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Beyond the Soiled Curtain

Alyx Keyes

David and Beth Grant are the founders of a great organization called Project Rescue and they team up with the Bombay Teen Challenge, in Bombay, India. Their line of work is ministry that deals with girls of all ages being sold into sex slavery. In 1977, David and Beth received a call around midnight from K.K. Devaraj. He had led many church services there in Bombay and many of the women who attended would come up to him and ask him to take their children from the brothels. After hearing what K.K. Devaraj had to say, David felt that this is where God had been calling him and his wife and what He had been preparing them to do for a long time. K.K. Devaraj asked David and Beth if they would start a children's center that would take care of the children that come out of the horrible brothels there in Bombay. They immediately said yes.

Beth had a husband named Brian before she met David, and he died when Beth was 25. Brian and David had been friends for many years and when Brian died David would call Beth regularly to check up on her to see if she needed anything and see if she was doing alright. After nearly a year of calling Beth, David prayed and told God that if it was his will for him to stay single then he would be fine with that, but if not then he suggested Beth. He felt that God was giving him the desires of his heart. Later that week he flew out to meet with her in Philadelphia, and over lunch explained everything that he felt God was telling him about marrying Beth and all she said was that he was entitled to his opinion. Six months later he officially proposed and the rest is history.

Some cultural differences that David and Beth faced when they moved to Bombay were the value of a woman. Women in Bombay are treated like they are worth nothing. Most every girl either is or has been involved in sex slavery, weather it was their choice or not. If a woman gets married and does not have a little boy then her worth goes down because if her husband dies then she would have no one to carry on the family name. Women have to cover their faces in public and if a woman is widowed she is not allowed to get remarried. When David and Beth came to Bombay it came as a shock to all the women who attended the services that Beth remarried after her husband died. Bombay women say that when your husband dies your identity is lost. After a few services that the Bombay Teen Challenge and project Rescue held, the view of how women should be treated and be valued changed among the people of Bombay. These two programs teaming up together was a great thing. Church services are held and the girls and their families are being taught about the word of God every chance

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they get. People who attend are sometimes still in the brothels of Bombay. They have not rescued any teens yet but they are still allowed to attend the services as long as they go straight back to the brothel they came from. Children as young as seven years of age get caught up in this sex slavery business.

A father and his ten year old daughter from Nepal had a meeting with a procurer. The procurer took a look at the little girl and told the father she was very beautiful and would do **well. She looked at the little girl and asked her if she would do whatever they wanted her to do. The girl was** shy and hid behind her father. The father was eager to get the money and didn't really care what would happen to his little girl. He began to get frustrated with the little girl because she wouldn't answer the nice lady. The lady ensured her and her father that the little girl would have a promising job in the Bombay factory and that she would make enough money to never be in poverty again and to also be able to send money back to her family living in Nepal. The woman asked her one more time if she would be willing to do anything and finally the girl nodded her head and said yes. From that point on the little girl, unknown to her, was immediately shipped to Bombay and began working on the streets as a ten year old prostitute never to see her family again and lived in the worst of conditions. She had very little food and no money what so ever. Parents like these sell 7,000-9,000 daughters a year into sex slavery in Bombay, India. Others get drawn into sex slavery by how it is perceived. There are billboards and advertisements all around making prostitution look fun and exciting and a place with a lot of money, so many young teenagers see that and get sucked into it. Little do they know what is really in store for them.

Throughout this book I have learned what actually goes on around me, without having to go to these kinds of places. It is people like David and Beth Grant that we need more of. To show the love of Christ and to genuinely care about others and to listen to what God is placing on all of our hearts. I am so inspired by their story to hopefully later on in life, go to a place like Bombay, India and help with the sex slave trade going on worldwide. Project Rescue is a great line of ministry and I only hope that I can help in any way I can. I attended a college called James River Leadership College, and during my time there, the students and I got a chance to actually meet David Grant. He personally told us his story of how he met Beth, how they fell in love, and how Project Rescue got started. It was really cool to see his passion for missions and getting girls and children out of sex slavery instead of just reading about it.