

Grover strives to slow growing problem of human trafficking

By Travis Gulbrandson

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There are an estimated 200,000 slaves in the United States today.

"It's estimated that less than 20,000 of those 200,000 are international victims coming into the United States as a destination country," said Tomi Lee Grover, Ph.D. "Who are the rest of them? Our kids. Our people, right here in the United States."

Grover spoke about the ongoing problem of human trafficking in this country and abroad in a presentation sponsored by the University of South Dakota Criminal Justice Club Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Working with TraffickStop, an anti-trafficking initiative, Grover educates individuals and groups about what they can do to curb human trafficking through prevention, intervention, education and restoration.

Grover the demand for goods and services by the U.S. contributes to human trafficking because of its place in the global economy – something its citizens might not realize.

"We get goods and services literally from around the world, so we all have a hand in what happens to the global economy with this," she said.

One way in which Americans affect the economy is through their consumption of chocolate.

"It's one of those key things,

because almost all of us consume chocolate at one time or another in our lifetime," Grover said. "Most of the chocolate we consume is the United States is produced by slave labor in the Ivory Coast. Children are harvesting the cocoa pods, but they will never in their lifetime taste chocolate.

"So, just think about what you might be doing to contribute to human trafficking by what you're consuming, and look at how you can engage on this. Demanding corporate and social responsibility is a part of deterring and affecting change in the area of human trafficking," she said.

Consumers can estimate their contribution to human trafficking through the Web site slaveryfootprint.org, which asks a series of questions, the answers to which estimate what the user's contribution to the problem might be.

"It's a really cool way of actively engaging to know and monitor your own behaviors," Grover said.

But the highest percentage of slaves is exploited through sex.

"About half of the (world's) 27 million estimated slaves are in commercial sexual exploitation – that includes men, women, boys and girls all across the world," Grover said.

That statistic is monitored in part through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

"This statute is one that can be

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TOMI LEE GROVER, PH.D.

used against any player in the chain of what trafficking might look like, including those who are the recruiters, those that harbor, those who do the transportation," Grover said.

However, there was an omission in the act until recently.

"Not until 2010 did the United States actually report on itself," Grover said. "So, we went through 10 years where we were not reporting on ourselves. We were reporting on everybody else, but finally we got the message that we should be reporting on ourselves."

There is not any state that does not have minor sex trafficking, she said.

"This is happening right under our noses, and we are almost completely oblivious to it," she said. "In the United States, the rate of

exposure has reached what I believe is an all-time high, and the stats are amazing. In our back yards we're finding one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the time they reach their 18th birthday in the United States."

South Dakota is at risk for several reasons, including its two Interstate Highways, and large events such as the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

"The Interstate Highway System ... is a thoroughfare on which children are being trafficked all across the United States," Grover said, later adding, "Everywhere that you have major events, you have prostitution that follows it – and that includes the domestic minor sex trafficking piece of it."

The "normalization of commercial sex by the media" is a contributor to the problem in that what used to be

seen as illegal activity is now gaining greater acceptance in popular culture, Grover said.

This can be seen through TV shows like "Pimp My Ride," and the fact that some high schools even have a "pimps and hos" theme for their proms.

"We've made (pimping) a verb as well as a noun, and there's actually a culture that is pervasive," Grover said. "Our children are being hyper-sexualized by music, the media and every other way that you can think of in this current popular culture."

Pornography also has gained wider acceptance in mainstream culture, she said.

"Because it's been so normalized in that generation, they do not see it as morally objectionable any longer," Grover said. "It's not unusual to turn on any television show that's even a prime-time show like 'Two and a Half Men' and not be bombarded with issues surrounding porn. You don't have to go looking for it. It comes looking for you."

"Children have been continually objectified and (fetishized) in this kind of thinking that girls are just sex objects, sex is a commodity that you can buy and trade. And there's a lot of ways that we need to begin looking at how our culture is feeding and fueling this," she said.

For more information, visit www.traffickstop.org.

OBITUARIES

Joan Stroup

Joan "Jane" "Jo" Marie Stroup, 80, of Vermillion, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 at Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

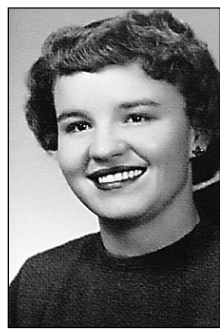
Her service will be on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011 at the United Church of Christ-Congregational with Reverend Elaine Miller officiating in Vermillion at 11 a.m. There will be a visitation one hour prior at 10 a.m. Her burial will take place at a later date. Following the service, the family would like to extend an invitation to everyone for a time of fellowship and lunch to celebrate Joan's life.

