

# NIGHTLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

NightLight is an international organization committed to addressing the complex issues surrounding trafficking and prostitution by catalyzing individual and community transformation.

**The Vision...** To offer intervention to sexually exploited women and children, to enable them to discover their dignity, and to provide a program of holistic transformation, empowering them to live and work in their community.

**The Mission...** To build relationships and provide hope, intervention, rescue and assistance to women and children exploited in the sex industry by offering alternative employment, vocational opportunities, life-skills training and physical, emotional and spiritual development to women seeking freedom from sexual exploitation. NightLight builds support networks internationally to intervene and assist women, men and children whose lives are negatively impacted by the sex industry.

**The Beginning...** Annie Dieselberg is the visionary founder of NightLight. Co-founders are: Kanyawan Boonyawat, Panomporn Utaisri, Natalie Shirley, Robi Keyes, and Tara Russell. Annie and her husband Jeff, came to Thailand as an IM missionary in 1994 and became increasingly aware of the need and risk while working alongside Panomporn Utaisri in a slum community. From 2000-2005 Annie worked at Rahab Ministry where she grew in experience and vision and met the other co-founders. In 2005 the team launched NightLight to address the needs in the Nana area of Bangkok through a jewelry business. NightLight Design Company, Ltd. was officially registered in June of 2006.

In 2006 NightLight Ministry USA was registered as a 501c3. Amber Thomas is the director of NightLight Ministry LA. In 2009, the board approved the launch of NightLight Ministry Atlanta with Courtney Furlong as the director.

## **NightLight in Bangkok now operates through two branches:**

NightLight Foundation the non-profit registered in Thailand

&

NightLight Design Company Ltd., the business

## **Answers to Your Most Frequently Asked Questions**

Following are the questions we are most frequently asked. Whether you read this through in its entirety or browse the different sections to find the answers to your particular questions, we hope you are able to find the answers you are looking for. If you do not find the answer to your question/questions, please feel free to contact us at

[bkk@nightlightinternational.com](mailto:bkk@nightlightinternational.com)

## **About employment...**

**What is NightLight Design Company, Ltd.?** The design company is a registered jewelry business that employs women coming out of prostitution or having been at risk of prostitution and/or trafficking.

**Under what principles does the design company operate?** NightLight Design operates with "Business as Missions" principles in that the company:

- Strives to be profitable and sustainable in the long term.
- Strives for excellence, operates with integrity and has a system of accountability.
- Has a kingdom motivation, purpose and plan that is shared and embraced by senior management and owners.
- Aims at holistic transformation of individuals and communities.
- Seeks the holistic welfare of employees.
- Seeks to maximize the kingdom impact of its financial and non-financial resources.
- Models Christ-like, servant leadership and develops this in others.
- Intentionally implements ethical Christ-honoring practices that do not conflict with the gospel.
- Is pro-active in intercession and seeks the prayer support of others.
- Seeks to network with like-minded organizations.

**How many women are currently employed at NightLight Design?** The registration code allows up to 80 employees at one time which we have maintained since 2007.

**How many women have come to NightLight since it was established?** Over 150 women have come through the doors of NightLight since it was established.

**How do women find out about employment opportunities?** The staff and volunteers are in the red light districts twice a week to build relationships and to offer women alternative employment. Many women have been referred by others who have come to work at NightLight and some are referred by women still working in prostitution.

**What does a normal work week look like?** The women work from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday. Every day begins with worship. The lunch break is from 12 to 1 pm. A free lunch is provided daily with the women taking turns with the preparation. Once a week, every woman is involved in up to two small group sessions including discipleship, music training, and English. All of the women come together for games or life-skills training once a week. Individual counseling and ministry sessions are incorporated into the work week.

**How are salaries paid and how much?** Salaries are above minimum wage and close to the minimum salary the bars pay, but is far less than these women make in prostitution. When a woman is first hired, she begins her first 3 months under the ministry with a salary of 6500 baht per month. After completion of vocational training her salary is increased to 7000 baht per month. Raises are given annually based on a performance evaluation.

**Are benefits provided?** Medical insurance and social security is provided as well as a savings plan in which 5% of their salary is matched by NightLight and placed in account in the employee's name. Scholarships are also provided for those who choose to continue their education.

**How do women care for their children while at work?** Only a few children stay with their mothers in Bangkok, as the majority of them live with grandparents or relatives in rural areas. During school breaks the children often come and visit their mothers at NightLight. In 2007, we began to offer childcare during these school breaks. In 2008 we began to offer daily child care services for the women employed at NightLight who are raising their children in Bangkok.

## **About the jewelry...**

**Who designs the jewelry?** Annie Dieselberg, designed most of the jewelry until 2008. Katie Van Zant, who has a strong background and training in jewelry design, joined the team in 2008. She designed jewelry and trained the women in design and quality control as well as following the fashion industry trends. We look forward to another professional designer joining us next summer to continue to train and encourage the women in design.

