interdiction, rescue, and prosecutorial assist.



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We encourage you to vote 'DO PASS' and keep up the pressure and the support to disrupt and prosecute the predators while providing the necessary resources and supports to care for those exploited and trafficked, while at the same time, funding efforts that prevent this abuse.

Thank you for your time and good work. I am happy to take any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Mark Ehrmantraut
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