Visitation will be held at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion on Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 from 6 to 7 p.m., with a prayer service and video tribute to begin at 7 p.m.

Joan was born on Feb. 14, 1931 in Cripple Creek, CO to Earl and Lillian (Anderson) Robush. She graduated from Cripple Creek High School in 1949, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Colorado State College in Greeley in 1953. Joan married Fred Stroup, the love of her life, on Oct. 16, 1953 at her parents' El Paso Mine home in Cripple Creek. They had five daughters. Later they were blessed with three wonderful son-in-laws, and six beautiful grandchildren.

After graduation, she taught second grade in Colorado Springs. She also taught in Brookings, was a substitute teacher in Vermillion, and taught in Hosmer. She was a teacher at the Pearl Creek Colony in Iroquois for 17 years. Joan enjoyed a long teaching career until she retired. The most important job she loved with her whole heart was being a mother and wife. She and Fred enjoyed many happy years together with their family until Fred passed away in 1996.

Joan was active in the Vermillion Garden Club, the American Legion Auxiliary Wallace Unit #1, and was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Vermillion, where she also taught Sunday School. Joan was a Girl Scout leader of a Brownie troop in Vermillion, and a member of the SDEA/NEA and PTA. She enjoyed watching and identifying



STROUP

birds, and canning fruits and vegetables from her family garden. She spent many hours sewing prom dresses, suits, clothing, and curtains. She loved reading poetry and novels. She also enjoyed playing cards with her card group. Joan loved the many furry friends that have been part of her life. She spent many an hour with her present companion, "Sammi," her toy poodle, playing ball and keeping her company. She enjoyed her yearly family vacations to Colorado to see her beloved family. She loved nurturing and watching her grandchildren grow. She was so proud of each of them. They were a very special part of her life.

Joan is survived by her daughters, Jeanne (Scott) Jepsen of Meckling, Barbara (Doug) Martin of Dublin, OH, Nancy Stroup of Vermillion, Patty Stroup of Fort Collins, CO and Julie (Todd) King of Huron; grandchildren, Christopher Martin of Singapore (NYU), Garrett Jepsen of Grand Forks, ND (UND), Shannon Jepsen of Brookings, (SDSU) and Kelsey, Cassidee and Kaitlyn King of Huron; sisters, Carol Robush (James) Robinson of Victor, CO and Marjorie Robush (Charles) Boughton of Grand Junction, CO; brother-in-laws, LeRoy Nagel of Williamsburg, CO, Lee (Von) Stroup of Salem, and Mel (Evelyn) Stroup of Estelline; and sister-in-law, Beverly Stroup (Dick) Johnson of Los Angeles, CA; many wonderful nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband Fred Stroup; parents, Earl and Lillian Robush; sisters, Betty June Robush and Joyce Robush Nagel; aunt, Maggie Robush Snare; brother-in-law, Keith Stroup; and sister-in-law, Betty Stroup.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Gary Richards

Gary Dean Richards was born on May 17, 1942 at home in Beresford, to parents Oliver and Mabel (Fjeldseth) Richards. He passed away on Nov. 16, 2011 surrounded by the family that was so special to him. Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 at Brooklyn Evangelical Free Church in Beresford. Visitation will be 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday at Wass Funeral Home in Beresford with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Gary attended Beresford Elementary and High School, graduating in 1960. He married Constance Inberg on Oct. 20, 1963. The couple made their home in Beresford. After his schooling he went to work for Len's Feed in Beresford. He then began a new venture in his career as an optical lab technician for the next 42 years! He began work in 1966 with Dr. Ed Duling and



RICHARDS

Sioux Optical Suppliers in Sioux City. In 1972 Duling opened the Vision Optical stores, and Gary went to work in their lab. In 1991 Steve Conley, George Tokarczyk, and Dr. Kevin Duling purchased the business, and Gary worked for them until he retired on April 30, 2011.

