



INDIA'S RED LIGHT DISTRICT:

Met by the God of True Light

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

He's here.

Her heart is beating out of her chest.

She can feel it in her head so much her ears are ringing as she dashes to her familiar hiding spot. Under the tattered stale sheet, she catches her breath and plugs her ears so she can wait undetected until it's over.

The door closes. Maiya* can finally breathe. A few more tense moments pass, and she timidly peeks her eyes out from her hiding place... He's gone.

This is the reality of thousands of children in the Red Light District of Mumbai: waiting for Mom to finish her [sex] work... often hiding in the very same room.

Maiya's story began in Nepal. As a young girl she was captured, abused, and ultimately sold into sex trafficking over a thousand miles away in the slums of Mumbai, India. Born with severe mental disabilities, and suffering from HIV and epileptic fits, Maiya was alone and afraid in this terrifying new place. She provided for herself the only way she knew how: prostitution.

On the other side of town, Chen* was reading a book depicting a similar scene, and now it won't stop playing on repeat in his head.

As a facilitator for Focus on the Family's largest international program, No Apologies®, Chen has a heart for teaching young people God's truth about life, love, and sex through this transformative curriculum.

"Children [...] waiting for Mom to finish her [sex] work... often hiding in the very same room."

As God would have it, he met a woman at church who owns a modest beauty shop in town. She shared about the "night care" she provides in the Red Light District (RLD) for the children of the women who come to her salon.



*NAMES CHANGED FOR PRIVACY

Eager to help, Chen accompanied the salon owner to a local brothel to meet and pray with the women of the RLD. By the grace of God, that brothel is now a full-fledged ministry non-profit offering training for the women to learn a new trade, and sharing vital resources for their children – including the No Apologies® program.

Maiya was one of the first to find safe housing through this transformational ministry. **Now in her thirties, she has been able to escape the sex industry and makes a living wage** crafting jewelry and handbags.

Wishing to bless her mother with some of the money she's earned, Chen helped Maiya begin her search over a thousand miles away in rural Nepal. With only a first name and general region to go off of, they endeavored for weeks. The pair asked police, strangers they met along their journey, and scoured where no vehicle could even navigate through treacherous mountainous terrain.

Against all odds, Maiya was reunited with her mother.

Despite her defensive initial reaction, Maiya's mother realized they did not come to accuse her of selling her daughter, but instead, to show the grace and generosity of Christ.

As Maiya extended her hand out, her mother met her trembling with shock. Maiya's outstretched hand contained enough money for her mother to support herself; a sign of upmost respect and forgiveness from a child to a parent in their culture.

Focus on the Family India later received a request to host No Apologies® in this rural region of Nepal with 75 young people. In 2023, one year later, the team is preparing to host a second No Apologies® camp, this time with over 500 at-risk teenagers just like Maiya; who no longer hides under a tattered sheet in the dark, she walks in the light.



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