**What materials are used?** Materials are semi-precious stones, pearls, shell, crystals, designer glass beads, silver and other metals.

**Where do you get your materials?** We order materials from local suppliers. The beads come from around the world and are the same as those sold in jewelry and beading retail stores.

**How is the jewelry marketed?** Jewelry is sold online at [www.nightlightinternational.com](http://www.nightlightinternational.com) and is payable by credit card. It is also sold through jewelry parties, various events, and there is a strong push to build the wholesale side of the business. The jewelry is sold in Thailand and internationally and is distributed in the US through NightLight Ministries. For more information about holding a jewelry party contact [jewelry@nightlightinternational.com](mailto:jewelry@nightlightinternational.com)

## **About life skills and where the women live...**

**Do the women learn life skills?** The women are given opportunities to develop skills in other areas such as computer, accounting, record keeping, purchasing, management, marketing, sales, networking, and public relations.

**Where do women live?** Most of the women rent a room, sometimes sharing with a friend. This assists them in their transformation and allows us to work with them as they adjust their lifestyles. Shelter is available for women who are in emergency situations, need special assistance or are homeless. For most, this is short term until they are able to save enough money for down payment on a room in a safe location.

## About the women...

**Where do the women come from?** The majority of women migrating to Bangkok are from rice farming areas in Northeast Thailand.

**Is prostitution legal in Thailand?** Prostitution is NOT legal in Thailand. However, due to the literal billions of dollars it feeds into the country's hotels, tours, food and drink, prostitution is being considered for legalization.

**What factors push these women to enter the sex industry?**

**CULTURE:** In Thailand, once a daughter is of age she is culturally obligated to care for her parents, while a son fulfills his duty as a monk thereby making merit for his parents "next" life. When marriages dissolve, usually due to adultery, there is no longer support by the husband and the women are unable to support the parents or their own children. When the opportunity to work in the city arises they are relieved to be able to meet their parent's demands, no matter the sacrifice.

**ECONOMIC:** There are not enough employment opportunities for women in Thailand and most women from the Northeast have few job skills and are completely unaware of employment options. Minimum wage is too low to meet the need.

**EDUCATION:** Until recently citizens of Thailand were only required to finish 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A small number have a 9<sup>th</sup> grade equivalent and even fewer have a 12<sup>th</sup> grade equivalent.

**SPIRITUAL:** Belief in "fate" factors in to the acceptance of such a destiny. The majority of women are also animists who have participated in many spirit and witchcraft rituals. These rituals are also practiced in the bars.

**How old are most of these women?** The age range of women working in the bars is 17 to 50 years. The average age is around 27. Although the legal age to work in a bar is 18, many girls start at 17. There are younger women working on the streets or in other venues.

## About sex tourism and entertainment in the red light districts...

**What are the different types of places these women are hired to work in?**

### **Bier or Beer Bars**

Women are fully dressed and are paid a salary of about \$150 to \$200 US per month. Women entertain customers at the bar. The customer pays the bar a fee of 600 baht (\$18) to take a woman for sex. Most bars have a "quota" of customers a woman must entertain per month or her salary is cut \$18 per customer she is short for the month. Beer bars are generally operated between the hours of 12pm to 2am.

### **Go-Go Bars**

Women in g-string outfits take turns dancing on the stage from 7pm until 2 am. Off the stage they are expected to entertain customers. The salaries vary depending on the minimum quota of customers per month but are higher than beer bars most averaging 10,000 baht (\$300) per month for 12 customers. Salaries are cut by 600 baht (\$18) per customer short of the quota. A quota of drinks is also required.

### **Show Bars**

There is a lot of nudity and seduction in this type of venue and things get progressively more sexual. Many of the go-go bars have shows starting late at night.

### **Other Venues**

Massage parlors, karaoke, hotels, discos, streetwalking, escort services, coyote dancing, call-girl services and taxis.

### **Pornography**

Pornography is a growing industry that quickly turns the young and vulnerable into prostitutes. There is a strong link between pornography and prostitution as well as pornography and trafficking.

## **About sex trafficking...**

**What happens to girls/women when they are trafficked?** Trafficking in human beings is now tied for the number 2 spot in global illegal crime! Bangkok, Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for trafficked victims. Large numbers are coming from Uzbekistan and other Central Asian or former Soviet countries as well as from East Africa. Trafficked women come to Bangkok often knowing there will be prostitution. They come on tourist visas for 1 to 3 months at a time and are rotated around Asia. They arrive with debts that start around \$6000 US. Many are locked up during the day and then forced out at night until they pay off their debt. They are abused and many are beaten by “agents”. Eventually some women are able to work off their debt and become “independent”; some never pay off the debt and some are killed.