Gary had many passions in his life. Most of all was his loving family. He was the husband who renovated the house, did the mowing and blowing the snow, and planned the family trips, he was the husband would do

anything for his wife. He was the "dad" who was always there when needed, and spent many months of labor to help Brendyn make a wonderful home for his family in Hub City, and teach him countless life lessons and skills. He was the "grandpa" to his grandchildren that adored him, and he adored more than anything. He was the grandpa that was always there to play catch, to give them a ride on the mower, to watch cartoons, and to attend every school sporting or extracurricular event, no matter how he was feeling that day. He was the grandpa who never missed a soccer game of Isaiah's, and was the grandpa who had a goal of teaching Tatyana how to water ski, no matter how many times she would fall down. All of his grandkids were the joy of his life, each and every day. We will never forget the unique smile and tears of pride that he had

while watching his grandkids succeed. They were his biggest joy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Mabel (Fjeldseth) Richards, and brother Dorn.

He leaves his beloved wife, Constance (Connie); and his son, Brendyn and his wife Coralie of Beresford; and four grandchildren, Isaiah, Tatyana, Patrick, and Kelsey. He also leaves his brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law, Betty Dahlin of Lead, Rodney and Audrey Inberg of Beresford, Retired Colonel Darlow and Delda Inberg of San Antonio, TX, Elliot and Nancy Inberg of Bryan, TX; and many, many nieces and nephews.

To our husband, dad, grandpa, uncle, and our friend...we love you greatly...we miss you...we will see you in Heaven again someday...

Eileen Iverson

Eileen Iverson was born Oct. 21, 1923 in Meckling, to parents Alfred and Kristina (Jensen) Miller. She died Nov. 21, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Center in Centerville, at the age of 88 years and 1 month.

Eileen graduated from University High School in Vermillion. She married Bud Iverson in Sioux City, IA on July 3, 1942. They had three children, Terry, Tex and Janalee. She moved to Centerville in the late 1960s and has resided here until the present time.



IVERSON

Eileen enjoyed cooking for and entertaining her family and friends. She cooked for the University of South Dakota for many years as well as the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer. She enjoyed music and was a talented pianist who could

play very well by ear. Eileen enjoyed life, having a good time, she will be remembered for her hearty laugh, and living by her motto, "if it doesn't shine, it's not mine."

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, one sister and her companion of over 25 years, Clint Klostergaard.

Eileen is survived by her three children, Terry Iverson and wife Beth of Phoenix, AZ, Tex Iverson and wife Sandra of Gillette, WY and Jan Hult and husband Jerry of Centerville; grandchildren, Jennifer Sikkink, Jeremy Hult,

Jamey Hult, Jana Goetz, Kori Ensley, Travis Iverson, Cody Iverson, Char Turner, Dean Iverson, Chris Goff, Coreen Iverson, Tiffany Blais, David Blais; several great-grandchildren, and special friend Ernie Krohse.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 at Wass Funeral Home in Centerville with burial to follow at Riverview Cemetery, rural Centerville. Visitation will be one hour prior to services.

Roger Peterson

Roger Allan Peterson was born July 26, 1944 in Vermillion, to parents Arnold and Alice (Davis) Peterson. He died Oct. 20, 2011 after a lengthy battle with cancer at the Good Samaritan Center in Centerville, at the age of 67 years, 2 months and 24 days.

Roger graduated from Vermillion High School in 1962. He married Jean Halsted on Oct. 6, 1962. The couple made their home in Centerville. Roger began working for the Bank of Centerville and retired there after 40 years.

Roger was a member of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church

where he directed the church choir for many years. He was a past member of the Centerville Fire Department and the Rotary Club. He enjoyed cooking, growing pumpkins, raising pheasants, and wood working. He also loved music, having played and sang in bands over the years and sang at many weddings and funerals. His greatest joy was visiting with his friends and spending time with his family. Roger touched the lives of many people with his kindness and warm personality and will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his father, Arnold.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Peterson, Centerville; wife, Jean Peterson, Centerville; daughter, Teresa Berg, Centerville; son, Mark (Holly) Peterson, Tea; five grandchildren, Jerrad (Nikki), Kristen, Coleman, Max and Estella; two great grandchildren, Alexis and Zackary; brother, Doug (Shirley) Peterson, Beresford; sister Char (Arlin) Beeck, Akron, IA; brother-in-law, Jim (Di) Halsted, Little Sioux, IA;

nine nieces and nephews and countless friends.

A funeral mass was held 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 24 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Centerville with burial following in Riverview Cemetery, rural Centerville. Visitation was Sunday, Oct. 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the church with a wake service beginning at 7 p.m.

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