

SLAVERY AND OPPRESSION

DOMESTIC SLAVERY

Millions of children across the world, some as young as six, are forced to work up to 15-hour days as domestic workers. Many are beaten, starved and sexually abused.

There are 200,000 child domestic workers in Kenya, 550,000 in Brazil and 264,000 in Pakistan.

CHILD SOLDIERS

300,000 children under 15 are involved with fighting forces, including government armies. Boys and girls in at least 13 countries are actively being recruited as child soldiers or as army 'wives'.

Around 11,000 children in the Democratic Republic of Congo are currently being held by fighting groups.

FORCED CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage, which often includes mail order and internet brides, is one of the most widespread - yet hidden - forms of slavery. Girls as young as four are forced to live and have sex with their husband, and are often kept trapped indoors.

Girls under 15 are five times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than women over 20. In Afghanistan more than half of all girls are married before they are 16.

INDIA: CHRISTIANS FORCED TO 'RECONVERT'

JUNE 07. Hindus have confronted a group of Christian evangelists, forcing them into a nearby village temple to perform a ritual to "reconvert" them to the Hindu religion, according to a new report from the Voice of the Martyrs.

A report from the Hindu American Foundation accused a long list of Christian organizations, including some providing aid in India, of promoting hatred. The report said, "The proliferation of websites promoting religious hatred is an unfortunate consequence of the universality of access to the internet."

INDONESIA: INTENSE PRESSURE

JUNE 07. A new law has been passed in West Sumatra, which will take effect in 2008. According to this new law all school students must pass an exam in the Quran, irrespective of their faith. The same rule applies to engaged couples of any faith: they cannot marry until they have passed the Quran exam, even if they are Christians.

Maranatha!

LOOK UP! THE MESSIAH IS COMING SOON!