**Are children trafficked in Thailand?** Children are sold into prostitution in Thailand, however not in the large numbers often stated by the media and many organizations. The Thai government has taken the prostitution of children seriously and passed laws that have serious consequences to perpetrators. As a result, there has been a decrease in children in the sex industry. Children are still used and sold however through underground rings. The venues for these children are not readily known, are not large scale, and are not easily found or accessible. The stories circulated of hundreds of children locked up are urban legends, but children are in danger of being sexually exploited in communities, families, and through migrant populations. These children are vulnerable to pedophiles and traffickers. Children from neighboring countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos are regularly rented or brought by their own family members into Thailand to make money through begging and peddling, leaving these children vulnerable.

## **About the demand side...**

**Where do the men come from?** Thai men use women in prostitution as 80% of prostitution caters to them. The arena in which NightLight performs its work is sex tourism and the areas of Bangkok that promote sex tourism are not welcoming of Thai clientele but rather cater to the foreign business and tourist community. It is estimated that 7 out of 10 foreign men coming to Thailand engage in the sex industry. Men range in age and come from all over the world with most coming from North America, Europe, Australia and Japan. Many countries offer sex tours to Thailand. The Central Asian women in prostitution provide services mostly to men from the Middle East and India.

**Is anything being done to address this demand side?** Unfortunately, little attention has been given to the demand side. NightLight receives quite a few letters from men. Some are angry, some derogatory, some are asking for help for “their” girl and some are confessional. In 2007 YWAM (Youth with a Mission) began a men’s outreach called the MST project. Support for addressing the demand side is growing.

## **About getting involved...**

**How can I volunteer?** There is an application process for volunteers. You can request an application form by emailing NightLight at [bkk@nightlightinternational.com](mailto:bkk@nightlightinternational.com)

**How can I get involved with or have an impact on this issue?** You can get involved by advocating at local, national and international levels for laws to be passed that address the demand side and allow for better alternatives for women. There are several anti-trafficking campaigns that you can join to partner in this movement. [www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org), [www.stopthetrafficking.org](http://www.stopthetrafficking.org), [www.iast.net](http://www.iast.net), [www.salvationarmyusa.org/trafficking](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/trafficking), [www.acfhhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acfhhs.gov/trafficking).

**How can the church get involved?** The more the local church gets involved in addressing the issues of sexual exploitation and brokenness, the more we will see a worldwide impact. There are perpetrators and victims sitting in our pews at church needing a safe place to tell their stories and find healing and restoration in community.

## About support...

**What is the best way I can support NightLight?** There are a number of ways you can support NightLight.

### Prayer:

We certainly can use your prayer and you can sign up to receive our prayer letters. Pray for women in transition, for women still in sexual exploitation, and for women who are new in their faith and are trying to adjust to the changes it brings in their relationships, work and lifestyle choices. Also pray for staff and volunteers who face challenges of ministry needs and the demands of business growth, while combating a systemic evil. Pray for release of resources to expand, multiply, hire and fulfill the vision for many more projects.

### Purchase Jewelry:

Your purchase of Nightlight jewelry allows us to:

- Employ women . . . \$250 covers salary & benefits for one month.
- Purchase raw materials needed to make jewelry.
- Lease work space. The cost to lease this space is \$1800 per month.

Jewelry may be purchased on-line at [www.nightlightinternational.com](http://www.nightlightinternational.com) or purchase a sample kit, through the website, and host a party at your church, home or office. Jewelry is also available to retailers. Please contact us for details and wholesale pricing at [bkk@nightlightinternational.com](mailto:bkk@nightlightinternational.com)

### Make a Donation:

Donations can be made on-line through PayPal. You can also write a check, make it payable to **NightLight**, and mail it to: NightLight USA, PO Box 74850, Los Angeles CA 90004.

Donations can be wired to the Foundation Account in Thailand (not tax deductible)

NightLight Foundation

The Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd.

Branch: Soi Chai Yot

Swift Address: SICOTHBK

Account No. : 040-245545-3

Address: 5 Sukhumvit 11,

Klongtoey Nua Wattana

Bangkok 10110, Thailand

- Vocational training during a woman's first 3 months at NightLight...\$220 per month
- Tuition for children...\$50/semester for elementary, \$150/semester for high school, \$250/semester for college
- Free hot lunch...\$12 per person, per month for 80 women. . . \$960 per month
- Assistance to trafficked victims. . . \$2000 per person

### Contribute to Special Projects:

- Childcare center: staff salaries, materials, food \$1200 per month
- Retreats for women, staff & volunteers...\$35 per person for 100 . . . \$3500 for entire retreat
- Outreach programs for women working in the bars \$1000 per program
- Outreach drink to spend time with a woman in the bar. . . . \$5 per drink . . .
- One outreach worker's costs per week. . . . \$20
  
- Remodeling of a building in redlight area for outreach & coffee ministry . . . \$45,000
- Building of a storefront to increase jewelry sales locally . . . \$5,000