

re • flec • tion  
identify equip restore

## note from the president

Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of meeting many survivors in the United States who have escaped from a horrific life in the world of sex trafficking. A life they describe as one of constant movement, high anxiety, fear, torture, starvation, and multiple rapes daily where their trafficker benefits financially from exploiting them.

Although these experiences are hard to comprehend, it hit home when in late April I received a call from a local non-profit organization and law enforcement. “We heard what you’re doing, and think we have a young lady you need to visit with. Will you talk to her?” Of course, I said YES!!! So, I drove across town that evening to meet a 25-year-old young lady, who had just escaped from her pimp. She was recovered by local law enforcement with only the clothes she had on. No identification, no money, NOTHING AT ALL. She’s not in the country or city illegally. Her home is only 120 miles from here, but she was moved around on the trafficking circuit and ended up in Midland.

After speaking with the young lady, we coordinated the psychological, physical and emotional assessments. We then worked with a local non-profit to keep

her off the streets and sheltered while we began the process of hunting for a Trauma Informed Care program. At least she was SAFE! Otherwise, she would have been shipped to the local jail.

The next 45 days were filled with a barrage of activity. Purchasing clothing, toiletries, working on identification and medical needs, phone calls, emails and filling out applications to multiple programs across Texas and the United States with the goal of finding a restorative program that would fit her needs. Unfortunately, with less than 700 beds in the United States and less than 60 in Texas, this is an extremely difficult task. Did I also mention that 80 percent of these beds are only for victims under the age of 17?

Finally, in early June we found the appropriate program for her.... in Texas. This program, with the help of Reflection Ministries, allows her a time to breathe, time to be still, time to heal (mentally, physically, emotionally), a place to grow and ultimately the ability to DREAM!

Reflection Ministries is excited about what is on the horizon for our communities with the establishment of our own Crisis Assessment Center, second stage homes and aftercare programs that provide avenues of restoration for these precious lives. I am in awe of what the Lord continues to do as HE opens doors, moves people to be bold and changes the hearts and minds of West Texans.

We understand this is a community effort and look forward to the continued collaboration with other organizations as we work together to meet the needs of these victims. This is not a "quick fix" and true recovery requires a "village" to implement the appropriate long-term restorative programs needed for victims of sex trafficking.

Thank you for your support, prayers and encouragement as we walk a path of healing and hope with these individuals.

Blessings,  
Lisa Bownds



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**January 13, 2019**

Reflection Ministries & First Presbyterian Church

800 W Texas Ave. Midland, TX

Hosting: Toni McKinley

Times: 8:15am, 9:30am, 11:00am



Toni McKinley, M.A., L.P.C., Author, Trauma Informed Care Director for TJJD, Survivor Leader, TBRI Practitioner, Founder of Toni McKinley, LLC.

After a childhood permeated with sex trafficking, Toni rose up to be a survivor leader in her community, state, and nation. She has provided training and speaking to multiple government agencies and organizations who serve survivors of trafficking as well as developed the only program led by survivor leaders for incarcerated trafficked girls called

the Survivor Sisters Leadership Program. She is also the author of, “What Happened To Me?! Healing for Sex Trafficking Survivors.”

Toni is a member of the National Survivor Network, serves on two anti-trafficking organization boards, is contracted with The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the recipient of the 2017 Unlikely Hero Award and the recipient of The Governor’s Commission For Women Human Trafficking Prevention Award 2018.

Her consulting services have assisted during trials as well as provided needed direction for organizations who provide services for DMST survivors. Her training is trauma-informed and from the perspective of her personal experience in her youth and her professional experience as a counselor. She gives a unique and well-rounded approach that prepares individuals for what to expect and how to care for youth with complex trauma.

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In the works

the Village

to provide:

Multi-Disciplinary  
Teams

Crisis Intervention

2nd Stage Homes

Aftercare Programs up to 4 years

Isaiah 61: 1-3

